Semantic Feature Analysis: Further Examination of Outcomes

Semantic Feature Analysis (SFA) has received considerable study over the past two decades as a word-retrieval treatment for aphasia (Boyle & Coelho, 1995; Lowell, Beeson, & Holland, 1995; Boyle, 2010; Wambaugh, Mauszycki, Cameron, Wright, & Nessler, 2013). SFA has been shown to have consistently positive acquisition effects (i.e., improvement of trained items), with generally positive but less predictable generalization effects (i.e., improvement in untrained items).

SFA was originally designed as a cognitive treatment for children and adolescents sustaining traumatic brain injury (TBI) (Haarbauer-Krupa, Moser, Smith, Sullivan & Szekeres, 1985). The therapy was designed as an "organizing process for thinking and verbal expression" (p.303).

Massaro and Tompkins (1994) operationalized SFA in a study with two participants with TBI. In keeping with the intentions of the original developers, Massaro and Tompkins measured SFA's treatment effects in terms of increased production of semantically relevant content.

In the treatment of aphasia, the focus of SFA relative to outcomes has been naming accuracy. That is, SFA has been used as a means of systematically stimulating semantic networks to facilitate naming. Additionally, SFA has been considered to potentially serve as a mediating strategy for self-cuing accurate naming and/or a compensatory strategy for circumventing word-retrieval difficulties.

The current study was designed to elucidate the effects of SFA in aphasia treatment beyond naming accuracy. Given SFA was designed to improve verbal expression *in general* and may serve as a compensatory strategy, increased production of relevant content was of interest (after Tompkins & Massaro, 1994). In light of inconsistent generalization effects associated with SFA, the study was designed to explore its generalization effects relative to aspects of untreated items. Specifically, untreated items were controlled in terms of semantic relatedness, exposure in probing, and knowledge of phonological form.

Method

Participants

Four persons with chronic aphasia resulting from a single, left-hemisphere stroke (Table 1) served as participants. As seen in Table 2, participants were each diagnosed with a different aphasia type according to the *Western Aphasia Battery* (WAB; Kertesz, 1982).

Experimental Stimuli

Three sets of picture stimuli were created for each participant Sets 1 and 2 contained 32 items each, and Set 3 contained eight items (Appendix B). Each set represented two different semantic categories; one living and one non-living. Eight treatment items from Sets 1 and 2 were submitted to SFA during the designated treatment phase; the remaining items were used to measure generalization.

Experimental Design

A multiple baseline design across behaviors and participants was utilized to examine the effects of treatment on naming and production of semantically appropriate information. Naming

of items used as treatment, generalization, and pre/post measures were probed repeatedly in the baseline phase. Three "information probes" were conducted prior to treatment to measure production of semantically relevant content. Treatment was then applied sequentially to two sets of experimental items.

Baseline Phase

Sixteen treatment items, 40 generalization items, and 16 pre/post items were probed during each baseline session. The number of baseline probes was extended across participants, with five as the minimum. Information probes contained two items from each list and category, totaling 36 items per probe. Three information probes were conducted in baseline.

Treatment Phase

Treatment probes were conducted at the beginning of each session prior to treatment. The eight treatment items were randomized and probed after every two treatment sessions. The sixteen generalization exposure control items were probed at the beginning of every other session when not probing treatment items. During the treatment phases, the second set of items (treatment and generalization items) was probed approximately half way through the first phase, and repeatedly prior to initiating the second phase.

Information probes were conducted at the end of each treatment phase.

Maintenance and Follow-up Phases

The previously treated set (treatment and generalization items) was probed half way, and at the end of the second treatment phase. Follow-up probes for all lists and items were conducted at two and six weeks after treatment ended.

Probe Procedures and Dependent Variable

Probes were conducted repeatedly throughout all phases of the design in keeping with single-subject design conventions.

Confrontation Naming Probes. Performance on naming probes served as the basis for determining phase changes of the design. During baseline and treatment probes, each item was presented one at a time, for verbal naming in random order.

Naming responses were scored as correct or incorrect on the basis of the scoring system shown in Appendix C. Responses were judged on the first complete production within the allotted 20 seconds.

