Performance on an Auditory Task by Non-native Speakers of English on Selected Bi-syllabic Words*

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In the present study an attempt was made to construct a speech reception threshold test, utilising English Bi-syllabic words.

The study consisted of constructing a list of words which were rated as most familiar by more than 75% of the subjects from four different linguistic groups, *viz.*, Kannada, Tamil, Urdu and Bengali. The final list of words was randomized and four different forms of the list was constructed. These forms were standardized on two different groups of normal hearing subjects who had their native languages as Kannada and Tamil respectively.

Conclusions

Based on the results of the above study, the following conclusions seem warranted:

(1) The mean speech reception threshold is obtained at − 3 dB (ref. PTA). The percentage of correct responses of the Bi-syllabic words increase with increase in sensa ion levels.

(2) There are no significant differences between the different forms of the list, suggesting that the forms could be used interchangeably in clinical application.

(3) A significant difference was noticed between the performances of the two language group tested.

Thus the present study can be used with subjects who have no formal education in English. Further, the test can also be used with different linguistic groups. However, norms should be specifically obtained for the particular language group before it is clinically applied.

Suggestions for Further Research

(1) Norms may be established for different language groups. A comparison can be made of the performances of subjects in these groups.

(2) The performances of literate and illiterate groups of subjects may be compared.

(3) The validity of the test on hearing impaired patients needs to be evaluated.

(4) Tne performance of subjects may be evaluated using oral responses.

(5) An assessment of the performance of subjects at higher and lower sensation levels than that used in the present study may be made.

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