

HEARING HANDICAP EXPERIENCED BY HEARING AID USERS

Tan Han Guan

This study was done to find out the difficulties face by hearing aid users and their degree of hearing handicap. 32 subjects with the age range between 21 to 81 years old (with mean age of 47.59 +/- 18.23 years old) participated in this study. All the subjects have hearing loss in between the range of 23.93 dB and 100 dB with the mean of 66.16 +/- 15.07 dB. The level of hearing handicap was tested using a questionnaire, which consists of demographic information and different listening situations. Statistical analysis carried out using the scored of all the subjects showed that only gender and frequency of hearing aid usage (hours per day) have influence on the perception of their hearing handicap. Subjects were also sub-divided into three groups i.e. group with insignificant hearing handicap (score <20%), group with moderate hearing handicap (score between 20% to 40%) and group with severe hearing handicap (score >40%). Significant hearing handicap differences were found when the two groups (moderately and severely hearing handicap) were compared according to their speech understanding in different listening situations. Differences were found when they are in a big group situation, in a situation with noisy background and speech understanding when watching television and listening to the radio.

Tan, H.G. 1999. Hearing Handicap Experienced by Hearing Aid Users. Bachelor of Audiology Thesis. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.