

EDITORIAL NOTE

let's be ^{vi}~~covid~~



daniela

TO GIVE TO CARE

Each day is a fresh page, a new beginning. You tell yourself that today is going to be different from yesterday; yet you find yourself repeating the same things over and over again. You find yourselves entrapped in this race called life.

Time rolls by and when you stop thinking you cannot even remember the last time you laughed, cried or loved. It feels like an ice shower and you feel stranded. Yet, as you feel being dragged aimlessly along the paths laid in front of you, you feel that squeeze, that warmth rushing down your spine.

You see that twinkle at the edge of a loving gaze, that warm tear finding its way down the edges of your face. For that instance you surrender to that loving caring feeling. All you had to do was to look close around you to realise that you are not alone, that you are there standing because someone else is holding your hand when out there storm breaks loose. It is when you realise that you need to reach out that you discover that your heart is spilling with an amazing indescribable feeling. Some call it to care or to give. Some even call it love.

Whatever you call it, you cannot deny that you cannot live it without it. It gives you the strength to challenge the impossible, to overcome fear, to grow interiorly, to brave the unknown. Whatever you call it, wherever you find it, you know that as much as you need it from others, you need to give it to others as well.

At the end it is a circle with no end; to give, to care; to be given, to be cared for.

Let's be vivid and fear not this feeling that embraces us and cuddles us into stronger individuals.

ASLP in collaboration with SLC

25th March 2021

TELEPRACTICE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES



Webinar: Telepractice Digital Technologies in SLT

Sharing of survey Data | SLP Panel Experience

25th March 2021 08.30am – 10.00am

Friends... Athletes...Soulmates.

The wonderful story of Ben & Morvern!

In a world full of challenges and struggles; stories similar to Ben McGill and Morvern Robb present a new wave of positiveness and enthusiasm.

“Changing perceptions around intellectual disabilities is a large part of what Special Olympics GB aims to achieve”. This article is in itself a true inspiration for so many we may encounter.

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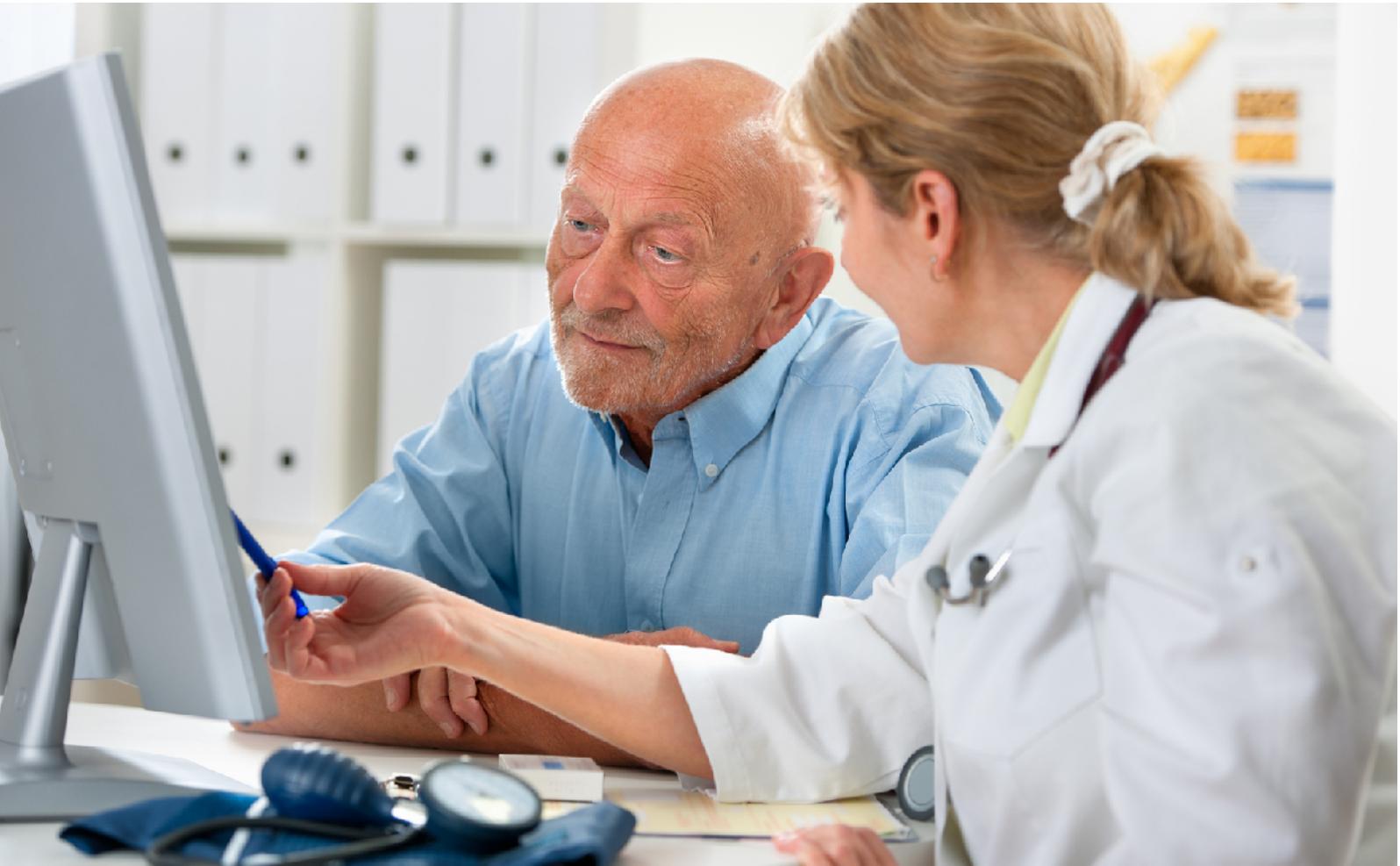
Love between couples living with Alzheimer's disease: Narratives of spouses care-givers

