

Poster presentation

Phonological spelling errors in the writing of Greek dyslexic children: in support of the phonological deficit theory

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Background

Developmental dyslexia is defined as the specific difficulty in the acquisition of reading and writing, within normal I.Q. range. One of the most dominant theories for the origins of developmental dyslexia is the one of the “phonological deficit hypothesis”. The aforementioned theory supports that a cognitive deficit affects the representation and processing of speech sounds.

Materials and methods

In the present research we examine the manifestation of this deficit within the framework of Modern Greek. 451 officially diagnosed (and at risk) dyslexic children's writing samples of all levels of the primary school were analyzed and compared to 1.612 children's writing samples of general school population.

The experimental material that was implemented is a subtest of the “Test Battery for the Assessment of Dyslexia in Greek (Zachos D. & Zachos I, 1998). More particularly, it was the Dictation-Spelling Task, which consists of six different texts, adapted to each one of the six levels-classes of primary school and examines several factors of spelling abilities. However, for the present research we shall present the results of the Phonological category.

The performance of each student is controlled by means of correct spelling.

Results

The results were analyzed quantitatively and can be summarized as follows:

- All the groups of dyslexic children achieved significantly low scores compared to the control groups
- Dyslexic children's results were more deviant, contrary to the control groups, where the results were more homogeneous
- As the level increased dyslexic children's performance was better but still significantly lower

Conclusions

The low performance of dyslexic children reveals the manifestation of phonological deficit in Greek and is compatible to the Phonological Deficit Theory of Developmental Dyslexia. The fact that these errors persist in the course of time implies the need for a more accurate diagnosis as well as for an effective treatment.

References

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