

1 Natural Language Processing Applied to Spontaneous Recall of Famous Faces Reveals 2 Memory Dysfunction in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy Patients

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7 ABSTRACT

8
9 **Objective and Background.** Epilepsy patients rank memory problems as their most significant
10 cognitive comorbidity. Current clinical assessments are laborious to administer and score and
11 may not always detect subtle memory decline. The Famous Faces Task (FF) has robustly
12 demonstrated that left temporal lobe epilepsy (LTLE) patients remember fewer names and
13 biographical details compared to right TLE (RTLE) patients and healthy controls (HCs). We
14 adapted the FF task to capture subjects' entire spontaneous spoken recall, then scored
15 responses using manual and natural language processing (NLP) methods. We expected to
16 replicate previous group level differences using spontaneous speech and semi-automated
17 analysis. **Methods.** Seventy-three (N=73) adults (28 LTLE, 18 RTLE, and 27 HCs) were
18 included in a case-control prospective study design. Twenty FF in politics, sports, and
19 entertainment (active 2008-2017) were shown to subjects, who were asked if they could
20 recognize and spontaneously recall as much biographical detail as possible. We created
21 human-generated and automatically-generated keyword dictionaries for each celebrity, based
22 on a randomly selected training set of half of the HC transcripts. To control for speech output,
23 we measured the speech duration, total word count and content word count for the FF task and
24 a Cookie Theft Control Task (CTT), in which subjects were merely asked to describe a visual
25 scene. Subjects' responses to FF and CTT tasks were recorded, transcribed, and analyzed in a
26 blinded manner with a combination of manual and automated NLP approaches. **Results.**
27 Famous face recognition accuracy was similar between groups. LTLE patients recalled fewer
28 biographical details compared to HCs and RTLEs using both the gold-standard human-
29 generated dictionary (24%±12% vs. 31%±12% and 30%±12%, p=0.007) and the automated
30 dictionary (24%±12% vs. 31%±12% and 32%±13%, p=0.007). There were no group level
31 differences in speech duration, total word count, or content word count for either the FF and
32 CTT to explain difference in recall performance. There was a positive, statistically significant
33 relationship between MOCA score and FF recall performance as scored by the human-
34 generated ($\rho = .327$, $p = .029$) and automatically-generated dictionaries ($\rho = .422$, $p = .004$) for
35 TLE subjects, but not HCs, an effect that was driven by LTLE subjects. **Discussion.** LTLE
36 patients remember fewer details of famous people than HCs or RTLE patients, as discovered by
37 NLP analysis of spontaneous recall. Decreased biographical memory was not due to
38 decreased speech output and correlated with lower MOCA scores. NLP analysis of
39 spontaneous recall can detect memory dysfunction in clinical populations in a semi-automated,
40 objective, and sensitive manner.

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48 INTRODUCTION

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50 Epilepsy patients rank memory problems as their most significant cognitive comorbidity,
51 impacting daily function and school and workplace participation ¹. Despite rapid gains in the
52 fields of cognitive and computational neuroscience, clinical neuropsychological testing has
53 remained largely unchanged ². The advantage of standardized testing is its validation on large
54 populations and normalized performance scores by age and education, However, the test
55 administration and scoring process is laborious and yields an oversimplified measure of
56 behavior. The development of novel, precise, and clinically meaningful approaches is needed
57 for early and serial memory assessment in epilepsy, Alzheimer's Disease ², and other memory
58 impaired patient populations.

59

60 Memory deficits are commonly observed in patients with Temporal Lobe Epilepsy (TLE) but are
61 inconsistently captured by standard clinical testing ³. Due to their extensive connections with
62 widespread cortical regions, the hippocampus and connected limbic regions, are hijacked by
63 seizure networks ⁴. The Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test (RAVLT), created in 1941, is the
64 most widely used test of verbal memory function in assessment of TLE patients ⁵. Poorer
65 RAVLT performance for left TLE patients, as compared to right TLE patients, has been well
66 established ^{6,7}. While the test is a useful predictor of seizure laterality, it may be insensitive to
67 subtle impairment over time and performance is influenced by executive and language ability.

68

69 Cognitive testing in clinical settings could embrace more naturalistic behaviors and utilize
70 computational methods to measure memory deficits more efficiently and objectively. Cognitive
71 neuroscience has already embraced more realistic behavioral paradigms, such as spontaneous
72 speech ⁸, autobiographical recall ⁹, film watching ¹⁰, and physical navigation ^{11,12}. Similarly,
73 computational methods including Natural Language Processing (NLP) have been used to
74 quantify distinct speech components, including lexicon and syntax, to distinguish patients with
75 Alzheimer's Disease and Mild Cognitive Impairment ¹³⁻¹⁷ from healthy controls and to predict
76 progress to psychosis among at-risk youth.

77

78 We adapted the Famous Faces (FF) Task to capture and analyze the spontaneous recall from
79 TLE patients and healthy controls, in a case-controlled prospective study design. The Famous
80 Faces task was designed in the 1970s to assess face recognition and biographical memory for
81 a set of public figures. While initially developed for assessment of amnesic patients with
82 Korsakoff's syndrome, the task has consistently shown that patients with LTLE demonstrate
83 poorer remote recall for famous names and biographical details compared to healthy controls
84 and patients with RTLE ¹⁸⁻²¹. Previously, RTLE patients have been demonstrated to have
85 poorer facial recognition ²², although performance on non-verbal memory tasks has been
86 variable ²³. Our goal was to measure memory performance by analyzing subjects' spontaneous
87 recall through both human and semi-automated approaches using NLP. We hypothesized that
88 patients with LTLE, whose seizures likely affect mesial temporal regions involved in episodic
89 and semantic memory, would spontaneously recall fewer details than healthy controls and
90 RTLE patients and that this would be distinct from differences in speech output.

