

Modeling Pronunciations of Arab Broca's Aphasics Using Mosstalk Words Technique

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Abstract : Background: There has been a debate in the literature over the years as to whether or not MossTalk Words program fits Arab Broca's aphasics (BAs) due to that language differences and also the fact that the technique has not yet been used for aphasics with semantic dementia (SD aphasics). Aims: To oversimplify the above mentioned debate slightly for purposes of exposition, the purpose of the present study is to investigate the "usability" of this program as well as pictures and community as therapeutic techniques for both Arab BAs and SD aphasics. Method: The subjects of this study are two Saudi aphasics (53 and 57 years old, respectively). The former suffers from Broca's aphasia due to a stroke, while the latter suffers from semantic dementia. Both aphasics can speak English and have used the Moss Talk Words program in addition to intensive picture-naming therapeutic sessions for two years. They were tested by one of the researchers four times (a time per six months). The families of the two subjects, in addition to their relatives and friends, played a major part in all therapeutic sessions. Conclusion: Results show that in averages across the entire therapeutic sessions, MossTalk Words program was clearly found more effective in modeling BAs' pronunciation than that of SD aphasic. Furthermore, picture-naming intensive exercises in addition to the positive role of the community members played a major role in the progress of the two subjects' performance.

Keywords : moss talk words, program, technique, Broca's aphasia, semantic dementia, subjects, picture, community

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