

Revealing communicative engagement of a person with congenital deafblindness in narrative and multiparty conversational practices



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Research question

What is the contribution of co-created narratives and multiparty conversations to the communicative engagement of a person with congenital deafblindness?

Theoretical framework

Benefits of multiparty conversations:

- Broadens the world (Miles, 2003)
- Base for learning (Akhtar, 2005)
- Encourages language development (Lundqvist, 2012)
- Longer duration of conversations (Barton & Tomasello, 1991)



Definition communicative engagement:

An ongoing effort towards maintaining an active role within a conversation, co-authoring the themes within the dialogue

Method

Case studies:
2 adults with CDB & social partners
Sequence of conversation sessions
Analysis of “good examples” on elements drawn from dialogical theory

Results

- Conversational positions* (speaking/ listening/thinking) were observed in prolonged conversations
- Tensions* were present, but endured
Communicative agency was expressed
- Relatively long duration of *communicative projects*
- Negotiation processes* were supported by a listening and following attitude of social partners

Communicative engagement was seen in narratives as well as in multiparty conversations



Conclusion

A high level of communicative engagement was seen in both narrative and multiparty conversations

Introduction of multiparty conversations was uncomplicated

Narratives and multiparty conversations can contribute to development of cognition and self



References

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