91

92 METHODS

93

94 This study was conducted following protocols approved by the New York University Institutional
95 Review Board. All study activities complied with regulations for human subject research, and all
96 data was collected during a single study session.

97

98 **Eligibility criteria** We recruited Temporal Lobe Epilepsy (TLE) subjects and Healthy Controls
99 (HCs) ages 18-60 from a single Level 4 Epilepsy Center from 2018-2023. HCs were included if
100 they were between the ages of 18 and 60, did not have a self-reported history of neurological or
101 psychiatric disease, and earned a normal score on the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MOCA
102 $\geq 26/30$ ²⁴). The MOCA is a widely used cognitive screening tool assessing multiple cognitive
103 domains, including memory, attention, executive function, visuo-spatial construction, naming
104 and orientation²⁵. Patients with temporal lobe epilepsy who scored $\geq 22/30$ on the Montreal
105 Cognitive Assessment were included. A lower threshold for TLE patients was chosen to include
106 patients with objective memory impairment and to assess variability in recall performance in our
107 famous faces task. Epilepsy localization was determined by seizure semiology, MRI Brain, and
108 EEG concordance, and adjudicated by a board-certified neurologist and epileptologist. Only
109 patients with a probable or definite focal epilepsy localized to unilateral temporal lobe were
110 included (meaning at least two concordant criteria without discordant criteria).

111
112 **Sample size estimates.** Sample size estimates were based on previously published result
113 demonstrating that patients with LTLE have poorer naming of familiar celebrity faces compared
114 to healthy controls²⁶. For two independent study groups (assuming HCs and LTLE as primary
115 comparison) with a continuous endpoint (percentage of detailed recalled of recognized
116 celebrities), we calculated that a sample size of 17 subjects per group would be adequate to
117 detect a large effect size (power 90%, alpha 0.05).

118
119 **Famous Faces Task and Cookie Theft Control Task.** The Famous Face Test was adapted
120 from the Iowa Famous Face Test¹⁸. The test is designed to assess remote memory for face
121 naming and face recognition abilities. (**Fig 1**). The test includes two phases: (1) the familiarity,
122 naming, and spoken recall of 20 famous faces (**Fig 1a**), and (2) the recognition of famous faces
123 in a multiple-choice format (**Fig 1b**), similar to prior famous face studies^{21,26}. All subjects were
124 exposed to the same 20 celebrity faces in the same order and shown the same multiple-choice
125 tests.

126
127 To create the set of celebrities, we used the MIT Media Lab's Pantheon Dataset of Historical
128 Popularity that ranked famous individuals by year²⁷. We first selected 98 famous individuals
129 from entertainment, politics, sports, and music who were born in the U.S. between 1960s-2000s
130 and were well-known in the decade prior to the initiation of the study (2008-2017). An online
131 Qualtrics questionnaire containing these names was sent out to 44 healthy participants (ages
132 18-50) with the question, "Which of these famous individuals can you identify based on their
133 photos?" We excluded famous individuals that were recognized by less than 60% of healthy
134 participants. We then selected a list of 45 individuals to be used in the Famous Face Test, with
135 20 celebrities used for free recall, and the remainder of faces were used in the multiple-choice
136 component of the task.

137
138 To address the potential bias of uneven exposure to popular culture, only celebrities that were
139 recognized by each subject were included in analysis. To control for potential speech and
140 language impairment in TLE patients²⁸, we added the Cookie Theft Task from the Boston
141 Diagnostic Aphasia Examination (BDAE)²⁹ after the study was initiated. Subjects' responses
142 were recorded and stored on the local HIPAA-compliant servers. Subjects were tested in one of
143 two settings: (1) on-site at the NYU Comprehensive Epilepsy Center or (2) remotely via WebEx,
144 a HIPAA compliant desktop conference call application. Webex was added as a testing
145 platform during the COVID-19 pandemic when all research was conducted remotely.

146
147 **Speech Transcription.** Subjects spontaneous recall responses to each of the 20 celebrity
148 faces were recorded and transcribed in two ways: (1) human transcription and (2) WebEx

149 transcripts generated after a recording session with manual review. For subjects participating
150 on-site, WebEx transcriptions were retroactively generated using the original audio files.
151 WebEx automatically transcribes audio of meetings recorded in the MP4 format. The WebEx-
152 generated transcripts included time stamps and were verified for accuracy by a human reviewer.
153 Subject and interviewer speech were manually separated by the human rater to ensure that
154 transcripts only contained transcribed speech from the subject.

155
156 **Speech Analysis.** Subjects' transcripts were analyzed using computer code written in the
157 Python language using spaCy, an open-source library for Natural Language Processing³⁰. The
158 spaCy library takes unstructured text as input and returns structured output with extensive
159 linguistic information. In particular, the library divides the text into tokens, which consist of
160 words, numbers, punctuation and other symbols, and identifies the part of speech. Total word
161 count and content word count were obtained for both sets of transcripts collected from FF and
162 CTT, where total word count is defined as the number of tokens in a piece of text, and content
163 word count is defined as the number of words containing the following parts of speech: noun,
164 verb, adjective or adverb.

