

Deep Test Of Articulation In Bengali - Picture Form

Animesh Barman
Student, A.I.I.S.H, Mysore.

The deep test of articulation is a diagnostic articulation test which tests the phonemes in all possible position and in all possible phonetic contexts. At present deep tests of articulation are available only in Kannada (Rohini, 1989) and Malayalam (Maya, 1990) among the Indian languages. India being a multilingual country, it is necessary to have articulation tests in different languages. In this context, the present study aimed to develop deep test of articulation in Bengali language. For this 11 key phonemes were selected /t/ /d/ /k/ /g/ /d/ /c/ /j/ /s/ /r/ /l/ and /h/ based on articulation test in Bengali developed by Arun Banik (1988). Meaningful picturable easy words were prepared with these phonemes in initial and final positions. These phonemes were tested in various consonant environments. The test material consists of two lists. First list comprised of 21 picturable words and 20 picturable words were there in second list. Each list consists of two sets of word lists. Words with target phonemes in the final position were placed on the left hand side and words with target phoneme in initial position were placed on the right hand side.

The subjects considered for the study included 10 male and 10 female Bengali speaking children each in the age ranges of 4-5, 5-6 and 6-7 years. The subjects selected did not have any speech problem and did not report of any hearing problem and were from middle socio-economic status.

The children were instructed to produce a big funny word by combining left side one word from the left slack and one word from the right slack. They were instructed not to pause between the two words. They were asked to produce the big funny words by seeing the pictures. When they were unable to produce the sounds properly in the first instance they were given a second trial or they were asked to repeat after the tester.

After two to three trials or even after repetition, if the children were unable to produce the target phoneme then it was considered as an error. In this manner, from list one 110 responses were elicited from list 2. 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 was found that there was no significant difference between males and females as well as between the first list and second list. However, there was significant difference between the different age groups, in terms of articulatory skill (at 0.05 level). The results indicate that the articulation skill increased with age. On the item analysis, it was observed that /r/ and /d/ were the most difficult. Also the voiceless stop consonant environment was the most difficult followed by trill and fricatives. The voiced consonant environment was the easiest.

On the basis of the results, cut off scores have been provided below which could be used in diagnosis.

Table-14
Shows cut off score

Age	4-5	5-6	6-7
List-1	101.5	103.5	107
List-2	92.25	93.95	96.65

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 environment. It also can aid in research to find out the coarticulatory effects of the

preceding and the following sounds.

However, the test-retest-reliability and the validity of the test should be assessed on a large population and norms are to be developed to identify children who are at risk for failure to develop mature articulation.