ALEF 7-11 Database « Arabic Lexical Frequencies for children aged 7 to 11 »
Lexical frequency in Arabic literacy texts of Lebanese children

Applications

The results of this project serve as a database to inform the design of relevant assessment and therapy tools for Lebanese children aged between 7 and 11 years old based on frequency as well as language-specific features.

Problem addressed

In French, lexical frequency in children and adults is estimated using several computerized databases such as Brulex (Content et al., 1990) and Novlex (Lambert et al., 2001). The availability of such data has supported the development of several language tools and has promoted research advancement in the field of speech and language science.

In Arabic, such a tool has not yet been developed, which constitutes a very particular challenge for the speech therapy intervention in the area of written language in Lebanon.

Technology

ALEF 7-11 Database « Arabic LExical Frequencies for children aged 7 to 11 » is based on the concept of word frequency. It will allow an easy access to lexical materials based on school level, frequency as well as language-specific features. Its content was created from 55 Arabic literacy books currently adopted by the curriculum of public and private schools in Lebanon.

Advantages

- Advance knowledge on word frequencies in Arabic according to school levels
- Enable researchers and speech therapists to gain access to a well-defined database that yields lexical materials based on diverse linguistic features, such as patterns, word length, grammatical nature, etc.
- Inform and support the design of speech therapy assessment and treatment tools for Lebanese children aged between 7 and 11 years old.

Inventors

- Nouhad Abou Melhem, ISO, Saint-Joseph University of Beirut, Lebanon
- Dana Badran, ISO, Saint-Joseph University of Beirut, Lebanon