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Discourse - pragmatic adequacy and cognitive inferences in language production

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The present time tendencies demonstrate that Latvia has two distinct layers of population as concerns immigration: those who immigrated in the late 90' or at the beginning of the millennium to satisfy their social, financial needs and requirements and who are repatriating to Latvia presently, and those who having completed their service in the western or eastern countries return to their former communities being successful in their social and environmental settings.

The focus of this case study is on considering 5–10-year-old age group individuals who used to be residents in foreign countries, who were brought up in Latvian-origin families and who, upon returning to Latvia, face discourse-pragmatic challenges in language perception and production.

The present study bears an interdisciplinary nature; it is based on discourse- pragmatics related theoretical contributions in the intersection with the theories pertaining to cognitive aspects of language perception. The paper attempts to argue that several subjective and objective factors can cause language production difficulties when the language is used in a variety of settings.

A four-year period, from 2017-2021, was considered: observations and structured interviews were applied as research instruments.

The study has drawn a conclusion that the ability of children, who refer to repatriate families, to establish adequate discourse-pragmatic language production in meaningful educational and/or social contexts in Latvia much depends on: a) subjective and objective factors, b) discourse-pragmatic adequacy in language use, which is related to cognitive inferences made.

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