165
166 **Creation of Human-Generated and Automated Keyword Dictionaries and Subject Scoring.**
167 Two unique keyword dictionaries (human-generated and automated) were created for each
168 celebrity. To avoid overfitting, we randomly selected half of the sample of the transcripts of the
169 healthy controls (N=14). The human-generated keyword dictionary was created by two
170 independent raters (ET and AM) who extracted key biographical details about each celebrity
171 from the transcripts. The two human dictionaries were merged by including: (1) keywords
172 present on both dictionaries included (2) keywords on either dictionary mentioned by two or
173 more subjects and (3) keywords of similar meanings found on both lists (simplest derivative
174 listed *ex: pass listed to represent passed away & passing*).

175
176 The automated keyword dictionary was generated by pooling the randomly selected half of the
177 HC transcripts for each famous person, creating 20 documents. Potential keywords for each
178 celebrity were scored using Term Frequency- Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF), which
179 measures the importance of a term within a document relative to the collection of documents³¹.
180 Word sequences (n-grams) were generated from the documents and filtered using orthography
181 and part of speech. N-grams up to length 5 were selected when words were capitalized, and up
182 to length 2 for lowercase words. Both sets required the presence of content words. The n-grams
183 were scored using term frequency (the number of occurrences of a term within the document
184 about a particular famous person) and inverse document frequency (the reciprocal of the
185 number of famous people that share the term). The top 10% of the highest scoring n-grams
186 were selected. When terms overlapped, the longer term was retained. *ex: if "George" and*
187 *"George Clooney" were identified as potential terms, only the latter was kept.* The algorithm
188 selected 3-13 keywords for each famous person, with an average of 8. Examples of human
189 generated and automated keyword dictionaries are shown in **Table S1**.

190
191 Subjects were scored in by two reviewers on the percentage of keywords recalled for each
192 recognized celebrity from both the human generated dictionary (gold standard) and automated
193 dictionary. Scorers were blinded to the subject diagnosis and adjudicated when there was
194 disagreement.

195
196 **Neuropsychological Testing.** To screen for initial eligibility, all subjects were administered the
197 Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MOCA)²⁵. Scores from a comprehensive neuropsychological
198 test battery were available for a subset of TLE patients undergoing pre-surgical evaluation
199 (n=18). Full Scale IQ was evaluated through the Test of Premorbid Functioning (TOPF) and the

200 Verbal Comprehension Index (VCI) from the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS-IV) ^{32,33}.
201 Verbal memory was evaluated through the Rey Auditory Verbal Learning Test (RAVLT) long
202 delayed free recall score ⁵.

203
204 **Statistical Analysis.** We performed descriptive statistics on the demographics and
205 neuropsychological metrics for the 3 subject groups (LTLE, RTLE, HC), by calculating means
206 and standard deviations for continuous measures (age, MOCA, TOPF, IQ, and RAVLT) and
207 counts for categorical measures (sex, handedness, and educational level). The Shapiro-Wilk
208 test was used to test for normality of distribution for continuous data. Group level differences
209 were calculated by the Kruskal-Wallis tests for continuous data and chi-square for categorical
210 data. Descriptive statistics were calculated separately for subjects participating in the Famous
211 Face Task (LTLE 28, RTLE 18, HC 27) and the subgroup of subjects who completed the control
212 Cookie Theft Task (LTLE 17, RTLE 13, HC 23).

213
214 For famous face results, means and SDs were calculated for all continuous data, including
215 famous face recognition, recalled biographical details from human dictionary recalled
216 biographical details from automated dictionary, total word count, content word count, and
217 speech duration. Only FF identified as familiar by subjects were included to obtain a keyword
218 performance score. The primary outcome for this study was the percentage of details recalled
219 for selected 20 celebrities as scored by the human-generated keyword dictionary. Percentage
220 recalled was calculated for each subject, then averaged across diagnostic category (HC, LTLE,
221 RTLE). Secondary outcomes included percentage of details recalled by group as scored by the
222 automated keyword dictionary. In control analyses, speech output was measured by the total
223 number of spoken words, content words, and speech duration during the FF and Cookie Theft
224 Task. For all continuous data, we assessed the distribution of the data with the Shapiro-Wilk test
225 and performed descriptive statistics (mean, SD). To compare group differences in recall
226 performance between 3 independent groups, we used the Kruskal-Wallis tests, then the
227 Wilcoxon rank-sum for post-hoc pairwise comparisons. We used a Spearman's correlation test
228 to compare remote biographical memory as measured by our keyword dictionaries and
229 measures from validated neuropsychological tests (including MOCA and RAVLT scores). Post-
230 hoc effect sizes were calculated based on the primary and secondary outcome and reported as
231 Cohen's d.

