

Cluttering: German Logopedics – What do German Practitioners and Clinicians think about Cluttering?

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Introduction

International professionals increased the research of cluttering since the formation of the International Cluttering Association (ICA) to heighten its awareness among professionals and as well among people with cluttering (PWC) (Reichel & Ray, 2008). In the past, St. Louis and Rustin (1992) stated that cluttering is not very well-known even among professional speech-language therapists (SLT). One assumption for this phenomenon is that cluttering may not be well-known, because it is an uncommon speech disorder which rarely occurs in speech-language practice. In Germany the curriculum of SLT's education is assured by law and contains diagnosis and treatment of cluttering (LogAPro, 1980; Springer & Zückner, 2006). So one hypothesis of this study is that German SLT's should know cluttering well, even if it is uncommon. Also, the aim of the study is to stocktake the actual presence of PWC in ordinary German speech-language therapy. Furthermore, the study allowed insights on interests of German SLT's towards cluttering.

Method

For this study we developed a questionnaire which was answered by 146 people but because of missing or corrupted data 13 cases were excluded from further analysis (n=133). The questionnaire was shared via speech-language professional association homepages (e.g. dbI or dbS), mailing lists (e.g. "lefo-netz" mailing list of RWTH Aachen) and social media (e.g. Facebook and LinkedIn). The participants were mostly women (94,7%) recruited from different parts of Germany, mainly from Nordrhein-Westfalen (50,8%). The SLT's were nearly equally divided in experienced / unexperienced SLT, academic / non-academic education and full-time / part-time working.

Results

Fig. 1: Education and Identification of PWC

		Educated in cluttering			Total
		Yes.	No.	I'm not sure.	
May identify PWC	Yes.	91 (69,5%)	8 (6,1%)	4 (3,1%)	103 (78,6%)
	No.	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0,8%)	1 (0,8%)
	I'm not sure.	24 (18,3%)	2 (1,5%)	1 (0,8%)	27 (20,6%)
Total		115 (87,8%)	10 (7,6%)	6 (4,6%)	131 (100%)

Fig. 2: Interest in Cluttering (in%)

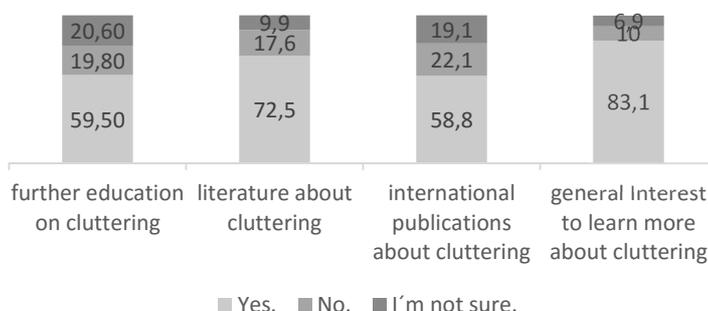
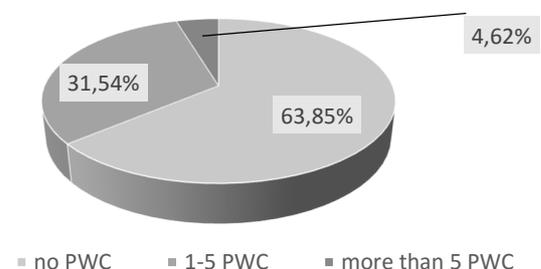


Fig. 3: Treated PWC in 2015



Conclusion

The study findings indicate that cluttering is well-known among German SLT's, because more than 75% may identify PWC's whereas less than 1% may not. But almost two-third of these SLT's haven't treated any PWC in the year 2015, so cluttering remains an uncommon speech disorder at least for some SLT's (5% treated more than 5 PWC). The general interest in cluttering is high (83%). It seems that German SLT's demand rather books (73%) than education (60%).

References

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