

Doctoraat "The linguistic and cognitive thalamus: neurolinguistic and neurobehavioural deficits in adults following vascular thalamic lesions (Promotor Prof. Dr. P. Mariën)

ABSTRACT

Ever since the influential localisationalist's views of the phrenologists, the cerebral cortex has been considered the neural substrate of neurocognitive functions including language. Notwithstanding the emphasis on the cerebral cortex as the seat of cognitive functions, evidence for the existence of 'subcortical aphasia' has been available since the late nineteenth century. During the last few years, a growing number of studies has shown that the subcortical structures, in particular the thalamus, are crucially involved in language and cognition. Moreover, models have been developed to elucidate the nature of that role. But still the important question, in what way thalamic lesions disrupt the processing of neurocognition, remains to be elucidated. In this dissertation, an attempt is made to make a modest contribution to the research on the semiological characteristics (linguistic, cognitive, behavioural) and the underlying pathophysiological mechanism of cognitive and behavioural dysfunctions following vascular thalamic lesions.

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