

Processing of adjacent and non-adjacent dependencies in persons with Broca's aphasia

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1 **Processing of adjacent and non-adjacent dependencies in persons with Broca's**
2 **aphasia**

3

4 Abstract

5

6 *Persons with Broca's aphasia (PWBA) are characterized by nonfluent speech, which is*
7 *reduced in phrase length and grammatical complexity. There are different opinions put*
8 *forth by authors in the literature, to account for the syntactic deficits observed in PWBA*
9 *namely, cognitive-based (deficits in executive functions and procedural memory) and*
10 *linguistic-based (morpho-syntax deficits, trace-deletion hypothesis, syntactic deficit*
11 *theory, and mapping hypothesis). Studies have concluded poor syntactic processing in*
12 *PWBA, compared to their neurotypical adults. The ability to track dependencies*
13 *between the syntactic constituents in a sentence structure (example- subject-verb*
14 *agreements), is vital for sentence processing. This study aimed to explore the*
15 *processing of adjacent and non-adjacent dependencies among PWBA, through a*
16 *sentence processing task. The participants of the study included a total of 15 native*
17 *Kannada-speaking PWBA, in the age range of 31.6-68 years. There were a total of*
18 *about 40 Kannada sentences - sentences with adjacent and non-adjacent dependencies*
19 *in them. The task was computerized, and the stimuli were delivered to the participants,*
20 *using Psychopy software (version 1.83.00), through laptop. The stimuli were presented*
21 *auditorily through loudspeakers, attached to the laptop. Participants were instructed to*
22 *do grammatical judgment of the auditorily presented sentences, by clicking (mouse-*
23 *click) on to the appropriate icon (tick icon for grammatically correct sentence and*
24 *wrong icon for a grammatically wrong sentence), which were displayed on the screen.*

1 *Results revealed poor performance in processing non-adjacent dependencies, compared*
2 *to adjacent dependencies. This provides insights into deficits in processing of*
3 *dependencies among PWBA.*

4

5 ***Keywords: Broca's aphasia; Adjacent dependencies; Non-adjacent dependencies;***

6 ***Sentence processing***

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9

10 **Introduction**

11 Broca's aphasia is distinctly identified with markedly reduced fluency in speech.
12 Persons with Broca's aphasia lack the ability to map thematic relations (eg., agent,
13 action and person) onto parts of speech (eg., subject, verb and object) (Schwartz,
14 Saffran & Martin, 1980b). They are also reported to have impaired word order
15 comprehension which in turn results in poor processing of complex sentences
16 (Caramazza & Zurif, 1976). The verbal utterances of persons with Broca's aphasia
17 consist of short words/ phrases, which are halting and effortful in nature. The verbal
18 output consists of content words such as nouns and verbs, while functional words such
19 as articles, preposition, auxiliaries, etc tend to be omitted. Such telegraphic way of
20 speech has been named "agrammatic" (Pick, 1913; Isserlin, 1922). Persons with
21 agrammatic aphasia frequently substitute or omit grammatical entities, such as
22 auxiliaries, morphemes (inflectional), pronouns, etc., **There are different** opinions **put**
23 **forth by authors in** the literature, **to** account for **the** syntactic **deficits** observed in PWBA

1 namely, linguistic-based (morpho-syntax deficits, trace-deletion hypothesis, mapping
2 hypothesis and double dependency hypothesis) and cognitive-based (executive function
3 deficits and deficits in procedural memory).

4 With respect to the current study, linguistic-based theories are discussed further.

5 ²⁰ Trace Deletion Hypothesis (TDH) (Grodzinsky, 1986; 1990; 1995) explains the process
6 of agrammatic comprehension in persons with aphasia. According to Trace Deletion
7 Hypothesis, persons with agrammatism tend to process active reversible sentences
8 better, when compared to passive reversible sentences. Studies in literature ³ have shown
9 that such ³ patterns of comprehension as assumed by TDH are only present in a subgroup
10 of persons with agrammatism (²⁵ Berndt, Mitchum, & Haendiges, 1996; Burchert, De
11 Bleser, & Sonntag, 2003; Caramazza, Capitani, Rey, & Berndt, 2001; Caramazza,
12 Capasso, Capitani, & Miceli, 2005; Druks & Marshall, 1995; Luzzatti, Raggi, Zonca,
13 Pistarini, Contardi & Pinna, 2002). On the other hand the Isomorphic Mapping
14 Hypothesis (e.g., Linebarger, 1995) states that persons with agrammatism have deficits
15 in syntactic representation and in mapping these representations with semantic and other
16 levels of representation. Another theory that is widely discussed with reference to
17 agrammatism is ³ the Double Dependency Hypothesis (DDH) (Maurer, Fromkin &
18 ⁴ Cornell, 1993). According to this theory, ⁴ the dependency between a noun phrase and its
19 ⁴ trace is disrupted at syntactic levels. That is, in case of ⁴ one antecedent-trace
20 dependency, it is assumed that ⁴ the syntactic representations tend to be incomplete but
21 can be interpreted unambiguously. While in case of ⁴ two such dependencies, the
22 ⁴ representation becomes semantically ambiguous as there will be deficits in interpreting
23 as to “which noun phrase ²⁴ (NP) is coindexed with what” syntactic constituent (Beretta,
24 Schmitt, Halliwell, Munn, Cuetos, & Kim, 2001, p. 410). Sentence processing is

