Reflection Lecture 11

Speech Therapy

An audiology research lab at SickKids studies patients who have had a cochlear implant, hearing aid, etc. to treat deafness in one or both ears. One study exposes the participant to three phonemes: “da”, “ga”, and “sa”. The three phonemes are presented to the participant in two forms: audiovisual and just audio. The study is designed to observe whether or not the patient with the cochlear implant or hearing aid can differentiate between the phonemes. This is studying whether the participant’s hearing improved as a result of the hearing aid/cochlear implant. As well, “da” and “ga” look the same when spoken; the same muscles are engaged in the mouth/tongue to say it. This follows with the presentation by Dr. Yunusova who talked about the primary and secondary articulators in the mouth, upper lip, tongue, palate, etc that are engaged to make consonant sounds. The study is observing whether or not the participant can differentiate between “da” and “ga”. Since they can’t see the difference when spoken, the research is recording whether the participant can hear the difference.