

Review

A review of “*Manejo fonoaudiológico de la persona con afasia*”

Begoña Góngora Costa ^{a, b}

^a School of Speech and Language Therapy, University of Valparaiso, Chile

^b Centro de Investigación del Desarrollo en Cognición y Lenguaje (CIDCL, [Center for the Investigation of Cognition and Language Development]), University of Valparaiso, Chile

Email: begona.gongora@uv.cl



Editors: Lilian Toledo Rodríguez and Rodrigo Tobar Fredes

Year: 2021

ISBN: 978-956-19-1227-4

Format: E-Book

Publisher: Universidad de Chile

Aphasia is defined by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) as an acquired language disorder, which is the consequence of a brain injury, generally on the left hemisphere (ASHA, s. f.). It is a disturbance that can compromise all the modalities of language (expression and comprehension of oral language, writing, and reading), restricting the person's communication and their participation in diverse contexts (Gonzalez Victoriano & Hornauer-Hughes, 2014). Aphasia is usually associated with depression (Kauhanen et al., 2000) and social isolation (Vickers, 2010), significantly affecting the quality of life of people and compromising their possibility of recovery

(ASHA, s. f.). Studies carried out in Chile have estimated that approximately 19,7% of stroke patients present aphasia (González et al., 2017), which poses a great challenge and requires the presence of highly trained professionals to approach it. Considering this, the text “*Manejo Fonoaudiológico de la Persona con Afasia*” [Speech-Language Therapy Management of the Person with Aphasia], published by *Universidad de Chile* and edited by Lilian Toledo Rodríguez and Rodrigo Tobar Fredes, represents a contribution of great academic value. Furthermore, this material works as a support for speech therapists who are licensed and those who are still training, and for professionals who seek to update their knowledge in this field.

The document contains 17 chapters written by professionals and academics of renowned trajectory, addressing different aspects of the management of people with aphasia and following a biopsychosocial model, with elements of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF). This approach, which is sustained throughout the text, allows articulating and integrating the contents in each section. Each chapter presents key concepts, which offers a guideline to anticipate what will be read. Additionally, a self-assessment section is included in each chapter, which provides the possibility to reinforce the contents and shows the academic spirit that inspires this work. Furthermore, the effort put into presenting a rigorous revision of specialized literature is highlighted. This offers context for the information provided about the management of people with aphasia, considering the national reality.

The first section of the document is made up of chapters centered on the conceptualization of aphasia, reviewing epidemiological aspects, classifications of the disorder, the linguistic profile of aphasia secondary to a cerebrovascular accident (CVA) and other etiologies, together with associated non-linguistic cognitive disorders. The presentation of the historical background of the various classifications of aphasia is particularly informational,

since it delivers information about the origins, nature of the approaches, and the use of different categories concerning this disorder. The proposal of a specialized and shared lexicon that facilitates communication between academics, researchers, and clinicians is highly appreciated.

In the second section of the text, the assessment of people with aphasia is addressed, considering different perspectives. In addition, the main procedures, tasks, and instruments derived from said perspectives are described. A guideline is provided for implementing processes of evaluation and diagnosis based on the components of ICF, emphasizing the importance of including the Activities and Participation dimension, which is frequently omitted in clinical settings. Furthermore, recommendations are given for other cognitive aspects that may be compromised. The lack of instruments of evaluation at a national level is pointed out, especially concerning Activity and Participation. In this regard, the effort of the authors to provide guidelines for the Speech Therapy community is much appreciated.

Finally, in the last section different therapeutic approaches are reviewed, following a biopsychosocial model and ICF components. I share the editors' appreciation for one of the strengths of this section, which is the introduction of innovative topics such as communication partners, providing a refreshing perspective of the phenomenon. The evidence on the use of computational systems and their application to telerehabilitation is reviewed, analyzing their scope, advantages, and limitations in our country.

Based on everything that has been mentioned, I allow myself to congratulate and thank the editors and each one of the authors of this work for their efforts and generous contribution to the knowledge of aphasias and their management. Without a doubt, this work fully honors the purpose that its editors proposed, and its reading is recommended for anyone who is interested in training in this field, and who wants to provide quality health care to people with aphasia, improving their quality of life.

REFERENCES

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association [ASHA]. (s. f.). *Aphasia*. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Recuperado 18 de noviembre de 2021, de <https://www.asha.org/practice-portal/clinical-topics/aphasia/>
- González, F., Lavados, P., & Olavarría, V. (2017). Incidencia poblacional, características epidemiológicas y desenlace funcional de pacientes con ataque cerebrovascular isquémico y afasia. *Revista médica de Chile*, 145(2), 194–200. <https://doi.org/10.4067/S0034-98872017000200007>
- Gonzalez Victoriano, R., & Hornauer-Hughes, A. (2014). Afasia: Una perspectiva clínica. *Revista Hospital Clínico Universidad de Chile*, 25, 291–308.
- Kauhanen, M.-L., Korpelainen, J. T., Hiltunen, P., Määttä, R., Mononen, H., Brusin, E., Sotaniemi, K. A., & Myllylä, V. V. (2000). Aphasia, Depression, and Non-Verbal Cognitive Impairment in Ischaemic Stroke. *Cerebrovascular Diseases*, 10(6), 455–461. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000016107>
- Vickers, C. P. (2010). Social networks after the onset of aphasia: The impact of aphasia group attendance. *Aphasiology*, 24(6–8), 902–913. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02687030903438532>