

TRACE DELETION HYPOTHESIS AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERVENTION WITH A MULTILINGUAL AGRAMMATIC APHASIC PATIENT

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ABSTRACT

This paper describes a treatment strategy for a multilingual agrammatic aphasic patient by drawing on certain linguistic and psycholinguistic issues. Using a single subject experimental research paradigm, we examined emergent sentence production patterns in the subject. We used aspects of Grodzinsky's Trace Deletion Hypothesis (1995) and findings from neurolinguistic literature as a basis for selecting sentences to be introduced in the treatment. The subject was sequentially trained to produce wh-questions, and throughout training, generalization to untrained wh-questions was tested. The outcome of this experiment is discussed in terms of its relevance to our current understanding of the acquired syntactic deficits, language representation in multilingual speakers and the role of linguistic theory in language rehabilitation.