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EST 1894

Conversation in aphasia

The role of semantically rich gestures in aphasic conversation

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20 PWA
Participants with aphasia

21 NHP
Neurologically healthy participants

narrative conversations

procedural conversations

gesture types

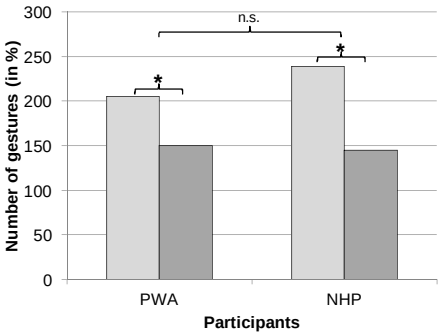
gesture roles

verbal semantic tests

non-verbal semantic tests

All participants had narrative (e.g., telling about a happy memory) and procedural (e.g., explaining how to wrap a parcel) conversations. Their hand gestures were analysed according to their type and role. PWA also completed verbal and non-verbal semantic tests.

Use of semantically rich and semantically empty gestures

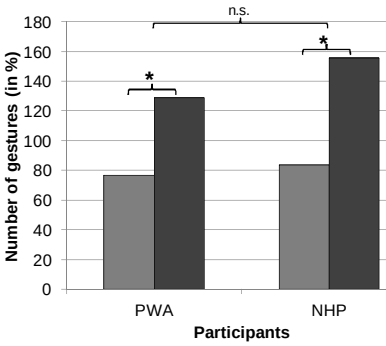


Main effect of type
***F*(1,37)=22.057, *p*=.000, n_p^2=.373**

Main effect of group
p=.296

Interaction of type and group
p=.235

Influence of topic on use of semantically rich gestures

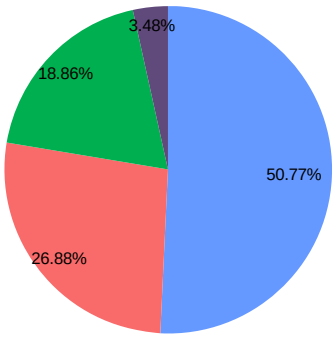


Main effect of topic
***F*(1,39)=86.976, *p*=.000, n_p^2=.702**

Main effect of group
p=.174

Interaction of topic and group
p=.149

Roles of semantically rich gestures in PWA

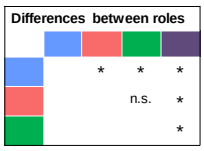


Main effect of role
***F*(3,117)=135.731, *p*=.000, η_p^2=.777**

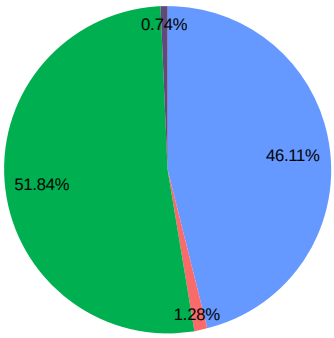
Main effect of group
p=.953

Interaction of role and group
***F*(3,117)=43.617, *p*=.000, η_p^2=.528**

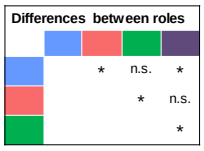
facilitative
communicative
augmentative
compensatory



Roles of semantically rich gestures in NHP



facilitative
communicative
augmentative
compensatory



Roles of gestures

facilitative	produced during a word-finding difficulty that could be resolved	augmentative	produced alongside speech
communicative	produced during a word-finding difficulty that could not be resolved	compensatory	produced without speech

No relationship between the number of semantically rich gestures and verbal (r_s(17)=.230, *p*=.344) or non-verbal (r_s(17)=.362, *p*=.128) semantic skills for PWA.

PWA and NHP differed in role of gestures but not quantity

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