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Stereotypy

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Synonyms

Recurrent stereotypic utterance; Repetitive utterance

Definition

Verbal stereotypy is a nonpropositional utterance characterized by repetition of a syllable, word, or phrase (e.g., “ba-ba-ba,” “yep,” “bloody hell,” “wait a minute”), typically used in high frequencies and as emotional exclamations (Alajouanine 1956). Stereotypies are a feature of advanced frontotemporal dementia (Mendez and Perryman 2002) and other disorders of left hemisphere language regions, which are distinct from instances of perseveration of a correct word to a subsequent utterance (e.g., saying “husband” for “wife” when the previous topic was “husband”). Present early in acute, severe nonfluent aphasia and often persisting for weeks, stereotypies may be coupled with prosody and grammatical features that mimic linguistic forms, e.g., “very good” or “ba ba ba” may be spoken with the intonation of “How are

you?” or “I’m fine, you?” (Rhys et al. 2013), but lack the phonetic variation of neologisms typical of fluent aphasia.

Cross References

- ▶ Aphasia
- ▶ Apraxia of Speech
- ▶ Frontal Temporal Dementia
- ▶ Perseveration
- ▶ Prosody

References and Readings

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