Semantic Information Probes. Semantic information probes were administered to examine amount of relevant semantic information provided about target items. The participant was allowed two minutes to respond. Words adding relevant and novel content to an item's description were counted as semantic information units (SIUs). Task instructions were, "I'm going to show you pictures one at a time. Instead of naming the picture, think about the picture and tell me as much as you can about it." Word counts were tabulated using Nicholas and Brookshire (1993) procedures. The SIU measure differed from Nicholas and Brookshire's Correct Information Units (CIU) in that SIUs excluded articles, auxiliary verbs, and conjunctions. Example transcriptions with SIUs underlined are shown in Appendix D.

Treatment

Semantic Feature Analysis Task

Treatment consisted of Sematic Feature Analysis as described by Boyle (2004). However, slight modifications to the SFA chart were made to accommodate living and nonliving categories.

Exposure Control/Phonological Form Task

Because repeated attempts at naming may result in improved naming in the absence of treatment (Howard, 2000) a set of items was presented for naming during the treatment session so that naming exposures were relatively equivalent; no feedback concerning naming accuracy was provided. In addition, improvements in semantic network access/organization may be masked by remaining phonological level processing deficits in some persons with aphasia. Consequently, another set of items was presented for naming during treatment and the correct name was provided in the event of inaccurate naming and feedback was provided for correct naming.

Results

The data representing naming accuracy during probes are shown in Figures 1-4. Effect sizes (d-index,: Bloom, Fischer, & Orme, 2003; Cohen, 1998) were calculated to measure the magnitude of change associated with treatment (Table 3). Based on Beeson and Robey (2006) benchmarks for interpreting effect sizes, trained items ranged from small effects, 4.04 to large effects, 14.52. Generalization items for which participants were exposed to the phonological forms, showed small to medium effects. Generalization items that did not have phonological exposure had small to medium effects, 7.51. Effect sizes for pre/post items were small showing limited generalization. Each participant increased the amount semantic information provided during information probes, as shown in Figure 5. Note: Participant 4 will complete the second phase of treatment within two weeks of this submission.

Discussion

In this study, SFA facilitated increases in naming accuracy of treated items. Generalization to untreated items when controlled for semantic relatedness, exposure during probes, and knowledge of phonological form, was mixed and findings will be discussed further in relation to participant characteristics. Further use of SFA as a compensatory strategy to provide semantic information could be beneficial, in addition it's use as a naming treatment.

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Table 1.

Participant Characteristics

Characteristic	Participant 1	Participant 2	Participant 3	Participant 4
Age	62	54	30	53
Gender	female	male	male	female
MPO	11	30	23	384
CVA Location	LCVA	LMCA	LMCA	LMCA
Type	carotid dissection	ischemic	ischemic	ischemic
Years of				
Education	12	16	12	16
Race/Ethnicity	White	White	White	White
	non H/L	non H/L	non H/L	non H/L
Handedness				
(premorbid)	right	right	right	right
Martial Status	married	single	married	married

L = left; R = right; MCA = middle cerebral artery; PCA= posterior cerebral artery; H/L = Hispanic/latino

Table 2.

Pretreatment assessment results

Assessment	Participant 1	Participant 2	Participant 3	Participant 4
TONI-4				
Index Score	118	109	104	113
SEM	3	3	3	3
Percentile	88	73	61	81
WAB				
Aphasia Quotient	64.5	59.88	66.1	78.4
Aphasia Type	Conduction	Wernicke's	Broca's	Anomic
AQ Totals:				
Spontaneous speech	12	12	13	17
Comprehension	9.05	7.34	6.75	8.3
Repetition	5.2	5.2	6.2	5.5
Naming	6	5.4	7.1	8.4
PICA				
Overall Percentile	62nd	53 rd	60^{th}	82 nd
Verbal Percentile	48 th	44 th	66 th	71 st
Auditory Percentile	89 th	36 th	53 rd	63 rd
Nicholas and Brookshire				
(1993)-Discourse Task			•4 4• 00	1= 10.00
Total time	23:30:00	24:12:00	21:42:00	17:10:00
Total # words	740	2992	217	2,535
Total # CIUs	335	572	174	1,043
PPT Total (3 picture)	51/52	47/52	50/52	50/52
TAAWF				
Total Raw Score	41	27	15	23
Comprehension	99%	97%	86%	93%
Word Generation for				
Categories				
Appliances	3	1	2	11
Body Parts	7	10	5	12

