

CLUTTERING:

A Clinical
Perspective

FLORENCE L. MYERS
KENNETH O. ST. LOUIS

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Edited by

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Dedication

To my husband, Russell
FLM

And our respective families
K.O. St. Louis and F. L. Myers

PREFACE

Cluttering as a disorder of fluency has been an oft-neglected area of study in the academic as well as the clinical arena. To our knowledge, Deso Weiss' classic work *Cluttering* (1964) is the sole text devoted exclusively to the topic in the English language. Yet cluttering may be a disorder which is even more complex and multifaceted than "classic" stuttering. Insights regarding cluttering will undoubtedly contribute to our understanding of fluency and the various disorders of fluency.

This book is intended for students and clinical speech-language pathologists. Further, this book is likely to be useful to individuals in allied educational professions given the current emphasis on interdisciplinary treatment approaches for individuals with speech/language and learning disabilities.

This book does not profess to provide a conclusive set of statements about cluttering. However, it does attempt to apply reasoned theoretical orientations and, as much as is available, empirical findings toward the three primary goals of: 1) understanding the nature of the origins and symptoms of cluttering; 2) proposing some principles for the assessment and treatment of cluttering; and 3) stimulating further thoughts and questions regarding this disorder and its relation to stuttering and language-learning disability.

The genesis of this book was an invitation by the organizers of the Second International Oxford Disfluency Conference held in August 1988 to develop a volume on cluttering. Portions of Chapters 2, 5 and 6 were presented at Oxford University by the editors of this book. We wish to thank Chris Code and David Rowley for their foresight in initiating the idea as well as their support throughout this project.

We wish to thank the students and clinicians who have helped in the undertaking of various aspects of this project, as well as to acknowledge the Office of Education and the National Speech and Hearing Survey directors for use of the data contained in Chapter 3. We also wish to acknowledge the insights gained from each other in our many discussions about this perplexing disorder.

Above all, we wish to thank Professor Van Riper for his thoughts and clinical insights which he has so generously and graciously shared with the international community of speech-language pathologists during the past decades.

Florence L. Myers
Kenneth O. St. Louis
January 1992.