1 severely affected when dependencies are placed distantly in a sentence, i.e., in sentences
2 with non-adjacent dependencies. Thus majorly three broad theories which explain about
3 the syntactic deficits in Broca's aphasia have been put forth by the researchers, though
4 each one has its own pros and cons.

5 ¹ Sentence analysis or processing is generally based on the dependency relations,
6 ² than based on phrase structure. The ideas of dependency analysis are found more or less
7 in the traditional grammar of many languages. Linguists still have different
8 understandings for what the dependency relation is, but the properties which are
9 generally accepted by linguists as the core features of a syntactic dependency relation
10 (Mel'čuk, 2003; Nivre, 2006; Hudson, 2007) are as follows:

11 Dependency relation involves ² a binary link between two linguistic units. It is usually
12 asymmetrical, with one of the two units acting as the governor and the other as
13 ² dependent. The dependency relations should be distinguished and explicitly labelled in
14 the arc linking the two units.

15 Dependency is a core operation for any dependency-based grammar (Ninio,
16 ⁸ 2006). Dependency distance is the linear distance between governor and dependent. The
17 term 'dependency distance' was introduced by Hudson (1995). ² The study of
18 dependency distance (DD) is useful for: (1) Predicting syntactic difficulty (Gibson,
19 1998); (2) Recognizing the mechanisms of children's language learning (Ninio, 2006);
20 (3) Designing better parsing algorithms for natural language processing (Buch-
21 Kromann, 2006).

22 The present study has taken support from the double dependency hypothesis, to
23 explore sentence processing with varying complexity of dependencies ⁹ in persons with

1 Broca's aphasia. The concept of sentence processing in persons with Broca's aphasia is
2 briefly discussed in the following section.

3 Persons with Broca's aphasia have cognitive impairments such as reduced
4 attention, poor working and procedural memories, which in turn reflect in their poor
5 sentence processing (Duman, Altınok, & Maviş, 2016). Studies have documented
6 obvious cognitive deficits with varied type and severity of aphasia (Gordon, 1983;
7 Hinckley & Nash, 2007; Mariën, Baillieux, De Smet, Engelborghs, Wilssens, Paquier &
8 De Deyn, 2009; Seniów, Litwin & Leśniak, 2009).

9 Christiansen, Kelly, Shillcock and Greenfield (2010) reported that syntactic
10 deficits observed in agrammatic aphasia result from damage to the domain-general
11 mechanisms. Hence, language operations such as production of grammatically correct
12 sentences, comprehension and production of syntactically complex sentences are
13 reported to be impaired in the target population (Caplan & Futter, 1986; Grodzinsky,
14 1986, 1995; Schwartz, Saffran, & Marin, 1980). The processing of grammatical
15 dependencies necessitates active tracking of syntactic cues at the sentence level. Hence,
16 the present study is aimed to provide insights in dependency processing among persons
17 with Broca's aphasia, drawing support from statistical learning and the double
18 dependency hypothesis.

19 *Aim*

20 To explore the processing of adjacent and non-adjacent grammatical dependencies
21 among persons with Broca's Aphasia (PWBA), through a sentence processing task.

22 *Objective*

23 To investigate the effect of variables such as site of lesion, cause, education and number
24 of languages known on processing grammatical dependencies.

1 **Materials and method**

2 *Participants*

3 The participants of the study included a total of 15 native Kannada-speaking PWBA
4 with a mean age of 41.97 years. The participants were diagnosed to have Broca's
5 aphasia by certified speech language pathologists, based on Western Aphasia Battery -
6 Kannada (WAB-K) (Shyamala & Vijayashree, 2008). The radiological findings from
7 CT scan reports of the participants were noted with respect to the artery involved
8 (Anterior/Middle/ Posterior Cerebral Artery) and lobes which were affected due to the
9 lesion. None of the participants had hemianopia, which was confirmed with findings
10 from ophthalmology and neurology reports. All the participants were reported to have
11 average intelligence quotient (IQ) of 90 by a certified clinical psychologist. Table 1
12 illustrates the demographic details of the participants.

