

The Analysis of Relationships Between Idiomatic Expression Processing and Executive Function and Semantic Processing Abilities in Persian-Speaking Alzheimer Patients¹

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Abstract

Idiomatic expression is regarded as an appropriate field of study to explore semantic and executive function disorders as two of the most fundamental disorders of Alzheimer's disease. In this study, The abilities of 5 Persian-speaking Alzheimer patients in the comprehension of 30 familiar, unambiguous and transparent idioms have been compared to 10 age-education matched normal individuals via assessing their performance in oral explanation and force choice tasks. Moreover, linguistic abilities of participants have been evaluated through lexical comprehension and semantic fluency tasks, and their executive abilities have been assessed via stroop color and clock drawing tasks. The findings of this research reveal that Alzheimer patients have poor performance in comprehending idiomatic expressions. Poor performance of these patients in the cognitive task, linguistic task of semantic fluency and executive function

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tasks on one hand ,and the relationships between participant performance in the cognitive semantic fluency and executive function tasks with the results of idiom comprehension task ,on the other hand, highlighted that complex deficits related to semantic processing, executive functions and general cognitive functions could culminate in patients' poor performance in idiomatic expression's comprehension.

Hence, it can be concluded that idiom comprehension in Alzheimer patients is endowed with a multi-faceted nature.

Keywords: *idiomatic expression, Alzheimer, executive function.*