

# Identifying disorder within code-switched language samples: the challenge for speech and language therapists assessing language skills in bilingual children

Rochdale Primary Care Trust  
Speech and Language Therapy  
Department



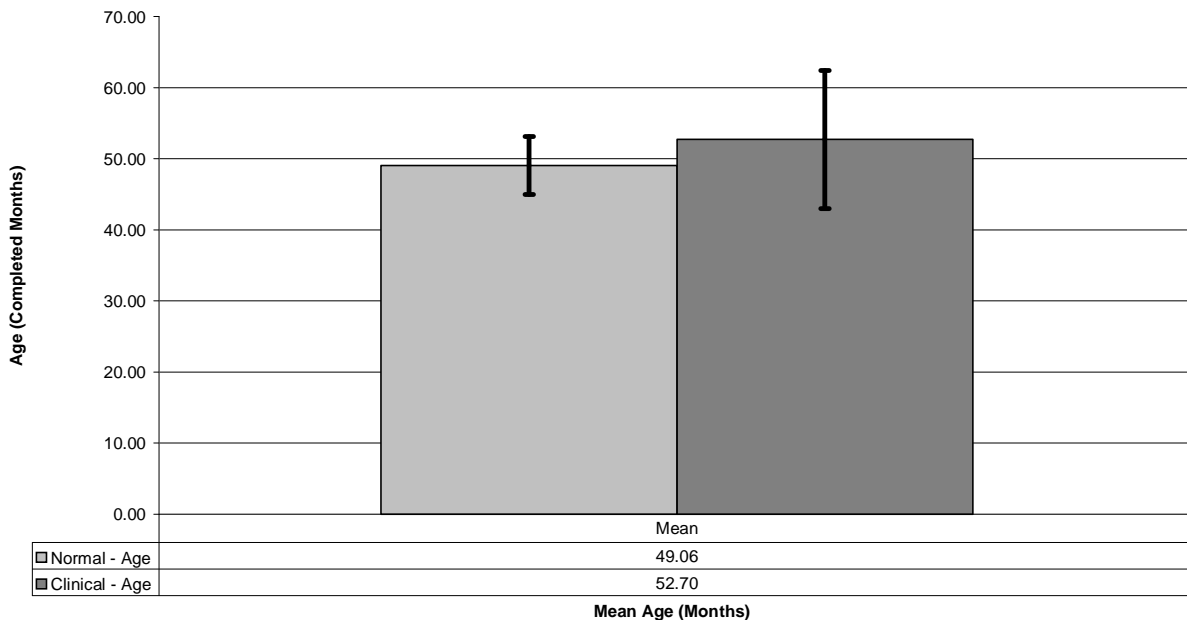
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upon Tyne, UK.



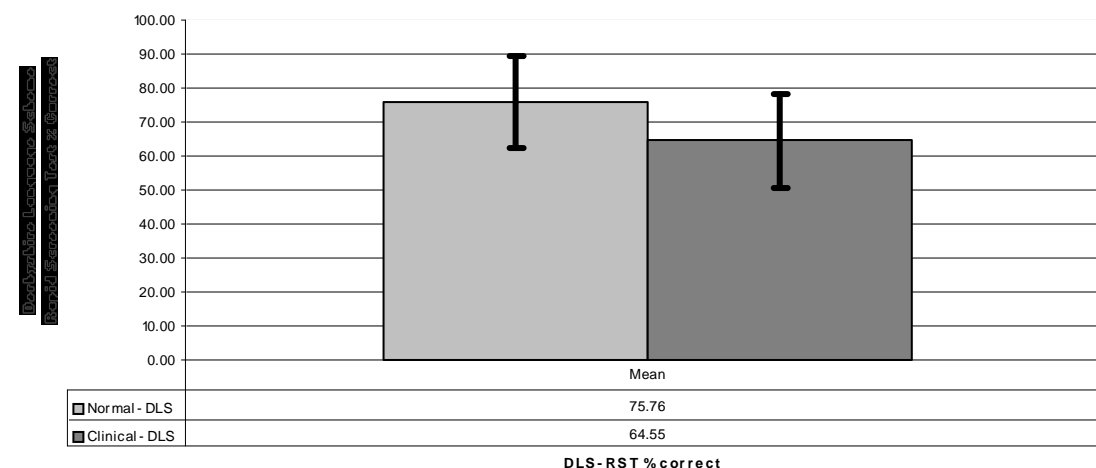
Sean Pert *and*  
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- (Intersentential) Code switching is when two or more languages contribute to an utterance.
- Myers-Scotton (2002) demonstrates that code switching is not random, but rule bound and one language (the matrix language) is more responsible than the other for the morphosyntactic structure.
- 19/22 normal children employed code switching in their expression. These children were assessed during a trial of an expressive language assessment for Pakistani heritage language speaking children in Rochdale, UK (2 did not respond and 1 used all English responses).
- 10/10 language disordered children employed code switching in their expression. These children were assessed and diagnosed in a speech and language therapy clinic in Rochdale UK.
- Code switching is therefore normal in this population and another way of assessing children's ability to use syntax and morphology.
- Ongoing research – analysis of normal code switching to compare with disordered children's grammatical and morphological abilities to complement quantitative assessment.

