Effect size reports in articles in JSLHR, 2009: A survey

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Structured Abstract

**Purpose:** The purpose of this study was to survey the report of effect size (ES) in experimental articles published in the Journal of Speech, Language and Hearing Research (JSLHR) in the year 2009.

**Method:** Articles published in the six volumes of JSLHR, 2009 and reporting at least one inferential test were selected (n = 91). Percentages of articles reporting ES in each of the six volumes are calculated and plotted.

**Results:** About 43% (39/91) of the articles failed to report ES in their studies.

**Implications:** The ES measure provides information that is independent of the outcome of the significance tests and hence its’ use is advocated.
Method

All articles published in the six volumes of JSLHR in the year 2009 were examined to identify experimental studies.

Articles reporting at least one inferential test were selected for the survey.

All inferential test reports in each of the 91 selected articles were examined to note the report of ES.

Percentages of articles reporting ES in each of the six volumes of JSLHR were calculated and reported.
Results

Thirty-nine of the 91 articles did not report any ES measure (42.9%) and 52/91 (57.1%) of the articles reported an ES measure.

There was no consistency in the number of articles reporting ES from one volume to another (See Fig. 1)
Figure 1. Number of articles reporting ES for each volume of JSLHR, 2009
Meline and Wang (2004) reported that the percentage of articles reporting ES in any given year between 1999 and 2003 in JSLHR varied from less than 10% to no more than 40%. (Meline & Wang, 2004.) This survey found a slight increase, that about 57% of the articles in JSLHR, 2009 reported ES, however, about 42% of the articles did not provide any measure of ES.
Conclusions

Effect sizes measures are good estimators of the amount of control an IV has over DV.

This information is crucially important if the IV happens to be a treatment. Additionally, reports of ES help in conducting Meta-analysis.

It is recommended that ES measure be routinely reported in every experimental study published.
Suggestions for interpretation of some ES measures (Cohen, 1988)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Small effect</th>
<th>Medium effect</th>
<th>Large effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Omega Squared ($\omega^2$)</td>
<td>.01</td>
<td>.06</td>
<td>.15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cohen's d</td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>.8</td>
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