THE EFFECTS OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ON LOGICAL MEMORY.

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Masters of Science in Psychology at Massey University.

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1994
ABSTRACT

The Logical Memory subtest of the Wechsler Memory Scale - Revised was administered to 80 subjects with mild to severe traumatic brain-injury (TBI) and 49 Control subjects. Quantitatively TBI subjects scored significantly below Control subjects and forgot more between the immediate and delayed testing. TBI clients also recalled more of Story B than Story A, as did all the male subjects. Female subjects performed better than the male subjects overall, TBI males scored as well as Control males which was unexpected. When the order of presentation was reversed for random Control subjects results show that performance was better for the first story presented. After the LM passages were modifying to eliminate various Americanisms, the Control subjects randomly selected performed better on the NZ version, although these results were not significant. When the demographic variables of the TBI and Control groups were compared the only significant differences were between the 21 - 30 year old subjects and the Pakeha subjects. Qualitative analysis was attempted in order to introduce a new domain of research and suggestions for improved scoring criteria. The evidence suggest that TBI subjects tend to focus on isolated details, have difficulty remembering proper nouns, and have more bizarre intrusion errors than Control subjects. Control subjects were more inclined to translate the stories into their own words and remember more of the overall gist.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly I would like to thank Dr Janet Leathem for her input and guidance throughout my thesis. I must acknowledge not only her supervision but her help in the collection of the data when I was temporarily out of action. Janet was always patient, encouraging and had a steady stream of suggestions for improvement.

A special thanks to my mother and Mike for their encouragement and support throughout my thesis and for their financial assistance while I was at university.

I must give thanks to my great Aunt Ruth and Uncle Les for accommodating my frequent visits to Palmerston North and my unusual hours.

Thank you to Basil and other workmates and friends who helped and encouraged me to complete my studies when the end seemed out of reach.

Lastly thank you to all the TBI clients who gave their consent thus allowing my research to be possible, and to the Control subjects who volunteered to participate.
# CONTENTS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abstract</th>
<th>i</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acknowledgements</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Table of Contents</td>
<td>iii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List of Tables</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## INTRODUCTION

### CHAPTER 1  HEAD INJURY

- Introduction                  | 4  |
- Epidemiology                  | 4  |
- Classification               | 6  |
  - Primary / Secondary Head Injury | 7  |
  - Open / Closed Head Injury   | 7  |
  - Minor Head Injury           | 8  |
  - Major Head Injury           | 8  |
- Measurement of Severity      | 9  |
  - Posttraumatic Amnesia       | 9  |
  - Glasgow Coma Scale          | 10 |
  - Glasgow Outcome Scale       | 12 |
- Factors Affecting and Types of Outcome | 12 |
  - Physical                    | 13 |
  - Cognitive                   | 13 |
  - Behavioural                 | 14 |
- Recovery                     | 15 |
- Assessment                   | 16 |
- Rehabilitation               | 16 |
- Summary                      | 17 |
CHAPTER 2 MEMORY

Introduction

Sensory Memory

Short Term Memory

Long Term Memory

Forgetting

Disorders of Memory

Assessment

Batteries

Specific Tests

Everyday Memory

Short Term Memory

Long Term Memory

Verbal Memory

Prose Memory

Rehabilitation of Memory

Summary

CHAPTER 3 WECHSLER MEMORY SCALE

Introduction

Wechsler Memory Scale (WMS)

Form I

Form II

Russell’s (1975) version of the Wechsler Memory Scale (RWMS)

Power et al.’s version of the Wechsler Memory Scale

Wechsler Memory Scale - Revised (WMS-R)

The Logical Memory Subtest (LM)

Summary

iv
# LIST OF TABLES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Demographic Characteristics of the TBI and Control Subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>A summary of the version administered and the order in which each was conducted for both TBI and Control subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Mean scores of Control and TBI subjects on immediate and delayed recall of Logical Memory Stories A and B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>Mean scores of Control subjects on immediate and delayed recall of Logical Memory Stories A and B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>Mean scores of TBI subjects on immediate and delayed recall of Logical Memory Stories A and B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>Mean scores of female and male subjects on immediate and delayed recall of Logical Memory Stories A and B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>Mean scores of female Control and TBI groups and male Control and TBI groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>Mean performance with reversed order of administration for Control subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>Mean performance of the NZ version versus the WMS-R for the Control subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>Mean scores of different age groups in Control and TBI subjects on Logical Memory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.9 Mean scores of different ethnic TBI and Control groups on the performance of Logical Memory

6.10 Mean scores of Control and TBI subjects with different levels of education on Logical Memory

6.11 Mean scores for mild, moderate and severe TBI groups on Logical Memory recall

6.12 Mean scores for different intervals between injury and assessment in TBI subjects

6.13 Percentage of Control and TBI subjects exhibiting different types of recall

6.14 Comparison of the 10 most recalled items from Story A for Control and TBI subjects

6.15 Comparison of the 10 most recalled items from Story B for Control and TBI subjects