

Examining Distortion Errors in Persons with Aphasia with and without Apraxia of Speech

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Rational: Distortion errors are considered a primary characteristic of apraxia of speech (AOS), one of several characteristics thought to aid in the differential diagnosis of AOS from aphasia. Distortion errors, i.e., sound distortions and distorted substitutions, also occur in the speech of persons with aphasia without AOS, further complicating the diagnostic process. Thus, the purpose of this study is to examine the rate and distribution of distortion error types in these two populations.

Method: In a retrospective analysis the rate and distribution of distortion error types produced by 21 adults with aphasia, with and without AOS, during the repetition of multisyllabic words will be explored.

Results/Discussion: Preliminary results demonstrate that persons with aphasia and AOS (Group A; n=10) produce higher rates of distortion errors compared to persons with aphasia without AOS (Group P; n=11). With regard to error type, Group A produced higher rates of voicing errors compared to Group P. Specifically, errors of partial voicing were the most prominent. No other significant differences were observed, although distribution of error type varied across groups and participants. These findings support recent literature and are valuable to clinical education as well as the diagnostic process.