

ANALOGY BETWEEN SEQUENTIAL ERRORS IN APHASIA
AND THE BEHAVIOUR OF A CYBERNETIC SYSTEM (SARF)

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ABSTRACT

A comparison is made between a very frequent type of error in aphasia ("Sequential Errors" involving a pair of identical linguistic units, like phonemes or graphemes) and the behavioural "failures" of a cybernetic system: SARF. The structure of the Sequential Errors is explicated, and rules for describing them are given briefly. The similarity between these errors, and the errors made by an independently constructed cybernetic system, SARF, is shown. The conditions of a correct comparison between SARF behaviour and the language production of aphasic people are examined. Hypotheses are inferred about the functional structure of brain mechanisms responsible for both abnormal and normal integration and seriation of asemantic units in language production; these hypotheses have led to new evidence at other levels of language.