Understanding Cognate Processing in Bi- and Multilingual People with Aphasia
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BACKGROUND
Aphasia & Stroke
- Aphasia is an acquired language disorder that impacts communication like producing speech, understanding speech, reading, and writing.
- Aphasia is caused by stroke, specifically strokes which cause damage to the left hemisphere, where the language centres are located. Approximately one-third of those who have a stroke will experience aphasia.

Bilingualism & Multilingualism
- Approximately 3.3 billion bilingual people worldwide, accounting for 43% of the population.
- As bilingualism and multilingualism are becoming increasingly more common, the number of bilingual patients with aphasia increases, too.

TREATMENT FOR BILINGUALS WITH APHASIA
- After stroke, bi- and multilingual individuals may use their languages differently than they did before. For example, some individuals find using the language they learned first most accessible, others maintain access to both languages, others maintain access to the language that was used most frequently, and still others switch spontaneously between their languages.
- Given the nuanced picture of language post-stroke, researchers and clinicians are faced with the decision of which language(s) to treat in.

METHODLOGY
- Language therapy for bilinguals with aphasia has been shown to improve both the treated language (within-language generalization) and the untreated language (i.e., cross-language generalization).
- For example, if a client spoke English and Spanish, does working on nouns in English (apple, orange, plantain) help use nouns in Spanish (cross-language), too, (manzana, naranja, plátano), or does it only help English (within-language)?

Spring Semester
- In the second semester, sessions were student-led. Each student would select a paper and present the results for the other student, alternating weeks.

RESULTS
- The topics during Spring included papers about processing in aphasia, types of treatments for bilingual people with aphasia, and the processing of cognates in bilingual people with aphasia.

QUESTIONS & NEXT STEPS
- Questions: This literature review helped students learn about how bilingual processing language, how people with aphasia process language, how cognates are processed, and how bilingual people with aphasia process cognates. This has left us with some additional questions that we will continue to explore as we move towards refining our specific research question.
- Next Steps: Do cognates on a continuum of overlap show a continuum of priming? How are false cognates processed? Do they give rise to cognate effects? What other variables impact cognate effects? How do they interact?

REFERENCES

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