

3836080 RACD/M : MAJOR : COMMUNICATION DISORDERS ; M.A.
(COMMUNICATION DISORDERS)

KEY WORDS : APHASIA, LANGUAGE ABILITIES, WAB, APHASIA
QUOTIENT

WORAWAN TEERAPONG: THE COMPARISON OF LANGUAGE ABILITIES OF THAI APHASIC PATIENTS AND THAI NORMAL SUBJECTS BY USING THAI ADAPTATION OF WESTERN APHASIA BATTERY. THESIS ADVISORS: KANJALAK KHANTHAPASUNTHARA, B.Sc., M.A., CHANCHAI JARIENPRASERT, M.D., M.Sc., ROCHANA DARDARANANDA, B.Ed., M.A., MONNIPA CHUTIBOOT, B.Sc., M.Sc. 123 P. ISBN 974-664-693-1.

Thai Adaptation of Western Aphasia Battery (WAB) was adapted from the Western Aphasia Battery which takes a short time to assess the language abilities of aphasic patients and can classify aphasic patients into eight aphasic syndromes. However, the WAB has not yet been used with Thai aphasic patients. The purposes of this study were to study the language abilities of Thai normal subjects and Thai aphasic subjects, and to compare the language abilities of aphasic patients and normal subjects by using the WAB. The reliability of the WAB was determined by the test-retest procedure with thirty Thai normal subjects and computed to be 0.990 and was significant at the 0.01 level. This result confirmed that the WAB had high test-retest reliability. Content validity of the WAB was evaluated by five experience speech pathologists. Their conclusions were that all subtests of the WAB could assess language abilities of aphasic patients. The subjects in this study were 30 Thai aphasic patients and 30 Thai normal subjects who were matched relative to age, gender and educational level. There were 20 male and 10 female in each group of aphasic and normal subjects, ranging in age from 24 to 76 years. Their educational levels ranged from prathom 4 to master's degree. Both normal and aphasic patients were administered the WAB. The responses were scored following the recommended WAB scoring system and analyzed by using descriptive statistics and a two-independent sample t-test.

The results of this study revealed that Thai normal subjects had very high scores on all subtests of the WAB. The Aphasia Quotient (AQ) mean score was 98.8 and ranged from 94.7 to 100. Thai aphasic patients received an AQ mean score of 48.57 which ranged from 9.3 to 87.0. The results indicated that the normal subjects demonstrated significantly higher mean scores on all subtests and AQ mean score than did the aphasic patients ($p < 0.01$). The results indicated that the AQ score of 94.7, which was the lowest AQ score of normal subjects, could be considered as a cut point score to differentiate normal persons from aphasic patients. The results also showed that the Thai Adaptation of the WAB could classify aphasic patients into eight aphasic syndromes that agreed with their clinical and neuro-radiological diagnoses. The study results agreed with many studies, such as, Kertesz and Poole (1974) and Kertesz (1979). Therefore, the Thai Adaptation of the WAB appears to be sensitive enough to differentiate normal people from aphasic patients and to classify aphasic patients into eight aphasic syndromes.