13 *Stimuli preparation*

14 There were a total of about 40 Kannada sentences, consisting of 20 short and 20 long
15 sentences respectively. The short sentences had an average length of 3-4 words and the
16 long sentences had an average length of 4-5 words. There were twenty sentences in each
17 of the condition. Each set of sentences were sub-divided into two sections: adjacent
18 dependency type (10 sentences: 5 grammatically correct and 5 grammatically incorrect)
19 and non-adjacent dependency type (10 sentences: 5 grammatically correct and 5
20 grammatically incorrect). The sentences were newly constructed based on the stimuli
21 used in a previous study done on statistical learning among children with Specific
22 Language Impairment (CwSLI) (Veeramani & Rathinaswamy, 2019). The stimuli

1 sentences were recorded by an adult female Kannada speaker, using Computerized
2 Speech Lab (CSL) 4500 model (Kay Pentax, USA) Software in a sound treated room.

3 *Task*

4 The task was computerized using Psychopy software (Pierce, 2009) (version 1.83.00),
5 through a laptop (Lenovo G500) with 15.6” inches (1366X768) screen display. The
6 sentences were presented in auditory mode through loud speakers, connected to the
7 laptop. Participants were instructed to do a syntactic judgement of the stimuli, by
8 clicking on the appropriate icon (‘tick’ for syntactically correct and ‘wrong’ for
9 syntactically incorrect sentences), through an interactive mouse pad. Each participant
10 was instructed to judge the sentences as correct or incorrect, which was presented
11 auditorily for about 2500 milliseconds to 4000 milliseconds (2500 milliseconds for
12 short sentences and 4000 milliseconds for long sentences). The inter-stimuli interval
13 (ISI) was set to 1000 milliseconds.

14 *Procedure & Scoring*

15 Each participant of the study had 3 practice trials, before participating in the actual
16 experiment. The participants were seated comfortably in a quiet room and the laptop
17 was placed at their eye-level. Prior to the presentation of each sentence, a “+” symbol
18 served as a vigilant stimuli for the upcoming stimuli. The scoring was made automatic
19 by the software in such a way that, each correct response was scored as ‘1’ and each
20 incorrect response was scored as ‘0’. The performance of the participants was noted for
21 accuracy and reaction time (RT) automatically by the software.

1 *Analysis*

2 The software ¹ SPSS package (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) version 17.0 was
3 used for data analysis. Both accuracy and reaction time data were tabulated and
4 analysed.

5 **Results**

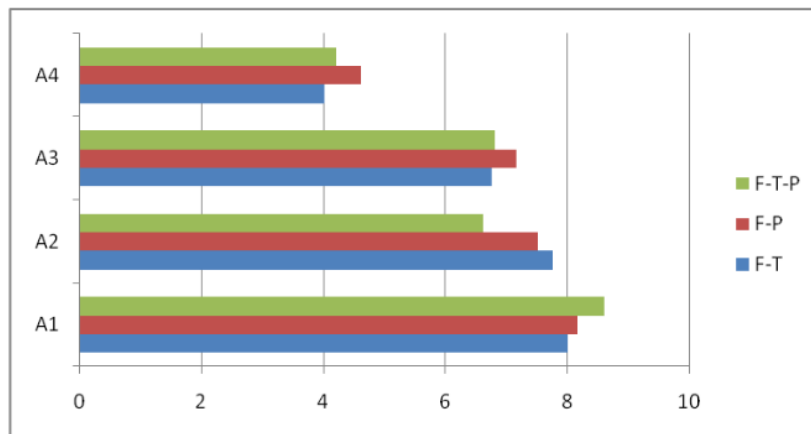
6 Total of 15 native Kannada participants diagnosed as Broca's aphasia, were considered
7 for the study. The obtained data was subjected to Shapiro Wilks test for normality and
8 revealed non-normal distribution (that is, $p < 0.05$). Table 3 represents the accuracy and
9 reaction time measures of each participant for each dependency condition. From Table
10 3, it can be inferred that all the participants performed poorer in non-adjacent
11 dependency condition when compared to adjacent dependency condition, irrespective of
12 sentence length, age, gender and radiological findings. The participants also took longer
13 time to perform syntactic judgment for sentences with non-adjacent dependency as
14 observed by the increased reaction time (RT) in Table 3. When comparing the
15 performance of participants in processing short and long sentences, all the participants
16 had greater accuracy and lesser reaction time for short sentences.

