

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this investigation was to determine the value of Vowel Drill Therapy (VDT) in the remediation of misarticulated /r/ by adults with English as a second language. The /r/ phoneme is a unique speech sound because it has multiple places of articulation, and its production varies by context (Secord, 2007). The varied production makes /r/ the most challenging consonant of [English] to remediate (Bauman-Waengler, 2004). Production errors occur with two populations: young children and adults with English as a second language. There are several remediation strategies, however one method uniquely targets the intrinsic perception and production aspects of the /r/ phoneme. The VDT method has been effective with young children who demonstrate difficulty producing the /r/ phoneme (Hull, Miller, & Carson, 2008). The effectiveness of the VDT method with adults has not been demonstrated.

Five subjects were selected to participate in this investigation. The subjects ranged in age from 18-55, spoke English as a second language, and resided in the United States for a minimum of five years. Each subject misarticulated the /r/ phoneme. The independent variable was six treatment sessions using VDT. Pre and post treatment scores were obtained to measure the percentage correct /r/ productions.

The results indicated that the subjects provided evidence to validate VDT as an effective intervention and therapy procedure for the treatment of /r/ production in adults speaking English as a second language. Further investigations should be conducted to validate these findings.