

Conversation Therapy: Interaction as intervention

“Hearing Care for Adults:
The challenge of ageing”

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Assumptions

- Adult post-lingual hearing impairment
- Conversation is the major activity limitation/participation restriction arising from a post-lingual hearing impairment
- Therapy in relation to devices

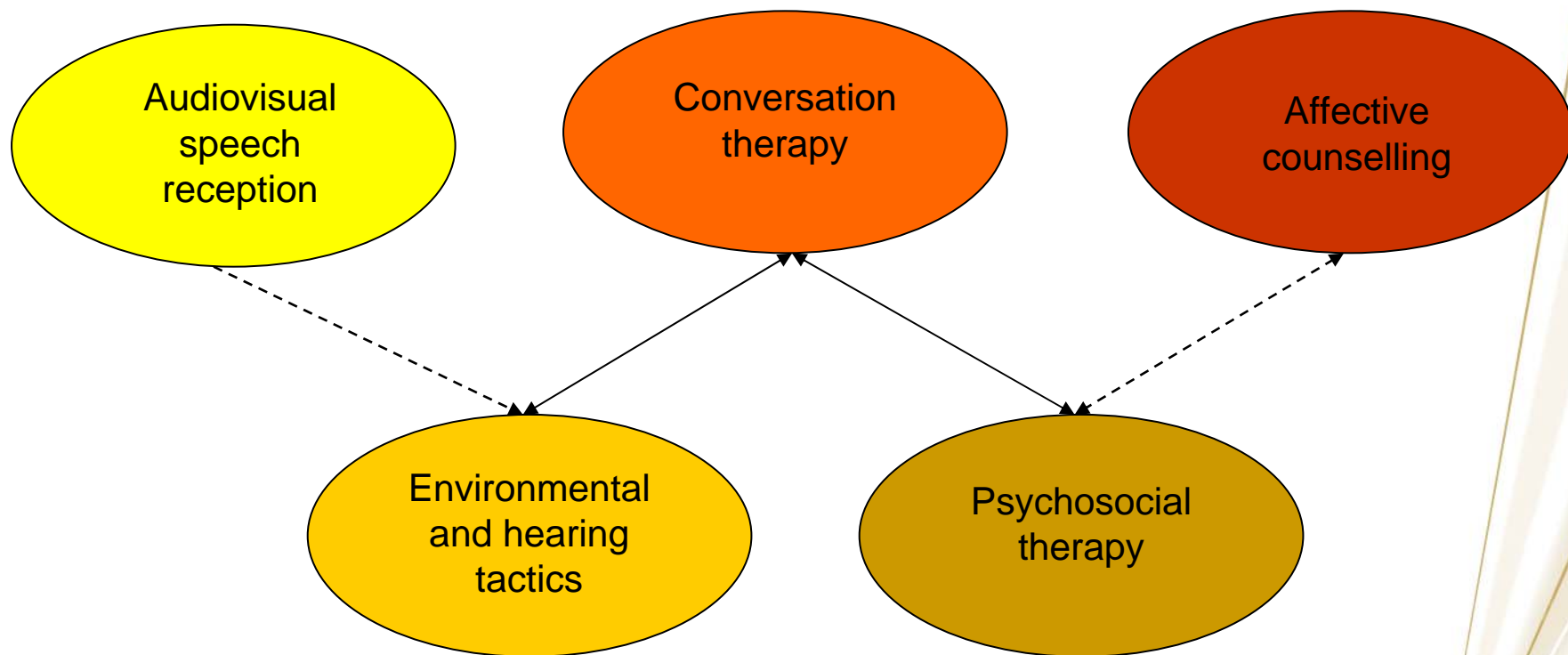
A brief history of conversation in AR

- de Filippo
- Erber
- Tye-Murray, Pichora-Fuller and Caissie
- Rehabilitative audiology as applied linguistics
- Conversation theories
- AR and aphasia therapy

Conversation

- From the point of view *of the listener*, spoken communication is simultaneously a sensory/perceptual, linguistic and social activity.
- Conversation is:
 - **fundamentally** a sensory/perceptual task
 - **mediated by** linguistic structures
 - **ultimately** a social activity

