

Articulation Functions for the Common Word Lists between Kannada and Telugu Languages for Native Speakers of Kannada*

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The present study is aimed at obtaining the articulation functions for the word lists common to Kannada and Telugu languages for the native speakers of Kannada. In addition, effect of language of the carrier phrase on discrimination scores was also investigated. The lists of words were recorded with two carrier phrases (one each of Kannada and Telugu languages) on magnetic tapes. The recorded stimuli were presented to the subject's ear at five different sensation levels, viz., 8, 16, 24, 32 and 40 dB SL (Ref. : PTA). A clinical audiometer (Madsen 0B70) was used to carry out the experimentation.

The subjects of the study were normal hearing young adults (age range from 18 years 3 months to 28 years 2 months with mean age of 22 years 6 months and median of 21 years 6 months), forty in number. They were all native speakers of Kannada language. Twenty out of forty subjects listened to word lists with a Kannada carrier phrase and another group of twenty individuals listened to the same lists of words but recorded with a Telugu carrier phrase. In both the groups, ten subjects were tested for discrimination in their right ears and the

other ten subjects in their left ears. The subjects listened to the four lists at any four sensation levels from a group of five levels (8, 16, 24, 32 and 40 dB SL, ref. : PTA). The list level combinations were presented at a previously determined random order.

Percentage of discrimination scores were calculated for written responses. The scores were analysed by computing measures of central tendency and variability. Two-way analysis of variance was also computed. Further articulation functions for the two groups of data were drawn. Effect of the language of carrier phrase was statistically analyzed.

Conclusions

The following conclusions can be drawn from the results of the study :

1. Discrimination scores increased with increasing sensation level and this was observed for both the groups of subjects.
2. There was no statistically significant difference in terms of difficulty among the four lists of words when either Kannada or Telugu carrier phrase was used.
3. The discrimination scores obtained using Telugu carrier phrases were

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higher than those obtained using Kannada carrier phrase. However, an interaction effect significant at $P \leq 0.05$ level was found between different sensation levels and the two carrier phrases used in the study.

The study showed that the lists could be utilized for testing discrimination. As the carrier phrase was found to affect discrimination scores, different norms should be utilized while testing speech discrimination. However, the clinical utility of the common word lists for discrimination testing should be established.

Implications of the Present Study

1. The recording of speech stimuli done at two different times by the same speaker introduces certain amount of variability. Therefore, the standardi-

zation of speech stimuli should be done for different recordings.

2. The use of different carrier phrases inconsistently during speech discrimination testing should be avoided.

Suggestions for Future Research

1. To investigate whether further increase in the sensation level would result in 100% discrimination.
2. To investigate the diagnostic utility of the test on clinical population.
3. To analyze the error responses obtained in the present study to investigate if the errors follow a consistent pattern and to see whether the pattern differs with differences in the carrier phrase.