

## **ASSESSING THE BENEFITS OF SOUND SMOOTHING FEATURE (SSF) USING THE MALAY HEARING IN NOISE TEST (MyHINT)**

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The purpose of this study was to assess the benefits of sound smoothing feature (SSF) in hearing speech using The Malay Hearing In Noise Test (MyHINT). This study was carried out at the Audiology and Speech Science Clinic, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia from July 2007 until March 2008. Subjects were 25 sensorineural hearing impaired individuals with mild to moderately severe hearing loss at one ear. In this research, all of the subjects were fitted only with one unit of hearing aid. Hearing aid (HA) used in this study was the Centra HA. Experimental design study was used to assess the benefit of SSF affecting the reception threshold for sentences (RTS). Subjects were divided into two groups in which subjects in Group One were those who had experience using HA while in Group Two, subjects had no experience in using HA. The Malay Hearing In Noise Test was used to determine reception threshold for sentences (RTS) when the SSF was switched off and when it was on for both groups. Transient noise that was used were hammering noise plus clattering glasses. The noise was recorded. The noise level was set constantly at 65 dBA. The result shows that there was a significant difference in the mean RTS between the two groups when the SSF was switched off and when it was on [ $F(1,23)=30.74$ ,  $p<0.001$ , with effect size  $>0.14$  and power of study  $>80\%$ ]. However both groups showed the mean RTS were significantly better with SSF on compared to SSF off [ $F(1,23) = 69.88$ ,  $p<0.001$  with effect size  $>0.14$  and power of study  $>80\%$ ]. As a conclusion this study showed that SSF benefited its users when hearing speech in transient noise.

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