

LURIA'S NEUROLINGUISTICS AND CONTEMPORARY APHASIOLOGY

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Luria published two major books on the brain organization of language and aphasia. *Traumatic Aphasia*, initially published in Russian in 1947 and translated into English in 1970, was his initial interpretation of aphasia and included his extensive experience with war-wounded patients during WWII. Almost 30 years later, towards the end of his life, he published *Basic Problems of Neurolinguistics*, in which he presented a much more elaborate interpretation of the brain organization of language in normal and abnormal condition. Between these two dates, he published diverse papers directly or indirectly related to the topic of language and aphasia.

The fundamental and clinical understanding of the brain organization of language has continued advancing in the decades after Luria's publications. Many of his ideas have been corroborated and further developed thanks to the introduction of contemporary neuroimaging techniques.

The idea that general and language-related psychological processes represent brain functional systems has been integrated into contemporary cognitive neurosciences. Contemporary brain research has emphasized that cognitive processes are supported by brain systems or brain circuits. Luria's point of view—that language understanding defects in cases of left temporal damage are due to phoneme discrimination disturbances, verbal memory defects, and impairments in semantic associations—today represents basic knowledge in aphasia. By the same token, his interpretation of dynamic aphasia as a disturbance in planning expressive language, and hence, close to a prefrontal (dysexecutive) syndrome affecting the language activity, has been supported by different authors. Some of Luria's other ideas continue developing.