

## Clinical Markers for Identification of Children with Specific Language Impairment (SLI)

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### ABSTRACT

*The condition of Specific Language Impairment (SLI) has aroused immense interest among researchers and practitioners owing to its unique characteristics and clinical manifestations. Children with SLI have offered rich data for understanding of language processing with reference to cognitive functions as well as structural aspects of a given language. Due to the subtlety of its manifestations, attempts have been made to evolve specific clinical markers for SLI. This paper reviews five case studies to examine the significance of clinical (linguistic structural, and processing) markers in the identification of children with SLI in the Indian context.*

**Keywords:** Specific language impairment, clinical markers, cognitive-linguistic profiling, temporal processing.

Over the years researchers and practitioners have identified children as language impaired if they demonstrated language skills that were far below those expected for their age. There are children who show significant language limitation in the absence of mental retardation, sensory deficits, neurological damage and serious emotional problems. This condition is widely known as Specific Language Impairment (SLI). In SLI, the acquisition of language in children is neither rapid nor effortless as is generally seen in typically developing children. This observation has aroused interest among researchers and practitioners who consider the condition of SLI as a challenge.