Introduction

- Linguistic symptoms may differ by language, and aphasic symptoms are likely to be affected by unique linguistic features of the language that individuals with aphasia used premorbidly.
- Language-specific features could influence individual symptoms of aphasia.
- Crosslinguistic comparisons on Korean and English
  - Two languages have contrasting syntactic structures.
  - Korean is a verb-final language. Following the word order of Subject–Object–Verb (SOV).
  - Predicate is retained at the end. Other linguistic constituents can be scrambled freely within a sentence (Sohn, 2013).
  - English follows a word order of Subject–Verb–Object (SVO).
  - Relies heavily on word order.

Sung and Colleagues (2015)

- Korean produced more verb types and more verbs per utterances in a picture description task.
- However, linguistic symptoms may vary as a function of task types.
- People with aphasia (PWA) showed differential performance as a type of language elicitation tasks (e.g., Deloche, Jean-Louis, & Seron, 1979).

Types of language elicitation tasks

- Personal narrative tasks: Carried out with open questions, and they can utilize various themes such as talking about the patient’s job, interests, or stroke story in a free speech situation (Deloche et al., 1979).
- Picture description tasks: can be more difficult than delivering personal narratives, given that the picture description carries a more constrained situation (Deloche et al., 1979).

Stimuli: Personal narratives vs. Picture description

- Selected from the Aphasia Bank protocol (MacWhinney et al., 2011).
- Personal narratives task: Participants were asked to recall a personal situation of their speech, stroke and recovery story.

Results

- Two-way Mixed ANOVA
  - Language group x task type
  - Significant main effects of the language group
    - Number of verb type [F(1,27)=7.601, p<.05] (Korean > English).
    - Number of nouns per utterance [F(1,27)=5.06, p<.05] (English > Korean).
  - Korean-speaking individuals with aphasia produced greater range of verbs than the English-speaking individuals with aphasia.
- Significant main effects of the task type
  - All the linguistic outcome measures except for number of nouns per utterances and types for NVR.
  - Participants mostly produced more words in the personal narrative task than a sequential picture description task.

Discussion

- Difference between language group
  - Korean-speaking individuals with aphasia produced a greater range of verbs than the English-speaking individuals with aphasia.
  - Consistent with previous findings from Sung et al. (2015).
- Difference between task type
  - Both language groups produced more numbers of utterances, nouns and verbs in the personal narratives than in the sequential picture description tasks.
  - The sequential picture description task is a more constrained way of eliciting connected speech samples, resulting in increasing cognitive demands.
- Two-way interaction
  - Number of nouns per utterance: Korean PWA produced greater number of total utterances in the personal narrative tasks than in the sequential picture description tasks.
  - Number of verbs per utterance: due to a general pattern of more utterances in personal narrative task than the sequential description tasks.
- Study implied that evaluating spontaneous speech using different tasks could reflect an aphasic individual’s differences across the different languages.

References

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- Differences in Nouns and Verbs for Korean and English Speaking Individuals with Aphasia.
- Significant main effects of the task type and Efficiency of the Connected Speech of Adults with Aphasia.
- Difference between language group and Efficiency of the Connected Speech of Adults with Aphasia.