THE NATURE OF CROSS-TASK AND CROSS-STRUCTURE GENERALIZATION FOLLOWING SENTENCE COMPREHENSION TREATMENT IN APHASIA

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INTRODUCTION

- In a previous study (Kiran, Caplan, et al., 2012), two treatments, one based on sentence to picture matching (SPM) and the other based on object manipulation (OM), that train patients on the relationship between syntactic structure and the meanings of sentences were developed.
- We found the treatment to be effective in improving sentence comprehension of trained structures in fifteen patients with aphasia.
- More patients improved on the OM task than SPM task.

OBJECTIVES

- In this study, we compare acquisition of trained structures and generalization to untrained structures and tasks across the two treatment approaches (SPM/OM).
- Cross structure and cross task generalization is examined
- We also examine effects of treatment on a broader array of sentences.

METHODS

- N = 19 persons with aphasia
- Participants were identified on the basis of two screening tests for syntactic comprehension (SPM & OM) with sentence structures ranging from object relative to active sentences.
- A single subject multiple baseline design with order of task and structure counterbalanced across participants.
- Sentence comprehension was trained on the affected sentence type in one task-related protocol
- Generalization was examined to other structures.

RESULT 1: Which treatment is more effective (Tx Data)

- All patients improve as a function of treatment ($t(18) = 5.06, p < .001$).
- OM treatment more effective than SPM (NS for effect size, but significant for % change (p= 0.000917))

RESULT 2: Generalization to untrained structures and tasks (Tx Data)

- Across structure within task generalization: Between OR <-> OC, OR <-> PASS, PASS <-> OC, OC <-> UNACC.
- Within structure across task generalization: From SPM OC -> OM OC

RESULT 3: Generalization to untrained sentence types (Screener Task)

- Greater changes from SPM to OM

REFERENCES


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