Phonological Awareness tasks for Italian-English comparison

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ABSTRACT

Phonological Awareness tasks

An attempt was made to develop tasks that would be comparable between the Italian (i.e., a consistent orthography) and English (i.e., an inconsistent orthography) versions. Phonological awareness was measured using a spoonerisms and a phoneme deletion task. Typically, there is a relatively narrow range of performance on phonological awareness tasks in readers of regular languages (e.g., Cossu et al., 1988) and this may limit their predictive power. For this reason, we used two tests (phoneme deletion and spoonerisms tasks) not susceptible to ceiling effect and sensitive to capture individual differences in older children and adults (Bruck, 1992; de Jong & van der Leij, 2003; Hatcher, Snowling & Griffiths, 2002; Hulme et al., 2002; Landerl et al., 1997; Paulesu et al., 2001; Ramus et al., 2003), as well as in very young children (Caravolas et al., 2005).

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KEYWORDS

Phonological Awareness, crosslinguistic study, spoonerisms task, phoneme deletion task

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