17 The data from the participants ¹⁹ were analyzed in terms of their accuracy and
18 reaction time (RT) for each sentence type and dependency type. Friedman's test
19 revealed significant difference in accuracy, $\chi^2 = 30.870$; $p = 0.00 < 0.05$ and RT, $\chi^2 =$
20 43.88 ; $p = 0.00 < 0.05$. Further Wilcoxon's signed rank test was carried out in order to
21 determine pair-wise differences among the two dependent variables. The results
22 revealed significant differences in accuracy between short adjacent and long non-
23 adjacent dependency type sentences (A3-A4 condition), $z = -3.432$, $p < 0.05$; long non-

1 adjacent dependency type sentences and short adjacent dependency type sentences (A4-
2 A1 condition), $z = -3.422$, $p < 0.05$ and also between short non-adjacent type sentences
3 and long non-adjacent type sentences (A2-A4), $z = -3.191$, $p < 0.05$. In terms of RT there
4 was significant differences observed between short adjacent dependency type sentences
5 and short non- adjacent dependency type sentences (RT1-RT2), $z = -3.408$, $p < 0.05$; short
6 non- adjacent dependency type sentences and long adjacent dependency type sentences
7 (RT2-RT3), $z = -3.408$, $p < 0.05$; short non- adjacent dependency type sentences and long
8 non-adjacent dependency type sentences (RT3-RT4), $z = -3.352$, $p < 0.05$; long non-
9 adjacent dependency type sentences and short adjacent dependency type sentences
10 (RT4-RT1), $z = -3.408$, $p < 0.05$; short non-adjacent dependency type sentences and long
11 non-adjacent dependency type sentences (RT2-RT4), $z = -3.408$, $p < 0.05$.

12 The data is described in terms of various dependent variables such as, site of
13 lesion, cause, education and number of languages known in the following section.

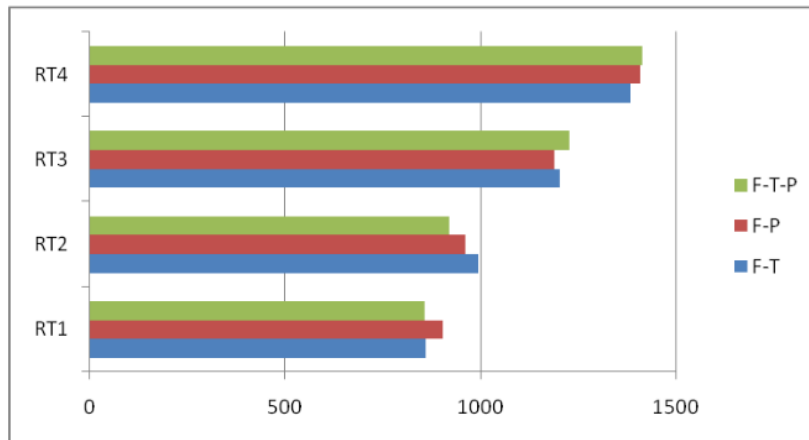
14 *Site of lesion*



15
16 **Figure 1.** Graphical representation of accuracy scores with respect to site of
17 lesion.

1 (Note: **A1**-Accuracy score for short adjacent dependency type sentences, **A2**- Accuracy score
2 for short non-adjacent dependency type sentences, **A3**-Accuracy score for long adjacent
3 dependency type sentences and **A4**- Accuracy score for long non-adjacent dependency type
4 sentences; **F-T-P**=Fronto-Temporo-Parietal involvement, **F-P**=Fronto-Parietal involvement and
5 **F-T**= Fronto-Temporal involvement)
6

7 Inferring from Figure 1, it can be observed that participants with lesions involving
8 fronto-parietal regions performed relatively better in processing the stimuli sentences,
9 except in A1 (accuracy score for short adjacent dependency type sentences) and A2
10 (accuracy score for short non-adjacent dependency type sentences) condition, wherein
11 participants with fronto-temporo-parietal involvement and those with fronto-temporal
12 were more accurate respectively. In processing short adjacent dependency type
13 sentences, participants with fronto-temporo-parietal involvement had greater accuracy
14 while those with fronto-temporal involvement had the least. In processing short non-
15 adjacent dependency type sentences, participants with fronto-temporal involvement had
16 greater accuracy while those with fronto-temporo-parietal involvement were least
17 accurate. Participants with fronto-parietal were more accurate in processing long
18 adjacent dependency & non-adjacent dependency condition while those with fronto-
19 temporal involvement performed poorly.



