

Specific research topic and method:

Adaptation of Tests for English into a Slavic Language: Case of Croatian PALPA

Slavic language studied:

Croatian

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PALPA - Psycholinguistic Assessments in Language Processing in Aphasia (Kay et al., 1992.) is a battery of tests assessing competence of language processing in individuals with Aphasia. PALPA comprises of 60 tests organised in 4 subsections: Auditory Processing, Reading and Spelling, Picture and Word Semantics, Sentence Comprehension. Each provides information on processing of a lexical unit in varying modality - auditive, visual and written, and at a specific linguistic level - phonological, semantic and syntactic. PALPA is designed for English, however, the theoretical model on which the battery of tests was constructed and against which results should be interpreted, represents a *general* psycholinguistic modular model of (non-)verbal stimulus processing, and hence, should not be sensitive to translations of PALPA into any other language.

Here, we comment on the case of adapting PALPA into Croatian by noting a couple of recurring issues. Although extensive adaptation of the Picture and Word Semantic subsection that was preliminarily tested on 25 patients with varying types of Aphasia, showed that PALPA is a sensitive tool, consequent adaptations of another three subsections demanded awareness of language specific phenomena when finding the right equivalents or asked for constructing new tests that would test linguistic competence specific to Croatian. Aware of the typological variations, the adaptation replicated the phenomena under examination rather than the linguistic equivalents of its examples. However, the issue here presented the terminology used in description of mentioned phenomena, as it was self-explanatory, but vaguely defined.

As the goal of our research is to construct a language test for Croatian that would encompass all linguistic levels, alongside the noted issues and specifically concerning the language-specific needs, noteworthy is the forthcoming challenge to construct a new battery of morphological tests that would test for all three stimulus modalities, while keeping in line with the PALPA model.