Abstract

This bachelor thesis focuses on semantic verbal fluency (SVF) in patients with dementia due to Alzheimer's disease (AD) and mild cognitive impairment (MCI). Theoretical section consists of AD, MCI, and SVF description. Novel approaches of qualitative analysis are also explored, primarily vector analysis.

The aim of this thesis is to research the potential of vector analysis in the SVF task. The vector system was tested on a sample of patients with MCI diagnosis and neurologically and psychiatrically healthy controls (HC). The MCI group was further divided into patients who were positive for presence of beta amyloids (AN) and patients who did not have positive beta amyloid levels (nonAN). The vegetable and animal category of the SVF task was used. The study focused on traditional qualitative indexes and total word count as its experimental variables.

The vector system was better at identifying differences between the AN and HC group in the vegetable category. The same results were obtained for the group analysis of nonAN and HC groups, but between these groups there was not a significant difference in the mean word count. There were no significant differences between the experimental groups in any of the experimental variables in either category.

Key words: Alzheimer's disease; Mild cognitive impairment; Semantic verbal fluency; Vector analysis