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**Private speech used by children between four and five years old in the process of teaching-learning in a bilingual international school**

In the social-cultural theory, private speech, according to Wertsch (1980a apud Frawley & Lantolf, 1985), is defined as a private dialog that the individual promotes with himself. Its function lies in the necessity of self-regulation that the individual has over his actions and usually occurs in situations where the development of perception, attention and memory are required. Private speech of children has been extensively studied: McCafferty (1994), Berk & Spuhl (1995), Fernyhough & Russell (1997), Kraft & Berk (1998), Winsler, Carlton, Barry (2000), Manfra & Winsler (2006), Smith (2007), Day & Smith (2013) and others. However, only three studies about private speech of adults in Brazil were found: Ferreira (2000), Silva (2009) and Pinho (2009). Therefore, a gap could be identified in the Brazilian studies about private speech as a self-regulation tool in the teaching-learning process for children. The objective of this study is to investigate the role of private speech used by children between four and five years old in the process of teaching-learning in a bilingual international school. Henceforth, it will be attempted to verify if private speech occurs during the activities “circle time” and “phonics” according to the following research questions: 1) If yes, how private speech occurs, what is its function and frequency? 2) But if not, why does it not occur and what do children use in order to regulate themselves during these activities? In order to answer these questions, fourteen children between four and five years old in a bilingual international school are being recorded with one camera and one voice recorder during the activities “circle time” and “phonics”. Previous analyses have shown that children tend to produce private speech when something new is learned, so that they can understand and complete the tasks. The transcriptions and the analyses are still in process.

**References**