Fish	3	1	3	5
Insects	3	1	4	4
Transportation	3	3	4	4
Weapons	1	1	4	4
Category Card Sort	70/70	70/70	70/70	70/70
OANB				
Objects	60%	46%	65%	86%
Actions	78%	59%	54%	56%
PALPA				
Spoken Word-Picture Matching	39/40	40/40	37/40	40/40
Written Word -Picture	40/40	40/40	37/40	40/40
Matching				
Auditory Synonym Judgments	54/60	50/60	54/60	43/60
Word Association	24/30	22/30	10/30	21/30

TONI-4= Test of Nonverbal Intelligence-4 (Brown, Serbenou & Johnson, 2010); WAB-R= Western Aphasia Battery-R (Kertesz,1982); PICA= Porch Index of Communicative Ability (Porch, 2001); PPT= Pyramids and Palm Trees Test (Howard & Patterson, 1992); TAAWF= Test of Adolescent/Adult Word Finding (German, 1990); OANB= Object and Action Naming Battery (Drunks & Masterson, 2000); PALPA= Psycholinguistic Assessment of Language Processing in Aphasia (Kay, Lesser & Coltheart, 1992)

Effect Sizes: d-Index Values for Treatment and Follow-Up Phases Interpreted Relative to Robey and Beeson's (2006) Benchmarks

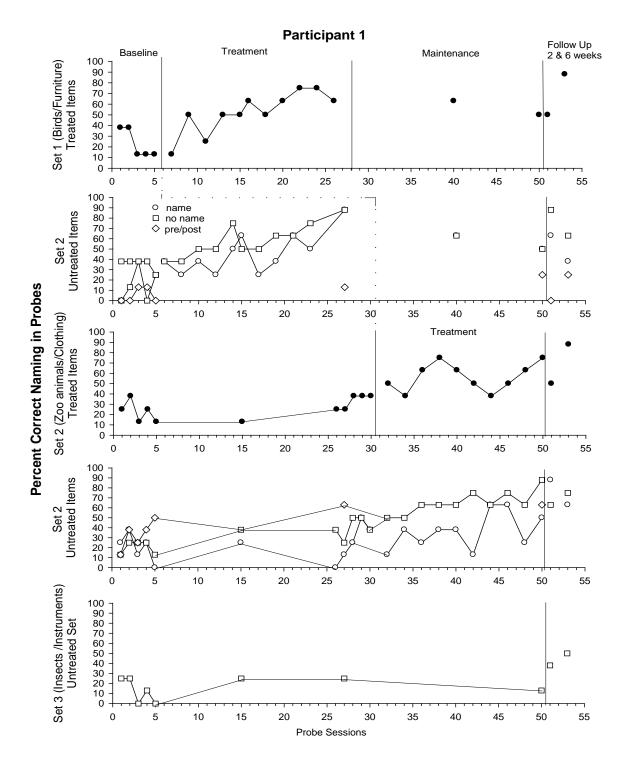
Table 3.