1

2 **Figure 2.** Graphical representation of reaction time with respect to site of lesion.

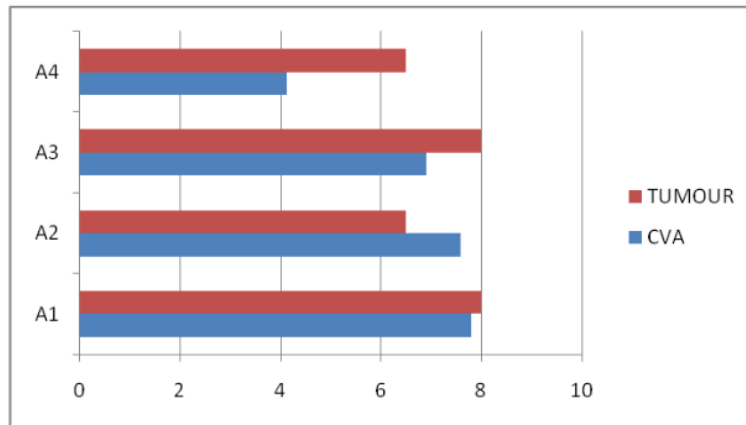
3 **(Note: RT1-**Reaction time for short adjacent dependency type sentences, **RT2-** Reaction time
 4 for short non-adjacent dependency type sentences, **RT3-**Reaction time for long adjacent
 5 dependency type sentences and **RT4-** Reaction time for long non-adjacent dependency type
 6 sentences).

7 From Figure 2, it can be observed that in RT1 (reaction time for short adjacent
 8 dependency type sentences) condition, participants with fronto-temporo-parietal
 9 involvement and those with fronto-temporo involvement had lesser/faster reaction time
 10 when compared to participants with fronto-parietal involvement. In RT2 (reaction time
 11 for short non-adjacent dependency type sentences) condition, participants with fronto-
 12 temporo-parietal involvement had faster reaction time, followed by those with fronto-
 13 parietal and fronto-temporal involvements respectively. In RT3 (reaction time for long
 14 adjacent dependency type sentences) condition, participants with fronto-parietal
 15 involvement had faster reaction time, followed by those with fronto-temporal
 16 involvement and with fronto-temporo-parietal involvement respectively. In RT4
 17 (reaction time for long non-adjacent dependency type sentences) condition, participants

1 with fronto-temporal involvement had faster reaction time, followed by those with
2 fronto-parietal and fronto-temporo-parietal involvement respectively.

3 **Cause**

4

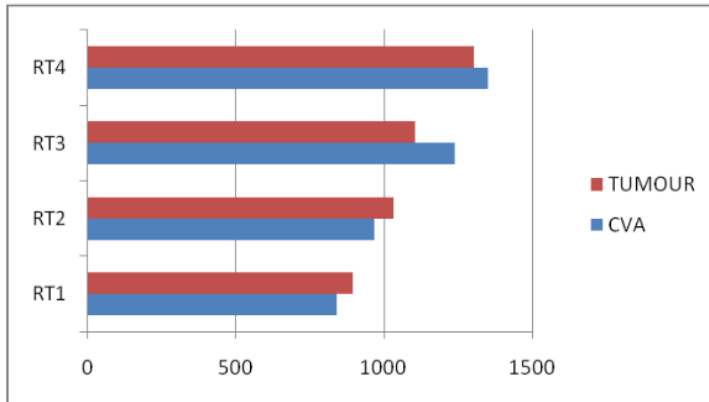


18
5

6 **Figure 3.** Graphical representation of accuracy scores with respect to cause of aphasia.

7

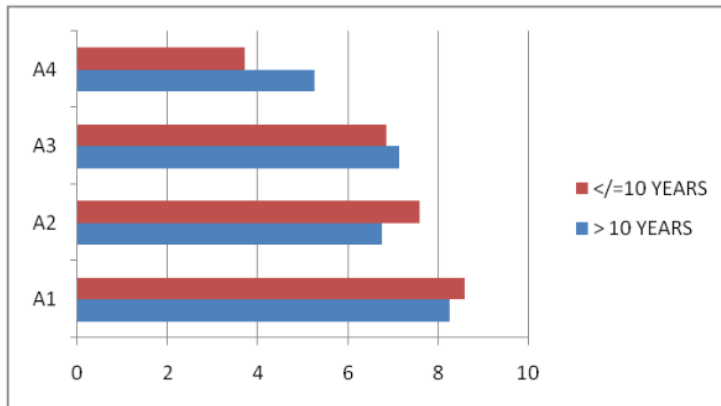
8 It can be observed from Figure 3 that participants with tumour were more accurate in
9 sentence processing than participants with CVA, except in A2 condition, where it was
10 vice versa. Figure 4 indicates that participants with CVA were faster in sentence
11 processing in RT1 and RT2 condition, while participants with tumour were faster in
12 sentence processing in RT3 and RT4 condition.



