

Analysis of Spoken Narratives in a Marathi-Hindi- English Multilingual Aphasic Patient

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ABSTRACT

In a multilingual country such as India, the probability that clinicians may not have command over different languages used by aphasic patients is very high. Since formal tests in different languages are limited, assessment of people from diverse linguistic backgrounds presents speech-language pathologists with many challenges. With a view to explore the possibility of eventually designing a suitable assessment procedure for multilingual aphasics, an attempt is made in this paper to discuss some of the language specific narrative devices used in generating spoken narratives by a Marathi-Hindi-English aphasic patient from Mumbai in each language. Different methodologies used in collecting and analyzing these narratives are described in this paper.

Keywords: Aphasia, narratives, story grammar

1. INTRODUCTION

Mumbai has inhabitants with many languages and regional variations. Practically every individual is a bi-lingual or even a multilingual who mixes and switches languages routinely in everyday communication. Therefore, it is necessary to find how existing assessment tools for aphasics can be applied in cross-language situations. All languages used by the aphasic patient need to be assessed because it is not possible to predict which language is most useful in which situation to that patient. Structural properties of languages vary a great deal and differential recovery of a particular language may depend on those differences. Elicitation and analysis of narratives can be used as a simple clinical tool for assessment or help identify specific targets for therapy, or even to make the intervention approach more pragmatically oriented.