232 233 **RESULTS**

234
235 **Subjects.** Seventy-three (73) adults completed the Famous Face Task: 28 LTLE, 18 RTLE, and
236 27 HC (**Table 1**). There were no group-level differences in sex (60% F), handedness (85% RH),
237 education status (70% college or above). Compared to TLE patients, HCs were younger ($p=$
238 $.018$) and scored slightly better on the MOCA ($p=.0001$), which may be an artifact of the higher
239 MOCA cutoff scores for HC eligibility. Within TLE patients, there were no group-level
240 differences between LTLE and RTLE patients in MOCA, WAIS-IV FSIQ, or TOPF scores.
241 However, LTLE patients had poorer performance on the RAVLT than RTLE patients (8.36 ± 3.0
242 vs 11.50 vs 2.51 , $p=.023$). All subjects spoke for an average of 766.7 seconds (SD 502.05
243 seconds). Fifty-three of the subjects who completed the FF task also completed the Cookie
244 Theft Task (17 LTLE, 13 RTLE, and 23 HC) (**Table 2**). There were no group-level differences in
245 sex (68% F), handedness (85% RH), or education status in this subset of subjects. Compared
246 to TLE patients, HCs were younger ($p=.037$) and had higher MOCA scores ($p=.0001$). There
247 were no differences in MOCA scores between LTLE and RTLE patients.

248
249 **LTLE subjects recalled fewer details for familiar FF compared to HCs and RTLE subjects.**

250 There were no group-level differences in FF recognition in the forced choice recognition portion
251 of the FF task ($\chi^2 (2, N = 73) = 1.98, p = .780$) (**Table 2, Fig S2**), suggesting that exposure to
252 famous faces could not account for differences in recall performance across groups. Recall
253 performance differed between groups when scored against the human generated keyword
254 dictionary ($\chi^2 (2, N = 73) = 9.94, p = .007$, **Table 2**). Post-hoc pairwise comparisons showed that
255 LTLE subjects recall fewer human-generated keywords than HCs ($24 \pm 12\%$ vs. $31 \pm 12\%$, d
256 $= 0.58, p = .003$) and RTLE subjects ($30 \pm 10\%$, $p = .005$) for familiar FF (**Fig 3a**). Group-level
257 differences in memory performance were also observed when scored by automatically
258 generated keywords, ($\chi^2 (2, N = 73) = 9.850, p = .007$, **Table 2**). Post-hoc pairwise comparisons
259 showed that LTLE subjects recall fewer automatically-generated keywords than HCs ($24 \pm 12\%$
260 vs $32 \pm 13\%$, $d = 0.64, p = .002$, **Fig 3b**).

261
262 **No group-level differences in speech output or FF exposure.** There were no group level
263 differences in speech duration for the Famous Face task ($p = .175$, **Table 2**) or the Cookie Theft
264 task ($p = .8063$, **Table 3**). For the Famous Face task, there were no group level differences in
265 total word count ($\chi^2 (2, N = 73) = 1.98, p = .372$) or content word count ($\chi^2 (2, N = 73) = 2.16, p$
266 $= .340$, **Table 2**) A similar pattern was also observed for the Cookie Theft task. There were no
267 group level differences in total word count ($\chi^2 (2, N = 73) = 5.32, p = .070$) or content word count
268 ($\chi^2 (2, N = 73) = 3.79, p = .150$, **Table 3**). Total word count and content word count correlated
269 between the Famous Face Task and the Cookie Theft Tasks for patients, but not HCs (**Figure**
270 **S1A and B**) Together, these findings suggest that patients had similar speech output compared
271 to healthy controls on both tasks, and that poorer recall of famous faces seen in LTLE patients
272 could not be explained by decreased overall speech output.

273
274 **Famous Face recall performance correlated with MOCA and RVLТ scores for TLE**
275 **subjects.** There was a positive significant relationship between FF recall performance and
276 MOCA scores as scored by the human-generated ($\rho = .327, p = .029$) and automatically-
277 generated dictionaries ($\rho = .422, p = .004$) for TLE subjects, but not HCs (**Fig 4A, B**). For TLE
278 subjects with neuropsychological testing ($n = 18$), there was a positive, statistically significant
279 relationship between RVLТ score and FF recall performance as scored by the human generated
280 ($r = 0.501, p = 0.018$) and automatically-generated dictionary ($\rho = .538, p = .001$) (**Fig 4C, D**).

281 282 **DISCUSSION**

283
284 In summary, patients with left temporal lobe epilepsy generated fewer biographical details of
285 celebrity faces compared to healthy controls or right temporal lobe epilepsy patients, as
286 measured by human and automated analysis of spontaneous spoken recall. Poorer memory
287 recall was not merely an artifact of decreased speech output in the LTLE group, as there were
288 no group differences in speech duration, total word count or content word count during FF recall
289 or the control CTT task.

290
291 Our novel approach replicates previous Famous Face recall findings^{20,21,26} and extends them by
292 demonstrating how automated approaches applied to naturalistic behavior can generate a
293 meaningful and quantifiable cognitive measurement. We illustrate how complex human behavior
294 can be scored in a precise, quantitative, and efficient manner. Additionally, we demonstrate how
295 memory can be disambiguated from language. Importantly, FF memory scores derived from
296 spontaneous recall correlate with standardized cognitive and memory tests (i.e., MOCA and
297 RVLТ) scores, but display a much wider range of memory performance, and therefore could
298 measure more subtle memory decline. Indeed, cognitive heterogeneity has been well-described
299 in the epilepsy neuropsychological literature as demonstrated in recent studies confirming the
300 presence of multiple cognitive phenotypes in patients with TLE³⁴.

