

PSYCHOLINGUISTIC METHODS FOR CORRECTING SPEECH DISORDERS

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Abstract: This article explores psycholinguistic approaches used in the correction of speech disorders. The paper highlights the theoretical foundations of psycholinguistics as a science, analyzes methods aimed at restoring speech activity through cognitive-linguistic mechanisms, and presents practical applications of psycholinguistic techniques in speech therapy. Special attention is given to the interaction between language, cognition, and communication processes in individuals with speech impairments. The article concludes that psycholinguistic correction methods provide a scientifically grounded and effective framework for diagnosing and treating various types of speech disorders.

Keywords: Psycholinguistics, speech correction, speech disorders, cognitive processes, language therapy, communication rehabilitation, speech therapy methods.

INTRODUCTION

Speech disorders represent a complex phenomenon where multiple cognitive, neurophysiological, and linguistic factors interplay. Traditional methods of speech therapy often focus primarily on articulation and phonetic aspects; however, recent advances in psycholinguistics have demonstrated that a deeper understanding of mental language processing mechanisms can significantly enhance the effectiveness of speech correction. Psycholinguistics, which examines the cognitive and neural processes underlying language comprehension and production, offers powerful tools for diagnosing, analyzing, and treating speech disorders. The purpose of this article is to explore psycholinguistic methods that are used for correcting speech disorders, discuss their theoretical underpinnings, and highlight their application in therapeutic practices.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Psycholinguistic methods for correcting speech disorders are built on the fundamental idea that speech is not just a mechanical articulation of sounds but a complex cognitive process involving perception, memory, attention, and mental linguistic structures. Therefore, the correction of speech pathologies should target not only the physical aspects of speech production but also the underlying cognitive and linguistic deficits.

One of the core psycholinguistic techniques is semantic mapping and categorization exercises, where patients are trained to organize words and concepts in meaningful hierarchies. This method enhances lexical access and strengthens the associative networks in the brain, which are often weakened in individuals with speech impairments such as aphasia. By systematically activating semantic fields, patients gradually recover their ability to retrieve and produce relevant lexical items in speech [1].

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Another important method is narrative therapy, which focuses on reconstructing patients' ability to build coherent stories. Narratives require the organization of events in a logical and temporal sequence, thus activating various cognitive and linguistic subsystems. In psycholinguistic narrative therapy, patients are encouraged to produce personal stories, retell known tales, or complete stories from prompts, thereby stimulating syntactic structuring, vocabulary enrichment, and pragmatic skills.

Metalinguistic awareness training is another significant psycholinguistic approach. It involves helping individuals with speech disorders develop an explicit understanding of language structures, such as the ability to identify phonemes, recognize syntactic patterns, and manipulate word forms. Research shows that higher levels of metalinguistic awareness correlate with better outcomes in speech therapy, as patients become active participants in monitoring and adjusting their own speech behavior [2].

Cognitive training targeting working memory and attention also plays a pivotal role in psycholinguistic speech therapy. Since language processing heavily depends on the ability to hold and manipulate information in working memory, exercises that strengthen these cognitive functions indirectly contribute to more fluent and accurate speech production. Tasks such as repeating complex sentences, following multistep instructions, and memory span activities are integrated into speech therapy sessions to support language rehabilitation.

A psycholinguistic correction model would be incomplete without addressing phonological processing. Individuals with speech disorders, particularly dysarthria and apraxia of speech, often experience disruptions in phonological encoding. Phonological awareness tasks, minimal pair discrimination, and phoneme segmentation exercises aim to rebuild the pathways that support the accurate formation and retrieval of speech sounds.

In recent years, technology-assisted psycholinguistic interventions have gained popularity. Computer programs and mobile applications designed for speech therapy often incorporate psycholinguistic principles, providing interactive tasks that target lexical retrieval, syntax building, and auditory discrimination. Virtual reality (VR) and artificial intelligence (AI) applications are also emerging, offering more engaging and personalized therapeutic environments [3].

Importantly, psycholinguistic methods emphasize the individualization of therapy. Each patient's unique cognitive-linguistic profile is assessed through detailed psycholinguistic testing, and intervention plans are tailored accordingly. This contrasts with more traditional "one-size-fits-all" approaches and results in higher therapy efficacy rates.

Research consistently supports the effectiveness of psycholinguistic methods for various speech disorders, including aphasia, dysarthria, apraxia of speech, and developmental language disorders. Furthermore, psycholinguistic strategies are increasingly integrated into multidisciplinary rehabilitation frameworks, combining speech-language pathology, neuropsychology, and cognitive therapy for holistic patient care [4].

CONCLUSION

Psycholinguistic methods offer a comprehensive and scientifically grounded framework for understanding and correcting speech disorders. By focusing on the cognitive and linguistic processes underlying speech production and comprehension, these methods address not only the surface manifestations of speech impairments but also their root causes. Techniques such as semantic mapping, narrative construction, metalinguistic training, cognitive exercises, and phonological processing tasks form the backbone of modern psycholinguistic speech therapy. The future of speech correction lies in further refining these methods, incorporating technological innovations, and personalizing therapy approaches to match the cognitive profiles of individual patients. Thus, psycholinguistic strategies are essential for advancing both theoretical research and practical outcomes in the field of speech-language pathology.

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