Background

The U.S. has the 5th largest Spanish-speaking community in the world (12% of the population speaks Spanish). The Hispanic elderly are expected to grow from < 4% of the population to > 16% by 2050 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).1

Previous researchers have reported naming results for Spanish/English bilingual adults in the U.S. with appropriate normative data.

The purposes of this study are 1) to provide normative data to inform pre-morbid performance in persons with aphasia, and 2) to discover what demographic/language factors are most predictive of accuracy so that information can be used to estimate premorbid performance in persons with aphasia. This will aid in assessment interpretation and treatment predictions.

Purpose

The purpose of this study is to gather normative data on the Object and Action Naming Battery, a battery that tests object and action naming, for Spanish/English bilingual adults.

Materials

Object and Action Naming Battery (By Druks & Masterson, 2000) Designed for clinical practice, aphasia and psycholinguistic research 162 nouns and 100 verbs Objects and actions matched on 1) word frequency, 2) age-of-acquisition, 3) familiarity for (English speakers) Phonemes and syllable length (for English), imageability and visual complexity ratings are provided

Normative data from 23 non-brain-damaged elderly participants age 61-70 (mean=66.43) and 22 between 71-80 years (mean=75.68) (English speakers)

Procedures

Participants name the actions and objects separately.

Language condition (Spanish and English) is counterbalanced across participants, and languages are tested one week apart.

The pictures are presented on a computer monitor for 5 seconds. However, participants advance the pictures themselves, so they can name the picture after the 5 seconds and are not penalized for naming latencies greater than 5 seconds.

Correct responses received a score of 1

Incorrect responses received a score of 0

Discussion

Preliminary findings reveal that:

- the Object and Action Naming Battery appears to be generally appropriate for Spanish/English bilinguals in the U.S. due to the high composite score.
- the majority of participants thus far are more proficient in English, with a smaller number of balanced and Spanish proficient participants.
- language use and self-ratings are correlated to accuracy in English and Spanish.

Current and future work involves:

- testing a wider range of proficiencies and ages for a more representative group of bilingual speakers
- a detailed item analysis
- creation of a model of best predictors of performance, and
- testing persons with bilingual aphasia

References


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