Reviewer’s report

Title: How many words are Australian children hearing in the first year of life?

Version: 0 Date: 24 Sep 2019

Reviewer: Stela Maris Lemos

Reviewer's report:

The manuscript has an adequate structure, encompassing coherent and well-integrated argumentation, statistical data clearly exposed, as well as adequate and robust theoretical and conceptual inputs.

The introduction is well designed, presenting studies on the topic addressed by the manuscript; the research hypothesis is explicit; the importance of the study in the selected context and scenario indicates possible contributions of the research. Thus, the text in this section is appropriate to the purpose and scope of the paper.

The methods are adequately presented with details of all the elements needed for the understanding and reproducibility of the study. It is worth of remark that the adopted design is well suited to answer the guiding question of the study and to test the research hypothesis. The statistical analysis performed is amply described, contributing to the understanding of the results.

The results are in agreement with the methods described, while tables and graphs are clear and contribute to adequately condense the analyzes performed.

The discussion is correct, as the authors fittingly confront the literature, explain the contributions of the results and present the critical analysis of the evidenced data. The discussion contains descriptions of advances and limitations of the study, the analysis of the specificity of the present study against the scientific literature background, as well as how distinct are the results obtained in other studies. In spite of this, the discussion section is lacking highlights regarding the variability of the verbal family environment in the intragroup analysis. It is worth noting that the high range of variability in the groups, either regarding the number of emissions or the number of conversation shifts between adults and children throughout the day, may have other explanations besides maternal education. It is necessary to consider that factors related to economic, educational, community, emotional and cultural aspects might influence communicative profiles. For this reason, I suggest that the authors may consider pointing out these aspects by showing advances and limitations of the present study. The conclusions are well grounded in the findings and therefore appropriate.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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