

What to look for when analysing transcripts for child acquisition.

This is about analysing texts given in an exam where you have to analyse the child's capability of reading, writing and spelling. You may be given a short story, that the child has written (it will give you their age) and you will have to analyse their capability in comparison to where they 'should' be by their age.

Number 1 - the text structure and cohesion, as well as genre - what kind of structure or pattern does the text follow? - how cohesive/coherent is the text? - any attempt to follow common conventional story lines such as start, middle and ending.

Number 2 - mechanical and spatial control - letter formation - how far does the writing reveal physical control of the direction and spacing of text? - how consistently are letter shapes correctly produced? - are letters being confused, reversed or inverted?

Number 3 - spelling - do the mistakes made show evidence for creative guessing or generalisation? - is there evidence of phonetic spelling or visual? - look at what the child is doing correctly as well as incorrectly - you should hone in on single phonemes - for example, the child may write 'luv' instead of 'love', this is an example of the child phonetically sounding out their words.

Register - examine the range, register and appropriateness of the words used.

Semantics - what sort of nouns are they using? - abstract and concrete? - are they expressing feelings, actions, places and people?

Grammar punctuation - sentence types, functions and structures.