To care for others, to give and not expect anything in return, to always be there, to listen and support. Many associate different notions to love and caring. But what happens when a degenerative disease, such as, Alzheimer's Disease, casts its

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shadows upon a family member and the rest of the family? This article, portrays an interdisciplinary study to describe and analyze the meaning of love in relationships between couples living with Alzheimer's disease.





The Role of the Speech Language Pathologist in... **The Community Setting**



By
JAMIE SAID

Let's be Vivid approached **MS. JESSICA BORG** a Speech Language Pathologist working in the community setting to highlight the role of the Speech Language Pathologist in this particular context. She narrates her experience with the passion she carries her vocation from day to day.

I graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Communication Therapy from the University of Malta and I have just graduated from the University of Birmingham with a Masters degree in Autism Special Education. 2021 marks my 6th

year of working in the community. Initially I split the community working time with an elderly palliative care setting but as of recently I have moved from the geriatric setting to be fully immersed in the community. What can I say? I love it!



newsletter #14 March 2021

I get to indulge in intervention that mostly caters for a pediatric caseload while still getting the occasional adult cases. The community setting adds to the variety of my work as a speech and language pathologist and gives me the opportunity to assist people with varying needs. It allows me to really apply the medical knowledge acquired from the years working with the geriatric population as well as combining behavioural and psychology techniques to maximise the learning/therapeutic environment for the children under my care. However, what is most appealing to me in working within the community setting is that I get to apply the theoretical knowledge in the most fun and creative way! And what about all the networking with different professionals from different entities to reach the common goals of any given child.



Rose-tinted glasses? Maybe. Every setting has its limitations. One of ours is the inability to see the children working in their familiar environments. Observations and special visits to schools and residences are limited due to the ever-growing caseloads, and this might very well mean missing out on important aspects of the child's learning and developmental environments. Specific training to parents and teachers of clients for a number of approaches to develop language and communication cannot be upheld as efficiently and effectively as one would like, at times

impacting on the rate of therapeutic progress. But! One does the best s/he can in adversity, and we keep on supporting and educating everyone on speech, language and communication to the best of our abilities!

