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Acquisition of phonology in special populations

This presentation will focus on phonological acquisition in three populations of children known to have impairments of speech and/or language acquisition: children with cleft palate; children who are late talkers; and children who are diagnosed with autism/autism spectrum disorder. The three populations differ in a number of ways. A major difference is the age at which they are identified as having a disorder: children with cleft palate are identified at birth, and thus treatment can begin very early; in contrast, identification of the children in the other groups is much more difficult and may not occur until they are 2-3 years old. This age difference has important implications for assessment and treatment of the disorder. A second difference in the groups centers around the underlying cause(s): again, the immediate cause is easily identifiable for children with cleft palate, but less so for children with autism and even less for children who are late talkers. For each population, a summary of the effects of the disorder and an overview of the developmental pathways observed in the acquisition of a phonological system will be presented; an overview of the most appropriate means of assessment of the three populations and current views of intervention will be discussed; and, the long-term effects (seen in adolescent and adult speakers) of these childhood disorders will be described.

Références bibliographiques

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