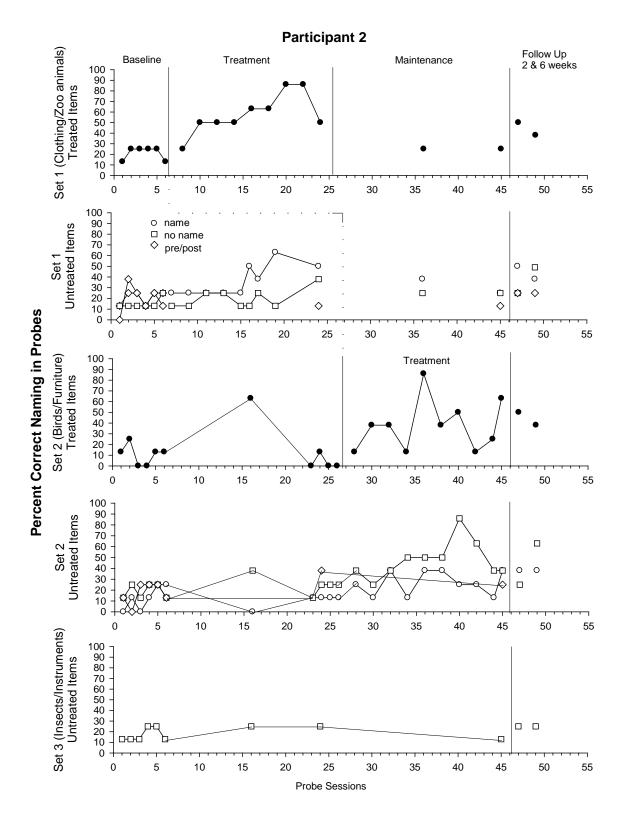
and Beeson's (2006) Benchmar Participant/	Baseline - Treatment	Baseline - Follow-up
Experimental Set	Dascinic - Heatingil	Dasenne - Ponow-up
Participant 1		
Treatment Set 1	4.04 (small)	2.68 (small)
Generalization-Name	3.26	2.11
Generalization-No Name	7.51 (medium)	4.24
Pre/Post	na	.72
Treatment Set 2	3.15	2.27
Generalization-Name	1.37	3.67
Generalization-No Name	6.99 (small)	6.97 (small)
Pre/Post	na	1.99
Generalization Set 3	na	2.66
Participant 2		
Treatment Set 1	1.43	2.39
Generalization-Name	1.62	2.48
Generalization-No Name	2.88	2.00
Pre/Post	na	.22
Treatment Set 2	4.32	3.47
Generalization-Name	3.45	3.61
Generalization-No Name	1.31	2.83
Pre/Post	na	.50
Generalization Set 3	na	1.41
Participant 3		
Treatment Set 1	11.24 (large)	14.52 (large)
Generalization-Name	4.78	6.02
Generalization-No Name	3.69	3.44
Pre/Post	na	1.97
Treatment Set 2	6.45	4.55
Generalization-Name	5.0	7.64 (medium)
Generalization-No Name	2.83	3.62
Pre/Post	na	.08
Generalization Set 3	na	1.59
Participant 4		
Treatment Set 1	3.18 (small)	na
Generalization-Name	4.49	na
Generalization-No Name	5.82	na
Pre/Post	na	na
Treatment Set 2	na	na
Generalization-Name	na	na

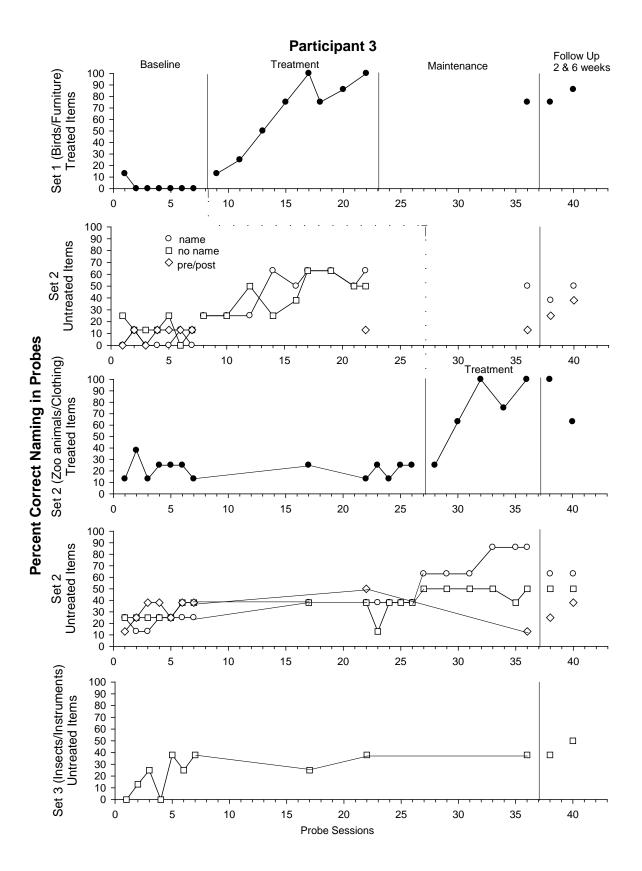
Generalization-No Name	na	na
Pre/Post	na	na
Generalization Set 3	na	na

