

The following provisional norms for nominal reference errors in narrative should be used with caution. While our preliminary research indicates that the rate of nominal reference errors in narratives may be a sensitive screening measure for underlying abnormalities in the central nervous systems in school-aged children with prenatal alcohol exposure, there is need for further validation of the measure with a larger representative sample of children. The tables below provide the basic descriptive statistics for our typically developing group (N=80) for two measures of cohesive reference in narratives. This information is provided so that clinicians who are interesting in using the TREIN analysis as part of the assessment or evaluation can make an informed clinical judgment about the meaning of their results.

A TREIN analysis provides the following possible indicators of performance:

1. Total Nominal Reference Errors (NRE) = [ambigintro] + [ambigntie]
2. Rate of Nominal Reference Errors (rNRE) = NRE / number of total words (i.e., NTW)
3. Rate of Nominal Reference Errors by opportunity (rNREopp) = NRE/([ambigintro] + [ambigntie] + [defintro] + [indefintro] + [possintro] + [pntie] + [ntie] + [ambigpntie] + [pnintro])
4. Total Pronominal Reference Errors (PRE) = ([pnintro] + [ambigpntie])
5. Rate of Pronominal Reference Errors (rPRE) = PRE/NTW
6. Rate of Pronominal Reference Errors by opportunity (rPREopp) = PRE/ ([ambigintro] + [ambigntie] + [defintro] + [indefintro] + [possintro] + [pntie] + [ntie] + [ambigpntie] + [pnintro])
7. Total Reference Errors (ALL) = [ambigintro] + [ambigntie] + [ambigpntie] + [pnintro]
8. Rate of All Reference Errors (rALL) = (NRE + PRE)/ NTW
9. Rate of All Reference Errors by Opportunity (rALLOpp) = (NRE + PRE)/ ([ambigintro] + [ambigntie] + [defintro] + [indefintro] + [possintro] + [pntie] + [ntie] + [ambigpntie] + [pnintro])

The two measures that appear to have the most clinical potential involve the number of nominal reference errors. Each is based on the number of errors produced in the narratives of these children, but each controls for the variability in the length of the narratives in different ways. In both, higher rates of errors indicates more difficulty maintaining referential cohesion in the narrative.

The first, and perhaps most practical, is the rate of nominal reference errors calculated as a percentage of referential opportunities in the child's narrative (rNREopp%). This measure tells us what percentage of a child's attempts to create a cohesive reference were unsuccessful because the nominal form was inappropriate.

$$rNREopp\% = rNREopp * 100$$

$$rNREopp = NRE / ([ambigintro] + [ambigntie] + [defintro] + [indefintro] + [possintro] + [pntie] + [ntie] + [ambigpntie] + [pnintro])$$

The second is the rate of nominal reference errors calculated as a percentage of total words in the narrative (rNRE%). This measure tells us, essentially, what percentage of words in the narrative were part of a nominal phrase that was referentially ambiguous.

$$rNRE\% = (NRE / NTW) * 100$$

The tables below indicate the performance of the 80 children in our sample using these measures. We have highlighted values that might be of clinical interest.

Summary statistics for typically developing group (TD)

Variable	Rate of nominal reference errors by opportunity (rNREopp%)	
	rNREopp% = rNREopp*100	
	rNREopp = NRE/(ambigintro + ambigntie + defintro + indefintro + possintro + pntie + ntie + ambigpntie + pintro)	
	Higher rates indicate more errors, lower rates indicate better cohesion	
Sample size		80
Lowest value		0.0000
Highest value		14.5833
Arithmetic mean		5.5689
95% CI for the mean		4.8538 to 6.2839
Median		4.8200
95% CI for the median		4.1667 to 5.6769
Variance		10.3247
Standard deviation		3.2132
2 Standard deviations above mean (clinical cut-point)		12.00
Standard error of the mean		0.3592
Coefficient of Skewness		0.8486 (P=0.0032)
Coefficient of Kurtosis		0.2910 (P=0.4709)
D'Agostino-Pearson test for Normal distribution		reject Normality (P=0.0100)
Percentiles		95% Confidence Interval
0.1		
0.25		
0.5		
1	0.2941	
2.5	0.9902	
5	1.5395	0.1965 to 2.1828
10	2.1742	1.0675 to 2.5819
20	2.8235	2.2176 to 3.3592
25	3.0536	2.4947 to 4.0816
40	4.1667	3.3932 to 4.8780
60	5.5692	4.7502 to 6.8156
75	7.6436	6.1615 to 8.7266
80	8.0945	6.9580 to 9.7863
90	10.0434	8.6130 to 12.3327
95	11.9634	9.9973 to 14.5237
97.5	13.4921	
99	14.4940	
99.5		
99.75		
99.9		

Subgroup: older_aged = ages 9-12.99

Sample size	34
Lowest value	1.0000
Highest value	11.7647
Arithmetic mean	4.9993
95% CI for the mean	4.0419 to 5.9567
Median	4.5759
95% CI for the median	3.2288 to 5.1103
Variance	7.5296
Standard deviation	2.7440
2 Standard Deviations above mean (clinical cut-point)	10.50
Standard error of the mean	0.4706
Coefficient of Skewness	0.9947 (P=0.0183)
Coefficient of Kurtosis	0.4275 (P=0.4525)
D'Agostino-Pearson test for Normal distribution	reject Normality (P=0.0467)

Summary statistics for typically developing group (TD)

Variable	Rate of Nominal Reference Errors as percentage (rNRE%) rNRE% = (NRE / NTW)*100	
Sample size	80	
Lowest value	0.0000	
Highest value	3.8889	
Arithmetic mean	1.5212	
95% CI for the mean	1.3287 to 1.7136	
Median	1.2862	
95% CI for the median	1.1701 to 1.5637	
Variance	0.7477	
Standard deviation	0.8647	
2 Standard Deviations above mean (clinical cut-point)	3.25	
Standard error of the mean	0.09667	
Coefficient of Skewness	0.7157 (P=0.0107)	
Coefficient of Kurtosis	-0.09294 (P=0.9956)	
D'Agostino-Pearson test for Normal distribution	reject Normality (P=0.0385)	
Percentiles		95% Confidence Interval
0.1		
0.25		
0.5		
1	0.08174	
2.5	0.2747	
5	0.4096	0.05462 to 0.5795
10	0.5769	0.2979 to 0.6873
20	0.7371	0.5946 to 0.9536
25	0.8666	0.6597 to 1.1047
40	1.1869	0.9555 to 1.2906
60	1.5585	1.2821 to 1.9984
75	2.0863	1.7075 to 2.4348
80	2.3810	2.0032 to 2.5289
90	2.6638	2.4143 to 3.3641
95	3.25	2.6174 to 3.8040
97.5	3.45	
99	3.76	
99.5		
99.75		
99.9		

Subgroup: older_aged = ages 9-12.99

Sample size	34
Lowest value	0.2770
Highest value	3.3333
Arithmetic mean	1.3698
95% CI for the mean	1.1022 to 1.6373
Median	1.2038
95% CI for the median	0.9421 to 1.3875
Variance	0.5880
Standard deviation	0.7668
2 Standard deviations above the mean (clinical cut-point)	2.90
Standard error of the mean	0.1315
Coefficient of Skewness	1.0179 (P=0.0162)
Coefficient of Kurtosis	0.4449 (P=0.4413)
D'Agostino-Pearson test for Normal distribution	reject Normality (P=0.0413)