

A RORSCHACH STUDY OF RIGHT-HANDED SUBJECTS AND LEFT-EAR  
LISTENERS WITH MIXED LATERAL PREFERENCES

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The aim of the investigation was to determine whether differences would occur between the Rorschach protocols (responses) of a group of completely right-lateralized female student subjects (aged 19 - 21 years) with a strong right speech-hearing preference and an equal number of female students of the same age with reasonably general right lateral preference, but with a left speech-hearing preference. A secondary goal was to compare Kimura's technique of dichotic stimulation with the audiolaterometric investigation method of Tomatis.

A total of 34 female students were subjected to an extensive laterality investigation. Auditory laterality was determined both by means of Kimura's dichotic technique and by means of the audiolaterometer of Tomatis. From this investigation eight experimental subjects were selected: four with a definite right speech-hearing preference and four with a left speech-hearing preference.

Rorschach protocols obtained from the eight experimental subjects were then compared by means of independent evaluations done by the Rorschach. This group produced significantly more FC responses and significantly more M responses than the left listeners. Left listeners also tended to respond more with FM responses in relation to their number of FC responses.

All three raters concluded that the right listeners displayed a superior capacity to relate spontaneously and relevantly to emotional stimuli. The right listeners also displayed a more outward going orientation, were more responsive toward their environment, but were also more in control of their emotional responses; more able to guide their impulse life outward in a controlled manner; were less prone toward isolating themselves socially and less subjected to anxiety, tension, frustration, and aggression.

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Regarding the secondary aim of the study, viz. the comparison between the investigations of auditory laterality of Tomatis and Kimura, it was found that the influence of aspects like closed selectivity and audiometric deviations had to be taken into account when interpreting the results achieved by means of dichotic stimulation. The more the selectivity of a given ear is closed in relation to the other ear, the poorer the closed ear responded to the dichotically presented verbal stimuli. These factors could imply an auditory superiority of a given ear which is contrary to the general expectation. These findings bear more light on the earlier findings of Van Wyk (1967) by means of dichotic stimulation. From the present study it also transpired that the audiolaterometer did not measure the same variable as the process of dichotic stimulation and that a distinction should be made between superiority and preference. The importance of harmony in the functional role division, characteristic of adequate lateralization, was also addressed. It was found that the more a person displayed a right speech-hearing preference, the more the person tended to perform well with the left hand, when a spatial orientation task had to be executed, despite a right hand preference for these tasks.

In conclusion Badenhorst's work showed a significant relationship between audiometric and audiolaterometric results, which to him confirms the view of Tomatis.