

THE PERIOD OF THE FIRST FIVE HUNDRED WORDS

PROSODY

Melody of Speech

In regard to melody, the falling, rising and expressive pitch levels, noticed in the two preceding developmental stages, are still observed in the child's idiolect. Their distribution is, however, more evenly balanced now.

The interrogative pronouns *kdo* (who), *co* (what), and *kde* (where), which appeared as a novum in the first-one-hundred-word period, have become stabilized and the intonational contours in these types of questions are identical with those of Standard Czech. No further progress, however, is shown in the development of the questions. The child still seems to be content with the interrogatives related to identification and location, while the questions regarding time, manner or cause are still absent from his speech.

Stress

As for stress, its correct usage in expressively neutral utterances was reported in both previous stages and is valid for the present stage as well. As before, the overuse of stress is still noticeable under emphasis. This regards both its strength and its placing on additional syllables to the first. Viewed from the angle that stress is a strongly expressive element in the child, its overusing is not surprising with the child at the age of two.

Quantity

In distinction to both previous stages, quantity comes to be used in its contrastive function in the realizations of the first five hundred words. Also the phonetic realization of long vowels have been stabilized, as will be shown in characterizing the vocalic phonemes.