

Abstract

The thesis explores cognitive as well as educational aspects in elderly people. The main emphasis is put on investigating the influence of cognitive training carried out in a foreign language on the elderly suffering from dementia. Having described the basic anatomy of the nervous system, neurolinguistic theories as well as ageing and having dealt with cognitive aspects in relation to language learning, the thesis aims at performing an experiment that should help dementia clients to broaden their vocabulary in a foreign language. This is to be achieved through individual therapy-like units using worksheets created specifically for these purposes. The results indicate that cognitive training in a foreign language is beneficial to dementia clients and could be used more extensively. The worksheets were redesigned in order to facilitate their further use by specialised teachers or lectures working with mentally healthy seniors.

Key words

ageing, dementia, language, cognitive training, neurolinguistics, geragogy