

Danish children's acquisition of inflectional morphology

– the development of noun plural inflection in the age of 0-10 years

LAILA KJÆRBÆK

This study investigates the development of the noun plural inflectional category in Danish children from the first appearance up to the age of 10 years. It is based on a multi-method research approach in order to get a fuller picture of Danish children's acquisition of noun plurals. The study rests on a sound-based analysis of the Danish noun plural system, and investigates the hypothesis that the productivity of the plural markers has an impact on acquisition. In order to test the hypothesis, a scale with three degrees of productivity for plural markers is proposed: 1) *fully productive*; 2) *semi-productive*; and 3) *unproductive*. The acquisition rate is predicted to go from *fully productive* to *semi-productive* to *unproductive* plural markers and the error direction to go from *unproductive* to *semi-productive* to *fully productive* plural markers. These predictions are confirmed by the study.