

## Abstract

This study examined the effect of using both first and second languages in social interaction on phonological and syntactic awareness. 78 Children in Hong Kong of primary 3 and 4 were recruited as participants. They had Cantonese and English as their first and second language respectively. Half of them had maids employed in families, while half of them had not. Phonemic deletion tasks and grammatical error detection tasks were administered to them, with intellectual abilities and second language proficiency being controlled. Results revealed that children who had maid employed in families did better on phonemic deletion task but not syntactic task, indicating that social interaction in both languages improved metalinguistic awareness to some extent.