1

2 **Figure 4.** Graphical representation of reaction time with respect to cause of aphasia.

3 ***Education***



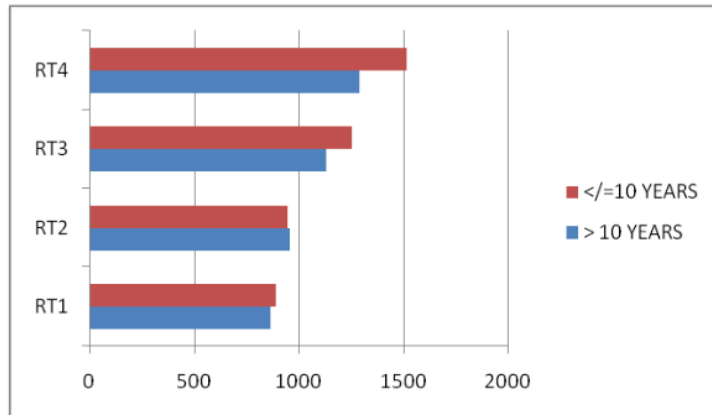
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5 **Figure 5.** Graphical representation of accuracy scores with respect to education.

6 Figure 5 suggests that participants with exposure to education greater than 10 years,
 7 were more accurate in sentence processing in A3 and A4 condition, whereas in A1 and
 8 A2 condition, it was vice versa.

9

1

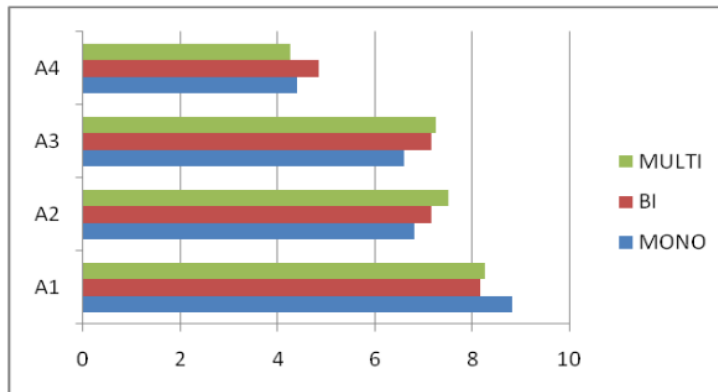


2

3 **Figure 6.** Graphical representation of mean reaction time with respect to education.

4 From Figure 6, it can be observed that participants with greater than 10 years exposure
5 to education had faster reaction time, except in RT2 condition, in which both groups
6 (>10 years and ≤ 10 years) had almost similar reaction times.

7 *Number of languages known*



8

9 **Figure 7.** Graphical representation of accuracy scores with respect to number of
10 languages known.

1 (Note: Multi-Multilingual; Bi-Bilingual; Mono-Monolingual)

2 From Figure 7, it can be observed that participants who are multi-linguals had greater
3 accuracy, followed by bilinguals and monolinguals respectively. However, in A4
4 condition, bilinguals had greater accuracy in syntactic judgement.

5 **Discussion**

6 The aim of the study was to explore the processing of adjacent and non-adjacent
7 dependencies among PWBA, through a sentence processing task. The results of the
8 study revealed few insights regarding sentence processing among PWBA, which are
9 discussed in the following section.

10 PWBA performed poorer in the non-adjacent dependency condition, which reveals that
11 the participants are less sensitive to syntactic-agreement tracking. This finding adds
12 strength to the Double Dependency Hypothesis (DDH) which states impaired
13 processing in sentences with two dependencies, especially in distant/ non-adjacent
14 dependencies. Linguistic aspects are most likely to influence in this case as Kannada a
15 Dravidian language is agglutinative in nature with rich use of morphemes and has more
16 preference for agreement tracking between dependencies in a sentence. Such
17 grammatical details, add on to the processing load, thereby making sentence processing
18 a cognitively taxing task. Hence, the syntactic sequential learning seems to be affected
19 in persons with Broca's aphasia. This finding is in line with that of a study done by
20 Christiansen, Kelly, Shillcock, and Greenfield (2010), wherein there was no evidence of
21 sequential syntactic processing among agrammatic individuals. Zimmerer, Cowell and
22 Varley (2014) found that artificial grammar learning of dependencies in visual mode is

1 affected in some persons with aphasia and relatively preserved in others. The
2 inconsistencies in findings of the studies done in similar lines, is due to variable
3 inclusion criteria, heterogeneity of deficits among persons with agrammatic aphasia and
4 methodological differences.

