The Profession of Speech and Language Therapy

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Birkbeck Wednesday 25\textsuperscript{th} April 6pm
Focus of this evening

- Basic overview of Speech and Language
- Explanation of Speech and Language Therapy (SLT)
- Share some of my experience
- Talk specifically about technology in aphasia therapy
- Discuss some SLT training routes
- Questions
What is speech and language?

- Speech
  - The sounds you make
  - Accents

- Language
  - Making sentences.
  - Understanding.
  - Reading.
  - Writing.
What’s this called?
Which one is it from this list:
   Wood Tree Elbow
Can you write the name?
What is the missing letter?
   T _ EE
Where would you find it?
What are the features?
What can you make with it?
Can you draw one?
What are the limits to these communication skills?

- If you wanted to use the bathroom or buy some food, how would you communicate this?  
  Versus  
- If you wanted to debate the political system in that country how would you do that?

- Non-verbal communication is also important but has its limits.
What controls our speech or language?

- Our brain
- (Picture from Netter)
What happens when it goes wrong?

- Happens all of us sometimes
- Tip of the tongue
- I can’t say it
- Make up a word

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psx8UpM5wLc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=psx8UpM5wLc)
  Cochlear Implant
What is speech and language therapy?

- Speech and language therapy is a CLINICAL job.
- Helping people who have a CLINICAL difficulty
- Children with speech and language difficulties
- People who have had a stroke or other brain diseases
- People who stammer
- People with learning difficulties
- People with voice problems
- People with head and neck cancer
- People with swallowing problems
- Deaf people
Where do SLTs work?

- Health centres
- Hospitals
- Schools
- Day centres
- Universities
- Charities
- Independent practice
What do Speech and Language Therapists do?

- Find out about the communication problem
- Provide therapy to:
  - Reduce the problem
  - Help the person communicate better
- Advise parents/relatives/friends
- Carry out research
- Manage services
Technology for therapy – the CommuniCATE Project

- The CommuniCATE Project 2014-2017
- Funded by Barts Charity
- Partnership with the Stroke Association and the team at Barts NHS

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- Speaking
- Supported Conversation
- Reading
- Writing
Writing/reading in our daily lives
Why provide writing/reading intervention in aphasia?

21st century technologies (Dietz et al., 2011)
Online support groups

- https://community.macmillan.org.uk/ (7 posts in 10 minutes yesterday afternoon)
Aphasia Recovery Connection (Facebook group)

- 1 post from a PWA in the last 24 hours
Case study- Kindle Fire

KD
- 48 years old
- 3 years post-stroke
- Moderate Broca’s aphasia
- Reading impaired at single word, sentence and paragraph level

Background
- Previously worked as youth worker
- Not reading at all since stroke, except TV subtitles
- Before stroke read ++ since childhood, particularly biographies and true stories
E-reader: Kindle Fire

Kindle Fire HD
- Text-to-speech
- Synch to audiobook
- “Reading View”
- Dictionary/Wikipedia
- “Word wise”
Goals

Technology goals:
- To independently operate text to speech/audiobooks
- To independently search for and purchase books/audiobooks in Amazon store

Reading goals:
- To read and understand at least one full-length biography/true-life story
- To read and understand news articles on BBC news app

Participation goals:
- To read a children’s book with her 6-year old granddaughter, using text-to-speech/audiobook
- To visit local library and ask librarian for book recommendations
Progress in therapy

- Operated all key features of Kindle independently
- Completed four books (two “Quick Read” books, two full length books)
- Independently downloaded a sequel
- Read and listened to BBC News
- Read on the Kindle every day and bought one of her own
- Also started reading newspapers and magazines (on paper)
Interview feedback

- KD described Kindle Fire as a “miracle” and “beautiful” and how she can “lay down” and read a book and “laugh”
Conclusions

- KD read books again for the first time since stroke
- Technology compensated for her reading difficulties
- KD started to read on paper too
KD

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If you want to become an SLT

- You can go straight in as an undergraduate and complete a BSc

- You can study as a Masters (City, Reading, UCL, QMU Edinburgh, Essex, Manchester Met, Uni of Glasgow, Newcastle, Sheffield, Cardiff Met, Ulster)

- There may be an apprenticeship route in future (will take time to set up and only in early stages of consultation).
Why Study at City, University of London?

- Largest provider of Speech and Language Therapy courses in the UK
- 26 teaching staff including 13 SLTs, with expertise in all specialist areas
- External clinical tutors drawn from practice
- Emphasis on development of clinical skills
- SLS Professional Mentoring Scheme
- In-house clinic, The Roberta Williams Centre
- International exchange opportunities
What Courses Are There at City?

- BSc Speech and Language Science (non-clinical)
  - 3 years. 10 self-funded places per year

- BSc / Master Speech and Language Therapy:
  - 50 self-funded places
  - 3 years for BSc
  - +1 year for MSc
  - \( \frac{1}{4} \) to \( \frac{1}{3} \)rd already have an UG degree
  - Places still available for September 2018 intake

- MSc Speech and Language Therapy:
  - 80 self-funded places, 2 years
  - Closed for this year. 2019 applications open in October.
What Would You Learn?

Disorders of Communication in children and adults

- Speech
- Language
- Voice
- Stammering
- Swallowing problems
- Hearing
What Would You Learn?

Supporting Subjects

- Psychology
- Anatomy and physiology
- Phonetics
- Linguistics
- Audiology
- Research
Clinical Placements

- All placements are in Greater London, including:
  - Hospitals
  - Health Centres and Clinics
  - Schools
  - The on-site clinic - The Roberta Williams SLT Centre

- Weekly placements during term time
- 3-4 week block placements during summer term

- Supported by Clinical Tutor and Practice Educator
Entry requirements

- **BSc SLT**
  - **3 A Levels or equivalent:** 320 points - ABB or equivalent
  - **Access to HE Diploma** in relevant Health or Science subject
  - Need to demonstrate knowledge of profession (e.g. through voluntary/work experience).

- **BSc SLS**
  - **3 A Levels or equivalent:** 300 points - BBB or equivalent
  - Access to HE Diploma in relevant Health or Science subject

- **MSc SLT** – 2.1 in undergraduate degree. English and Maths GCSE C or above. IELTS score 8.0. Interview day.
Funding

2017 Fees (2018 TBC by the Government)

- £9250 per year for home / EU students
- £16,500 per year overseas
- BSc students will have access to the standard student support package of tuition fee loans and support for living costs.
- MSLT students will have access to the same loan deal as BSc students.
- In addition non-repayable grants are available for:
  - Reimbursement of additional travel and accommodation costs over normal daily travel to clinical placements.
  - £1,000 Child Dependents Allowance.
  - Up to £3,000 for exceptional hardship.
What’s next?

- **Further information:**
  - [www.city.ac.uk/health](http://www.city.ac.uk/health)
  - 020 7040 5000
  - [health@city.ac.uk](mailto:health@city.ac.uk)
  - [www.city.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/speech-and-language-therapy](http://www.city.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/speech-and-language-therapy)

- **School video at** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttkj8CLR9pc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttkj8CLR9pc)

- **Social media / current students:**
  - [www.facebook.com/cityhealthsciences](http://www.facebook.com/cityhealthsciences)
  - twitter.com/CityUniHealth
Thank you for listening

Any questions?
Video of total communication

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