

A Test Of Aphasia In Malayalam

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As there is no aphasia test in Malayalam to test the communication skills in aphasics, an attempt was made to construct a test based on WAB (Kertesz, 1979).

The new test thus developed for aphasics in Malayalam consists of 4 language subtests.

- (1) Spontaneous speech : Information content, Fluency.
- (2) Auditory comprehension
- (3) Repetition
- (4) Naming and 3 performance tests
- (5) Reading
- (6) Writing
- (7) Praxis, and a subtest to measure intelligence and visuospatial performance.
- (8) Construction: Drawing

Block Design

Calculation

Raven's matrices

In order to cross validate this aphasia test with English WAB Kertesz (1979), it was given to :

- Group - 1 : 5 bilingual normal adults and compare this performance with the performance of the same subjects on English WAB.

After validating this test, in order to obtain clinical norms on this test, the test was given to :

- Group II: 100 normal adults, age ranging from 20-70 years, and
- Group III: 8 aphasics with definite brain lesion and language disorders.

In order to see the type of dysphasia on individual bilinguals, the Malayalam aphasia test was administered along with the English WAB on:

- Group - IV : 3 bilingual aphasics and compare their performance with the performance of same aphasics on English WAB.

The following results are obtained.

- (1) There is a high correlation between the Malayalam aphasia test and English WAB Kertesz (1979) as administered on 5 bilingual normal adults.
- (2) The aphasia test in Malayalam could distinguish aphasics from normal population.
- (3) The test has proved itself to be capable of differentiating non-fluent aphasics from fluent aphasics.
- (4) This test also enables one to assign patients to classic aphasic syndromes such as Global, Brocas, Wenickes, conduction, transcortical motor, transcortical sensory, isolation, conduction and anomic based upon their scores on each language subtest.
- (5) There is no significant difference between the performance of bilingual aphasics on Malayalam WAB and English WAB.

Thus this test can be used in clinics and for research purposes to assess the communication skills of aphasics in Malayalam.