Introduction

Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA)  
- Neurodegenerative disease affecting language while leaving other cognitive faculties relatively spared (Mesulam et al. 2012)

Agrammatic Subtype (PPA-G)  
- Effortful speech, ungrammatical sentence production
- Spared single word comprehension
- Impaired verbs, relatively spared nouns in speech production

Adjectives in English  
- Can be a sentential predicate (like verbs) but don’t project structure for a subject (unlike verbs)
- Don’t inflect for tense (like nouns) but don’t have a referential index (unlike nouns)
- Adjectives have some similarities, but are still their own category: what would an adjective deficit look like?

Adjective Deficit in Agrammatic Stroke-Induced Aphasia  
- Greater proportion of predicative adjectives & fewer attributive adjectives compared to controls (Matthee-Auscher and Thompson, 2014)

Adjectives

The dress is nice  
Predicative

The nice dress flutters  
Attributive

Adjectives & Agrammaticism  
- Adjectives are computationally more expensive than verb arguments (Roland, 2005; Kennison, 2002; Liverdage et al. 1998; Shizzle & Gibson 1999)
- Patients with agrammatism have deficits in building syntactic structures (Friederici et al. 2003; Grossw et al. 2005)

Questions

1. How are adjectives impaired in PPA-G patients’ speech production?
2. Are attributive adjectives and predicative adjectives asymmetrically impaired, similar to patients with stroke-induced agrammatic aphasia?
3. If attributive adjectives are impaired, could this reflect an adjectival deficit in production that affects other adjectives like subject clefts?

Method

Cinderella Narrative Elicitation  
- Participants, given a picture book to review, asked to retell the story. Narratives were transcribed and adjectives were coded as attributive or predicative.

Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participants</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Age [years]</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Time since onset [mo]</th>
<th>MMSE</th>
<th>WAB AQ [100]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPA-G</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>65.4 (7.68)</td>
<td>25 M / 16 F</td>
<td>3.86 (2.66)</td>
<td>24.8 (4.33)</td>
<td>83.5 (7.90)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controls</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>62.4 (7.17)</td>
<td>13 M / 11 F</td>
<td>29.7 (.55)</td>
<td>99.8 (.53)</td>
<td></td>
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