**Means of Normal (N=18) versus Clinical Sample (N=10) of Pakistani Heritage Children  
1. Age**



**Means of Normal (N=18) versus Clinical Sample (N=10) of Pakistani Heritage Children  
2. Comprehension Scores**



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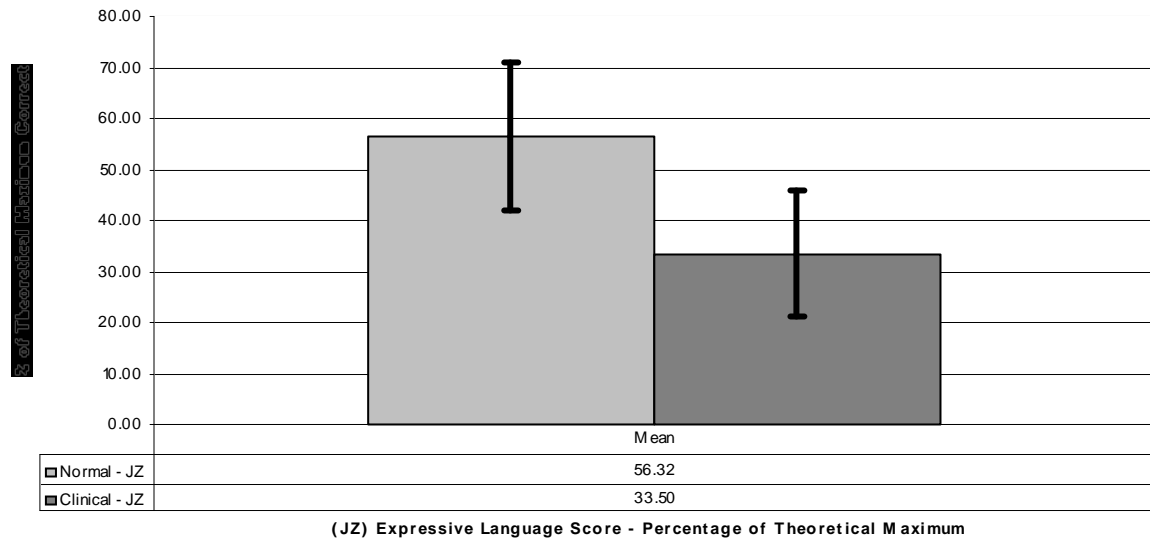


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Means of Normal (N=18) versus Clinical Sample (N=10) of Pakistani Heritage Children  
3. Expressive Language Scores



## References

### Expressive Language Assessment Development:

Pert, S. And Stow, C. 2002: Language remediation in mother tongue: a paediatric multilingual picture resource. *International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders* 36, (supplement: proceedings of the College's 2001 conference), 303-308.

### Translation Protocol:

Pert, S. 2002: *Mind the gap!:* Towards a translation protocol for speech and language therapists. Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists Special Interest Group in Bilingualism presentation  
Pert, S. Forthcoming CLOL poster presentation.

### Trial Data:

Pert, S. And Letts, C., In press: *Developing an expressive language assessment for children with a Pakistani heritage background.*

### Theoretical Background:

Myers-Scotton, C., 2002: *Contact linguistics: bilingual encounters and grammatical outcomes.* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

### Contact

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### Web Sites

<http://www.bilingualism.co.uk>  
<http://www.speechtherapy.co.uk>