The Development and Standardization of a Picture SRT Test for Adults and Children in Kannada*

RAJASHEKHAR, B.

There have been no tests developed for the determination of speech reception thresholds in Kannada. The conventional speech reception thresholds requiring verbal responses were found to be not suitable for the speech impaired and children. The aim of this study was to develop and standardize a Picture SRT Test for adults and children in Kannada. Most frequently occurring words in Kannada which could be picturized (unpublished work, Dr. Ranganath) were administered to one hundred adults and twenty-five children for familiarity testing. The most familiar words were selected to form two lists of twenty words each for adults and one list of fifteen words for children. Corresponding pictures were drawn and the ambiguous ones were redrawn. All the test materials were tape-recorded and fed through the speech channel of the audiometer. Fifty five adults and thirty children comprised the subjects used in the standardization of the speech lists. These lists were presented to the subjects at various intensities and articulation curves were drawn. The mean SRT was determined from the articulation curves.

Mean SRT's of 19 dB SPL and 19·5 dB SPL were obtained for adult's List I and List II respectively. A mean SRT of 21 dB SPL was obtained with the children's list.

The present study resulted in standardized Picture SRT lists which can be used with any speech audiometer, calibrated to ANSI (1969) specifications, without any further corrections.

Recommendations for Further Research

(1) Validity of this test may be established by administering the present lists and English spondee words to subjects knowing both English and Kannada.

(2) Studies may be undertaken to establish the relationship between SRT and PTA, using the present lists with normal subjects.

(3) Relation between SRT and PTA in simulated hearing loss subjects may be established.

(4) Reliability of SRT for Kannada language in cases of simulated hearing loss may be verified.

(5) The test may be administered on a larger number of children in the age range of 3–5 years.

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