In a nutshell, SLPs in the community setting indeed remain important because we serve as catalysts to individuals receiving early intervention that is easily accessible, and we are sources of information and support to parents and carers of our clients.



The adaptation and standardisation of the Pyramid and Palm Trees Test on the Maltese population

MS. MARTINA SAMMUT graduated with a first class after reading for the course of B.Sc(Hons.

Communication Therapy with the University of Malta in 2017. She continued to further her studies and in 2020 she graduated with a distinction in Masters of Science in Acquired Communication Disorders with the University of Sheffield. Ms. Sammut is currently working with Active Ageing and Community Care in residential care homes. Here is a summary of her masters dissertation: *The adaptation and standardisation of the Pyramid and Palm Trees Test on the Maltese population.*



Let's be Vivid is always striving to be a tool through which knowledge and information are shared because professional growth is greatly valued. We encourage our fellow colleagues who wish to share their studies and findings to contact us on info@aslpmalta.org.



The research work disclosed in this publication is funded by the Tertiary Education Scholarships Scheme.

As part of my Master of Science in Acquired Communication Disorders with the University of Sheffield, I decided to conduct a rather ambitious project with the aim to provide a clinical tool that is standardised on the Maltese population.

What is Semantic Memory and its relevance to communication?

Semantic memory is a branch of long-term memory that stores concrete and abstract concepts, including general knowledge of objects and facts, recognition of people and the meaning of words (Laatu, 2003; Tulving, 1972). Semantic memory is dependent on culture and the individuals' life-long experiences (Patterson, Nestor, & Rogers, 2007).

Semantic memory impairments related to communication are manifested in both language expression and comprehension, including reading. These lead to social interaction difficulties. Other implications include difficulties in understanding the world and remembering facts, such as historical knowledge.

How to assess semantic memory?

Clinicians use a variety of tests to assess semantic memory. The Pyramid and Palm Trees (PPT) is a formal assessment that assesses verbal and non-verbal semantic memory. The PPT contains 52 test triads, presented either in pictures or written words. Each triad consists of an item at the top and two items (i.e. have a common association) at the bottom. The aim is to match the top picture with one of the bottom based on an association shared by the two items.



Why was this study necessary?

Since semantic memory is dependent on culture, this assessment requires normative data prior to use and interpretation with a named population. Hence, the process involved adaptation to the Maltese culture, where any culturally inappropriate triads were removed and modified to culturally appropriate triads.

Following adaptation, normative data was collected from Maltese adults and elderly persons, aged above 50 years (N = 59; range of age = 50-94). The recruited participants had no history of neurological diseases, psychiatric disorders or cognitive impairments. The participants were tested with either the picture or the written-word version. Following data collection, the objective was to identify whether the demographic variables age, education and gender affect the performance in the adapted PPT.

What were the results?

There were 13 test triads from the original PPT which were deemed as culturally inappropriate. For instance, the test stimulus depicting the pyramids and palm trees was considered as culturally inappropriate and had to be modified.

The total score that could be achieved on this test is 52. The mean of scores for the picture and written-word versions were 49.74 and 48.73, respectively. Hence, the Maltese population performed well in this test.

Age and education were found to be significant predictors in the performance of the picture version of the PPT test. However, there was no significant difference between age and education and the scores obtained from the written-word version. Gender had no significant difference in either version.



RESOURCES FOR SLPs, PARENTS and KIDS



By
LISA ABELA and
ERICA BONELLO



Student Speechies



#studentspeechies.mt

The use of apps is now part of our daily lives. Apart from being easily accessible and typically inexpensive, apps are excellent motivators! Here are some apps which can be incorporated in the therapy session and to target speech and language goals at home.

APPS FOR LANGUAGE



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APPS FOR ARTICULATION



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APPS FOR FLUENCY



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APPS FOR SOCIAL SKILLS



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APPS FOR APRAXIA



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APPS FOR LITERACY



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APPS FOR ACQUIRED COMMUNICATION SKILLS



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INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE

*And in the end, the love you get is
equal to the love you give"*
The Beatles

