

A CASE STUDY: VERB RETRIEVAL AND SENTENCE PRODUCTION IN FLUENT APHASIA

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Problems with lexical retrieval are common across all types of aphasia but certain word classes are thought to be more vulnerable in some aphasia types. Traditionally, verb retrieval problems have been considered the characteristic of non-fluent aphasias but there is growing evidence that verb retrieval problems are also found in fluent aphasia. As verbs are retrieved from the mental lexicon with syntactic as well as phonological and semantic information, it is speculated that an improvement in verb retrieval should enhance communicative abilities in fluent aphasias as in the non-fluent aphasias. This study reports on an investigation of verb retrieval and sentence production of two Malay speakers with fluent aphasia. A series of assessment was established in order to investigate word class effects and monitor language change before therapy. The two subjects then received twice-weekly verb treatment over approximately 2 months. Therapy method was implemented based on Marshall et al. (2003) in Therapy 1 and Edwards and Tucker (2006) in Therapy 2. Then reassessment of test used in initial assessment was conducted immediately after therapy. Results showed that there are significant improvements in verb retrieval for one subject in Therapy 1 and Therapy 2 while the other subject showed significant improvement only in Therapy 2. This is because in Therapy 1, she had received high score in the prior assessment. Although statistical test had showed no significant in Therapy 1 for this subject, however there is improvement in the raw score. In addition, there was an increase in well-formed sentences in connected speech for both subjects. In conclusion, working on verb retrieval treatment showed improvement in verb retrieval of practiced items and results in an increase in well-formed sentences.

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