

Aminah Kerawala: The socio-emotional problems of children with dyslexia

A successful reader applies a complex combination of skills and knowledge to the task – including visual perception, auditory perception, linguistic knowledge, cultural knowledge, and knowledge about print and communication. Phonological delay might cause reading difficulties. However the research report argues that reading/language difficulties can be also associated with social/emotional problems.

This piece of research on an aspect of dyslexia is professionally relevant to the author. Aminah introduces her experience in special education in India in first chapters. I particularly value how dyslexia is seen from different levels and perspectives and relation to learning more than one language in India. Critical understanding of the phenomenon of dyslexia is well demonstrated in this chapter. There is a note that the issue of social-emotional difficulties has not been addressed yet in the Czech Republic-any reference to such statement? The key words of the theses were critically analyzed and evaluated, research conducted by others in the field discussed.

Understanding of the research methods used was demonstrated and well discussed in close connection for this piece of this research. My comments: p. 28 “observation” needs further specification - who, which activities, environment and why need to be added. Project ATLAS – what is the link between the ATLAS project and this piece of research? Please justify why this method was chosen.

Justified conclusions were reached. Strengths and weaknesses of the methods used were critically analyzed. I see a major limitation in the sample of pupils chosen for the research. The group of five children who were only pupils of one/same school but also the school is located in deprived area with higher level of population with emotional and behavioral difficulties. Thus representativeness of this research is questioned. Nevertheless from methodological point of view it is very good work and could well served as a pilot study to be further used in the future research.

The work is written in standard English and very well edited. Tables, diagrams and figures are drawn.

Jan Šiška

Prague 18.8.2007

Suggested mark: 1/-2