INDIAN JOURNAL OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS
VOL. 33, NO. 2, JUL-DEC 2007

Paraphasias in Multilingual Conduction Aphasia: A Single Case Study

MEDHA HEGDE
SAPNA BHAT
Dr. M. V. Shetty College of Speech and Hearing, India

ABSTRACT

Conduction aphasia is a type of fluent aphasia, which is caused due to the damage to the supramarginal gyrus and arcuate fasciculus resulting in repetition disturbance. It has been speculated that linguistic system in bilingual aphasics can breakdown in different ways across languages. There is a lack of detailed linguistic studies in specific aspects of bilingual aphasia in Indian context. The present study highlights linguistic investigations across languages in bilingual aphasics. Measures like spontaneous speech analysis, paraphasia checklist and paradigmatic distance could help in determining languages for therapy even though such decisions cannot be effectively carried out only by traditional test like Western aphasia battery. It is thus suggested that linguistic analysis form a part of routine aphasia evaluation and more subtypes be profiled in a similar way.

INTRODUCTION

Conduction aphasia is a fluent type of aphasia. The neuroanatomical basis of conduction aphasia is the damage to the *supramarginal gyrus and arcuate fasciculus* that connects Broca's with Wernicke's area. The other site of lesion is the left temporal area. As the transmission of information from Wernicke's to Broca's area is affected, the primary symptom is *repetition disturbance*. However, a deficit in phoneme processing has consistently been associated with conduction aphasia (Blumstein 1973).

Bilingualism further complicates the whole picture of any aphasia subtype. Bilingual aphasics are those who have known more than one language before aphasia. A lot of studies have postulated that the degree and type of aphasia can vary across languages known by a bilingual aphasic (Fabbro 1999 and Paradis 2000). Fabbro (2001) claimed that