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Language Loss in Assamese Aphasics

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ABSTRACT

The paper aims to investigate the language deficits of aphasics. A study was conducted on brain deficit person, who had focal damage in the brain due to cerebro-vascular accidents (CVAs or strokes), head injury, and the surgery required to remove tumours. The higher mental function depends on specialized cerebral substrates and a disturbance of any of these brain areas may lead to impairment of already acquired language and communication. These may lead to the disorder of articulation, word and sentence comprehension and production, reading and writing, which are commonly regarded as clinical manifestation of acquired language deficits. This acquired language deficit is known as "aphasia." Aphasia causes primary disturbance in the comprehension or production of speech. The study was conducted on 18 cases of neurologically impaired and all these subjects were patients in the Guwahati Neurological Research Centre, Assam. The brain lesion of these subjects was confirmed either by CT scan or by MRI scan from which this information was procured with the help of medical experts of the hospital. The present study deals with the language deficit of LHD (left hemisphere deficit) group. Based on the degree severity the LHD group is divided into three subgroups – LHD with severe aphasia, LHD with mild aphasia and LHD with non-aphasia. A simple Assamese and English bilingual test was conducted on the subjects to determine their language deficit and naming deficit. The language test consists of five components namely word/picture recognition test, reading comprehension test, verbal fluency test, translation test and pre/postposition test. The test result shows that in all the three LHD groups generally the degree of deficit corresponds to the severity of