

Perception of Intonation Contours in Persian-Speaking Broca Aphasics¹

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Abstract

Dysprosody is a disorder of speech production in which aphasic patients are not able to apply the prosodic cues correctly. Prosody is also an essential cue for the perception of spoken language. The present study, an experimental research, aimed at exploring the perception of intonation contours in Persian-

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speaking Broca Aphasics. The participants of this study included three Persian-speaking males who were selected by simple and purposeful sampling method from patients directed to the speech therapy unit in Ghaem Educational, Research and Treatment Centre of Mashhad. The ability of Broca Aphasics to comprehend intonation contours was assessed via Persian adapted Comprehension Test of Intonation Contours in Aphasia. The findings of the research showed that the Broca Aphasic individuals were able to distinguish the three intonation contours (neutral declaratives, yes-no questions, and narrow focus) tested; however, they demonstrated a poorer performance than the control group. Thus, generally speaking, the present study confirms that the perception of intonation contours and consequently the phonological abilities remain virtually intact. The present study confirms that the perception of intonation contours and consequently the phonological abilities remain virtually intact.

Keywords: Dysprosody, Broca Aphasia, intonation contours, Persian language, perception, phonological abilities