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Automatic Language

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Synonyms

[Nonpropositional language](#)

Definition

Automatic language is the use of nonpropositional language forms. Even if the patient is unable to converse at all, he or she may produce automatic responses. These responses may be (a) automatized sequences, counting, reciting the alphabet, and saying the days of the week; (b) memorized sequences, prayers pledge of allegiance; (c) recurrent social speech, “Have a nice day” and “How are you?”; and (d) emotional speech: cursing or a typically stated sentence when emotionally upset. It is important to note that these types of responses are not clearly thought out and are not under the cognitive control of the

patient. These responses do not represent propositional language skill and should not be considered as a conscious attempt to participate in conversational situations. Automatic language can be found in severe aphasias and in many dementias. It may also occur in mental health problems such as schizophrenia.

Cross-References

► [Stereotypy](#)

References and Readings

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