Aphasia rehabilitation: what we learn from neurolinguistics

Sylvie Moritz-Gasser, PhD
Université Montpellier, France

Aphasia is a devastating acquired language impairment mainly caused by stroke. Each year, more than 4 million people in the world are affected by post-stroke aphasia, which thus constitutes a major, yet dramatically little known, public health concern. Because language is a quintessential feature of the human being, it is crucial to enable patients to reach the best recovery as possible. If speech-language therapy has been shown to be effective, the efficiency of one therapeutic strategy over another remains a matter of debate, and conventional therapies have so far not really proved their worth. Because clinical presentations are infinitely various, the time has come to wonder how to build a specific rehabilitation program for each aphasic patient. In this regard, neurolinguistics, from cognitive/clinical neuroscience to functional neuroanatomy and psycholinguistic, brings us valuable insights that we discuss here. We focus in particular on anomia, a central feature in aphasia, and on its links with other aphasic symptoms. We bring clinical and theoretical-based hypotheses about the mechanisms underlying anomia, while explaining why this symptom is the key clinical feature in every aphasic patient, and then propose a neurolinguistics-based methodology to design individualized rehabilitation programs.

The lecture will be held at the Université Montpellier, France, and broadcast live.

Viewing event at the University of South Carolina:
Room #140, Discovery I, 915 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29208
Date: Thursday, November 16th, Time: 2pm – 3pm EDT
The viewing event will be catered!

The lecture can also be followed online from your computer, tablet or smartphone, via the following GoToMeeting address (no password required):
https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/667426173

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States : +1 (872) 240-3412
Access Code: 667-426-173
First GoToMeeting? Try a test session: http://help.citrix.com/getready