

# The Discourse of Aphasia in the Media and the Contribution of the Neurolinguistic Theory to Study the Relation between Normal and Pathological

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## Abstract

Access to information via internet could be a problem, given that many times its non inspected content can be misleading. This work went over an online search through Google of Brazilian webpages that contained information about aphasia. The information found in these webpages were analyzed through an enunciative perspective of the concept of Language. Besides, a blog was created in order to publish information about aphasia to aphasics, their relatives, and Linguistics/SLPA students.

*Key words: aphasia, neurolinguistics, media.*

## Introduction

Access to information via internet has become more popular over the years, and many people search information about diseases and their treatments online. This could be a problem since there is no assurance of the legitimacy of these information. Along with that, it is well known that nowadays, several normal behaviors are being classified as symptoms, generating and over diagnosing process throughout the medical sciences. That way, this work aimed to screen major webpages publishing information about aphasia and then analyzing them through a neurlinguistic/enunciative perspective. As a specific objective, a blog as created in order to share materials that could be useful.

## Results and Discussion

In the first part of this work, several websites were found with information about aphasia, either regarding its definition or its treatment. The authors of the found materials were often times Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP), Neurologists, and Physicians, but regardless of that, a very restrictive conception of language was attached to the contents. Many times, language was conceived in a restricted way, ignoring the non-verbal aspects of its nature, for example (Image 1). Most sources defined aphasia as the absence of language, and some even discouraged relatives and friends to attempt communicating with aphasics, emphasizing one more time the problem of the reliability of such materials.

### Terapia de Contenção Induzida para Afasia

É uma técnica de terapia publicada por Puvermüller e col. (2001) que tem como objetivo desencorajar o uso de estratégias de comunicação compensatórias, como apontar, gesticular, escrever e desenhar, e fazer um treino intensivo de comunicação falada (3h/dia, 5x/semana). Tem resultados promissores mesmo em casos crônicos.

Image 1: suggestion of therapy by an SLP

In the second part of this project, the blog entitled “Nas Afasias” (nasafasias.blogspot.com) was started with entries that focused on showing the enunciative perspective of aphasias, that way being useful to relatives searching for information online, to aphasics themselves, and undergrad students. The blog has been seen in many different countries and will be used in an academic course.

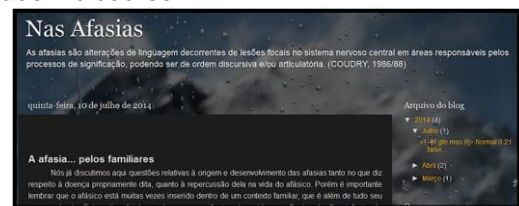


Image 2: blog “Nas Afasias” created in the project.

## Conclusions

Aphasia is frequently reported erroneously or misleading on non-scientific pages over the internet,. The online blog created is an efficient way to share information with different audiences and disseminate the neurolinguistic concepts about aphasia.

## Acknowledgement

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Use the space below to insert the references. Follow the standard ACS or ABNT or Vancouver (use Times 8)

<sup>1</sup> Coudry, M. I. Diário de Narciso: Discurso e afasia. São Paulo, SP: 1986/1988.

<sup>2</sup> Novaes-Pinto, R. *Letras de Hoje*. 2012, 47, 1.