Discourse Treatments

Consider using a structured approach that targets macrostructure or microstructure of discourse, as a means to improve discourse participation.

See further details about References, research summary, and treatment candidacy within the Activity Studio. While this list is not all-inclusive, there are efforts made to include treatments that are current and can be integrated with personally-relevant goals.

Attentive Reading and Constrained Summarization

- Chronic fluent aphasia; primary progressive aphasia
- Improved word retrieval and informativeness of discourse

Rogalski, Y., Edmonds, L. A., Daly, V. R., & Gardner, M. J. (2013). Attentive Reading and Constrained Summarisation (ARCS) discourse treatment for chronic Wernicke's aphasia. *Aphasiology, 27*(10), 1232-1251.

Attentive Reading with Constrained Summarization - Written

- Mild aphasia, writing at the phrase level
- Targets word-retrieval, sentence structure, and content of written and spoken discourse

Obermeyer, J., Leaman, M., & Edmonds, L. (2020). Evaluating change in the conversation of a person with mild aphasia after attentive reading with constrained summarization-written treatment. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, 29*(3), 1618-1628.

Communication Supports (AAC)

- Fluent or nonfluent aphasia, brain injury, dementia, progressive communication disorders
- Improves ability and efficiency to participate in valued life situations

Simmons-Mackie, N., King, J., & Beukelman, D. (2013). Supporting Communication for Adults with Acute and Chronic Aphasia. Brookes Publishing Co: Baltimore, MD.

Integrated Discourse Treatment

- Fluent or nonfluent aphasia
- Targets word, sentence, and discourse production

Milman, L. (2016). An integrated approach for treating discourse in aphasia: Bridging the gap between language impairment and functional communication. *Topics in Language Disorders, 36*(1), 80-96.

A Novel Approach to Real-life communication: Novel Intervention in Aphasia (NARNIA)

- Fluent and nonfluent aphasia (mild and moderate); primary progressive aphasia
- Targets discourse-level communication (word retrieval, topic maintenance, informativeness in conversation)

Whitworth, A., Leitao, S., Cartwright, J., Webster, J., et al. (2015). NARNIA: a new twist to an old tale. A pilot RCT to evaluate a multilevel approach to improving discourse in aphasia. *Aphasiology, 29*(11), 1345-1382.

Script Training

- Fluent and nonfluent aphasia, acquired apraxia, and progressive aphasia
- Improves accuracy, production, speed of trained scripts

Youmans, G., Holland, A., Muñoz, M., & Bourgeois, M. (2005). Script training and automaticity in two individuals with aphasia. *Aphasiology, 19*, 435–450.

Semantic Feature Analysis with problematic nouns during discourse

- Fluent and nonfluent aphasia due to stroke or brain injury
- Improves naming and amount of information relayed

Boyle, M. (2004). Semantic feature analysis treatment for anomia in two fluent aphasia syndromes. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, 13*(3), 236-249.

Discourse Treatments

Consider using an approach that trains strategies and supports, and then applying those to varied communication partners, types of discourse, and unstructured discourse tasks (real communication!) to more realistically practice the types of discourse needed in everyday life.

Practice different types of discourse

- Each type of discourse taxes the language system in a different way

Stark, B. (2019). A comparison of three discourse elicitation methods in aphasia and age-matched adults: implications for language assessment and outcome. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology,* (3), 1067-1083.

Train multiple communication partners

- Improved self-rating of quality of conversations
- Improved partner understanding

Hickey, E. M., Bourgeois, M. S., & Olswang, L. B. (2004). Effects of training volunteers to converse with nursing home residents with aphasia. *Aphasiology, 18*(5-7), 625–637

Use conversation to practice and address repair strategies with real communication partners

- More efficient conversations
- Fewer problem spots and shorter repair times

Tetnowski, J., Tetnowski, J., & Damico, J. (2021). Patterns of conversation trouble source and repair as indices of improved conversation in aphasia: a multiple case study using conversation analysis. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, 30*(1S), 326-343.

Practice in realistic contexts in order to bridge the gap to real communication

- Improved use of strategies / reduced problem behaviors in conversation
- Improves naming and amount of information relayed

Jack Damico, Jennifer Tetnowski, Karen Lynch, Jamie Hartwell, Christine Weill, Jane Heels & Nina Simmons-Mackie (2015) Facilitating Authentic Conversation: an intervention employing principles of constructivism and conversation analysis, Aphasiology, 29:3, 400-421

Teach self-monitoring of dysfluencies

- Reduced amount of dysfluencies
- Overall more efficient communication, even though rate of speech may slow

Whitney, J. L., & Goldstein, H. (1989). Using self-monitoring to reduce disfluencies in speakers with mild aphasia. Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders, 54, 576-586.