Master's Thesis

"Investigation of Communication Abilities and Quality of Life for people with Aphasia by using Talking Mats as a treatment method in Speech and Language Therapy"

Viktoria Eden

Limassol, April 202

Approval Form

Master's Thesis

"Investigation of Communication Abilities and Quality of Life for people with Aphasia by using Talking Mats as a treatment method in Speech and Language Therapy"

Presented by

Viktoria Eden

Supervisor: Dr. Eliada Pampoulou, Lecturer

Signature _____

Member of the committee: Name Surname and position

Signature _____

Member of the committee: Name Surname and position

Signature _____

Cyprus University of Technology

Limassol, April 2020

Copyrights

Acknowledgements

Disclosure

Opinions and conclusions expressed in this study are those of the author and can not necessarily be attributed to the Cyprus University of Technology. The author has no non-conflict relationship to disclose and reports no conflict of interests.

Adherence to ethical standards

The bioethical board of Cyprus approved the study. All ethical obligations towards the participant and the scientific community were met.

ABSTRACT

Background: Talking Mats (TM) is a tool used in the Augmentative and Alternative communication field. It can support people with complex communication needs, such as people with aphasia. Existing research on TM focus on its use as a communication instrument (Murphy, Cameron & Boa, 2013).

Objective: This study explores for the first time the effects of using TM in Speech and Language therapy as a treatment method on communication abilities and Quality of Life (QoL) in a person with aphasia.

Methods and Procedures: The study followed an AB design with multiple baselines. The participant is a 35 year old female with mild, anomic aphasia, 6 years post onset. At baseline levels, the Western Aphasia Battery and the Stroke and Aphasia Quality of Life Scale-39 (SAQOL-39) was administered to the participant, followed by a 10 days consecutive use of TM in a therapeutic setting.

Results: The biggest improvement was captured in word fluency by 25, 58%. The mean of the psychosocial score decreased by 9, 86%.

Conclusion: TM might serve as a method to train vocabulary recall and discourse in people with anomic aphasia. It is suggested, that a decrease in QoL is correlated to the Covid-19 restrictions during this study.

Keywords: Talking Mats Framework, Aphasia, AAC, Quality of Life