

## **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTAL READING PATTERNS AND GENDER DIFFERENCES IN READING ATTITUDE AMONG YOUNG CHILDREN**

**Anikó Fülekiné Joó**

*Doctoral School of Education, University of Szeged*

*Keywords:* reading attitude; gender; parental patterns

A pilot research was conducted to construct and validate a reading attitude scale, which was designed with the aim of investigating gender differences in reading attitude among young children. Before the statistical analysis of the data it was hypothesized, on the basis of previous research results in the field that girls had a more favorable attitude toward reading than boys, and there was a relationship between parental reading habits and reading attitude. Students (N=218) in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades filled in the paper-and-pencil questionnaires that consisted of three sections: demography, reading habits of their own and their parents' and the reading attitude scale. By analyzing the data of the first two sections we received normal distributions. The attitude scale proved to be valid and reliable as it contained the dimensions of Mathewson's reading attitude model (Cronbach- $\alpha=0,873$ ).

Girls showed significantly ( $p<0.01$ ) more positive attitude toward different reading situations than boys in all the involved three grades. Within the results regarding the attitude toward reading achievement tests however, no significant differences were found between the two genders. The effect of parental reading patterns was not significant within the whole sample, but having analyzed the results of the boys and the girls separately we have found significant ( $p<0.05$ ) differences between the attitude of those whose parent of the same sex reads regularly. In addition, fathers' reading habits seemed to be more influential than that of the mothers'. These results suggest that parental reading habits may be regarded as an explanatory variable of gender differences in reading attitude, and fathers' reading behavior may predict boys' reading attitude better than that of mothers'.

The large-scale research involving fourth, fifth and sixth grade students (N=1500) in Debrecen and in other towns and villages in Hajdú-Bihar county is in the stage of data collection.