ACQUIRED LANGUAGE DISORDERS

CASE-BASED APPROACH

SECOND EDITION

JAMES M. MANCINELLI EVELYN R. KLEIN



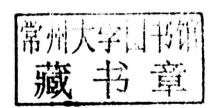




Acquired Language Disorders A CASE-BASED APPROACH

Second Edition

James M. Mancinelli, MS, CCC-SLP Evelyn R. Klein, PhD, CCC-SLP, BCS-CL







5521 Ruffin Road San Diego, CA 92123

e-mail: info@pluralpublishing.com

Website: http://www.pluralpublishing.com

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Preface

Introduction

New and experienced clinicians may find it challenging when attempting to integrate theoretical knowledge and research into clinical practice. As professors teaching the graduate courses in acquired language disorders and clinical practicum, we realize that it isn't until the clinician actually encounters a person with a specific disorder that academic knowledge and practice coincide. Given our years of experience as both teachers and practitioners, it is our intention to bridge the gap between theory and practice by providing the reader with a case-based approach to understanding acquired language disorders (ALD). To further our goal in making ALD come to life for the reader, we have developed a model that depicts the individual's language and cognition following a cerebrovascular accident or other neurologic event. We refer to this as the Acquired Language Disorders Target Model, and each of the 14 cases that we discuss has a corresponding diagram within the chapter.

In our experience as professors at the graduate level, the student benefits from the graphic features of the ALD Target Model because it facilitates a concrete understanding of the linguistic and cognitive characteristics of each case. This model combined with features of the various disorders, case analyses, and treatment considerations connects theoretical knowledge with practical application. In our opinion, this case-based approach matches the needs of speech-language pathologists practicing in health care today.

How the Book Is Organized

Each chapter includes a fictional person based upon an actual case that was treated in a health care setting, private practice, or home health environment to exemplify a specific acquired language disorder. These case scenarios were developed based on actual patients who the authors or their colleagues have evaluated and treated. This brings to life each communication impairment for the learner, who can better conceptualize the specific characteristics of the disorder in the context of a real person. For purposes of anonymity and confidentiality, the patients' names and identifying information have been changed.

As practicing speech-language pathologists, we believe it is essential to understand not only the basic pathophysiology of a disease process associated with an acquired language disorder, but also the functional effects it may have on a person's life. The fundamentals presented here allow the reader to participate in discussions with other professionals and family members. The student or practitioner can then use this information to build a foundation for assessment and therapeutic approaches, which are found in Appendix D.

Special Features

The 14 cases in this book provide a comprehensive overview of the assessment process, major aphasic syndromes, right hemisphere disorder, traumatic brain injury, dementia, encephalopathy, and other etiologies affecting the ability to communicate. The final chapter provides detailed information about past, present, and future considerations in treating individuals with ALD. We discuss therapeutic approaches currently in use and include new trends in treatment.

Each chapter is based on a case study and includes eight sections:

- Characteristics of the disorder including neurologic correlates.
- Case Scenario providing a brief overview of the case history.

- **Diagnostic Profile** including language expression, speech production, auditory comprehension, reading, written expression, cognition, and behavioral symptoms of the case.
- The **ALD Target Model** presents a visual representation that captures the type and degree of language impairment as well as any areas of cognition that may be affected.
- Functional Analysis consists of a narrative that succinctly summarizes the case and helps the clinician understand the impact of the disability on daily life.
- Critical Thinking/Learning Activity poses questions designed to help the student or clinician develop problemsolving and practical skills necessary to maximize the patient's progress.
- Treatment Considerations provide areas to consider for rehabilitation based on the patient's strengths and weaknesses, individualized to his/her psychosocial context. General therapeutic objectives are also provided.
- Therapeutic Options include possible treatment considerations pertinent to the case, most of which are further described in Appendix D.

The Acquired Language Disorders Target Model

We developed the Acquired Language Disorders Target Model™ (ALD Target Model™) from an *embedded language framework*. This model is shown in Figure 1 and reflects the influence that cognition plays in normal communication and, by extension, in the rehabilitation of people with acquired language disorders. The physical appearance of the model depicts a schematic relationship between language and cognition as well as the relationship among functional language modalities.

There are five primary domains of the ALD Target Model: Language, Attention, Memory, Executive Functions, and Visual Spatial skills. The Language domain includes four areas: expression, comprehension, reading, and writing. Expression (E) and com-

Normal Communication Embedded within Normal Cognitive Functions

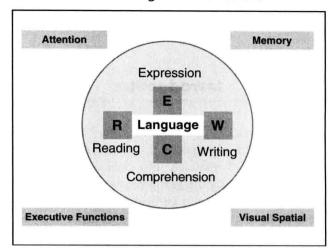
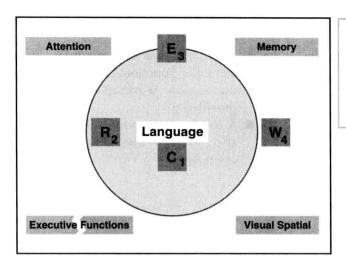


Figure 1. The Acquired Language Disorders Target Model.

prehension (C) involve the verbal modality; whereas reading (R) and writing (W) involve the visual modality. Although as speech-language pathologists we are clinically oriented to the Language domain, we must not neglect the other four cognitive areas of functioning because they are integral to functional communication.

