1 RHD Communication
   Dept. of Speech Pathology
   College of Health Professions

2 Language Deficits and RHD

3 Can the Right Hemisphere Talk?
   - Data from commissurotomy studies, left hemispherectomy studies, repeated strokes
   - process nouns
   - spell simple words
   - recognize simple associations
   - talk about what they see

4 Answer
   - RH not completely mute
   - aphasia tests show problems with auditory comprehension and verbal expression
   - problems related to extralinguistic impairments
   - no gross evidence of language problem per se

5 Discourse Deficits

6 Discourse types
   - procedural
   - expository
   - narrative
   - conversation

7 Components of Discourse
   - speaker, listener and situational context
   - awareness of topic, purpose, shared knowledge, repair and encoding
   - cognitive ability to draw on inference

8 Discourse Deficits
   - variable expression
   - no specific lesion

9 Inference Operations
   - attention to individual cues
   - selection of relevant cues
   - integration of relevant cues with one another
   - association of cues to prior experience or world knowledge

10 RHD Discourse
Example
- process each item in isolation
- difficulty in drawing inference, integrating information

11 Problems in Inferential Operations
- attention to individual cues
- selection of relevant cues
- integration
- association of cues to world knowledge

12 Five Primary Problems

13 Macrostructure
- overarching inference about theme
- deficits in generating macrostructure in both listening and speaking

14 Comprehension
- miss main point
- in research, problems with story morals, titles, summaries
- in life, following a conversation

15 Expression
- getting the gist across
- in research, fewer inferred concepts, ordering sentences, identifying main idea
- in life, lack of organizing macrostructure

16 Why should macrostructure problems exist?
- Problems in cognitive processing---forming semantic relationships
- Cognitive deficits of attention

17 Reduced Information Content

18 Descriptors of RHD Conversation
- equal words, less information
- verbose or abrupt
- inefficient
- burden to listener

19 Impoverished/unelaborated output
- about 1/6th of RHD
- unresponsive, disinterested
- related to hypoarousal
- negative perception

20 Excessive/overelaborated
- unnecessary detail
- “looseness” of expression
Summary

- does not take listener into account
- may include confabulatory behavior