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ORANANT KRISANACHANTR : THE STUDY OF PRODUCTION ABILITY OF ADJECTIVE AND PREPOSITION ANTONYM PAIRS IN THAI CHILDREN AGED 4 YEARS TO 6 YEARS 11 MONTHS IN MUANG DISTRICT, CHONBURI PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISOR : JEAMJAI JEERAUMPORN, M.A., ROCHANA DARDARANANDA, M.A., SUMALEE SINGHANIYOM, M.Sc. 78p. ISBN 974-589-433-8

The purpose of this study was to investigate the production ability of adjective and preposition antonym pairs in Thai children aged 4 years to 6 years 11 months. The subjects of the study were 360 children selected from private kindergartens and 1st elementary classes in Muang District, Chonburi Province. The subjects were divided into six age groups with 6 months intervals. The subjects' production ability were evaluated by a picture test developed by the researcher. The test consisted of 20 pictures representing 34 adjectives and 6 prepositions.

The results of this study reveal that successful production ability increases with age. One hundred percent of the subjects were able to produce more adjectives and prepositions as their ages increased. The number of words that the subjects were able to produce corresponding to six age groups were 2, 4, 13, 17, 18, and 21 words. There were some adjectives which no one age 4 years to 4 years 5 months and 4 years 6 months to 4 years 11 months was able to produce. The results also show that less complex terms were learned before more complex terms. The result of analysis of variance shows that the older children could produce the adjective and preposition antonym pairs better than younger children. Furthermore, the results reveal that there were no significant differences between boys and girls in the age groups 4 years to 4 years 5 months and from 5 years to 6 years 11 months. However, there were significant differences between boys and girls in age group 4 years 6 months to 4 years 11 months. The results of this study can be used in assessment and therapy for children exhibiting deficits in adjective and preposition use.