5 It was found that PWBA took more time to judge sentences in non-adjacent
6 dependency condition, than the adjacent dependency condition, especially in long
7 sentences. This reveals poor syntactic agreement tracking especially in long sentences,
8 which ¹ can be attributed to deficits in working memory, procedural memory and
9 cognitive-linguistic deficits among them.

10 When the individual data of the participants were correlated with their demographics, it
11 is observed that multilinguals are better at sentence processing, which is line with
12 previous studies (Halsband 2006; ¹⁴ Filippi, Leech, Thomas, Green & Dick, 2012). As the
13 participants of current study were all literate, collecting data among literate and illiterate
14 persons with aphasia, would give an insight into the contribution of literacy in
15 grammatical dependency processing. Though it is an implicit process, one can explore
16 the facilitatory effect of literacy (if any), which is one of the future direction of this
17 initial investigation. It is also observed that participants with tumours performed better
18 in syntactic judgement than those who had a history of CVA, which supports the
19 literature in aphasia recovery and prognosis. Drawing links between the radiological
20 findings and the results of the sentence processing task, it can be inferred that more the
21 extent of lesion, the performance is relatively spared. Since the lesion is diffused and
22 distributed among the regions, the performance is relatively spared than focal
23 involvements. In the current study participants with fronto-temporal involvement

1 performed poorer than participants with fronto-temporo-parietal. Hence, in addition to
2 considering the extent of lesion structurally, such tasks help in providing insights
3 regarding the lesion distribution and how well the lesion areas are able to compensate
4 for their loss according to the task requirements. From the data obtained, it can be
5 inferred that the participants were not able to track down the syntactic dependencies in
6 sentences. Hence, dependency processing which is a cognitive-linguistic process seems
7 to be affected in the participants of current study. This study focused on persons with
8 Broca's aphasia and revealed poor sentence processing in non-adjacent dependency
9 condition. However, more data is needed to further investigate the effect of adjacent and
10 non-adjacent dependencies in sentence processing among persons with Broca's aphasia.
11 The cognitive-linguistic abilities are more likely to be variable among persons with
12 brain damage, than in neurotypical persons. Hence, it is important to account for the
13 variabilities observed and track down the possible causal links, by supporting the
14 findings with imaging and electrophysiological data. Overall, the study is an attempt to
15 explore the syntactic dependency processing in persons with Broca's aphasia in an
16 agglutinative language like Kannada. Similar studies can be carried out with artificial
17 grammar learning paradigms and objective Evoked Response Potentials (ERPs),
18 investigating sentence processing and sequential learning across different modalities
19 such as auditory, visual and tactile.etc and correlating it with radiological impressions,
20 which would result in an eclectic structural-functional linkage.

21 **Conclusion**

22 The current study investigated dependency processing among persons with Broca's
23 aphasia. The findings of the investigation will aid in designing appropriate training

1 material during speech and language rehabilitation (eg. At sentence level, graded stimuli
2 can be used with initial sentences consisting of adjacent dependencies) for persons with
3 Broca's aphasia. This would lead to development of systematic assessment and
4 treatment protocol for persons with Broca's aphasia, which would have a positive
5 impact on their quality of life.

6

7 **Acknowledgement**

8 ¹ The authors would like to thank all the participants who participated in the study. We
9 also like to thank Director, All India Institute of Speech and Hearing – Mysuru for
10 providing required facilities to carry out the study.

11

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13 ⁵ This research received no specific grant from any funding agency, commercial or not-
14 for-profit sectors.

15

16 ¹³ **Conflicts of interest**

17 The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

18

19 **Ethical standards**

20 ¹⁶ Written informed consent was obtained from all the participants.

21

1

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2 **Figure legends**

3 **Figure 1.** Graphical representation of accuracy scores with respect to site of lesion.

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4 **Figure 2.** Graphical representation of reaction time with respect to site of lesion.

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5 **Figure 3.** Graphical representation of accuracy scores with respect to cause of aphasia.

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6 **Figure 4.** Graphical representation of reaction time with respect to cause of aphasia.

