Throughout the years, various qualitative and quantitative attempts have been made by clinicians and applied researchers to assess and compare the attitude of those who stutter (PWS) to those who do not. The Erickson S-24 has long been the predominant instrument for measuring the speech-associated attitude among PWS. However, research has suggested that the internal validity of the S-24 items can be questioned (Brutten & Vanryckeghem, 2003). Moreover, the S-24 results comparing PWS to PWNS, though statistically significant, show notable overlap. Given the above information and the fact that the scale has been designed more than 40 years ago, and some of its items have been outdated, the Communication Attitude Test for Adults who Stutter (BigCAT) (Brutten & Vanryckeghem, 2010) has been developed, as a component of the Behavior Assessment Battery (Brutten & Vanryckeghem, 2010).

**Purpose**

It was the purpose of the present study to determine the BigCAT’s test-retest reliability.

**Method**

**Participants**

The BigCAT (Communication Attitude Test for Adults who Stutter) (Brutten & Vanryckeghem, 2010) was administered to 34 stuttering and 52 nonstuttering adults. Twenty-one of the PWS were male and 12 were female. The participants came from university and private clinics throughout the United States and each one was in therapy at the time of data collection. The PWNS, 24 males and 28 females, were also representative of the population found in the United States. None of them reported a history of speech and/or language disorders.
Materials and Procedure

Each of the respondents was instructed to indicate whether or not the 35 statements on the BigCAT, inquiring what they thought about their speech, were ‘True’ or ‘False’ for them. Responses indicative of a negative speech-associated attitude receive a score of 1, a positive attitude is scored 0. As such, the possible range of scores is 0 to 35. The participants were individually administered the BigCAT on two separate occasions, no less than two days and no more than one week apart. The instructions of the self-report tests were read orally by the administrator as the respondent read along silently.

Results and Conclusion

Important in light of this investigation was the determination whether or not the BigCAT scores for PWS on the first and second administration differed significantly. This proved not to be the case (t=1.129; p=.267). Similarly, the average BigCAT1 and BigCAT2 average score for PWNS was not significantly different (t=.429, p=.670). In addition, the correlation between the two test administrations for the PWS was .80 (p=.000). It was .76 (p=.000) for the PWNS.

The result above add important information to the already present data on the BigCAT, which indicated that this Communication Attitude Test for Adults who Stutter is a powerful tool for discriminating adults who do and do not stutter based on their speech-associated attitude (Vanryckeghem & Brutten, 2011). More specifically, the mean score for PWS was 6 standard deviations above that of PWNS, with a very large effect size of 5.36. The current data add to the usefulness of the BigCAT to the extent that they indicate the consistency and positional stability of the test scores over repeated test administration. These data, together with the high internal reliability results (.89 and .86 for PWS and PWNS) (Vanryckeghem & Brutten, 2011), add weight to the fact that the BigCAT is a reliable test exploring the extent to which negative attitudes play a role in the disorder faced by PWS. As such, it can be considered a useful addition to the Behavior Assessment Battery for Adults.

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