

## **Once Upon a Time: Revisions in the Stories of Children with Specific Language Impairment**

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Speech interruptions, also called disfluencies and mazes, indicate the formulation load of an utterance. The detection of mazes can be useful in the identification of formulation difficulties in children with specific language impairment (SLI). Mazes are typically divided into three types: repetitions, filled pauses and revisions. Repetitions and filled pauses are thought to act as “place holders”, whereas revisions may reflect deeper formulation problems. The purpose of this study was to determine the function of revisions in the story retells of children with SLI. Thirty-five children with SLI retold a story about a family who goes to McDonalds for lunch. The revisions were transcribed and coded to indicate whether or not the child was correcting a grammatically or semantically incorrect statement, or simply adding or modifying information. Although children with SLI often have errors in their utterances, it was found that only 3% of the revisions were accurately correcting an ungrammatical or semantically incorrect utterance. This may indicate that children with SLI have deficits with their ability to self-edit their speech.