Online implicit learning of nonadjacent dependencies in children with and without Specific Language Impairment

Lammertink, I.L.; van Witteloostuijn, M.T.G.; Boersma, P.P.G.; Wijnen, F.; Rispens, J.E.

Publication date
2017

Citation for published version (APA):
Online implicit learning of nonadjacent dependencies in children with and without Specific Language Impairment

Imme Lammertink\(^1\), Merel van Witteloostuijn\(^1\), Paul Boersma\(^1\), Frank Wijnen\(^2\) & Judith Rispens\(^1\)
University of Amsterdam\(^1\), Utrecht University\(^2\)

**Background**

**NADL:** Nonadjacent dependency learning
Examples: *He walks; Yesterday we walked*

**Sensitivity to NADs** is fundamental to language acquisition\(^1\)

**Measuring implicit NADL in children:**

> **Offline:** accuracy on grammaticality judgment task
> **Online:** response times (RT) to NAD-rule items versus non-NAD-rule items reflect learning dynamics\(^2,3,4\)

**NADL in SLI:**

> **Offline:** not as effective as in people without SLI [5]
> **Online:** no data available as yet

**RQ:** Do the speed and degree of learning nonadjacent dependencies differ between children with and without SLI?

**Conclusion**

Visual inspection suggests different NADL dynamics between children with and without SLI. Preliminary analysis do not support this claim, however.

There exist **large individual differences** in children’s sensitivity to non-adjacent dependencies.

More research is needed to evaluate how NADL relates to language performance and developmental language disorders.

**Contact**

E-mail: i.l.lammertink@uva.nl; website: www.progracy.com

**References**


**Acknowledgements**

Recruitment SLI: Viertaal; Pento Amersfoort; Auris Leiden, Haarlem & Breda, FOSS Oudervereniging TOS. Recruitment and testing elementary schools TD: Binnenmeer, Startnest & Weeromolen, Darlene Keydeniers & Iris Broedele.