For an individual who has normal communicative functions, the lettered squares (E, C, R, and W) remain attached to the rectangle containing the word Language. For an individual with an acquired language disorder, the lettered squares move further away from the Language rectangle to reflect greater impairment. For each type of acquired language disorder, the pattern is different. For example, in a person with an expressive nonfluent aphasia (Broca's), the E square and the W square are placed outside the circular border to indicate a severe degree of impairment. Depending on the acquired language disorder, any or all of these language modalities may be impaired at varying degrees. This ranges from normal, to mild-moderate, to moderate-severe, to severe-profound. Impairment level is depicted in Figure 2.

The ALD Target Model reflects our agreement with Helm-Estabrooks and Albert (2004): assessing the cognitive domains of attention, memory, visuo-



- 1 Normal
- 2 Mild-Moderate Impairment
- 3 Moderate-Severe Impairment
- 4 Severe-Profound Impairment
- Impaired Cognitive Function

Figure 2. The key to understanding the Acquired Language Disorders Target Model.

spatial skills, and executive functions in aphasia should be a component of the standard evaluation for treatment planning. The reader will notice a fractured line through any of the four cognitive domains that are impaired in each specific case presented For example, in an individual with a severely impaired memory, the box labeled *Memory* has a fractured line going through the word.

How to Use This Book

For the Student and the Practitioner

- A graphic image of the ALD Target Model representing each disorder enhances the student's or practitioner's understanding of cognitive-linguistic changes pertinent to that specific case.
- The value of the case-based approach to ALD is that it facilitates comparisons among types of patients. This optimizes more accurate decision-making for planning treatment. As a learning tool, this approach helps the student or practioner attach clinical information to a case that is represented with a physical image
- The ALD Target Model combined with the Functional Analysis can be very useful for

- clinical practice in a health care setting. This permits the student or practitioner to integrate the neurologic, cognitive, linguistic, and functional aspects of each patient to formulate a holistic picture for treatment.
- PowerPoint slides supporting lectures are provided for the topical chapters in the book.
- Critical thinking questions are provided for each case to facilitate clinical decisionmaking skills, and Appendix G provides a case-based exam to "test your knowledge."
- Many current treatment approaches (23) are provided to assist the practitioner in planning a program for each patient.
- Each case has a one-page diagnostic profile that describes each patient's language expression, speech, auditory comprehension, reading, written expression, cognition, and behavioral symptoms.

For the Instructor

- An overview of basic neuroanatomy for acquired language disorders is provided.
- This book offers a detailed summary of many formal and informal assessments

- and treatment programs for those with ALD.
- There are 14 case-based acquired language disorders, each with assessment and treatment considerations, to facilitate class discussion and clinical problem solving.
- There is a section on past, present, and future considerations with a historical overview of efficacy and evidence in treating those with ALD.
- PowerPoint slides correspond to the text and offer important lecture material, diagrams, illustrations, and online links for teaching.
- Charts, tables, and figures including the ALD Target Model help categorize and

- concretize the various acquired language disorders.
- Functional treatment can be easily planned using the Functional Communication Connections Worksheet with samples provided.
- A Test Your Knowledge examination is also provided using seven case-based examples.

Reference

Helm-Estabrooks, N., & Albert, M. L. (2004). *Manual of aphasia and aphasia therapy* (2nd ed.). Austin, TX: Pro-Ed.

Acknowledgments

We were delighted when Plural Publishing asked us to prepare the second edition of Acquired Language Disorders: A Case-Based Approach. As a professor and a director of clinical education, we have many responsibilities, but writing a book for students and clinicians to benefit their patients is a high priority. We couldn't have completed this task without the support of our Speech-Language-Hearing Science Program Director, Barbara Amster, PhD, CCC-SLP, and our Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Brain Goldstein, PhD, CCC-SLP. They provided steadfast support and are remarkable colleagues. We are also grateful for the guidance and input we received at Plural Publishing from our Executive Editor, Valerie Johns, our Project Editor, Milgem Rabanera, and our Production Editor, Megan Carter, with whom we consulted on a regular basis. We are honored they saw the repeated value in this text to produce a second edition.

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Jim Mancinelli dedicates this book to his partner Dave—for all the things you are.

Evelyn Klein dedicates this book to her husband Dietrich—for his constant support and gentle spirit.

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