UC Merced

Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society

Title

Category-Specific Verb-Semantic Naming Deficit in Alzheimers Disease: Evidencefrom a Dynamic Action Naming Task

Permalink

Journal

Authors

de Almeida, Roberto
Mobayyen, Forouzan
Kehayia, Eva
et al.

Publication Date

2019

Peer reviewed

Category-Specific Verb-Semantic Naming Deficit in Alzheimers Disease: Evidence from a Dynamic Action Naming Task

Roberto de Almeida
Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Forouzan Mobayyen
Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Eva Kehayia
McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Caitlyn Antal
Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, United States

Vasavan Nair
Douglas Mental Health University Institute, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

George Schwartz
Douglas Mental Health University Institute, Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Abstract

Numerous studies have found category-specific semantic deficits in Alzheimers disease (AD). Thus far, however, only a small number of studies have investigated how semantic categories lexicalized by verbs are represented, and how these categories might be impaired in AD. We investigated the representation and breakdown of verb knowledge employing different syntactic and semantic classes of verbs in a group of probable AD patients (N=10) and matched controls. In our main task, we employed movies of events and states depicting verbs belonging to three different classes: causatives, perception/psychological, and movement verbs. These verbs differ with regards to their argument structure, the thematic roles they assign, and their hypothetical semantic templates. Patients had more difficult employing verbs of the perception/psychological class. We suggest that thematic roles play the most important role in verb semantic representations. We further suggest that verbs are not represented by decompositional semantic templates.