Wanwimol Tangudomvongsa 2011: The Comprehension of Compound Nouns in Autistic Children: A Case Study of Grade 1 Primary School Students. Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics), Major Field: Applied Linguistics, Department of Linguistics. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Kitima Indrambarya, Ph.D. 115 pages.

The objective of this study is to investigate the comprehension of Thai compound nouns among Autistic Children, orphans and normal children. The Studied groups consist of first grade primary school children, age 7-8 years. The tests were conducted by using the picture cards and word cards. The children had to match the picture cards with word cards correctly.

A Paired t-test and Standard t-test were used to determine the statistical significant differences among children in each group. The results were as follows: 1) Children in the three groups can understand simple nouns well without any statistically significance; 2) Children in the three groups differ significantly at 0.05 in their ability to understand compound nouns. The ability to understand the compound nouns between Autistic children and normal children were significantly different at 0.05. Normal children and the orphans differed significantly in their ability to understand compound nouns. However, the ability for the Orphans and Autistic children to understand compound nouns was not statistically significant. 3) The three groups differed significantly at the level of 0.05 in their ability to understand different types of compound nouns. Autistic and normal children could understand the original compound nouns better than non-original compound nouns while the orphans could understand the non-original compound nouns better than the non original compound nouns.

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