

ABSTRACT

“Predispositions of dyslexia and the neurolinguistics aspect of preschool age children in the Republic of Kosovo and Poland”

Authors: PhD. Cand. Blerta Krasniqi, Dr. Hab. Marzena Błasiak – Tytuła, prof. UKEN, Prof.

Ass.Dr.Sc. Muljaim Kaqka

Presenter: PhD. Cand. Blerta Krasniqi

This study investigates early predispositions to dyslexia in preschool-aged children from the Republic of Kosovo and Poland, focusing on the potential cultural and environmental influences on dyslexia. The research spans two phases, evaluating the same cohort of children at two different stages. In the first phase, 88 children aged 4 and 5 were assessed using a battery of 12 subtests designed to measure dyslexia indicators. The pilot study conducted in Kosovo confirmed the reliability and validity of the testing instruments. Phase one results showed significant differences between Kosovar and Polish children in areas such as color and shape recognition. Kosovar children scored higher on color recognition (11.05 vs. 9.82, $p = .001$) and shape recognition (5.55 vs. 4.78, $p = .003$), as well as on nonverbal skills (5.46 vs. 4.92, $p = .001$). Additionally, strong positive correlations were found between word repetition and syllable repetition ($r = .71$, $p = .001$), as well as a moderate correlation with pseudo-word repetition ($r = .42$, $p = .001$), indicating that these skills are strongly related.

In the second phase, data was collected from a larger cohort, consisting of 58 children with a mean age of 4.4 years ($SD = 0.53$) and 79 children with a mean age of 6.5 years ($SD = 0.50$). Significant differences between the two groups were observed on various tasks. Polish children outperformed Kosovar children on the Puzzle task ($t(77) = 2.118$, $p = .037$), while Kosovar children showed better performance on the Playground task ($t(56.921) = -4.653$, $p < .001$), hand lateralization ($t(60.664) = -2.103$, $p = .040$), storytelling ($t(77) = -3.547$, $p = .001$), and photo interpretation ($t(71.869) = -5.158$, $p < .001$). Additionally, Kosovar children excelled in forms recognition ($t(73.826) = -2.308$, $p = .024$), photo tasks ($t(74) = -3.218$, $p = .002$), and sentence repetition ($t(76) = -5.544$, $p < .001$).

Correlational analyses between the two groups revealed several significant relationships. For example, a moderate positive correlation was observed between better performance on the Playground task and higher scores on Photo telling ($r = .367, p < .001$). Furthermore, higher scores on Colors were strongly associated with improved performance in Forms tasks ($r = .466, p < .001$), and sentence repetition showed strong correlations with higher scores in both Colors ($r = .536, p < .001$) and Forms ($r = .498, p < .001$). On the other hand, a strong negative correlation was found between better performance on Parts and lower scores on Visual Memory ($r = -.396, p < .001$).

These findings highlight the impact of cultural and environmental factors on early dyslexia predispositions, demonstrating consistent differences in cognitive skills between Kosovar and Polish children. The results suggest that further research is needed to explore the complex interplay of these factors as children age and develop, particularly in relation to dyslexia and other neurodevelopmental conditions.