Neurolinguistics of Linguistic Perseveration: Evidences from Clinical Population

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ABSTRACT

It is generally well known that linguistic perseveration is a common symptom in individuals with brain damage and that its manifestation may be at the phonological, syntactic and/or semantic levels. The influence of perseveratory behavior on a subject's response to test stimuli and in therapeutic process has triggered the interests of the speech language pathologists. Speech language pathologists are also interested in the study of perseveratory responses in brain-injured children and adults as it helps to trace the underpinnings of neural structures and functions. The study of various types of linguistic preservations – continuous, stuck-in set and recurrent – in normal geriatric individuals and brain injured presents a platform to draw a relationship between neuroanatomical degeneration/lesion with *linguistic functions. The paper attempts to highlight the importance of* linguistic analysis of perseveration, which serves as a non-invasive tool to understand the relationship between age related perseveratory phenomenon vs. pathological perseveration.

Keywords: Aging, Aphasia, Linguistic Analysis, Neurolinguistics, Perseveration

Neurolinguistics is an area of research that is of critical importance to the understanding of normal human language and cognition. The ultimate aim of neurolinguistic research is to understand and explicate the principles of language, delineate the mechanisms and processes implicated in language use and specify their neurological instantiation. A subject as diverse as neuroloinguistics, generally attracts researchers from various disciplines including the Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP's). The SLP's are concerned about the pathological aspects of speech and language systems and their clinical manifestation. The clinical signs and symptoms of linguistic deficits generally associated