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A Comparative Study of Language Development of Normal and Linguistically Deviant Retarded Children

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In a society, language is essential to convey ideas. Language development starts, when the child is in its mother's womb and lasts through out life in the form of vocabulary acquisition. It is the speciality of human beings that we can use vocal language. It is not completely depend on intelligence, but being a human we can talk. The acquisition and development of language possess a universal biological component which is genetically inevitable. The observation that diseases or lack of intelligence limit communication, but it does not prevent the development and the acquisition of language illustrates the biological foundation of language. Even mental retardation is not a great obstacle to the eventual acquisition of language. Retardate children can acquire language and can speak although the progress of their language development is too low and they have many language problems such as grammatical and articulation errors. Their language development is the same as of normal children. It is well known fact that language development of normal children is in a fixed sequence. Structurally language of retarded children is similar to that of normal children, a pattern which is frozen in a normal developmental pattern. Jordan (1976) noted that a delay in beginning to talk is common in the mildly retarded, but a complete absence of speech or mutism is rare.

However, we have to notice that although there is no direct connection between intelligence and language development, there is a relation between intelligence and the level of language development. The speech and language development of the retarded children is delayed considerably. These children delay in developing linguistic functions such as generalization, association, discrimination and manipulation of verbal concepts. They have difficulties in cognitive aspects such as sustaining attention, attaching meaning to inputs, memorizing the symbols, interpreting the message, programming of speech sounds for production and then sequencing output to produce