The student

Year Level: 4

Background: born in Sudan

Language: Dinka

Schooling: 10-11 years old, very limited schooling in Arabic, perhaps 1 year, before starting at an English Language School

The task

The student was asked a series of questions as part of an oral language assessment task.

The text shows that the student:

- understands simple, predictable questions
- gives basic information about self
- understands simple past and present tense in context
- is most accurate when using formulaic, well-rehearsed structures
- creates original expressions
- expresses simple opinions

T: what's your name? Where do you come from?
S: My name is M. I come from Sudan. I born in Sudan when I little. Then when my 5 we came to Australia - no, Egypt. Then when I'm 10 years I came to Australia [because?] people in my family here. 5.

T: What do you like about Australia?
S: Like school
T: why?
S: is to learn English

This text is an example of a student at Stage B1. He uses formulas, well-rehearsed and common sentence patterns and short, simple, telegraphic utterances to communicate. He answers simple, predictable questions, and provides basic information about himself. He is able to express simple opinions. His utterances are more accurate when he uses simple, familiar structures, e.g. 'I come from Sudan', than when he attempts to use more complex structures e.g. 'I born in Sudan when I little'.