What is CLEX

CLEX stands for Cross Linguistic Lexical Norms, and is an extension of the CDI database. The name of the database comes from the CDI Advisory Board for Child Language, University of Southern Denmark.

Basic Principles

The CDI database has been placed on a web server and there has been created a number of scripts so that it is possible to search in them from a web browser. The default language in CLEX is English (American) and the different CDI datasets, but also suggestions for analytic tools which can facilitate re-

Results & views

The goals

The goals of CLEX is a gathering of different complete datasets from different CDI studies in various languages. The system is created so that new languages can be included fairly easily, with the goal of facilitating cross-linguistic comparisons.

Tables and flexibility

Table 1 shows the data table in its straightforward format. In the example in the below, you can see that of the 30 children of age 18 months, 10 children are included in the study. Of these children did not understand the word cat, and 2.9% had said the word cat. Notice also that you have the option to export the table into your own computer.

Also take note of the variables. This table was made from the data in the Words and Gestures dataset. It includes boys and girls, and that the data showing in average percentages, exact numbers.

CLEX allows you to control the independent variables in order to narrow your search.

The Vocabulary Subscale function of CLEX allows the researcher to view the result as a graph as well. Having the result form your search in a given dataset now gives you the opportunity to view the result of a search with the same criteria in another language as long as the given language has been included in CLEX.

Also take note of the variables. This table was made from the data in the American CDI (2000). The MacArthur Communicative Development Inventories: User's Guide and Scoring Manual (2000) in promoting child language research. One crucial factor in the success of CLEX has been the generosity of researchers in contributing data, and we hope that we will extend CLEX to other CLEs. Like CHILDES, we are developing, and posting on our website, explicit policies concerning acknowledgment of the use of other data. Another contributing factor has been the impaired and insightful of the CHILDES development team and many others in the scientific discipline. We hope that researchers will contribute to CLEX not only CLEs, but also suggests for stylized tools which we can facilitate re-

Search and selection

Search in CLEX

You start your search by choosing a specific dataset. That could be the Danish infant (cross-sectional), the American toddler (cross-sectional) etc.

When you have chosen a dataset you can choose between different types of search functions: single word, single word, vocabulary, word class and norms (see further description below).

In each function you start by picking the specific items you are interested in, and a table will be generated. Moreover you can rank the criteria for the test, by specifying gender, age etc. etc. For most results it is possible to view the result as a graph as well.

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What is shown

A central issue when working on online dynamic-A systems in a kind of CLEX is to keep track of what is actually being shown. First step for the user is to identify the dataset that they are searching in. The first tab in each dataset is identified as the Primary header.

In the example in the above, the Danish infant’s tab has been selected. There are manual cross-lingual mappings available for English and Swedish, and semi-automatic mappings available for Danish and Spanish and other. By selecting Swedish, a comparison chart of Danish bog and Swedish bok and a Swedish occurrence chart appears.

Compare with caution

Our recommendation is always taking advantage of the possibility of cross-linguistic comparisons. Because exact syntactic of course allows across languages, users must consider their research questions and hypotheticals in determining what is cross as mapping. Cognitive status, phonological similarity, degrees of semantic relationship and other factors may be very important for specific projects. For this reason, CLEX provides a functionality by which the initial development of the database or a later researcher can import a distinct database into their own dataset.

By default, American English serves as the “interlanguage” and comparisons between other languages are made via their link to it, but direct map-

Single word

The Single word function allows you to search a specific word in one lan-

databases, you can find those references organized so that they refer to the original American CDI, meaning that when a new language is included in CLEX, each word is given an English translation and, if possible, a link to the matching word in the American CDI form.

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