

## Characteristics of Children with Language Disorders: Preliminary Findings from a University Clinic

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### Abstract

*Purpose:* Recent study aims to examine the demographic and language characteristics of the children whose native language is Turkish and who have applied to the Education, Research & Training Centre for Speech and Language Pathology (DİLKOM) who have delayed language and language disorders.

*Method:* This study is a descriptive, retrospective study. Case files of the SLP clinic's archive in a University were scanned and used. The sample was collected from 80 files of children whose age were between 2;00-7;11 and had language disorder and delayed language. Their demographic characteristics and standardised Turkish version of Test of Early Language Development (TELD) scores were examined.

*Results:* According to the preliminary findings demographic characteristic of caseload is different between sexes. Majority of the children were boys. They have family history of language disorders and delayed language. In addition, participants' receptive language scores are higher than expressive language scores. It is also found that speech sound disorders and language disorders might be comorbid.

*Conclusion:* Being a boy, having a family history of language disorders and premature birth can be risk factors of language problems. These preliminary findings are consistent with the literature.

*Keywords:* language disorders, delayed language, demographic characteristics

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**Note:** Children with language disorders and delayed language apply frequently to the clinics. If speech and language therapists/logopedists would know the demographic profiles of these children, they can monitor their clients more effectively.