



Linguistics and speech therapy are two directly related areas whereby the first one, with appropriate development, should follow the latter as a support in a theoretical and practical sense.

Definition

Speech therapy is a science that studies speech - language communication; notes the presence of disorders.

Linguistics is very essential when discussing language acquisition (how children acquire language). There are many theories about how children develop language and these theories are put into practice when working with children who have a language delay.

Two opposing points of view on language acquisition are that of Noam Chomsky's language-wired brain and B.F. Skinner's language learning theory. Many speech therapists adhere to one of these schools of thought and practice accordingly.

Linguistics is the scientific study of language and its structure. The major aspects to the study include the study of morphology, syntax, phonetics/phonology, semantics, and pragmatics.

1. The Importance of Knowing Linguistic Content in Speech Therapy:

The sub-discipline of linguistics that is related to speech-language pathology is clinical linguistics, which is the use of linguistics to describe, analyze, and treat language disabilities. It is the application of linguistic theory to the field of speech-language pathology. Studying the linguistic aspect of communication disorders is important to understanding language more generally.

Clinical linguists conduct research aiming to improve the assessment, treatment, and analysis of disordered speech/language. Their research often offers insights to formal linguistic theories, as follow:

- Brain damage due to an accident or stroke can lead to a complete or partial loss of language ability. When there is a partial loss of language ability, the aspects of language that are affected can differ from patient to patient. Clinical linguistic analysis helps speech therapists find out which aspect of language was affected, so that proper treatment can be provided.
- Aphasia patients exhibit symptoms like agrammatism, which is the inability to speak using proper grammar (ex: improper word order). This symptom can be better treated and understood with a thorough knowledge of linguistics/the grammar of the concerned language. This knowledge can be helpful for establishing the exact type of grammar defect that has affected the speech of the patient, as well as providing therapeutic intervention.
- Transcription, which is a part of linguistics, is also used for the assessment of speech and language disorders. Transcriptions of speech samples can always be referred back to as it serves as the basis for all aspects of language analysis.
- The assessment of any language deficit, such as the phonological, syntactic and semantic errors of patients with congenital hearing loss, demands good knowledge of linguistics. The assessment of

autistic patients, who exhibit pragmatic deficits, demands knowledge of linguistics as well.

2. Linking Speech Therapy and Linguistics:

- ✓ Both sciences deal with language, speech and communication.
- ✓ Both are entwined with interdisciplinary; In addition to linguistic and communicative aspects, speech therapy also includes content from other areas, such as developmental, psychological, pedagogical, andragogical, sociological and medical content.