

Verbal Associations of Bilingual Preschool Kids

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In Belarus there is a specific of Russian-Belorussian close-related bilingualism. The most population of cities speak Russian. But children hear Belorussian speech (for ex. on TV) and they mostly understand it. During the association experiment city children at the age of 5-6 y. o. answered words, which were close by function to the Russian words-incentive (for ex. notebook – book, tree – bush), or by other parameters (for ex. chalk – white, write; tree – leaf), or they named the words-antonym (boy – girl). The major conclusion of this experiment is the following: during the perception of Russian words, in the kids memory Russian words are arising which are valence.

Another situation is with the association to the known Belorussian words. When kids heard known Belorussian words, they named Russian equivalent of Belorussian word, which were close by the meaning, by function or which sound alike (for ex. flower – tree, pen – notebook, flower [kvetka] – candy [konfetka], baby [detka]). The quantity of Russian words exactly was 60%. The translation of almost all Belorussian words into Russian tells about receptive closely-related bilingualism of this children. In country side Belorussian language or mixed used.

An association experiment took place in country kindergartens. This experiment shows that oldest preschool kids, which speak mixed language (Russian and Belorussian), named Belorussian word, when they heard Belorussian words-incentive. It happened in 50% cases (for ex. Bird – stork, flower rose, tulip), 22% of reactions were common for Russian and Belorussian languages words, and 28% of words were Russian, The last number (28%) tells about

refusing of Belorussian speech and thought of children by lexical mistakes. It means that speech of countries children develops mixed (Russian – Belorussian).

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