Figure Captions 1-4

- Figure 1: Accuracy of naming of experimental probes for Participant 1
- Figure 2: Accuracy of naming of experimental probes for Participant 2
- Figure 3: Accuracy of naming of experimental probes for Participant 3
- Figure 4: Accuracy of naming of experimental probes for Participant 4







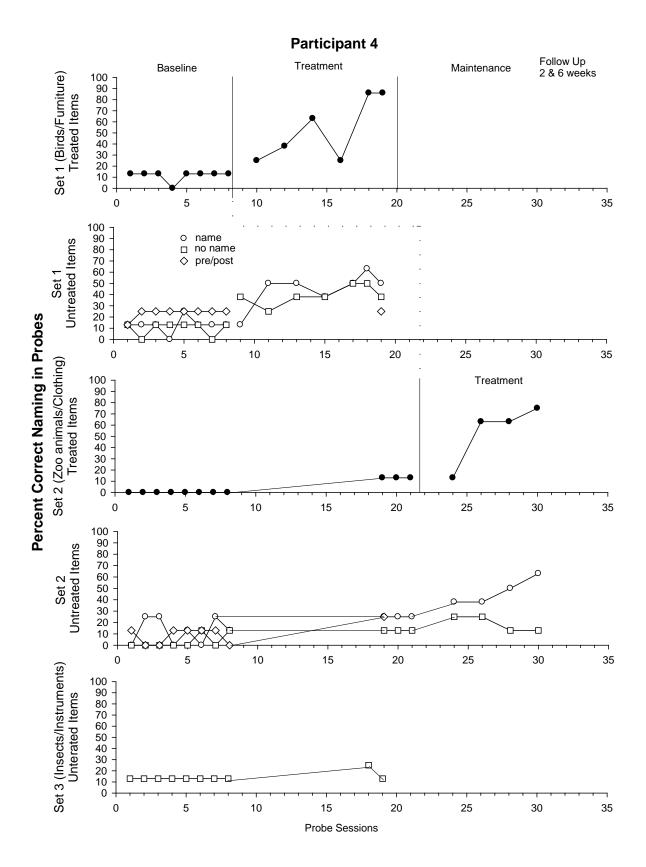


Figure 5
Semantic Information Units

Participant	Pre Treatment	Percentage	Post Treatment	Percentage
	SIU/Words		SIU/Words	
Participant 1	168/780	22%	159/477	33%
Participant 2	295/4,928	6%	345/4,553	8%
Participant 3	131/209	63%	163/245	67%
Participant 4	804/5,558	14%	na	na

${\it Appendix}~A$ Examples of Naming Errors for Each Participant: Responses from Baseline Probes

Participant 1

Participant 2

<u>Target</u>	Response	<u>Target</u>	Response
magpie	bagpie	goose	go over all the time
puffin	I don't know	cardinal	it's the redder for the
pigeon	penguin	parrot	pakaw
flamingo	fabingo	hummingbird	hippie or a
coatrack	coarag	lamp	lamper
stool	skool	dresser	I don't know
crib	cwib	bookcase	berbrek
recliner	recider	wastebasket	bavewood
alligator	crosadile	bat	bat
antelope	deer	beaver	bavie
zebra	sebu	panther	liger
hippo	hislapot	hyena	hasvena
sombrero	soburu	belt	bess
nightgown	gown something	mittens	muffs
earmuffs	muff something	nightgown	night time

Participant 3

Participant 4

1 til tillpullt t		i di dicipane :	
<u>Target</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Target</u>	Response
puffin	bird	puffin	bird
pigeon	bird	pigeon	green bird
flamingo	f something	magpie	mapie
magpie	bird	flamingo	flounders
coatrack	I don't know	coatrack	hangers
stool	stool	stool	stool
crib	baby bedroom	credenza	furniture put radio in there
recliner	chair	recliner	swing chair
zebra	zeba	anteater	I don't know
antelope	deer	panther	pander
panther	bobcat	skunk	skun
skunk	stinky	bathrobe	robe
bathrobe	towel	nightgown	sleeping dress
blouse	sweater	leotard	leo

