

Spouse- versus self-estimated hearing disability

Gregory A. Flamme* & Robyn M. Cox

University of Memphis, Memphis, TN

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*Current address: University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Spouses and significant others (SO) have frequent opportunities to observe the disabling effects of hearing impairment. They also have an important role in the hearing-impaired person's rehabilitative process.

The judgements of SOs could provide information that a clinician could use in designing a rehabilitative plan. This poster explores the relationships between the disability estimates of SOs with corresponding judgements of hearing-impaired listeners.

Method

Participants

Hearing-Impaired Adults (n = 49)

34 Males, 15 Females

Mean 4FAHL = 55 (SD = 12)

Significant Others (n = 49)

37 spouses, 7 children/relatives,

5 close friends

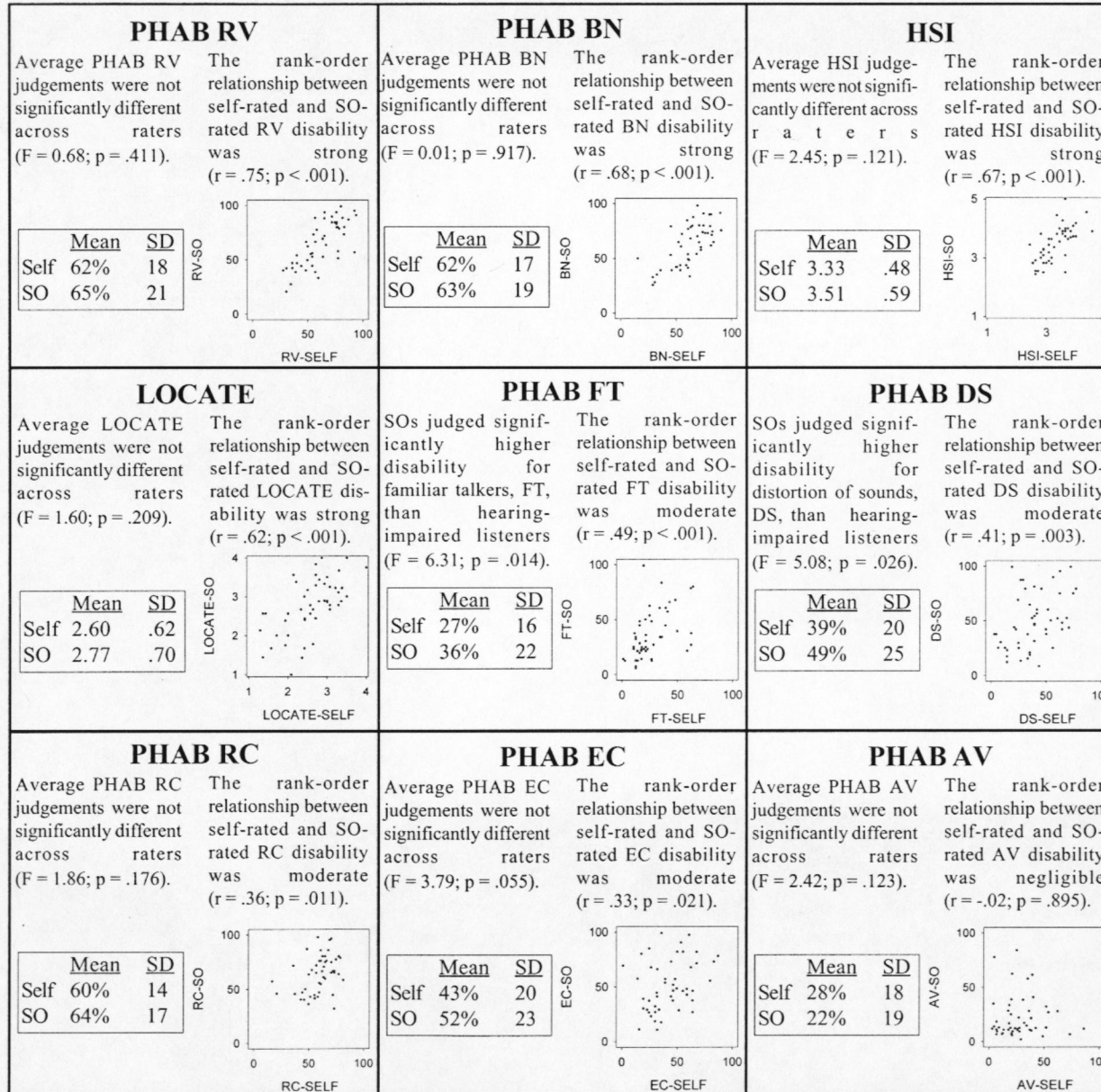
Measures

PHAB (unaided) subscales

- FT Familiar Talkers
- EC Ease of Communication
- RV Reverberation
- RC Reduced Cues
- BN Background Noise
- AV Aversiveness of Sounds
- DS Distortion of Sounds

LOCATE Localization Abilities in Typical Environments

HSI Hearing Screening Inventory



Conclusions

Rater differences

In the Familiar Talkers (FT) and Distortion of Sounds (DS) PHAB subscales, SOs tended to estimate more disability than hearing-impaired people. Further work is needed to determine whether this means that SOs overestimate problems in these areas, or if hearing-impaired listeners underestimate their level of problems.

For the remaining measures, no significant differences across raters were found.

Individual differences

The size of rank-order relationships between self-reported and SO-reported disability varies across disability domains. Domains with directly observable failures in hearing (e.g. RV, BN, etc.) tend to show strong Self-SO relationships. SO judgements should not be relied upon in domains without directly observable failures.