Task and Analysis
Prompt: “Tell me how you would make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.”

Correlations between severity (WAB AQ) and:
- duration - negligible (r = .19)
- total utterances - weak (r = .22)
- total words - moderately-strong (r = .41)

Figure 2.

Mean % of nouns, verbs, pronouns, determiners – PWAs and Control

Table 3.

Table 1.

Demographic characteristics

Control
PWAs

n=144
n=141

Age (mean, range)
66.3 (22-94.5) years
66.8 years (13.5-96.9)

Gender
35% female
39% female

Testing locations
3
14

WAB Aphasia Quotient
NA
74.2 (28-99.6)

Three-point-inton.
NA
6 years (0.5-24)

PWAs had aphasia as the result of stroke

PWAs who scored above 93.7 on the WAB were considered as a separate group, Not Aphasic by WAB

Controls were given MMSE and Geriatric Depression Scale

all sessions were recorded on videotape

With the exception of duration (time on task), the groups differed significantly on all variables: words/utterance, words/sec, utterances/sec, total utterances, total words.

Error Analysis
- phonemic paraphasia – word – complete match on all but one element (onset, nucleus, coda) of a syllable
- phonemic paraphasia – nonword
- semantic paraphasia – related
- semantic paraphasia – unrelated
- non-word (not phonemically related)

SEE HANDOUT FOR:
- sample PBI transcripts
- error tables

PWAs and PBJS: Language for Describing a Simple Procedure

David Fromm, Margaret Forbes, Audrey Holland, Brian MacWhinney Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Background
Closely constrained discourse tasks:
- reduce linguistic diversity and individual variability (Forbes et al., 2011)
- less challenging than personal narrative, story retelling, picture description (Beck, 2012)
- concerned with specific concrete goals and sequencing (Ulatowska & Bond, 1980)
- familiar and common in everyday discourse (Barlow-Tzon & Hinkeby, 2003)

Research Questions
1. Do the total utterances, total words, MULI, words/sec, utterances/sec, and time on tasks: a) differ across PWAs and non-aphasic participants; and b) correlate with aphasia severity within the PWA group?

2. Does the essential lexicon (top 10 nouns and verbs) produced for this task differ across PWAs and non-aphasic participants?

3. Does the % of certain parts of speech differ for PWAs and non-aphasic participants?

4. What errors do the PWAs make on the essential lexicon?

Participants
Table 1.

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PWAs: Aphasia severity correlated moderately with total words and weakly with total utterances.

Control: Aphasia severity correlated moderately with total words and weakly with total utterances.

Essential lexicons were almost identical across groups.

Proportions of parts of speech were similar across groups.

Error types differed across lexical items, but phonemic paraphasias were the most common.

References

Acknowledgements
This research is funded by NIH_NICHD grant R01-DC008524 (2012–2017)

Statistical consultation provided by Zekun Xu and Lisha Sun, Carnegie Mellon University, Department of Statistics, MSP students

Error types are included in THE HANDOUT.

Conclusions
- PWAs differed significantly from Controls on MULI, words/second, utterances/second, total utterances, total words.
- PWAs differed significantly from NotAphasicByWAB participants on MULI, words/second, total words.
- NotAphasicByWAB participants differed from Controls on words/second.
- Duration (time on task) did not differ significantly across groups.
- Aphasia severity correlated moderately with total words and weakly with total utterances.
- Essential lexicons were almost identical across groups.
- Proportions of parts of speech were similar across groups.
- Error types differed across lexical items, but phonemic paraphasias were the most common.

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