Expressive Language Quantitatively Compared
for Aphasic and Normal Adults
(Abstract)

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The Shewan Spontaneous Language Analysis (SSLA) system is designed to
describe and quantify aphasic subjects' verbal expressive language using a
picture description task. The SSLA measures 12 variables which include the
three components of the language system as well as some general parameters
of verbal output. Intra- and interjudge reliability measures are high,
suggesting consistent scoring within and between judges. SSLA performance
data were presented for an aphasic group (N=47) and a normal control group
(N=10), comparable for age and educational level with the aphasic group.
The aphasic subjects performed significantly more poorly than the normals
on 10 variables. Of the 12 measured, 8 differentiated aphasic from normal
performance with greater than 78% accuracy. Using the entire SSLA system,
20 (85%) of 23 additional score profiles were accurately classified as
aphasic or normal. The three errors were false negatives; that is, aphasic
subjects who were classified by the SSLA as normal. Therefore, the sensiti-
vity of the SSLA was .769 and the specificity was 1.000.