Introduction

- Aphasia is an acquired language disorder typically caused by stroke.
- The Western Aphasia Battery-Revised (WAB-R; Kertesz, 2007) is a common tool used to assess language function in individuals with aphasia.
- The cut-off for not-aphasic on the WAB-R is an aphasia quotient (AQ) at or above 93.8.
- However, oftentimes these individuals complain of mild language difficulties.
- A multi-level discourse analysis procedure can detect discourse deficits at both the micro- and macro-linguistic level (Marini et al., 2011).
- These procedures have been shown to be more sensitive to language deficits than standardized measures (Marini et al., 2011; Sherratt, 2007; Wright & Capilouto, 2012).

Purpose

- The purpose of this study was examine micro- and macrolinguistic measures in individuals determined non-aphasic by WAB-R AQs (NABW) and control individuals across three discourse tasks.

Research Questions

- Do NABW score differ from control individuals with no history of neurogenic disorders damaged group (NBD) on macrolinguistic measures?
- Do NABW differ from NBD on macrolinguistic measures?

Participants - retrieved from AphasiaBank database

- NABW Group included N = 27
- NBD Group included N = 27
- Groups were matched for: Age, Education, Gender

Assessment and Measures

- Discourse Measures:
  - Single picture description task
  - Cat in tree
  - Story narrative
  - Cinderella
  - Procedural discourse task
  - Steps to make a PB and J sandwich

- Marini Analysis (Marini et al., 2011)

- Error Measures:
  - Microlinguistic Error Measures:
    - Lexical Analysis
      - # of words
      - Semantic paraphasia
      - Morpho-syntactic Analysis
    - Substitution of a function word
    - Substitution of a bound morpheme
    - Omission of function word
    - Content omission
  - Macrolinguistic Error Measure:
    - Global Coherence
    - Filler utterance
    - Repetition of utterance
    - Conceptually incongruent utterance
    - Tangential utterance

Results

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NABW</th>
<th>NBD</th>
<th>P-value</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lexical errors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cat in tree</td>
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<td>.643(.471)</td>
<td>.356</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cinderella</td>
<td>.623(.210)</td>
<td>.741(.173)</td>
<td>.031</td>
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<td>Sandwich</td>
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<td>.484(.482)</td>
<td>.073</td>
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<td>Grammatical errors</td>
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<tr>
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<td>.00(00)</td>
<td>&lt;.001</td>
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<td>Global Coherence errors</td>
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</table>

Discussion

- Participants with AQs at or above 93.8 on WAB-R can present with subtle deficits in discourse production.
- No significant differences were found between groups for global coherence across the three discourse tasks.
- Significant differences for grammatical errors for all discourse tasks.
  - NABW group had more errors than the NBD group.
- Clinical Implications:
  - Need to be cautious in interpreting test battery results as “normal” performance; subtle language deficits may be present at the discourse level.

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