

Selective Impairment of Verb Retrieval in Subcortical Aphasia

GOPEE KRISHNAN
SHIVANI TIWARI
Manipal University, India

ABSTRACT

Selective impairments of word-class retrieval skills have been extensively reported in the literature. Such findings posit that the conceptual knowledge is represented in specific categories, with possibly different neural representations. Although there are myriads of such findings in the literature, similar reports are scanty from the Indian context. Against this backdrop, we present two subjects with comparable subcortical lesions and aphasias. Interestingly, one subject showed selective difficulty in retrieving verbs. An attempt is made in this paper to discuss the reason for such a selective verb retrieval deficit in one patient alone and the relevance of probing into such dissociations in the Indian context. Based on our observations, we advocate the incorporation of verb naming task in the routine screening of subjects with brain damage.

Keywords: Grammatical-category specific impairments, subcortical aphasia, verb retrieval

1. INTRODUCTION

Studies documenting the grammatical category-specific deficits – i.e. the disproportionate impairments in the processing words of one grammatical category relative to the others – have been reported extensively in the literature. The best-known and most often studied case is the noun-verb dissociation (e.g. Bastiaanse & Jonkers 1998; Baxter & Warrington 1985; Bates, Chen, Tzeng, Li & Opie 1991; Bird, Howard & Franklin 2000). In addition, such category-specific grammatical deficits have been reported selectively in both comprehension and production (McCarthy & Warrington 1985; Miceli, Silveri, Nocentini & Caramazza 1988; Tranel 1991; Silveri & Di Betta