Towards new scenarios for ANELT-CU

Sabrina Dassek, Erica Lotgering, Toni C.M. Rietveld, Franziska Filipinski, Viola Bakx, Maartje Giessen, Sharon aan de Stegge & Marina B. Ruiter
Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands
email: sabrina.dassek@student.ru.nl and m.ruiter@let.ru.nl

Conclusion. Previous research (Ruiter et al. 2011) suggests that the construct validity of the Dutch Amsterdam-Nijmegen Everyday Language Test (ANELT, Blomert et al. 1995) can be improved by substituting the current, qualitative scoring procedure by a new, quantitative one. Because of these promising results, we investigated whether the construct validity of the ANELT could be further improved. This is of relevance since non-aphasic speakers have indicated that not all scenarios are representative for modern times. What is more, it is not always clear what role the participant should take in each scenario. Therefore, we either adapted the current scenarios or introduced new ones in order to enhance unambiguous interpretation. We currently work towards a new quantitative scoring procedure for the adapted test.

Introduction

The ANELT measures verbal effectiveness in persons with aphasia (PWA) by instructing them to give a spoken response to (orally presented) scenarios of daily life situations, such as:

"These are yours (tester hands patient broken glasses). You are now in the optician’s shop. I am the salesperson. What would you say?"

Previous research suggests that the construct validity of the ANELT can be improved by substituting the original, qualitative scoring procedure by a new, quantitative one. The new scoring procedure was found to be more sensitive in measuring improvement in verbal effectiveness over time and also allowed a measure of verbal efficiency, which yields a more complete picture of functional communication (Ruiter et al. 2011). These findings raised the question whether the construct validity of the Dutch ANELT could be further improved.

Method

It was investigated in non-aphasic speakers of Dutch (n = 58) whether the scenarios which are included in the original test are still valid in the sense that they are:

1) Imaginable to be engaged in by participants at present time (see Figure 1).
2) Unambiguously interpreted. That is, do participants take the intended role in each scenario? (data not presented here)

Using a cut-off of 5% for imagenability and 10% for unambiguous role identification, 15 of the 20 scenarios were textually adapted and/or standard photos were added instead of non-standardised 3D-objects which testers have to add to the original ANELT themselves (see Table 1).

Table 1: Examples of original scenarios of the Dutch ANELT and new scenarios. The examples are translated from Dutch.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Original</th>
<th>Adapted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>You are at the train station. You would like to go to Zeville. You are at the ticket counter. What would you say?</td>
<td>You are at the train station. You would like to go to Zeville. The train is leaving from another platform. You are in hurry but you do not know where to go. You walk over to the conductor and say...?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>You take this shoe to the shoemaker ( tester presents shoe). There is a lot wrong with this shoe, but for some reason you want him to repair only one thing. You may choose what he is to repair. What would you say?</td>
<td>You take this shoe to the shoemaker ( tester presents shoe). What would you say?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next research steps and hypotheses

Subsequently it was tested in 60 non-aphasic speakers of Dutch whether the adapted scenarios fulfilled the criteria of imagenability as well as unambiguous role identification. Six of the 15 new scenarios (i.e., 4, 5, 16, 17, 19 and 20) were significantly better rated than the original scenarios with regard to imagenability. As to role identification, there were no significant changes between the old and new scenarios.

Hypotheses

Improved imagenability and role identification in the ANELT-CU scenarios

Improved construct validity of ANELT-CU

Improved sensitivity in measuring changes in aphasics’ functional communication skills over time

References