

ON THE ACQUISITION OF SEGMENTS AND SYLLABLE TYPES IN NORTHERN EAST CREE: A CASE STUDY

(1) Consonants (Dyck et al. 2006, Wood 2006, Swain 2008)

p	t	ch [tʃ]	k, kw [kʷ]
	s	sh [ʃ]	h
m	n		
w	y		

(2) NE Cree syllable structure (Dyck et al. 2006, 2008)

- (C)V(C) template
 - Onset = any consonant in NE Cree inventory
 - Coda = only /s, ʃ, h/
- Word-final onset appendix is also permitted, e.g.,
 - a.ti.**m** 'dog'
 - uu.**t** 'canoe'
 - 'nis.**k** 'Canada goose'

(3) C syllable

A C syllable is a syllable consisting of an onset consonant, followed by a phonetically empty nucleus.

(4) A1's acquisition on CV syllables

	Session 1		Session 2	
	N	%	N	%
Target-like	252	87.5	480	88.2
Deleted	14	4.9	33	6.1
Substituted	22	7.6	31	5.7
Total attempted	288		544	

(5) A1's acquisition of CVC syllables

	Session 1		Session 2	
	N	%	N	%
Target-like	3	75.0	29	85.3
Deleted	0	0.0	0	0.0
Substituted	1	25.0	5	14.7
Total attempted	4		34	

(6) A1's acquisition of V syllables

	Session 1		Session 2	
	N	%	N	%
Target-like	10	43.5	11	40.7
Deleted	0	0.0	6	22.2
Substituted	13	56.5	10	37.0
Total attempted	23		27	

(7) A1's acquisition of C syllables

	Session 1		Session 2	
	N	%	N	%
Target-like	10	14.3	65	56.5
Deleted	18	64.3	45	39.1
Substituted	6	21.4	5	4.3
Total attempted	28		115	

Data are from the Chisasibi Child Language Acquisition Study (CCLAS) and analysed in Phon, a software program designed for the management, analysis, and sharing of phonological corpora. Session 1 was recorded when A1 was age 2;1.12 and Session 2 when she was 3;8.24.

In the tables in (8) and (9), bolding indicates acquisition (at least 80% target-like).

(8) Summary of A1's consonants in Session 1 (age 2;1.12)

	Onset				OEHS				Coda			
	N	Tar.	Del.	Sub.	N	Tar.	Del.	Sub.	N	Tar.	Del.	Sub.
/p/	17	64.7	0.0	35.3	0	-	-	-				
/t/	51	78.4	3.9	17.6	3	3.33	66.7	0				
/k/	28	71.4	10.7	17.9	0	-	-	-				
/tʃ/	15	26.7	13.3	60.0	0	-	-	-				
/s/	0	-	-	-					0	-	-	-
/ʃ/	1	0.0	100.0	0.0					4	75.0	25.0	0.0
/h/	1	0.0	100.0	0.0					0	-	-	-
/m/	131	67.9	16.8	15.3	9	0	100.0	0.0				
/n/	35	68.6	5.7	25.7	11	45.5	54.5	0				
/w/	6	33.3	33.3	33.3								
/j/	9	44.4	22.2	33.3								

(9) Summary of A1's consonants in Session 2 (age 3;8.24)

	Onset				OEHS				Coda			
	N	Tar.	Del.	Sub.	N	Tar.	Del.	Sub.	N	Tar.	Del.	Sub.
/p/	40	82.5	10.0	7.5	4	25.0	0	75.0				
/t/	112	78.6	4.5	17.0	39	61.5	25.6	7.7				
/k/	49	69.4	12.2	18.4	24	62.5	29.2	8.3				
/tʃ/	62	77.4	8.1	14.5	13	0.0	92.3	7.7				
/s/	5	60.0	0.0	40.0					2	50.0	0.0	50.0
/ʃ/	9	66.7	0.0	33.3					51	80.4	7.8	11.8
/h/	34	32.4	58.8	8.8					3	0.0	100.0	0.0
/m/	133	67.7	8.3	15.8	3	33.3	33.3	33.3				
/n/	124	80.6	9.7	9.7	47	4.7	42.6	10.6				
/w/	17	58.8	29.4	11.8								
/j/	33	72.7	24.2	3.0								

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