

Fluent Aphasia in Telugu: A Case Comparison Study of Semantic Dementia and Stroke Aphasia

SUVARNA ALLADI
RUKMINI MRIDULA
SHAILAJA MEKALA
VANI RUPELA
SUBHASH KAUL

Nizam's Institute of Medical Science, Panjagutta, Hyderabad, India

ABSTRACT

This study presents two cases with fluent aphasia in Telugu with semantic dementia and post-stroke fluent aphasia. Comparable scores were obtained on the conventional neuropsychological and language tests that were administered on the two cases. Both cases demonstrated fluent, grammatical and well-articulated speech with little content, impaired comprehension, and anomia. When conventional tests were supplemented with detailed testing of semantic memory and combined with an exhaustive history, a differential diagnosis was effectively made. It was possible to determine the type of word retrieval deficits in both cases. While the person with post-stroke fluent aphasia demonstrated an access type of word retrieval deficit, the person with semantic dementia demonstrated a degradation of the semantic system itself. Even though the two fluent aphasics were seemingly similar, marked differences in the type of problem and presenting symptoms were noticed. The study aims to elucidate the differential nature of fluent aphasia in these two disorders.

INTRODUCTION

Fluent aphasia is a language disorder, characterized by fluent, grammatical and well-articulated speech with little content, impaired comprehension and anomia. These features have been described in two neurological diseases: Semantic dementia and post-stroke fluent aphasia, conditions that are distinctly different in mechanism as well as site of lesion. Post-stroke fluent aphasia (termed stroke aphasia