Age and Gender Differences in the Language Deficits of Individuals with Asperger Syndrome (AS) and High Functioning Autism (HFA): Systematic Literature Review (SLR) and Meta-Analysis (MA)

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Abstract : Background: In spite of the fact that several language deficits, both internalizing and externalizing, have been documented in comorbidity with Asperger Syndrome (AS) and High Functioning Autism (HFA), there is a paucity of the continuity of these deficits in these individuals' life span. Furthermore, findings regarding differences in the occurrence of these language deficits both in HFA and AS males and females are mixed. Aims: Systematic Literature Review and meta-analysis (SLR & Meta-analysis) provides a more valid indicator; that is why it has been used here to distinguish HFA and AS individuals in terms of (a) When does language deficits prevails in these individuals' life and (b) in which gender the prevalence of these language deficits is seen more. Materials and Method: In this SLR & Meta-analysis, PubMed, ScienceDirect, SpringerLink, SAGE journals online, WILEY online library, Google Scholar, CINAHL, EMBASE, Scopus, and ERIC databases in addition to unpublished literature were systematically searched between 1st of January 1980 and 30th of May 2022. Interpretations: Although overall sample sizes were small, the combined results do permit the tentative conclusion that prevalence of language deficits both in AS and HFA children and adults with more prevalence of phonological deficit in HFA male children and pragmatic deficits in AS male children. Further research should be separately undertaken in each linguistic branch to verify the occlusions of this study.

Keywords : high-functioning autism, Asperger syndrome, systematic literature review, meta-analysis