

(5) Towards a developmental model of lexical access

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The study of processes and variables involved in lexical access is usually conducted from oral naming tasks, developed from adults' theoretical models. We postulate that these models are not adapted for evaluating the performance of children whose language skills are constantly changing. The goal of our research is to create a developmental model of the naming process. The model will consider both the visual and psycholinguistic variables as well as the specificities of the language development of the child. We created a set of 111 updated color photographs. Several psycholinguistic objective variables were simultaneously considered when we selected the pictures (e.g. frequency, AoA, phonological complexity ...). Based on this battery, we created specific tasks in order to assess each treatment involved in the naming process: visual recognition, semantic memory, semantic features, mental lexicon and phonological processes (Henrard and Lefebvre, 2010). Our sample is composed of 200 children aged between 3 and 11. Experiments are now in progress. The battery and the first results will be presented during the symposium. We expect that our study will lead to the elaboration of a developmental model of lexical access in children, and valid and updated diagnostic subtests.