Deep Test of Articulation in Kannada - Sentence Form

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The deep test of articulation is a diagnostic articulation test which tests all the sounds in all possible position and in all possible phonetic contexts. It is very useful for deagnosis as well as for therapy programming. At presetn DTA is available only in English. India is a multilingual country and people speak different languages. In this context, tests in different languages are necessary. The present study aimed to develop DTA in Kannada Language. For this, key sounds (d, d, g, h, v, n, s, s, y, r, !, c, j) were selected based on screening articulation test in Kannada. Meaningful words were prepared for these sounds in all possible vowel combination in initial & medial positon (In genral vowel contexts considered were a,a, i, i, u, u, e, e, o, o). For clusters all possible consonant combinations were taken. Meaningful words for all these sounds were taken from U.K.G., I, II, & III standard Kannada books. These words were embedded in simple possible sentences, the target word always in the medial position. The subjects considered for the study included 15 males and 15 females, each from U.K.G., I, II & III standard within the agerange of 5-6, 6-7, 7-8 & 8-9 years, each with no speech problem, no reported hearing problem, and Kannada as mother - tongue, belonging to middle Socil - Economic status. Before administering the test, each subject was given 3 trial sentenses and was asked to repeat after the tester. Later the child was asked to repeat item by item, the list of 'test sentences' whcih was read to him by the tester. Whenever the child misarticulated, the same sentence was repeated twice and if he misarticulated even after two repetitions, then it was cosidered as an error.

Totally the test comprised of 305 sentences to test 305 target words, including 108 clusters. Each correct articulation of the subject was given a score of one and the total score of each subject was grouped and statistically analyzed. On T test, it as found that there was no significant difference between males & females in general, within the groups and also in between the groups in terms of articulatory skills (confidence level 0.05). The Kannada deep test of articulation was found to be reliable, and the results indicated that the articulation skill increased with age. On the item analysis, it was observed that the items /h/ & /s/ were the most difficult to articulate. The vowel environment was the easiest and the cluster environment was the most difficult.

The present test helps in evaluating articulation in detail, with which the phonetic environment in which the key phoneme is articulated correctly can be located. A therapy programme can be made on the basis of these easy - difficult phonetic envornments. However, the validity of the test needs to be assessed & test has to be standardized on a large population and norms are to be developed.