

## THE PRODUCTION OF OBJECT CLITIC PRONOUNS IN DEVELOPMENTAL LANGUAGE DISORDER: EVIDENCE FROM GREEK-SPEAKING CHILDREN

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### ABSTRACT

The present study investigates the production of object clitic pronouns in Greek-speaking children with Developmental Language Disorder. Previous studies have shown that the production of object clitic pronouns is problematic for children with Developmental Language Disorder, especially in 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular. This deviant performance is conceivably due to the involvement of the morphosyntactic level, which is impaired in Developmental Language Disorder. In the present study, we tested ten (N=10) children with Developmental Language Disorder and ten (N=10) non-impaired peers. We used an elicitation task in order to depict the production of object clitic pronouns in Greek-speaking monolingual children with and without Developmental Language Disorder. Our results suggest that children with Developmental Language Disorder, indeed, scored lower than their non-impaired peers. As previous studies indicate the Developmental Language Disorder group avoided to use the object clitic pronouns and preferred to use the full determiner phrase instead of the object clitic pronoun. In addition, errors in gender and case, and to a lesser extend in number, were observed. By contrast, this performance was not observed in the control non-impaired group, who scored at ceiling and produced the object clitic pronouns. From our results we conclude that object clitic pronouns in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person are particularly problematic for Greek-speaking children with Developmental Language Disorder.

**Keywords:** Developmental Language Disorder, object clitic pronouns, production, elicitation task.