

Title: The Role of an Occupational Therapist in Supporting Functional Communication for People with Expressive Aphasia

Abstract:

The bachelor thesis is theoretical and practical. The aim of the bachelor thesis is to find out what are the possibilities of supporting functional communication in patients with expressive phatic disorder by an occupational therapist as part of complex rehabilitation. The aim of the thesis is to find compensatory strategies and aids suitable for the development and improvement of self-sufficiency and communication functionality of patients with expressive aphasia, which will benefit both the patient, the client, and the entire interdisciplinary team.

In the theoretical part of the thesis, aphasia is defined, its etiology and symptomatology are described. Furthermore, the classification of impaired communication skills according to the Boston Classification is presented. The theoretical part of the thesis presents individual areas of functional communication and the effects of phatic disorder on these areas. A separate theoretical chapter is devoted to the role of the occupational therapist in the rehabilitation process of people with aphasia and the possibilities of therapy for functional communication disorders in patients with aphasia.

As part of the practical part of the work, qualitative methods and case studies were used to fulfill the above-mentioned goal. The bachelor thesis presents two case studies of patients with expressive aphasia. The case reports contain the patients' history, the results of the initial examination, the course of therapy and the exit examination with plans and recommendations for further intervention. As part of the therapy, the patients worked with methodological material designed by the author of the thesis. These aids can continue to be modified and expanded according to the individual needs of patients. The level of difficulty of the individual materials was based on the analysis of the activity carried out at the beginning of the therapy. Based on the comparison of the results of the Functional Communicative Questionnaire implemented during the initial and then the final examination, it is possible to prove the positive benefit of occupational therapy focused on functional communication in patients with aphasia.

Key words Occupational Therapy, Aphasia, Functional Communication, Functional Communicative Questionnaire, methodical materials for patient with Expressive Aphasia