AR therapies



(a few of the) principles of Conversation Analysis

- recipient design
- “error” replaced with “local trouble” and “negotiated understanding”
- Does NOT imply psychology or motivation
 - Schegloff, Jefferson and Sacks (1977)
 - Sacks, Jefferson and Schegloff (1978)

Conversation and HI

Some problems in conversation indicated by:

- Increased likelihood of (certain types of) breakdown and repair (Lind, Hickson & Erber, 2004, 2006)
- Avoidance of talk (Stephens, Jaworski, Lewis & Aslan, 1999)
- Monologues (Wilson, Hickson & Worrall, 1998)
- More topic changes and less topic elaboration/discussion (Pichora-Fuller, Johnson & Roodeburg, 1998)
- Shorter turns with less semantic content (Johnson & Pichora-Fuller, 1994)
- Increased use of general fillers and back-channeling (Pichora-Fuller, Johnson & Roodeburg, 1998)

Other-initiated, self repair / OISR

line	talker	text
1	J	yeah I bought that in the Big Pineapple ((laugh)) there was some of those and
2	J	I thought oh I'll get one of them for Trevor you know for a change (0.3) I think I
3	J	did last year buy one up there you know so
4	O	→ where did you get it (0.3) from?
5	J	the Big Pineapple
6		(0.2)
7	O	→ where?
8	J	Big Pine[apple
9	O	[oh ↓ Big Pine[apple] hm::
10	J	[mhm mhm]

HI participant – bolded

(S1.D6.OJ.329)



Lind (2006)

inspiring achievement



The Big Pineapple

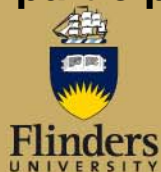
Woombye
(near Nambour),
Queensland

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What is conversation therapy?

- Intervention based on the premise that *HI adults will benefit from bringing under their conscious control aspects of everyday interaction* which are (or will be, potentially) adversely affected by their hearing loss
- Intervention focused on the principle that *communication partners share the responsibility for communication success* (and resolution of miscommunication)
- Intervention allowing all participants (HI adult, SO, clinician) to *take active roles in directing the flow of interaction* in therapy tasks

Conversation therapy

- Clinician as facilitator
- Intervention with frequent communication partner or significant other AND/OR with stranger, difficult or unfamiliar communication partner
- Built around client's everyday communication settings
- When communication partner is doing most of the compensating for the other's hearing impairment
- Adaptive procedures - mutually directed tasks
- Compensatory strategy as clinical method
- Not simply stimulus–response (stimulus repetition) model

Assessment – only two legs of the stool

We have:

- Direct clinical assessment of speech reception
 - Assume relation to everyday interaction
- Self and other report of everyday communication and its consequences
 - Indirect view of everyday interaction as clinically relevant data

We don't have:

- Direct clinical assessment of everyday communication abilities
 - Direct assessment of everyday interaction

Summary of assessment

- To assess client for rehab purposes:
 - sentence- and text-based speech reception
 - Adaptive speech reception scoring incl. Sent-Ident (Erber, 2002)
 - SPiN , BKB/A
 - Tracking - with partner rather than with clinician
 - self- (and other-) report
 - Client-specific needs
 - Situation and/or person based difficulties
 - COSI – pre- and post- assessment
 - conversation skills
 - Conversation sample

Common therapy tasks

- Barrier games
 - Information transferred from one to another
 - Questions asked to clarify information
 - Transaction v interaction
- QUEST?AR (Erber, 2002)
 - Half script – clarify and check information in another's spoken turn
- Simulated communication breakdown (Hickson et al. 1998)
 - Requests made for clarification in activity

Common therapy tasks

Conversation

- Free and unstructured
- What to look for?
 - Fluency, ease, success
 - Management of breakdown and repair
- Turns /strategies taken to resolve breakdowns

What are the critical issues?

- based on clinician's clear (overt) understanding of the way conversation works
- bring aspects of conversational behaviour under the client's conscious control
- easily/readily generalizable to everyday communication activities

What remains to be done?

- A range of assessments that compliment our range of intervention techniques
- Direct clinical assessment of communication abilities to compliment self-reports
- Develop a common vocabulary by which we might discuss communication/conversation
- Research and evidence-based outcomes for the various rehabilitation intervention techniques

Thank you

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