301
302 We envision that these methods could eventually be applied to other patient populations at risk
303 for memory decline. Recording and analyzing samples of patient speech during the clinical
304 interview could provide a snapshot of memory and language performance. NLP metrics
305 applied to spoken recall, and extemporaneous speech, could complement existing
306 neuropsychological methods that provide normative data. Furthermore, these methods could
307 provide serial measurements of memory and language with less concern of practice effect.

308
309 Prior machine learning methods have been applied to patients with psychiatric disorders and
310 probable Alzheimer's disease. Acoustic, lexical, and syntactic features can distinguish patients
311 from healthy controls. In psychiatry, patients with PTSD can be distinguished from HCs from
312 acoustic features of speech (e.g., monotony) with high accuracy³⁵. Linguistic features of
313 speech, including semantic density and talk about voices and sounds can predict conversion to
314 psychosis in a high-risk youth cohort with >90% accuracy³⁶. Lexical features such as word
315 repetition, revisions, filler words, utterances, word replacement, and phonemic paraphasias
316 distinguish AD speech from healthy speech^{15,37}. Automatic speech analysis has been applied to
317 identify subtypes of AD, such as primary progressive aphasia³⁸. While these studies show the
318 enormous potential of NLP to extract speech-based features to aid neuropsychiatric diagnosis,
319 we are unaware of any studies that have demonstrated how to assess accuracy and depth of
320 memory through a top-down (human-generated) and bottom-up (automatically-generated, text-
321 driven from healthy subjects) method.

322
323 Moreover, to our knowledge, ours is the first application of NLP methods to study speech in
324 epilepsy patients and demonstrates how speech output can be disambiguated from verbal
325 recall. Prior work in epilepsy has focused on extracting textual information from the electronic
326 medical record (EMR). These analyses have demonstrated high accuracy to classify non-
327 epileptic events vs. seizures, presence, or absence of epilepsy, focal versus generalized
328 epilepsy, surgical candidacy, or presence or absence of risk for Sudden Death in Epilepsy
329 (SUDEP) risk³⁹⁻⁴⁴.

330
331 **Limitations.** Limitations of our study include demographic differences between our HC control
332 group and our LTLE patients. HC patients were younger than LTLE patients and had higher
333 MOCA scores (by eligibility criteria). However, we do not think that LTLE memory differences
334 are due primarily to these differences, as the RTLE group which was matched to LTLE group in
335 age and MOCA score also demonstrated superior remote memory. We also acknowledge
336 limitations generalizing the Famous Faces task for clinical purposes. We found that recognition
337 of the twenty celebrity faces was near ceiling for all groups, suggesting a high degree of
338 exposure. Yet, several of the celebrities who were considered prominent in the decade prior to
339 task inception (2018) were not recognizable by the majority of participants. These results
340 suggest a very high degree of exposure to celebrity personalities, that can shift quickly over the
341 span of years. Future adaptations of task stimuli could start with description of a commonly
342 experienced event, such as a film or a news summary, then test for recall after serial delays.
343 Approaches utilizing high performing language and AI models that assimilate the vast amount of
344 information into cohort-specific test stimuli are another possibility.

345
346 **Future Directions and Summary.** The application of NLP to cognitive testing in epilepsy
347 mirrors the shift in cognitive neuroscience to embrace more naturalistic memory paradigms.
348 Task stimuli are moving away from presentation of words and objects to richer, continuous
349 experiences such as film watching^{10,45}, story listening⁸, and physical exploration¹¹. The study
350 of complex behavior requires computational analysis to efficiently distill large amounts of data

351 into interpretable and quantifiable measurements. With the rise of artificial intelligence, the
352 detection of subtle memory impairments that may be invisible to conventional testing is possible.

353

354 Future work can employ more sophisticated models of language analysis, such as BERT, that
355 have been pre-trained on large datasets of text gleaned from the internet. Larger sample sizes
356 of healthy controls are required to create more robust automated data dictionaries. Additionally,
357 a more detailed analysis of chronological or semantic features of memory could be possible.
358 Finally, to grade memory accurately and on a larger scale, testing would require comparison to
359 a verifiable data source. While famous faces, historical events, and media events are publicly
360 experienced events that can be verified, but their recall is expected to be highly subject to the
361 cultural and educational background of the subject. The accuracy of the patient medical
362 interview could be confirmed by a family member and scored by the number of details
363 remembered.

364

365 In summary, NLP methods can be applied to study complex behavior in humans, as in
366 spontaneous recall of famous faces. NLP approaches could be applied in an efficient manner to
367 detect cognitive impairment at the earliest, actionable stage in patients with temporal lobe
368 epilepsy and subjective cognitive impairment.

