

**Critical Review: The Communication Impact of Test Questions on the Conversation  
of Individuals with Aphasia**



Kingdom. PWA's in each dyad presented with severe, non-fluent aphasia. Each dyad completed 6 months of weekly intervention, subdivided into three, 8-week phases (pre-therapy baseline assessment; therapy and post-therapy follow up assessment). The authors performed pre-post assessment batteries using commonly employed standardized tests of language and cognition to analyze the quantitative outcomes of conversation change and the use or elimination of chosen strategies. Spontaneous conversation between the dyad was transcribed and analyzed using standard CA methods (Lock et al., 2001) to provide insights into why behavioural change in conversation may have occurred.

Appropriate statistical analysis was presented for both dyads to summarize the effects of intervention on the chosen strategies for each participant over time. Results between the dyads differed, where in one dyad the PWA showed significant increase in the use of all chosen strategies and the PWA in the other dyad showed no significant change in these categories. However, for CPs in both dyads, a reduction in the use of test questions was significant and almost completely eliminated in both cases. In addition, extracts from conversations were analyzed to demonstrate the form that test question sequences commonly took in pre-therapy talk for these two dyads in order to highlight the impact of these questions on turn taking ability for the PWA. The analysis revealed that both PWAs had severe difficulty producing answers in response to test-type questions and the use of these questions can cause instances of frustration, annoyance, and breakdown.

This study provides compelling evidence that targeting a reduction in the use of test question behaviours can be ameliorated through intervention. It also provides reason through CA, as to why test question behaviour is pedagogic and provides clinical insight as to why its elimination can produce more successful conversations. Although the results are strong, it is important to take into consideration the size and design of the study, as it would be beneficial if results could be replicated in more PWA.

#### Case Studies:

Case studies are often limited in terms of external validity, but can be beneficial to direct future research in specific populations. Using CA to examine CATof in



