Multilingualism and Aphasia

Outline
- Definition of multilingualism
- How languages are affected by aphasia
- Recovery patterns
- Treatment for multilingual aphasia

What is Multilingualism?
For this presentation....

A multilingual person = a person who speaks more than one language, regardless of age of acquisition, proficiency, or use

What is Multilingualism?
- Defined in different ways by different researchers...
- Complicated by:
  - Age of Acquisition, Proficiency, Use [Roberts, 2008]

Some interesting facts
(from Statistics Canada, 2011)
- 20% of Canadians speak a language other than French or English at home.
  - This is around 6.6 million people.
- More than 200 languages were reported as home languages in Canada.

Some interesting facts
(from Statistics Canada, 2011)
- In Vancouver, 57.7% of people speak a language other than English at home.
  - Punjabi is the most common home language in Vancouver.
How does aphasia affect each language?

1. Parallel impairment
   Each language is equally affected.

2. Differential impairment
   One language is affected more than the other.

Other patterns of impairment

4. Differential Aphasia
   The person has a different type of aphasia in each language.

5. Blended/Mixed Aphasia
   The person mixes the two languages together. They do not seem to realize that they are two different languages.

What about recovery?

1. Parallel recovery
   - Each language improves the same amount.

2. Differential recovery
   - One language improves more than the other.

3. Selective recovery
   - Only one language recovers.

Which one do you think is the most common?

Parallel impairment
   (All languages are equally affected)

Source: Roberts, 2008; Adrover-Roig, Marchette, Scherer & Ansaldo, 2012; Snell, 2013
Which one do you think is the most common?

Parallel Recovery
(All languages recover equally)


Treatment for Multilingual Aphasia

The big question...

In what language should treatment be given?

Research Results

• Many studies have shown effects in both languages when only one language is treated.
• No one result has been seen across all studies.
  – Every person responds to treatment differently.

Source: See reference list for studies reviewed.

Any Questions?

Thank you!

köszönöm  เของหน deruji mahalo 고맙습니다
merci 谢谢 danke 谢谢 danke
什克拉 どうもありがとうございます  gracias

References

References Continued


• Small, J. (2013). Multilingual Aphasia [Class handout]. School of Audiology and Speech Sciences, University of British Columbia.