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A comparison of linguistic manifestations of aphasic and non aphasic subjects with regard to drives and defenses

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1. Goal: to research the specific effect of the aphasic impairment in the linguistic field and the reactions of the subject to it.

2. Sample: the first interview of 7 aphasic subjects, 5 of them as a consequence of a CVA and 2 due to a traumatic impact, (Roberto, Favio, Cristina, Isabel, Eduardo, Irma, Liliana) with the same interviewer.

3. Method
The David Liberman Algorithm (DLA), which allows to systematically research drives and defenses as well as their state in **the** discourse.

4. Procedure
1) To analyze the interviewees' capacity to narrate taking into account a) the amount of narrations, and b) the types of speech acts.
2) To analyze the interviewees' words.
3) To compare the corresponding outcomes with the results of the studies done to patients without an aphasic impairment.

5. Analysis of the capacity of the aphasic subjects to narrate
The research of the capacity of the aphasic subjects to narrate can be oriented in two ways: 1) the more direct: analysis of narrations and speech acts, and 2) an indirect study: analysis of words. In both **alternatives** it is necessary to compare the corresponding outcomes with the results of the **discourse** analysis of non aphasic subjects.
5. 1. Narrative skills

Two strategies of research can be applied: 1) to compare the amount of narrations produced by aphasic and non aphasic subjects, 2) to investigate the speech acts of the aphasic subjects when they intended to narrate an episode.

Number of narrations

7 aphasic interviewees

Interviwee	Nº of narrations
Roberto	24
Favio	16
Cristina	16
Isabel	11
Eduardo	10
Irma	7
Liliana	1

Full words

	Nº of words	Nº of narrations	Nº of words by narration
Roberto	3.598	24	150
Favio	1.482	16	92
Isabel	1.449	11	132
Cristina	818	16	51
Irma	816	7	116
Eduardo	610	10	61
Liliana	40	1	40

4 non aphasic patients

Interviwee	Nº of narrations
Catullo	87
Corina	35
Ms.	20

Smithfield	
Carmen	15

<u>Full words</u>

	Nº of words	Nº of narrations	Nº of words by narration
Cátulo	8.464	87	97
Ms. Smithfield	6.010	20	300
Carmen	2.837	15	189
Corina	3.825	35	109

The comparison leads to suggest that some of the aphasic patients could display a reasonable number of narrations, and that the proportion between narrations and words is also reasonable. So, it is posible to conclude that this perspective is not useful to research the specific features of the aphasic manifestations.

A second perspective involves the speech acts analysis. **At the beginning of the session**, A2 re**s**ources, **which** correspond to the tendency to dominate reality using words in causal links and concrete narrations, were accompanied by the failure of the defense in accordance with the goal, or were replaced by other re**s**ources and more pathogenic defenses.

Interviewee	First Moment			Second Moment		
	Drive	Defense	state	Drive	Defense	State
Favio	A2	In accordance with the goal	Failed	UPH GPH	Repression+ character traits.	Successful
Cristina	A2	In accordance with the	Failed	GPH	In accordance with the goal	Successful

		goal				
Liliana	A2	In accordance with the goal	Failed	A2 GPH	In accordance with the goal	Successful
Roberto	O1	Disavowal	Successful	O1	Disavowal	Successful
Isabel	O1	Foreclosure of reality and the ideal	Failed	O2	Disavowal	Successful
Irma	IL	Foreclosure of the affect	Successful-failed	IL	Foreclosure of the affect	Failed
Eduardo	IL	Foreclosure of the affect	Failed	A2	In accordance with the goal	Failed

Causal links have a great relevance in the task of giving a narration: post hoc, propter hoc, said a **well-known falacy**. When concrete narrations were replaced by other re**s**ources, it mean**t** that, from the perspective of drives and defenses as well as their state, A2 and **failed** defense in accordance with the goal could also be considered as the partial repetition of a traumatic scene (IL and failed foreclosure of the affect). Sometimes the patient reacted with a combination of IL and foreclosure of the affect, O1 or O2 and disavowal and GPH and repression+histrionic traits of character, which were successful for a brief period of time. In these cases, a great number of words merely had the function of rejecting the fact of linguistic impairment and the corresponding state of helplessness, instead of expressing concrete facts and the accompanying affect..

<u>Linguistic impairment</u>

Drive	Defense	State
A2	In accordance with the goal	Failed

IL	Foreclosure of the affect	Failed

Defense against the trauma

Drive	Defense	State
IL	Foreclosure of the affect	Successful
O1/O2	Disavowal	Successful
GPH	Repression+histrionism	Successful

5.2. Analysis of words

Another strategy of research consisted in the analysis of drives in the words of the 7 aphasic interviewees and comparing the corresponding outcomes with the results of the analysis of several non aphasic patients.

 Drives and words: a comparison

7 aphasic interviewees

Roberto		Isabel		Irma		Cristina		Eduardo		Liliana	
O1	37,97%	O1	35,82%	O2	25,50%	A2	34,37%	A2	26,74%	PHG	100%
UPH	15,03%	O2	20,71%	UPH	23%	UPH	22,21%	UPH	24,48%	-	
O2	13,18%	UPH	12,03%	A2	20,43%	GPH	16,59%	O2	19,01%	-	

Favio	
UPH	21,24%
A2	20,84%
GPH	19,45%

Mrs. C 's specimen hour			
		Fragment 1	Fragment 9
1.	A2	31.86 %	26.66 %
2.	GPH	20.46 %	21.89 %
3.	UPH	17.16 %	21.85 %
4.	O2	16.27 %	16.71 %

Amalie's second session	
A2	30.02%
UPH	23.44%
GPH	22.60%

In the discourse of the aphasic subjects, A2 is the most important language in the case of only one speaker (Cristina). In two other cases (Eduardo and Favio) a technical draw between A2 and UPH can be appreciated. In the remaining cases, A2 was not so predominant.

In non-aphasic subjects -such as the cases of   Mrs. C and Amalie, which are very well-known and have been studied by different teams of researchers-, the relevance of A2 was evident. It showed that what prevailed in these two patients was the tendency to offer objective narrations of facts and to establish rational links (such as causal links, among others). The aphasic subject**s** were unable to do this and were, in consequence, forced to develop avoidance traits (when UPH prevailed), expression of feelings (when O2 predominated), a tendency to appeal to abstract thought (when O1 predominated) or histrionic attitudes (when GPH predominated).

6. Discussion

Usually the outcome of the application of the DLA dictionary for the analysis of words coincides with the result of the analysis of speech acts more than with the results of the study of narrations. In consequence, speech acts' analysis and word's analysis lead to infer that in aphasic patients A2 (expressing the wish **to** master the inner and the external reality thanks to **((((the-NO VA))))** rationality and the use of words for the establishment of causal links, etc.) has a comparative weak power.

7. Conclusions

Patients suffering from an aphasic impairment have a specific linguistic restriction in their capacity of referred narrations and causal links. These restrictions lead to a failure of functional defenses (combined with A2), replaced

by failed foreclosure of the affect (combined with IL). The patients **overcome** this state using some compensatory techniques, like histrionism (combined with GPH), abstract thinking (combined with O1), expression of feelings (combined with O2), violence (combined with A1) or avoidance (combined with UPH) attitudes. These compensatory resources correspond to a combination **of** IL and successful or successful/failed state of foreclosure of the affect