369

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Table 1. Famous Face Demographics (n=73)

		LTLE (n = 28)	RTLE (n = 18)	Healthy (n = 27)	Total (n = 73)	<i>P value</i>
Age	Mean	31.14	33.94	28.20	30.82	<i>*0.02</i>
	(± SD)	9.12	7.30	9.00	8.83	
Sex	Female	17	11	18	46	<i>0.88</i>
	Male	11	7	9	27	
Handedness	Right	23	14	25	62	<i>0.32</i>
	Left	4	3	1	8	
	Ambidextrous	1	1	0	2	
Education	≤ 12 years	4	0	0	4	<i>0.24</i>
	13 - 15 years	5	3	5	13	
	16 years	11	7	9	27	
	≥ 17 years	8	6	10	24	
Montreal Cognitive Assessment	Mean	26.50	26.80	28.77	27.33	<i>*P<.001</i>
	(± SD)	2.32	2.32	1.14	2.28	
Test of Pre-morbid Functioning	Mean	98.00	104.50	N/A	100.26	<i>0.85</i>
	(± SD)	24.77	10.45	N/A	20.86	
IQ	Mean	100.44	102.64	N/A	101.33	<i>0.07</i>
	(± SD)	19.18	15.68	N/A	17.55	
Rey Auditory Verbal Learning	Mean	8.36	11.50	N/A	9.50	<i>*0.02</i>
	(± SD)	3.00	2.51	N/A	3.17	
<i>* = Significant Results</i>						
<i>N/A= Not Assessed</i>						

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Table 2. Cookie Theft Demographics (n=53)

		LTLE (n = 17)	RTLE (n = 13)	Healthy (n = 23)	Total (n = 53)	<i>P value</i>
Age	Mean	30.30	33.31	27.62	29.96	<i>*0.03</i>
	(± SD)	7.41	7.15	8.60	8.04	
Sex	Female	12	9	15	36	<i>0.96</i>
	Male	5	4	8	17	
Handedness	Right	14	10	21	45	<i>0.28</i>
	Left	3	2	1	6	
	Ambidextrous	0	1	0	1	
Education	≤ 12 years	1	0	0	1	<i>0.73</i>
	13 - 15 years	3	2	4	9	
	16 years	7	3	7	17	
	≥ 17 years	6	6	9	21	
Montreal Cognitive Assessment	Mean	26.69	26.13	28.91	81.73	<i>*P<.001</i>
	(± SD)	2.39	2.13	1.04	5.56	

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Table 3. Famous Face Results (n=73)

		LTLE (n = 28)	RTLE (n = 18)	Healthy (n = 27)	Total (n = 73)	<i>P value</i>
Famous Face Recognition Accuracy	Mean (%)	93.04	93.08	95.80	94.09	0.78
	(± SD)	9.84	15.07	5.14	9.61	
Speech Duration (sec)	Mean (%)	644.17	986.60	737.00	766.70	0.178
	(± SD)	380.1	706.42	413.01	502.05	
Human-Generated Keywords	Mean	0.24	0.30	0.31	0.28	*0.007
	(± SD)	0.12	0.10	0.12	0.12	
Automated-Keywords	Mean	0.24	0.31	0.32	0.29	*0.007
	(± SD)	0.12	0.10	0.13	0.12	
Word Count	Mean	798.36	1394.17	1137.41	1070.67	0.37
	(± SD)	430.07	1292.47	900.93	901.97	
Content Words	Mean	291.36	497.94	426.78	392.38	0.34
	(± SD)	174.08	478.55	326.46	333.34	
* = Significant Results						

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Table 4. Cookie Theft Results (n=53)

		LTLE (n = 17)	RTLE (n = 13)	Healthy (n = 23)	Total (n = 53)	<i>P value</i>
Speech Duration (sec)	Mean	80.25	84.80	91.68	86.33	0.80
	(± SD)	59.71	45.57	56.54	54.35	
Word Count	Mean	128.59	153.54	186.83	159.98	0.20
	(± SD)	99.14	108.29	109.45	107.00	
Content Words	Mean	59.12	66.77	80.35	70.23	0.16
	(± SD)	45.80	43.06	47.50	46.00	

8

Figures

Natural Language Processing Applied to Spontaneous Recall of Famous Faces Reveals Memory Dysfunction in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy Patients

Eden Tefera, Helen Borges Delfino de Souza, Charlotte Blewitt, Aaqib Mansoor, Haley Peters, Peem Teerawanichpol, Simon Henin, William B. Barr, Stephen B. Johnson, Anli Liu

