

Thesis Title	The Study of Speech Samples in a Naturalistic Context in Children Aged 5 Years to 5 Years 11 Months
Name	Sirima Na Nakorn
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Thesis Supervisory Committee	Rochana Dardarananda, B.Ed., M.A. Nantana Ronnakiat, B.A., Ph.D. Junya Pattaraarchachai, B.S., Sc.D.
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### Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the categories of words used in a naturalistic context by Thai children aged 5 years to 5 years 11 months. The subjects were 30 children, 15 girls and 15 boys, randomly selected from 2 kindergarten schools in Bangkok. Fifty utterances of spontaneous speech used by each of the subjects during normally scheduled conversation class were recorded by video and audio cassette recorders, transcribed and analysed. The results of the study showed that from the total of 5,642 words spoken, verbs were most frequently used (34.3%) second most frequently used were nouns (28.4%), modifiers (14.2%), pronouns (9.9%), conjunctions (7.9%) and prepositions (4.3%) respectively. The least frequently used by the subjects were interjections (1.0%). Moreover, the most frequently used conceptual domain of nouns was people (24.1%). The other conceptual domains of the nouns used, in order of decreasing frequency of use, were as follows, plants and food (14.7%), places (13.3%), animals (11.8%), things (10.6%), others (8.1%), time (7.7%), classifiers (5.8%), colours (2.0%) respectively. The least frequently used conceptual domain was body parts (1.8%). The results further revealed that there were no significant differences between boys and girls in using words from each category except for the nouns which boys were able to significantly use a greater number than girls ( $p < 0.05$ ).