

Language profiles of two Sri Lankan Malay-speaking adults post-stroke.

Abstract

Introduction: Aphasia affects receptive and expressive language skills, communication skills, as well as a person's competence at reading and writing (ASHA, 2012), depending on the area of the brain affected. The aspects of language that are retained following a traumatic brain injury or that are easier for the person experiencing aphasia to access may depend on the salient morphological and syntactic features of the target language. We are currently unaware of how aphasia affects the language and conversational skills of first language speakers of Sri Lankan Malay.

Aim: To profile the language competence and communication skills of Sri Lankan Malay-speaking adults experiencing aphasia.

Material & Methods: This is a qualitative, exploratory study documenting the language and conversational profiles of two Sri Lankan Malay-speaking adults post-stroke. A range of informal tasks for receptive language and expressive language, literacy skills and problem solving skills as well as adapted versions of subtests from the Western Aphasia Battery (Shewan & Kertesz, 1980) and the Pyramids and Palm Trees assessment (Howard & Patterson, 1992) will be administered in Sri Lankan Malay. In addition, 10 minute audio and video recordings will be made of the participant-carer and/or participant-researcher in conversation. The language data will be analyzed with reference to the Cognitive Neuropsychological model (Goodglass & Kaplan, 1972) while the conversational data will be analyzed using the principles of Conversational Analysis (Beeke, Maxim & Wilkinson, 2007).

Results: The data will generate two clear profiles for the two clients on language and conversational competence in Sri Lankan Malay post-stroke.

Conclusions: The results will be discussed in terms of issues concerning assessment, intervention and service delivery for Sri Lankan Malay-speaking adults.

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