Fig 1. Famous Face Task

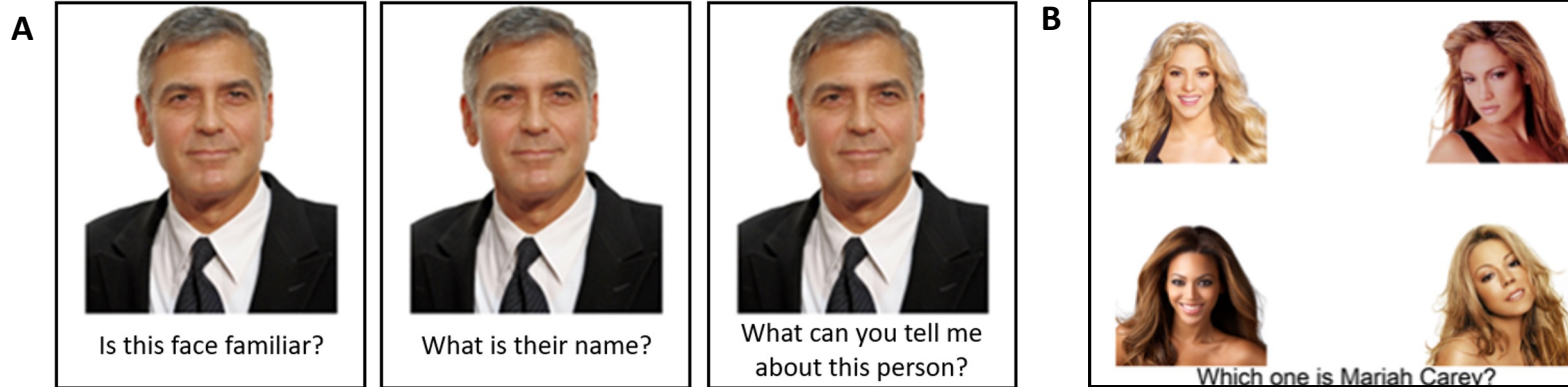


Fig 2. Dictionary Generation

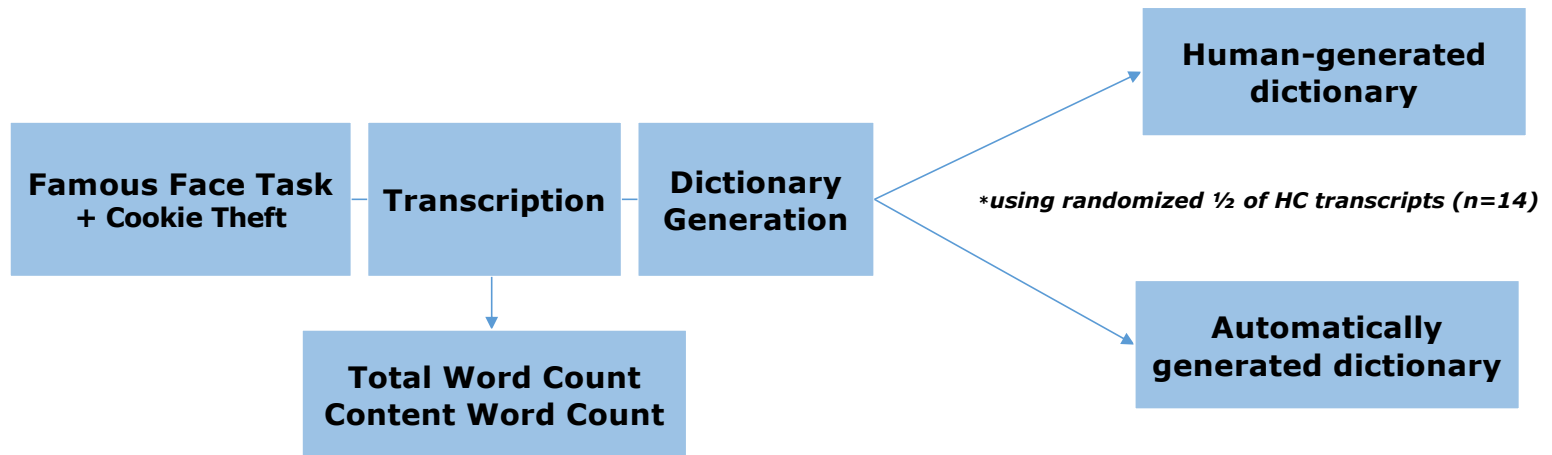


Fig 3. Famous Face Recall Performance

3a. Human-generated Dictionary

3b. Automated Dictionary

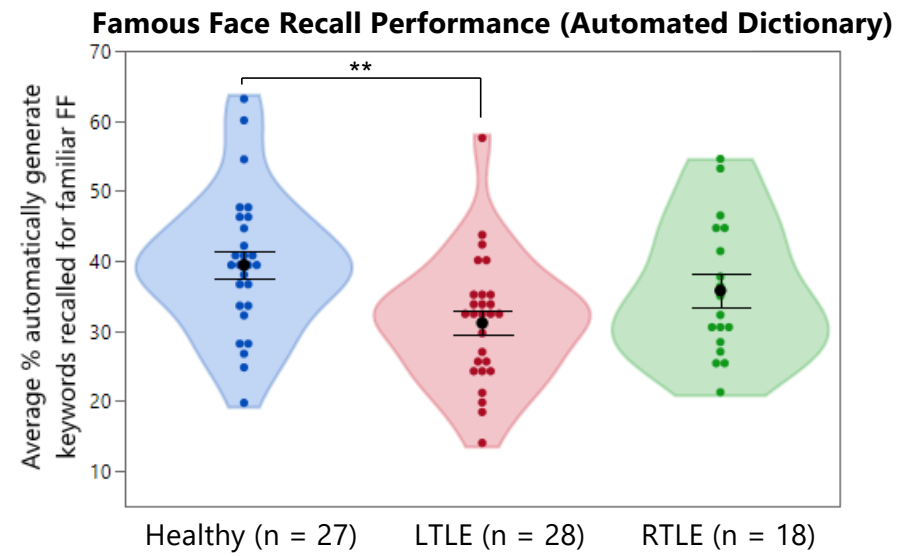
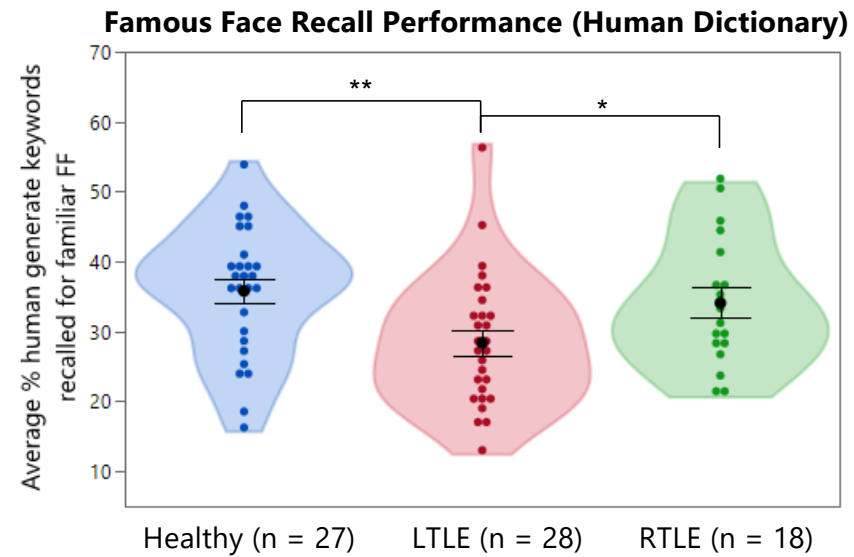


