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## **SYLLABLE STRUCTURE OF WORDS IN THE SPEECH OF 3-YEAR-OLDS**

### **Abstract**

The way children acquire syllable structure of words characterizes the level of their speech development. It is assumed that 3-year-olds without any disorders do not have any difficulties with constructing syllables. The current paper describes the results of an acoustic study of word syllable structure in the speech of twenty Russian 3-year-old subjects. 75% of them demonstrated from 3 to 7 syllable structure changes. The maximum of 13,2% of the total of 53 words were characterized by those changes. There were examples of word-initial single-consonant elision, syllable elision, syllable transposition, sounds transposition, insertions of hard and soft forelingual /l/ and /lʲ/ into a syllable, and anticipation. Consonant cluster reduction was also noticed; it did not change the number of syllables in words. Clusters that were more and less resistant to reduction were determined.

**Keywords:** syllable, consonant, elision, reduction, child speech, acoustic analysis.

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