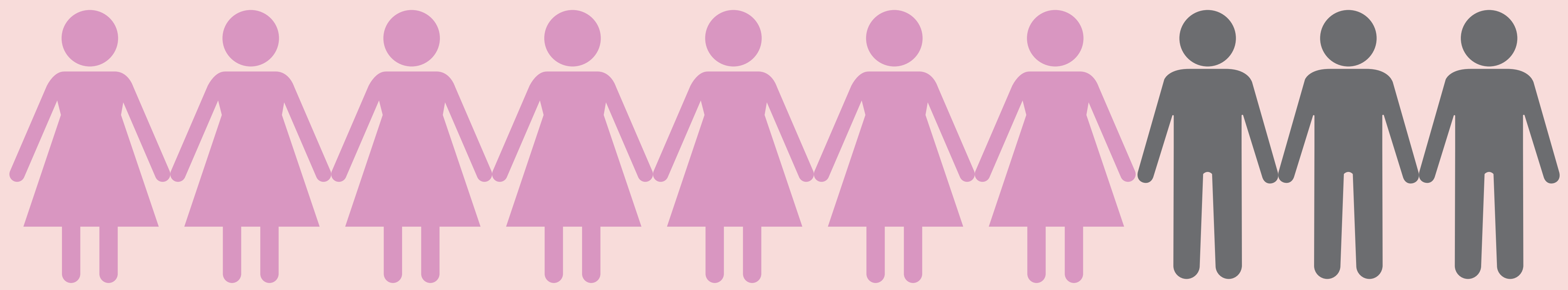


Speech Therapist's views on implementing AAC intervention for persons with post-stroke aphasia

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Aims

To explore South African SLTs' perspectives on the implementation of AAC for persons with post-stroke aphasia with a specific focus on the:

- current AAC practices,
- influencing factors, and
- success and relevance of AAC interventions.

Methodology

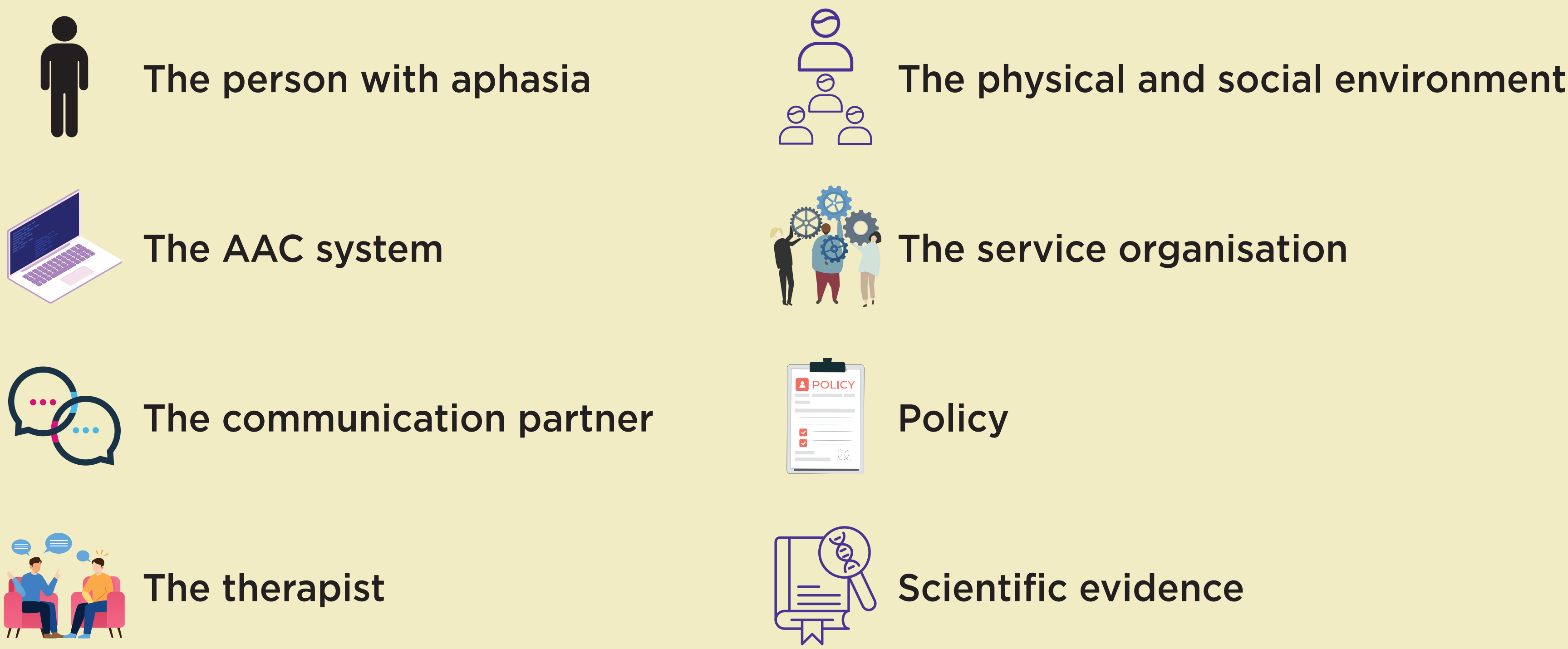
- Qualitative phenomenological design.
- Open-ended questions to obtain SLT experts' perspectives.
- Qualitative thematic analysis.

Identified themes

Current practice

- A combination of unaided, low-tech, high-tech, and partner-supported interventions.
- The person with aphasia's strengths and abilities are identified.

Influencing factors



Success and relevance

Most agree that AAC is relevant. Generalisation is successful through sustained practice and communication partner support.

Definition of AAC

Consensus and clarity of language used amongst team members are important.

Conclusions

- AAC implementation is:
- Complex- therapists make conscious choices while considering various factors based on the literature.
 - Positive and aligns with the current evidence and best practice recommendations.
 - Dependant on the vital role of communication partners in interactions.
 - Viewed positively, SLTs actively worked to circumvent the obstacles despite the barriers to implementation.
 - The definition of AAC highlighted the need to view AAC broadly to ensure optimal outcomes.

