

Abstract

The present thesis is concerned with designing and evaluating a novel language-specific nonword repetition task (NWR) capable of identifying developmental language disorder (DLD) in English-Russian bilingual children. The proposed NWR task manipulates three variables, item length, morphological complexity, and phonological complexity that reflect respective language processing mechanisms, namely, phonological working memory strain, phonological processing, and the knowledge of grammatical rules and long-term memory. The main question of the study was whether the proposed task could show adequate performance results for a typically developing bilingual child when matched with standardized language ability tests (TROG2, YARC, CNRep). To evaluate the efficacy of the task, a case study with one participant was conducted. The participant was a bilingual child (7;5) with simultaneous acquisition of English and Russian in an English-dominant environment. The findings showed that the proposed task passed the evaluation procedure and yielded expected patterns when matched against standardized tests both in terms of the patterns of difficulty and language dominance. As a result, the proposed NWR task demonstrated the potential for distinguishing DLD from typical development in bilingual children speaking English and Russian. The limitations of this study include the need for quantitative analysis with a larger sample of participants to determine the task's precision and reliability.