Towards new scenarios for ANELT-CU

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Conclusion. **Previous research (Ruiter et al. 2011) suggests that the construct validity of the Dutch Amsterdam-Nijmegen Everyday Language Test (ANELT, Blomert et al. 1995) can be improved by substituting the current, qualitative scoring procedure by a new, quantitative one. Because of these promising results, we investigated whether the construct validity of the ANELT could be further improved. This is of relevance since non-aphasic speakers have indicated that not all scenarios are representative for modern times. What is more, it is not always clear what role the participant should take in each scenario. Therefore, we either adapted the current scenarios or introduced new ones in order to enhance unambiguous interpretation. We currently work towards a new quantitative scoring procedure for the adapted test.**

Introduction

The ANELT measures verbal effectiveness in persons with aphasia (PWA) by instructing them to give a spoken response to (orally presented) scenarios of daily life situations, such as:

"These are yours (tester hands patient broken glasses). You are now in the optician's shop. I am the salesperson. What would you say?"

Previous research suggests that the construct validity of the ANELT can be improved by substituting the original, qualitative scoring procedure by a new, quantitative one. The new scoring procedure was found to be more sensitive in measuring improvement in verbal effectiveness over time and also allowed a measure of verbal efficiency, which yields a more complete picture of functional communication (Ruiter et al. 2011). These findings raised the question whether the construct validity of the Dutch ANELT could be further improved.

Method

It was investigated in non-aphasic speakers of Dutch (n = 58) whether the scenarios which are included in the original test are still valid in the sense that they are:

1) **Imaginable** to be engaged in by participants at present time (see Figure 1).
2) **Unambiguously interpreted**. That is, do participants take the intended **role** in each scenario? (data not presented here)

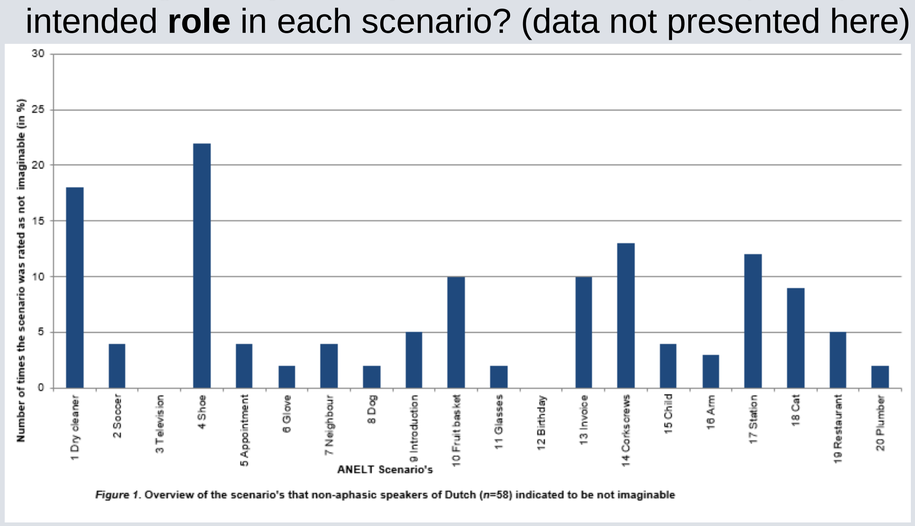

Figure 1. Overview of the scenario's that non-aphasic speakers of Dutch (n=58) indicated to be not imaginable

Using a cut-off of 5% for imagenability and 10% for unambiguous role identification, 15 of the 20 scenarios were textually adapted and/or standard photos were added instead of non-standardised 3D-objects which testers have to add to the original ANELT themselves (see Table 1).

Table 1. **Examples of original scenarios of the Dutch ANELT and new scenarios. The examples are translated from Dutch.**

Scenario	Original	New
17	You are at the train station. You would like to go to Zwolle. You are at the ticket counter. What would you say?	You are at the train station. You would like to go to Zwolle. The train is leaving from another platform. You are in hurry but you do not know where to go. You walk over to the conductor and ask …?
4	You take this shoe to the shoemaker [tester presents shoe]. There is a lot wrong with this shoe, but for some reason you want him to repair only one thing. You may choose what he is to repair. What would you say?	You take this shoe to the shoemaker [tester presents photo]. What would you say? 

Method (continued)

Subsequently it was tested in 60 non-aphasic speakers of Dutch whether the adapted scenarios fulfilled the criteria of imagenability as well as unambiguous role identification. Six of the 15 new scenarios (i.e., 4, 5, 16, 17, 19 and 20) were significantly better rated than the original scenarios with regard to imagenability. As to role identification, there were no significant changes between the old and new scenarios.

Next research steps and hypotheses

Preparation

Spoken responses of non-aphasic speakers of Dutch (n = 60)

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A quantitative scoring scheme for the adapted ANELT

Experiment

Split-plot design

	Outcome measures		
Subjects (N = 50)	- ANELT -traditional - ANELT- CU (Ruiter et al., 2011) - ANELT-CU with new scenarios		
	T 1	8 weeks	T 2
Non-aphasic speakers of Dutch (n = 30) S 1 ⋮ S 30			
Aphasic speakers of Dutch in sub-acute phase (n = 20) S 1 ⋮ S 30			

We currently also work towards a German version of the adapted ANELT scenarios, using a similar research design (Dassek, in preparation)

***** Based on the orthographic transcription of their responses, a list of proposition will be derived. Each proposition will then be subdivided into Content Units (CUs; Yorkston & Beukelman, 1980), which will yield a list of CUs for each ANELT scenario (i.e. ANELT-CU). Consequently, a quantitative measure for verbal effectiveness as well as efficiency can be established.

Hypotheses

Improved imagenability and role identification in the ANELT-CU scenarios

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Improved construct validity of ANELT-CU

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Improved sensitivity in measuring changes in aphasic speakers' functional communication skills over time

References

Blomert et al. (1995). Lisse: Swets & Zeitlinger.
Ruiter et al. (2011). *Aphasiology*, *25*(8), 961–975.
Yorkston et al. (1980). *The Journal of Speech and Hearing Disorders*, *45*(1), 27–36.

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