

Clinical interactions in dysarthria interventions

Abstract

Dysarthria refers to a group of motor speech disorders characterised by reduced speech intelligibility resulting from compromised control of the muscles involved in speech production, typically associated with a wide range of neurological conditions. These speech difficulties can substantially affect everyday communication and social participation. Speech pathology intervention aims to address the consequences of dysarthria, not only by targeting speech intelligibility, but also by supporting more effective communication. Existing literature has established theoretical principles and evidence-based protocols to guide dysarthria interventions. However, there remains limited understanding of how these interventions are carried out in real-world clinical settings. The unfolding of speech pathology intervention is laminated onto clinician-client interaction, and it is only through such interaction that dysarthria intervention activities can be accomplished. Thus, this PhD project will investigate naturally occurring interactions in dysarthria interventions, using a descriptive, qualitative research method called Conversation Analysis (CA). Findings are expected to contribute to the understanding of real-world clinical practice of dysarthria interventions and offer insights into the driving mechanism through which intervention outcomes are practically achieved.