Figure 4. Famous Face Recall Performance correlates with MOCA scores for TLE patients (N=45), but not HCs (N=27)

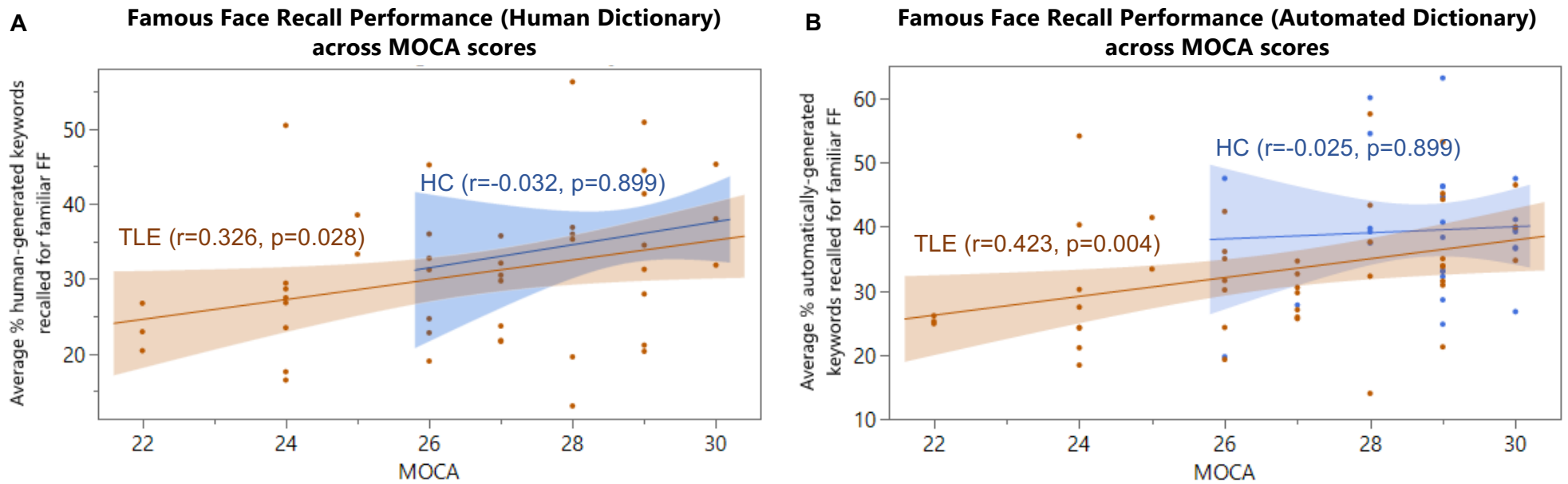
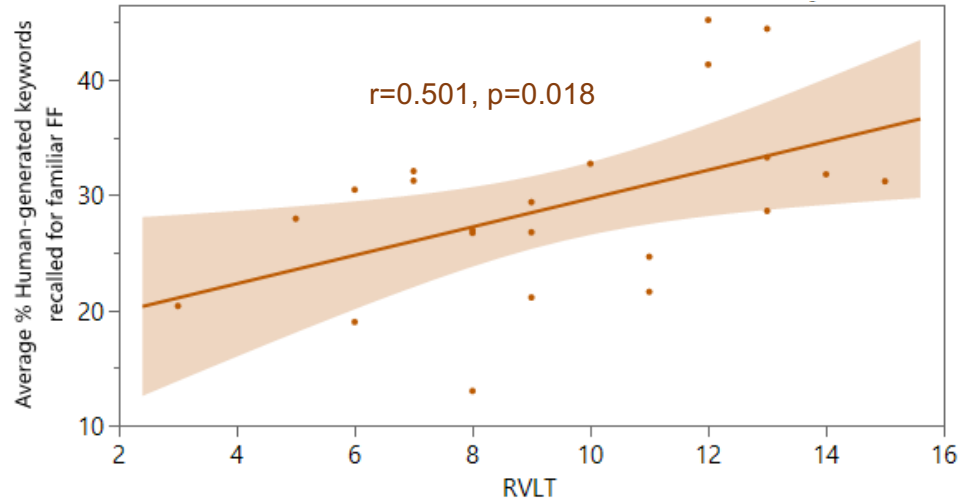


Figure 4. Famous Face Recall Performance across RVLT score (TLE only)

C Famous Face Recall Performance (Human Dictionary) across RVLT scores (TLE only)



D Famous Face Recall Performance (Automated Dictionary) across RVLT scores (TLE only)

