

# **The Time Factor in Aphasic Evaluation - A Pilot Study on the W.A.B.**

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In Aphasia research tests designed to probe the "many different levels" of language processing have become more refined in the past decades. Lexical decision making, monitoring masking and other on-line tasks are continually being improved. Even data from so called "simple" or classical language tasks such as repetition, spontaneous speech and naming are now being reinterpreted along numerous dimensions.

Here is one such attempt by introducing the aspect of timing in the Western Aphasia Battery.

The aim of the study was as follows :

1. To determine whether slowing of performance attributed to normal aging is evident on the W.A.B. or not,
2. To compare normals with aphasics to determine whether the aphasics require extra time,
3. To determine whether severity of aphasia is correlated to the timing aspect.

Results of this pilot study reveal:

1. No Significant difference in timing characteristics as a function of age on the W.A.B.
2. Significant difference between the normals and aphasics on the total time required.
3. A negative correlation was found to exist between severity of aphasia determined in terms of Aphasia Quotient (A.Q.) and timing aspect.

The less severe syndromes like the conduction aphasics, anomic aphasics and the right brain damaged subject took lesser time for test completion in comparison to the severe group of Broca's and Wernicke's.

Although the sample selected is small in number (N = 18) and further research is required in this area, it appears that introduction of time factor may aid in identifying subtle deficits in the milder forms of aphasia as well as in determining therapeutic aspects and in measuring recovery.