

Title: A comparison of lexical access in adults who do and do not stutter

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Abstract: The proposed study uses a phoneme monitoring paradigm to compare language processing of nouns and verbs in people who stutter (PWS) and people who do not stutter (PWNS). A phoneme monitoring paradigm is a computer task which examines the amount of time it takes the participant to recognize certain sounds in a word. We examine 20 PWS and 20 PWNS, and compare the phoneme monitoring latencies we record to determine if there are increased latencies in the stuttering participants. Variations in these latencies are indicative of variations in difficulty of other neural tasks being performed simultaneously, in this case the processing of various nouns and verbs. This research may help understand language processing in PWS, which is an area that has been implicated as a possible contributing factor to a moment of disfluency. This project will begin immediately and be concluded by the end of summer, 2015.