To evaluate the effects of a untrained FW (n=15) German: GPC spontaneous speech: 55 years old, academic researcher

Segment PhD in Philosophy and Political Sciences

Lack A / a

Center Treatment of function word reading

In S. Byng, K. read “much” from “mud pies”.


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BACKGROUN

Approaches to the treatment of function word (FW) reading:

Method 1: Restoration of lexical entries (paired associates, phonological priming): practice effects, more effective with irreg. FW [1, 2, 3]

Method 2: Retraining of grapheme phoneme correspondences (GPCs): practice effects AND generalization to untrained items [3, 4]

HYPOTHESIS

German: transparent orthography with highly predictable GPCs:

Method 2 with retraining of nonlexical reading abilities should be effective: practice and generalization effects [4]

AIM

• To evaluate the effects of a GPC learning approach in the treatment of function word reading in German

Participant KS

• 55 years old, academic researcher
• PhD in Philosophy and Political Sciences
• writer of lyric poetry

• left CVA, 3.5 years post-onset
• severe aphasia, dyslexia and dysgraphia
• spontaneous speech: nonfluent
• good auditory comprehension

Pre-treatment assessment (LEMO)[5]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>READING</th>
<th>nb. correct</th>
<th>interpretation</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>NOUNS (N)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>imag. reg.</td>
<td>55/60</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>concrete, abstract</td>
<td>39/40</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>content words (N, Adj)</td>
<td>59/60</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>FUNCTION WORDS (FW)</td>
<td>18/30</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NONWORDS</td>
<td>0/40</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REPETITION</td>
<td>39/40</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TREATMENT procedure (part of multiple treatment programme, routine clinical setting)

Aim: to establish a non-lexical reading strategy by a retraining of GPCs and blending abilities

Method: GPC learning approach using individual key-words associated with single graphemes [3, 4, 6, 7]

Material: 10 CV syllables, 40 highly frequent FW (pronouns, determiners, conjunctions, adverbs, prepositions)[8]

Intensity: ca. 1/3 of whole treatment: 40 sessions á 60 min, 1-2 / week, 9 months in total

Procedure:

2. Segment initial phoneme from key word / sound out letter, e.g., [j] - /j/, [a] – /a/
3. Sound out and blend letters to produce CV-syllables and FW, e.g., /ja/ - /ja/ (‘yes’)

RESULTS for reading tasks: % correct

(i) Trained FW (n=40)

(ii) Standardized tests (LEMO): FW, nonwords

(iii) Re-Analysis (LEMO): FW (trained, untrained)

CONCLUSION

1. German: GPC learning approach is effective for treatment of FW reading (practice effect)
2. Lack of generalization to untrained items: Which factors influence the presence or absence of these effects? (e.g., treatment intensity, personal relevance of targeted skills, cognitive status)[9]
3. Standardized tasks for the evaluation of treatment effects: Material needs to be carefully checked for trained and untrained items until a generalization effect is claimed

REFERENCES


