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Maternal level of education and its influence on the adult lexical availability

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This communication analyses the lexical availability of students in early childhood education and primary education University Degrees in relation to the variable level of maternal studies organized in four options: (1) uneducated, (2) primary studies, (3) secondary studies, high school or vocational training, and (4) university studies. The aim of this research was to analyse whether a higher level of maternal studies implied an increase in the lexical availability of university students. To carry out this work, 591 informants responded to a survey divided into two sections. The first was to collect sociodemographic data, and the second one, to assess the available lexicon based on eighteen centres of interest (the sixteen traditional ones and two novelties: New Technologies: ICT and Education). The results obtained from a corpus of 205,097 words show that the expected linearity between the level of maternal education and lexical availability does not remain constant for the analysis of the whole corpus or the study of the unique words. In spite of this, the results collected are evocative. As it happens, for example, the lexical superiority in certain subject areas by the group of uneducated mothers as is the case in the centres of interest 'The kitchen and its utensils', 'Heating and lighting', and 'Work in the field and garden'.

Biographical note(s) of the author(s)

Lecturer at Rey Juan Carlos University in the area of General Linguistics since 2012. She is Psychology, Master's degree in Teacher Training and Master's degree in Language Sciences and Hispanic Linguistics. She received her PhD in Humanities and obtained the Extraordinary Doctoral Award; the 1st Social Council Award and the Guadalupe Aguado Award. Furthermore, she, currently, collaborates in several research and innovation projects and has several publications related to her main lines of research: lexical availability, lexicography, sociolinguistics, and didactics of language and literature.

Recommendation (for student section)

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