

THE EFFECT OF THREE VERBAL STIMULI ON FLUENCY IN STUTTERERS

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Abstract

The present study has attempted to answer the question 'What effect do the three Verbal stimuli "Good" "No" and "Zehu" have on the fluency aspect of stuturer's verbal behaviour?'

The importance of fluency behaviour of stuturers being examined has been stressed. The literature relevant to the present study has been briefly reviewed.

A pilot study was conducted to formalize the procedure of the study, eight subjects were taken for the study. A 100 per cent schedule of contingent reinforcement was adopted. All the three verbal stimuli were given to each subject, after their base-rates were stable. Suitable experimental design and statistics were adopted to minimize the results being biased.

A stuttering quotient-combining word output and duration of blocks was developed and used for the analysis of results. An electronic counter was designed and was used to measure the duration of blocks in records.

Three different effects namely (i) Direct individual effect of each stimuli. (ii) Their carry-over effect. (iii) Residual and overall effect of all the three verbal stimuli together were analyzed.

The subjects were classed into two groups for the discussion. The first group of subjects were those who showed a decrease in stuttering for all the three stimuli. The second group of subjects were those who showed an increase in stuttering for one or more of the stimuli.

The analyzed results are explained wherever it is possible. A possible explanation for the maintenance of stuttering is offered.

The general conclusions of the study are listed and some further research recommendations are suggested.

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