

COARTICULATION IN APHASIA: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS FROM ARABIC

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ABSTRACT

There are still crucial gaps in our knowledge about Arabic-speaking aphasics' coarticulation patterns. This study examines the coarticulation patterns of Arabic speakers with Broca's aphasia's speech patterns, and compares the results to those of the control subjects, using Phono-Lab software for the acoustic analysis of the formant values. The participants were speakers of Palestinian Arabic. Consonant-vowel syllables were presented in a carrier phrase. The control subjects and Broca's aphasics demonstrated different coarticulation patterns. The results suggest that Broca's aphasics demonstrated inefficient and imprecise timing of the articulatory movements of the adjacent segments. The results indicated that speech therapy programs should take the complexity of the words used when designing such programs into account.

Keywords: Coarticulation in Arabic aphasic speakers, Arabic language, acoustic analysis, formant movements, Palestinian Arabic, speech pathology.