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iALP informative and consultative status (category B) with
NEWS UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, ECOSOC and CIOMS

1st International Aphasia Rehabilitation Congress
Cracow, Poland

The congress was held on May 3-6, 1984, under the high patronage of the Vice President of the Advisory Committee of the Ministry, Z. Komender, President of the Committee of Affairs relating to Elderly, Disabled and Handicapped Persons, under the Advisory Committee of the Ministry. The congress was organized by the Academy of Physical Education in Cracow (Institute of Rehabilitation) with the cooperation of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Neurological Committee, Rehabilitation Commission, Commission on Research of Speech Disturbances), Polish Society for Preventing and Combating Disabilities and the Polish Logopedic Association.

The main themes of the Congress were: Medical, logotherapeutic, neuropsychologic, neurolinguistic rehabilitation of the patients afflicted with aphasia; The bridge between aphasiology and the various sciences.

The President of the Organizing Committee of the Congress was Dr. Maria Pachalska. About 500 participants from Poland and abroad were present.

There were four plenary sessions and seven special problem sessions during which over 100 papers were read. In the three lecture halls clinical training/workshops was provided in hypnotherapy, musicotherapy, and acupuncture for the treatment of patients with hemiplegia; a Polish-English Aphasia Screening Test was presented as well as a documentary film showing work with disabled persons. Technical aids for aphasic patients were shown during poster sessions. In the hall logopedic aids were presented (e.g. the logostimulator, relaxator, logopedic tools, speech correctors – all Polish production).

The themes of the plenary sessions were: (1) Introduction to the problem of rehabilitation of aphasia;

Psychological and social problems of aphasics;
Linguistic aspects of aphasia;
Disorders of linguistic communication in children.

The themes of the special problem sessions were:
Neuro- and psycholinguistics in the rehabilitation of patients with aphasia;
Methodological problems of therapy in aphasia;
Medical and social-vocational rehabilitation;
Rehabilitation of aphasics in various countries;
Childhood aphasia and alalia;
Neuropathology of speech;
Various themes (e.g. musicotherapy and choreo-therapy in the rehabilitation of aphasics; The use of acupuncture in the rehabilitation of aphasics).
The official language of the Congress was English.
The next International Aphasia Rehabilitation Congress will take place in Göteborg (Sweden) in 1986.
M. Checiek, Poland
A week of lectures, seminars and workshops to review current trends in four areas of language pathology, namely, abnormal ageing (dementia and psychosis), aphasia, disorders of speech production, and reading and writing disorders in adults. The costs of £175 include accommodation, meals and refreshments. Further details on application from: The Secretary, National Hospital College of Speech Sciences, 84a Heath Street, London NW3 1DN (UK).
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Phoniatric Section of the Polish Otolaryngological Society
The Phoniatric Section of the Polish Otolaryngological Society was organized on June 25, 1965 in Wroclaw at the constituent meeting and following a decision of the General Assembly of the Polish Otolaryngological Society. The Board includes 5 persons (president, secretary, treasurer and 2 members) and is elected every 3 years. The legal basis for the Sections activity are the by-laws of the Otolaryngological Society. The first President of the Section was Prof. A. Mitrinowicz-Modrzejewska from Warsaw (1965-1975), one of the founders of phoniatrics in Poland.
At the beginning, 32 members – only physicians -belonged to the Section, at present it comprises 79 members representing all the phoniatric units in Poland existing at the university schools of medicine and music and at the outpatient departments of the district (voivodeship) policlinics. The aim of the Phoniatric Section’s activity is the integration, stimulation and guidance of the scientific, organizing, postgraduate health service and social work of the Polish phoniatrists. Phoniatrics as an independent medical speciality was founded in Poland by the Minister of Health and Welfare in 1959. The Minister established also the Phoniatric Commission existing at the Center of Postgraduate Medical Studies. In cooperation with the Phoniatric Section, the Commission elaborated the specialization program in phoniatrics and organizes examinations in phoniatrics twice every year. The above-mentioned Center organizes yearly two to five postgraduate courses for phoniatricians and those ENT specialists who are going to specialize in phoniatrics. According to new decisions of the Ministry of Health and Welfare (1983) phoniatrics belongs to a group of about 30 medical subspecializations; the studies last 3 years and can be undertaken after termination of ENT specialization (5 years). Two or three times a year the Phoniatric Section organizes meetings devoted to scientific, professional and organizational problems. ENT congresses and pediatric ENT symposia, organized every 3 years, always comprise phoniatric topics.
In the years 1967 to 1972 24 issues of Phoniatric Information, a bulletin dealing with current problems and bibliography of phoniatrics in the country were published by the Section. The papers on phoniatrics problems are also published in the Journal of the Polish Otolaryngology in a special section: ‘Phoniatrics and Audiology’.
Since 1972, the Phoniatric Section is affiliate member of IALP and organized the 4th Congress of the Union of European Phoniatricians in Wroclaw in 1975. The on-duty Board of the Section was elected in 1983 (President – A. Pruszewicz, Secretary – A. Obrę-bowski) and its present address is as follows: Department of Phoniatrics and Audiology. Academy of Medicine. Av. Przybyszewski 49, 60-355 Poznań, PL.

