Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on

# NEUROBIOLOGY OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

Saint Petersburg, Russia November 13–14<sup>th</sup> 2020

> Organised by the Laboratory of Behavioural Neurodynamics, Saint Petersburg State University

### Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Neurobiology of Speech and Language

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November, 2020

Edited by Olga Shcherbakova



Saint Petersburg, Russia

**Neurobiology of Speech and Language**. Proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Neurobiology of Speech and Language / Ed. by O. Shcherbakova.— St. Petersburg: Skifiya-print, 2020.— 76 p.

ISBN 978-5-98620-483-3

Front cover by Alexander Kirsanov

Abstracts' compilation and verification

by Varvara Averyanova, Ekaterina Blinova

Management and coordination by Ekaterina Perikova

Web page: http://cogneuro.spbu.ru

Supported by the grant of the Government of the Russian Federation № 14.W03.31.0010 (P.I. Yu. Yu. Shtyrov)

ISBN 978-5-98620-483-3

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This work was supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (research grant № 17-29-09122).

Nina Zdorova<sup>1</sup>, Anastasiya Lopukhina<sup>1</sup>, Olga Vedenina<sup>1</sup>, Sofya Goldina<sup>1</sup>, Anastasiia Kaprielova<sup>1</sup>, Vladislava Staroverova<sup>1</sup>, Ksenia Bartseva<sup>2</sup>, Olga Dragoy<sup>1</sup> <sup>1</sup>National Research University Higher School of Economics <sup>2</sup> Sirius University of Science and Technology

## Phonological and orthographic processing affect reading fluency in Russian children

Reading, as a complex cognitive skill, implies processing of visual and linguistic information. At early stages of learning to read children rely more on the phonological information, whereas more advanced readers tend to rely more on the orthographic information (Grainger et al., 2012; Ziegler et al., 2014). The aim of the present study is to investigate how phonological and orthographic processing skills as well as age influence reading fluency in Russian-speaking children.

81 Russian monolingual children at the age of 7–12 years (grades 1–5) performed three behavioral tests. First, reading fluency (i.e. the number of words read in one minute) was assessed by the Standardized Assessment of Reading Skills (Kornev, 1997). Second, the level of phonological processing was evaluated by the Changing Sound in a pseudoword test (Dorofeeva et al., 2019), in which the participants were asked to replace a specific phoneme in an auditorily presented pseudoword with another given phoneme. Third, orthographic processing was assessed by the Rapid Automatized Naming of Digits task (RAN; Denckla, Rudel, 1974), in which we recorded the amount of time spent on naming 50 digits.

Linear regression analysis of the data was performed in R (version 4.0.2). We discovered a significant correlation between reading fluency and

all the three predictors: higher phonological awareness speeded up reading (t = 4.399, p < .001), faster performance in RAN speeded up reading over and above phonological processing (t = -3.282, p = .0016), older children read faster than younger ones (t = 4.425, p < .001).

We found that both phonological and orthographic processing skills had an important impact on reading fluency in Cyrillic script for young readers. Crucially, we showed that all the three predictors, i.e. phonological skills, orthographic processing skills, and age separately influenced reading fluency. Therefore, we can conclude that reading development in Russianspeaking children is based on the development of both phonological and orthographic processing.

This work was supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (research grant No 19-313-51014).