Appendix B

Participant Stimuli

Participant 1 Stimuli

Set 1: Birds & Furniture

1. SFA treatment items 2. Naming control items

magpie goose puffin roadrunner pigeon cardinal flamingo hummingbird crib playpen stool frame coatrack dresser recliner wastebasket

4. Generalization-limited exposure items

4. Generalization-limited exposure items

3. Generalization-repeated exposure items

ostrich canary hawk swan seagull vulture bluebird woodpecker cot hutch throne futon hammock nightstand chandelier ottoman

Set 2: Zoo Animals & Clothing

1. SFA treatment items 2. Naming control items

zebra panther beaver hippo antelope hyena alligator koala blouse bonnet nightgown tracksuit earmuffs miniskirt sombrero pajamas

3. Generalization-repeated exposure items

skunk wolf rhino panda giraffe raccoon kangaroo porcupine robe scarf blazer bowtie overalls corset cardigan tuxedo

Set 3: Insects and Musical Instruments

1. Generalization-repeated exposure items

moth cockroach dragonfly wasp drum flute banjo accordion

Participant 2 Stimuli

Set 1: Zoo Animals & Clothing

1. SFA treatment items

bat beaver panther hyena belt socks mittens nightgown 2. Naming control items

seal goat kangaroo giraffe vest boots shorts suspenders

3. Generalization-repeated exposure items

hippo zebra elephant porcupine jacket blouse bathrobe earmuffs 4. Generalization-limited exposure items

wolf
tiger
cougar
lion
purse
scarf
tuxedo
sandals

Set 2: Birds & Furniture

1. SFA treatment items

goose cardinal parrot hummingbird lamp dresser bookcase

wastebasket

2. Naming control items

eagle swan vulture woodpecker stool

stool chair curtain recliner 3. Generalization-repeated exposure items

hawk
owl
crow
bluebird
pillow
crib
hammock
chandelier

4. Generalization-limited exposure items

turkey dove flamingo magpie frame rug nightstand ottoman

Set 3: Insects and Musical Instruments

1. Generalization-repeated exposure items

spider
butterfly
ant
cockroach
guitar
drum
banjo
flute

Participant 3 Stimuli

Set 1: Birds & Furniture

2. SFA treatment items

magpie
puffin
pigeon
flamingo
crib
stool
coatrack
recliner

2. Naming control items

goose roadrunner cardinal hummingbird playpen frame dresser wastebasket

3. Generalization-repeated exposure items

canary
hawk
seagull
bluebird
cot
throne
hammock
chandelier

4. Generalization-limited exposure items

ostrich swan vulture woodpecker hutch futon nightstand ottoman

Set 2: Zoo Animals & Clothing

2. SFA treatment items

2. Naming control items

zebra
hippo
antelope
alligator
blouse
nightgown
earmuffs
sombrero

3. Generalization-repeated exposure items

skunk rhino giraffe kangaroo robe blazer overalls cardigan 4. Generalization-limited exposure items

wolf
panda
raccoon
porcupine
scarf
bowtie
corset
tuxedo

panther

beaver

hyena

koala

bonnet

tracksuit

miniskirt

pajamas

Set 3: Insects and Musical Instruments

1. Generalization-repeated exposure items

moth cockroach dragonfly wasp drum flute banjo accordion

Participant 4 Stimuli

Set 1: Birds & Furniture

3. SFA treatment items

puffin
pigeon
flamingo
magpie
coatrack
stool
credenza
recliner

2. Naming control items

goose cardinal roadrunner ostrich playpen shutters dresser wastebasket

3. Generalization-repeated exposure items canary

4. Generalization-limited exposure items hummingbird

hawk
seagull
bluebird
cot
throne
futon
chandelier

swan vulture woodpecker hutch hammock nightstand ottoman

Set 2: Zoo Animals & Clothing

3. SFA treatment items

anteater antelope panther sloth bathrobe sombrero leotard earnuff

2. Naming control items

skunk
rhino
armadillo
gekko
nightgown
miniskirt
tracksuit
fedora

3. Generalization-repeated exposure items

otter lemur alligator warthog bonnet blazer overalls cardigan

4. Generalization-limited exposure items

panda koala hyena porcupine bowtie corset poncho tuxedo

Set 3: Insects and Musical Instruments

1. Generalization-repeated exposure items

dragonfly
praying mantis
cockroach
moth
accordion
saxophone
banjo
tambourine

Appendix C

Multidimensional Scoring System

Responses scored as 7-9 were scored as "correct" Responses scored as 0-6 were scored as 'incorrect"

