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Apps apt for aphasia

Grönberg, Angelina; Kitzing, Peter

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LUND UNIVERSITY

PO Box 117
221 00 Lund
+46 46-222 00 00

Conclusion

AAC TECHNOLOGY CAN POTENTIALLY AID PEOPLE WITH APHASIA IF THEY ADHERE TO SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE.

CURRENT AAC APPS AVAILABLE IN SWEDISH DO NOT MEET ALL THE CRITERIA IDENTIFIED IN THIS STUDY.

Background & Aim

People with aphasia are in need of Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) when their language ability is impaired, but few AAC apps are designed for people with aphasia. In order to develop high technological communication aids, aphasiologists, developers and people with aphasia, need to collaborate to form criteria and requirements for AAC apps.

AIM

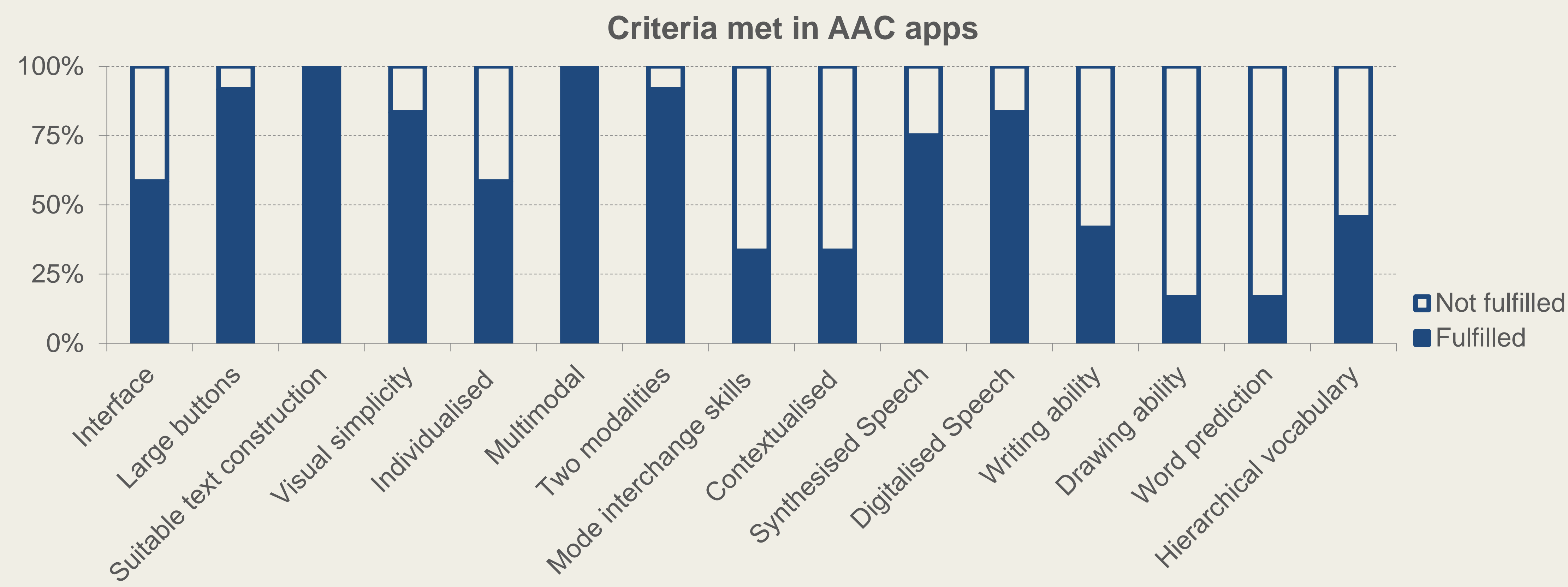
- Identify important criteria relevant for the use of AAC apps for people with aphasia
- Evaluate available iOS AAC apps in Swedish for people with aphasia
- Provide guidance for future development of AAC apps

Method

We have compiled iOS AAC apps available in Swedish, suitable for people with aphasia.

The apps have then been evaluated according to identified criteria in current research. The features of each app were systematically tested and supplemented with information from the developers' descriptions and user manuals.

If the app met the criteria definition, it was marked as fulfilled.



Results

None of the AAC apps fulfilled all criteria. Apps developed specifically for people with aphasia generally had greater scientific foundation.

- 12 AAC apps were identified as suitable for people with aphasia.
- 15 criteria were identified to be of importance for AAC apps in current research
- Criteria met less frequently: individualisation, interface, mode interchange skills, writing and drawing ability, hierarchical word organisation, word prediction and contextualisation.

Authors

ANGELINA GRÖNBERG
MSc., SLT
Department of Neurology and
Rehabilitation Medicine, Skåne
University Hospital, Sweden.

PETER KITZING
M.D., Ph.D., Certec/LTH, Lund
University, Sweden

CONTACT INFORMATION
angelina.gronberg@skane.se
+46(0)736-386477