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7 **Figure 5.** Graphical representation of accuracy scores with respect to education.

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8 **Figure 6.** Graphical representation of mean reaction time with respect to education.

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9 **Figure 7.** Graphical representation of accuracy scores with respect to number of
10 languages known.

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2 **Table 1.** Demographics of participants.

S.No	Age/ Gender	WAB-K AQ score	Education (years)	Mono/ Bi/ Multi- Lingual	Vocation	Treatment Period (If started)	Radiological findings (CT Scan)
1	68/M	42.4	9	Multi	Carpenter	Not yet	Hypodensities in left hemisphere fronto-parietal cortex and underlying white matter
2	40/M	56	5	Bi	Agriculture	1 month	Left MCA territory infarct involving fronto-parietal region
3	31.6/M	44	7	Mono	Agriculture	Not yet	Left MCA territory infarct involving fronto-temporo-parietal region
4	50/M	36	10	Mono	Agriculture	2.5 years	Left MCA infarct involving fronto-temporo-parietal region
5	56.6/M	42	8	Mono	Agriculture	Not yet	Left MCA territory infarct involving fronto-temporal region
6	41/M	46.4	12	Bi	Electrician	Not yet	Left MCA territory infarct involving fronto-parietal region
7	28/M	48	12	Multi	Buiseness	Not yet	Left MCA territory infarct involving fronto-temporo-parietal region
8	35/M	42.8	10	Bi	Agriculture	Not yet	Hypodensities in Left hemisphere infarct involving fronto-temporo-parietal region
9	39/M	42.4	25	Bi	Lecturer	Not yet	Left ACA territory infarct involving fronto-parietal region
10	26/M	34	20	Multi	MBA student	Not yet	Left MCA territory infarct involving fronto-parietal region
11	48/M	38	15	Mono	Agriculture	2 weeks	Left MCA territory infarct involving fronto-temporal region

12	54/M	42	10	Bi	Business	1 month	Left MCA territory involving fronto-temporo-parietal region
13	37/F	36	12	Bi	Homemaker	Not yet	Left hemisphere oligodendroglioma involving fronto-parietal region
14	33.5/F	44	20	Multi	Buiseness (Crafts-handloom)	3 months	Left MCA involving fronto-temporal region
15	42/F	48	11	Mono	Homemaker	2 months	Left hemisphere oligodendroglioma involving fronto-temporo-parietal region

1 (Note: Participants 12 and 14 had a history of tumour, and the others were known cases of CVA (Cerebro
2 Vascular Accidents). Adequate motor strength of the dominant hand (all participants were right handed)
3 was ensured with physiotherapist and occupational therapist findings and impression, so as to include them
4 in the study).

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3 **Table 2.** Example of stimuli sentences.

Set A (Short)		Set B (Long)	
Adjacent dependency	Non-adjacent Dependency	Adjacent Dependency	Non-adjacent dependency
/avalo/ /nagoṭa:le/	/avano/ /na:le/ /baroṭa:ne/	/Ive/ /kaṭo/ /bekogalo/	/avaro/ /ibro/ /tjana:gi/ /ha:doṭa:re/

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Table 3. Accuracy (A) (on a score of 10) and mean reaction time (RT) of each participant for different types of sentences.

S.No	Short sentences				Long sentences			
	Adjacent		Non-adjacent		Adjacent		Non-adjacent	
	Dependency		Dependency		Dependency		Dependency	
	A	RT (ms)	A	RT (ms)	A	RT (ms)	A	RT (ms)
1	9	927.79	8	952.12	6	1392.46	3	1678.61
2	8	893.22	9	945	9	1154.39	3	1536.56
3	8	910.47	6	959.62	7	1308.72	4	1541.03
4	9	883.51	7	997.39	5	1472.33	3	1708.79
5	9	892.78	9	937.40	7	1104.46	3	1441.11
6	9	879.18	8	890.05	6	1157.62	5	1296
7	9	762.90	6	787.45	8	996.37	4	1106.23
8	9	818.37	7	842.73	7	1259.69	5	1275.19
9	8	863.11	5	993.16	6	1158.01	5	1314.37
10	8	886.93	8	902.11	8	1107.28	6	1216.79

11	9	927.00	6	1042.36	6	1144.87	5	1530.07
12	8	904.86	7	1015.92	7	1098.83	5	1437.58
13	7	971.33	7	1082.78	8	1160.00	6	1403.71
14	7	807.29	8	997.34	7	1280.66	4	1279.55
15	9	823.00	6	982.67	8	1049.81	7	1207.87

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