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Musical Characteristics of Improvised Songs of 1-2 Years Old Infant

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to clarify the musical characteristics of improvised songs of 1-2 years old infant. It provides suggestions for clarifying aspects of music development in 1-2 years old infant.

I obtained video data of a typical developing girl (1 year 11 months to 2 years 6 months) from parents, and obtained samples of 4 songs (Sample1 to Sample4). In addition, I obtained samples of 4 songs (Sample5 to Sample8) of a typical developing girl (1 year 10 months to 1 year 11 months) whose video is distributed by the Chuo Hoki in "Musical Expressions of Infants". A total of samples of 8 songs were obtained from two girls, and by transcribing them, musical characteristics were extracted from the Melody, Language, and Rhythm categories.

Table 1 shows a list of extracted musical characteristics, their real numbers and percentage. For example, the characteristic of Atonality is found in 4 songs in all samples, and the percentage of the total sample to 8 songs is 50%.

Table1 Musical characteristics of improved songs , their real numbers and percentages

	Melody			Language			Rhythm	
	Atonality	Tonality	Uncertain pitch	Mixture of song and word	Lyrics that are not word	Onomatope	No beat	2 or 4 beats
Sample1		○	○		○		○	○
Sample2	○				○	○		○
Sample3	○				○			○
Sample4		○			○	○		○
Sample5	○			○	○	○	○	
Sample6			○	○		○		○
Sample7	○		○	○	○		○	
Sample8		○		○		○	○	
(Real number)	4	3	3	4	6	5	4	6
(Percentage)	50%	38%	38%	50%	75%	63%	50%	75%

As a result, the following three points were shown: (1) In the Melody, it is showed a mixture of Atonality, Tonality, and Uncertain pitch. This is considered to indicate the early stage of music development, (2) In the Language, Mixture of song and word, Lyrics that are not word, and Onomatope were mixed. This is considered to be a characteristic of the early stage of development in which language and music are undifferentiated, and the language acquisition period. In addition, individual differences in the language development of the target infants are also appearing, (3) In the Rhythm, No beat, 2 or 4 beats are mixed. This is also considered to indicate the early state of music development.

From these facts, it is considered that improvised songs of 1- 2 years old infant tend to have musical characteristics peculiar to the early stage of development and the language acquisition period. And it is considered to give suggestions for clarifying the process of music development of 1- 2 years old infant.