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Autistic readers: poor comprehension or poor comprehension of comprehension

Abstract

Autistic readers often display a poor comprehender profile, where their text comprehension lags behind their decoding skills. According to the simple view of reading, oral language plays a pivotal role in reading comprehension, suggesting that deficiencies in this area could contribute to the observed difficulties. However, other reading models emphasize the importance of understanding the reading situation and task demands. This perspective highlights that successful reading comprehension also relies on the ability to discern and respond to specific reading contexts and tasks. In this talk, we present a series of studies that explore how autistic readers respond to the objectives of reading tasks and monitor their own performance in this context. The findings shed light on the role of self-regulatory behaviours and executive function in the reading comprehension of autistic individuals, suggesting that enhancing these skills could improve their reading outcomes.