

Abstract

The study was conducted on an experimental group of patients diagnosed with schizophrenia and on a control group. The emphasis was put on the analysis of the linguistic mistakes both in speech and writing. The study was divided into two parts. The first one consisted in assessing participants' spoken and written descriptions of a photography. The second one was based on reading a short story, which was preselected and prepared by the author, and giving the gist of it in speech and writing.

The analysis identified linguistic mistakes, which were characteristic of respondents' speech and writing. In speech the following types of mistakes were identified: stylistic, syntactic, inflectional, semantic and lexical ones. In written texts the observed mistakes affected the following areas: spelling, punctuation, style, syntax, inflections, semantics and lexicon. In the examined respondents' texts different types of linguistic awkwardness were also noticed. The analysis also contains an evaluation of aesthetic aspects and ability to correct linguistic mistakes. Furthermore, the sentences in speech and writing were analyzed based on their length and complexity.

The obtained results indicated that the speech of patients diagnosed with schizophrenia contained more sentences than the control group's speech. Some of the experimental group's utterances did not relate to the photography or the short story that the respondents were presented with, which proved the symptoms of schizophasia both in speech and in written texts. The utterances and texts of people in control group had a more complex syntactic structure. The frequency of verbless sentences in the experimental group's speech and writing was higher while that of compound sentences was lower. This, in turn, led to lower occurrence of conjunctions, which normally link compound sentences as well as interjected or added remarks. The patients' utterances and texts were less consistent than those of the control group as a result.

Patients diagnosed with schizophrenia were less likely to revise their texts in order to correct the linguistic mistakes than people in the control group. Their utterances and texts were also less aesthetic.

Key words:

Schizophrenia, speech, writing, linguistic mistakes.