

An analysis of early signs in Turkish Sign Language and/or early words in Turkish: A case study with one hearing child of deaf parents

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The use of simultaneous production of sign and speech is frequently observed in bimodal bilingual adults in contrast to unimodal bilinguals (e.g. Emmorey et al. 2008). This phenomenon called code-blending can even be found in bimodal bilingual children (e.g. van den Bogaerde & Baker 2008). This paper aims to investigate the use of (simultaneous) speech and sign in a bilingual bimodal hearing child living in Turkey. The questions which are researched in this longitudinal case study are how this individual koda (kid of deaf adults) develops speech and sign at the same time and what the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of their simultaneous production of speech and sign are.

We started to film the koda at the age of ten months every two weeks and so far we have collected data up to the age of 26 months. For this study we use data gained from the time between 10 months and 15 months. The koda lives with their deaf parents and their hearing paternal grandparents, uncle, aunt and elder cousins. The raw video material up to the age of 15 months is in total 3 hours 23 min 51 sec, thereof 2 hours 10 min including language interactions. We analyzed the following categories separately: the combination of pointing and speech, combination of sign and speech as well as only TID and only Turkish (see Lillo-Martin et al. 2016).

In every month the production of sign vocabulary is more dominant compared to the production of spoken word vocabulary and increases dramatically the last month. While the categories simultaneous sign and speech and only sign show similar figures at the beginning, only signs and the use of pointing increase drastically at 15 months. We found sign and speech produced simultaneously, but conveying different information, e.g.:

- (a) BABAANNE 'GRANDMA' (TID)
be-be 'baby' (Turkish) (1;01)
- (b) GEL 'COME' (TID)
kedi 'cat' (Turkish) (1;03)

The data demonstrates that in this case study simultaneous occurrences in sign and speech can be observed in a quite early stage (see Petitto et al. 2001, van den Bogaerde & Baker 2008 and among others). Our analysis will shed light on the development of utterances with visual and gestural components as well as on the progress with auditory vocal components in Turkish as an agglutinative language.

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