A. Pruszewicz

From the IALP History Committee: Lorenzo Hervas

This philologist was born in Spain in 1735 and died in Rome in 1809. He entered the Society of Jesus, and when it was expelled from Spain in 1757, Hervas went to Rome where he was appointed librarian of the Quirinal. He is the author of several books. Two of them are of great interest for us: The catalogue of the languages of the known nations (1800), that can be considered the first study on compared linguistics, and The Spanish school of deaf-mutes (1795), in two volumes, one of the oldest books on the teaching of deaf-mutes. How he learned this methodology is exposed in this curious and surprising paragraph of the article IV, part II, chapter VI of the first volume: ‘Before having seen any school for deaf-mutes, I formed a clear conception of its practical teaching, because the advocate Pietro, who had seen it in Paris, going sometimes to the school of de L’Epée, described it to me: and since, as the advocate can testify, I decided to write this art of teaching the deaf-mutes and I began to write it using no few reflexions I had made in my volumes on the languages and on the pronunciation of the words. To decide me to write on this art and to begin to write about it, the explanation of the practical teaching of the deaf-mutes given by this advocate, taking me in his carriage for an hour drive was sufficient: certainly, without this explanation I had not known anything about the way of teaching the language and the writing to the deaf-mutes’.

J. Perelló

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The Prof. Dr. Dionisia Plaza Prize Asociacion fonoaudiologica panamena (AFPA)

This prize of 250,000 Pts, with an accredited diploma, has been created to promote investigations into language and its pathology in Spanish-speaking countries. The prize will be presented during the Congress of the Spanish Association of Logopedics, Phoniatrics and Audiology. Papers for the first prize should deal with Grapho-Lexic Alterations.

The secretary can be contacted at Calle Espinos no 10, Madrid 28023, Spain, for further information.

5th International Congress on Cleft Palate and Related Craniofacial Anomalies

Monte Carlo, September 2-7, 1985

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Rene Malek, Chairman,

6, rue Erlanger,

F-75016 Paris, France; or

SOCFI, 14, rue Mandar, F-75002 Paris, France.
The proceedings of the ‘2das Jornadas nacionales de fonoaudiologia’ (with the participation of Dr. Jerry Northern, audiologist, University of Colorado) have been published in the information bulletin, Comuni-car, issued by the above association.

On September 8-9, 1984 this society had an important meeting where the following subjects were discussed:

Disfemia (estudio neurofisiologico de la disfemia, dominancia hemisferica cerebral y lenguage);
Programa de docencia oficial, en la enseñanza de la foniatria;
Organización de un centro piloto de foniatria;
Metodologia de trabajo del medico foniatria: rela-ciones interdisciplinarias e intrusismo en la foniatria.

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Book Reviews · Buchbesprechungen · Livres nouveaux

Edwin Andrade
Percepción Visual del Lenguaje Oral
Mexico 1983 89 pp.
The theme of this book is the investigation of visual perception of the articulation on oral language. The author exposes the identification of the consonants and vowels, and the percentage of word recognition, that is always low. The answers of severe hypo-acousics are nearer to the answers of normal hearers than to those of profound hypoacousics. The book is full of data and suggestions and its contents will be useful to all people who wish to learn more about the study and practice of lipreading.

J. Perelló
R. Narasimhan
Modelling Language Behaviour
Il est toujours intéressant de trouver un travail qui tente de donner une explication d’un fait aussi complexe que le langage, surtout lorsque les données et la rigueur logique et méthodologique sont excellentes. Ce n’est pas un travail facile et l’auteur en est conscient lorsqu’il présente les jugements étayant son discours scientifique.

Partant de la différence entre conduite-action et conduite-représentation (second système de signaux), il démontre comment le plus significatif est le système interprétatif qui s’établit progressivement avec un enfant ou un adulte. Cette relation que l’enfant acquiert grâce au processus d’imitation est observable et peut être prouvée. Ce processus est absolument différent des essais expérimentaux d’enseignement du langage chez les chimpanzés (Washoe, Sarahi et Lana). Grace aux travaux de simulation artificielle actuels par ordi-nateurs, il semblerait que la meilleure forme de vérification d’un modèle explicatif soit la programmation et l’essai au moyen de répliques de situations naturelles. Mais caractériser les processus sous-jacents au langage peut paraître incomplet, si Ton ne reproduit que des conduites. Il semble nécessaire d’en arriver aux bases de type neurophysiologique.

L’auteur pense qu’un modèle actuel de langage peut être effectif si on arrive à grouper toute communication de façon systématique pour arriver à des formulations concretres qui peuvent être vérifiées.

Finalement, et en vue d’une vérification, il présente un modèle d’acquisition. Bien que lui même le qualifie de très rudimentaire, il démontre comment, à partir d’un texte et en corrigant les
réponses de l'ordinateur, on peut améliorer la performance de compréhension d'un deuxième texte...
Pour celui qui a un modèle biologique du langage, ou un autre de type cognitif, il est intéressant de suivre l'auteur dans son argumentation, et il sera d'accord avec lui en de nombreuses occasions. Le modèle propose apporte de la rigueur et son résultat ne peut être considéré comme simpliste ou éloigné de la réalité.
M. Serra Raventos
Annette K. Birchmeier Aphasie
Marhold, Berlin 1984 217 pp.; 17 fig. DM 28.-
This book is dedicated to aphasia though its subtitle is ‘Therapy and rehabilitation in relation with the history of culture’.
In reality the exposition deals with the anatomy of the cerebral cortex, the nerve pathways and the history of investigations on aphasia. The exposition of the Token test is done thoroughly, but the logopedic methodology is very shallow. Perhaps the most original chapter is the one on aphasia as a social problem. All chapters end with a German and North American bibliography and an elemental glossary.
J. Perelló