

Childhood aphasia: A case study in Algerian clinical environment

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Abstract

Despite the rarity of cases and the reduction of studies having treated childhood aphasia, this syndrome generates a great interest, particularly in its evaluation and its post-lesional recovery. Although, it is difficult to determine the lower and upper limits of the age of its apparition, we agree with the literature that childhood aphasia is a language disorder following brain injury in a child who has acquired a “certain” level of comprehension and expression (Seron and Van Hout, 1983; Van Hout, 1992, 1997, 1999). It has long been considered different from adult aphasia. But, similarities have been described (Van Hout, 1997, 1999; Sam, 2004, 2007, 2008) thanks to the improvement of neuroradiological instruments and the development of cognitive and language assessments for children.

However, evaluation of language and cognitive functions poses a real problem in the Algerian clinical environment (Sam, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2014). This is why we have developed a neuropsychological battery for children aphasic aged 5 to 13, speaking Algiers Arabic. Nevertheless, this battery has its own limitations, particularly about the language used in the evaluation. At this point, we recall that Algerian Arabic differs from one region to another without forgetting Berber spoken as Kabyle, Chaoui, and Mouzabite... For that, we revised it and developed it in 2013.

We would like, in this intervention, to describe childhood aphasia through a case study, one which we applied the new neuropsychological battery (Sam, 2013).