Abstract

Aphasia is an acquired language disorder caused by brain damage. Stroke is the most common cause of aphasia. Aphasia affects expressive and receptive communication in all modes including speaking, reading, writing, understanding and gesturing. In India a study conducted by Dhamija, Mittal, & Bansal, 2000 reported that prevalence of stroke was 0.44 per 1000 population in Rohtak (Haryana state). Results of another study suggested the prevalence of stroke in Indian population to be 2.00 per 1000 persons (Banerjee & Das, 2006). The findings clearly indicate that there is an increase in number of persons with stroke in the Indian context. Stroke can result in loss of language however, the data of person having stroke resulting in aphasia has not been documented in the literature. However, the clinical observations reveal that stroke manifest as disturbance in language organization, function and use. Thus, the current study was carried out with the aim to develop and standardize the comprehension test in Hindi language for persons with aphasia. The study was done in three phases. First phase included development of the test material. The developed comprehension test consisted of five sections, viz., phonology, semantics, syntax, discourse, and gesture. The test consisted of 10 items in each section/sub-section/mode apart from discourse section. In the second phase, the test battery was administered on 130 neuro-typical adults to develop the normative values for the test. 10 % of this data was randomly considered to check for its reliability. In the third phase, the test battery was administered on 21 persons with aphasia for the validity of the test. The ages ranged between 18 to 65 years for both the neuro-typical and persons with aphasia. The result showed that performance of the male and female neuro-typical participants was similar across all the sections/sub-sections on the comprehension test. The gender of a person, thus, seemed not to influence his/her comprehension of spoken, picture, and
orthographic messages to any significant extent. Cronbach’s alpha reliability was calculated and revealed that inter-judge reliability for the comprehension test was 0.95. Hence, the scores could be used as a normative value. It was also observed that there was a significant difference between the mean scores across neuro-typical adults and persons with aphasia on the entire task in all the modalities. Based on this finding, it is recommended that the developed test can be used for assessment of comprehension in Hindi at the level of phonology, semantics, syntax, discourse, and gesture for persons with aphasia.