

Overmarking with kes in Child Korean
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Overmarking errors (Maratsos & Kuczaj 1978) occur in early child syntax when the child adds an element that is absent in well-formed adult speech. This paper briefly reviews research on overmarking from the 1970s, and shows that overmarking errors are restricted to functional categories. It then discusses the case of *kes* in early child Korean, first studied by Young-joo Kim (1987, 1989). Kes occurs in early child speech in the position shown in (1), between a noun and its modifier:

- (1) [Acessi otopai tha-nun **ke** soli ya. (Polam 2;3; Kim 1987:20)
 man motorbike ride-ADNOM KES sound is
 'It's the sound of a man riding a motorbike.'

While *kes* occurs in a complementizer-like role in Korean noun complement constructions, it is ungrammatical in the position of (1) in adult Korean. In addition to examples like (1), where it is preceded by a clausal modifier, *kes* also occurs preceded by adjectives and possessive pronouns in early child Korean. This makes it difficult to argue, as do Lee, Lust, and Whitman (1990), that *kes* in early child Korean is a complementizer. I suggest instead in this paper that *kes* is analyzed by children as a determiner.