The performance of Franco-Ontarian adults on the adaptation of the Western Aphasia Battery-Revised in French

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INTRODUCTION

- Language assessment should be performed in the adult's chosen language (CASLPO, 2018)
- There are several tests for the assessment of adult's language in French. However, these tools have been standardized and normalized with European or Quebec populations. The French spoken in Ontario varies from the one spoken in other parts of the country and other countries (Gadet et Jones, 2008)
- Assessment of language abilities in bilingual populations is a challenge due to the lack of standardized and normalized tools for these populations.
- In Ontario, the most frequently used standardized tool for language assessment in adults is the Western Aphasia Battery-Revised (WAB-R) (Rivard, 2020)
- In a previous study, the WAB-R was adapted to the Franco-Ontarian population to consider the linguistic and cultural particularities of francophones (Coelho, 2021)

OBJECTIVES

Establish norms for the Franco-Ontarian adaption of the WAB-R

METHOD

- 47 participants (45 neurotypical, 2 with a stroke but no aphasia and 1 with Broca's aphasia)
- All participants were bilingual (French/English) adults living in Ontario
- The francophone adaptation of the WAB-R was administited to all participants via Zoom. Interactive component of WAB-R was done with the Boom Learning program
- Aphasia Quotient (AQ) and Language Quotient (LQ) were calculated

There is a need for standardized and normalized assessment tools adapted for the Franco-Ontarian adult population

The norms obtained in the Franco-Ontarian adaptation of the WAB-R are similar to those in the original WAB-R in English

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RESULTS

The participant with aphasia obtained lower scores in all categories compared to the control group and individuals with a stroke and no aphasia.

Average scores of Franco-Ontarian participants to the WAB-R-F

	Age	Spontaneous speech	Auditory verbal comprehension	Repetition	Naming and word finding	AQ	Reading	Writing	LQ
Control group (n=42)	50	19.7 (0.6)	9.9 (0.2)	9.8 (0.2)	9.6 (0.4)	97.8 (1.7)	19.3 (1.0)	19.3. (0.9)	97.2 (2.7)
Broca's aphasia (n=1)	66	4	6.1	0.8	1.2	24.3	9	7.4	34.7
Stroke – no aphasia (n=1)	45	19	9.8	9.2	9.7	95.4	19.8	19.6	96.9
Stroke – no aphasia (n=1)	46	20	9.8	9.8	10	99.2	19.4	19.7	97.5

Average scores from the Franco-Ontarian adaptation were similar to those from the original WAB-R

Average scores of neurotypical participants for the WAB-R-F and the WAB-R

	WAB-R-F (n=43) Average (SD)	WAB-R 1 (n=21) Average (SD)	WAB-R 2 (n=10) Average (SD)
Age	50.1	59.2	61
Fluency	9.9 (0.5)	10 (0)	10 (0)
Information content	9.7 (0.2)	10 (0)	10 (0)
Auditory verbal comprehension	9.9 (0.2)	9.9 (0.2)	-
Repetition	9.8 (0.2)	9.8 (0.2)	9.9 (0.1)
Naming and word finding	9.6 (0.4)	9.5 (0.3)	9.8 (0.1)
QA	97.8 (1.7)	98.4 (1.0)	99.6 (0.3)

Average scores vary according to age and level of education.

CONCLUSION

The results from this study are similar to those obtained in the normalization study of the original WAB-R supporting the validity of this Franco-Ontarian adaptation.

Age and level of education have to be considered when establishing norms as these factors influence the scores obtained in the WAB-R-F.

Due to COVID-19, a limited number of participants were recruited and increasing the sample size is needed to establish the norms of this adaptation.

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