

## Progressive Non-Fluent Aphasia in Malayalam: A Case Study

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### ABSTRACT

*Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) is a degenerative condition characterized by deterioration in language for at least two years without deterioration in other cognitive domains. This report highlights the language profile in a 79-year-old male with progressive nonfluent aphasia (PNFA) who was assessed using the Western Aphasia Battery and the Semantic battery. Initial assessment revealed that the subject had nonfluent speech with relatively preserved comprehension and significant difficulty with naming. The subject's performance on the picture-pointing task was superior to the confrontation-naming task and strengthened the diagnosis of PNFA. On follow-up evaluation after a year his language abilities across tasks showed significant deterioration.*

**Keywords:** Primary progressive aphasia, progressive nonfluent aphasia, semantic dementia

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Focal cerebral atrophy may give rise to a progressive and selective disorder of language. Several patterns of deficit have been included under the broad rubric of "progressive aphasia," which reflects breakdown in distinct functional systems (Snowden, Neary & Mann 1996). Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) is a degenerative condition characterized by deterioration in language for at least two years without deterioration in other cognitive domains (Mesulam 1982; Neary et al. 1998). It is now considered one of the family of disorders known as fronto-temporal lobar degeneration, fronto-temporal dementia, Pick's disease, or Pick's complex (Hodges 2001).