Score .	<u>Description</u>
9	Accurate, immediate (<5 seconds)
8	Accurate delayed (correct response within 6 to 20 seconds)
7	Incorrect plural or singular form
6	Phonemic paraphasia (i.e., single phoneme substitution or recognizable word with
	more than one sound substitution; at least 50% of sounds correct)
5	Semantic paraphasia (semantically related word)
4.5	Semantic paraphasia containing phonemic paraphasia
3	Circumlocution
2	Neologism or unintelligible word
1	Perseveration (response that was used for a previously presented item)
0	No response or "I don't know"

Appendix D

Example transcriptions with SIUs underlined

Participant 1

- 1. Zebra-um he has <u>four xx legs</u> um he has um force he has um ze no <u>white</u> and <u>black</u> um xxx xx has kail a tail and something
- 2. Rhino- um he has <u>four</u> um <u>legs</u> he has um <u>gray</u> and its whsl wasl stum <u>rough</u> on du on du <u>sides</u> and um he's dut corn two forms on um <u>two ears two</u> hears <u>horns</u> das it horns
- 3. Tracksuit- warm warm things um a pants about uh dat has lastic on dis front and um uh button nu um zipper on du thing on whatever it's black on du arms and red on du the tings I don't know it and uh uh zipper on the front um

Participant 2

- 1. Wastebasket- and this is a they're called they're <u>in</u> your <u>bedroom</u> or in your be or in your <u>house</u> put them on <u>in</u> your <u>kitchen</u> or wh or the're <u>bathroom floor</u> or bathroom the baste for a basket a base a basebasket uh I can't say the namebas bask xx bascar they call them you bath your kitchen they're bathroom they call em they call em other sorts of things I can't say
- 2. Hippo this one too is a himpo hippo it's a hippo it's himpio I can't say himipa I can't say it's full name casue it's too big a word hip hippo it's hippo and they hippo it's hippo and they himpio I can't say himipa I can't say himipa I can't say himipa I can't they have lots of they live they live inside they don't hit is hippo it's hippo and they live in Africa and they live inside they don't live in on them in the hit is hippo it's hippo and they live in Africa and they live inside they don't live in on them in the water/

3. Belt- these are they're called they're called for they are called for a bek you wear them on your clothes you put them on your pants to hold them up and you call em they are called they er ba I can't say their name they're um you hold em with their with your be your bre your bleaks I can't think of the name though

Participant 3

- 1. Cot- army tent sleeping
- 2. Woodpecker- bird uh worms scared of man and woman
- 3. Tracksuit- mens sweatpants and sweatshirt training weights fitness

Participant 4

- 1. Bathrobe- ok this um is a bathrub uh bathrobe and this is um you put like you put in your either before or after just sleep or just sleep before and after sleep and makes ya um like you have a shower nice and warmer or or when you get up put ya nice and warm when you get your breakfast or whatever x x warm at the time
- 2. Panda- ok this is a um <u>panda</u> and um it's <u>white</u> and <u>black</u> well it the <u>face</u> looks like looks like a <u>bear</u> it <u>big</u> and <u>fat</u> and um <u>small ears</u> and um the face the face is all white but the <u>ears</u> and <u>eyes</u> are <u>black</u> and the <u>little nose</u> is <u>black</u> and then it then it's face like white and black with the middle part er the <u>legs</u> are all <u>black</u> and the <u>back</u> part is <u>white</u> and um it's um it's from at the <u>zoo</u> or it's from I can't think what it's from um it's a different country now I can't remember exactly where the country though
- 3. Dragonfly- this is like a um like a butterfly but it's not a butterfly but it's but um but it <u>flies</u> uh he's got four um it's like a butterfly I don 't know what it's called though but it flies on that or it can walks and it's kinda on the on the um um I don't know what these are called though but it's not the arms though anyway but it's clear but the <u>face</u> is <u>green</u> and the body is really long and thin and it's kinda blue