

**Danuta Pluta-Wojciechowska, *Diagnosis of articulation in children and adults DADID Textbook, diagnosis cards, picture sets*, Bytom, Ergo-Sum Publishing House, 2025, pp. 148**

The recommended publication by Prof. Danuta Pluta-Wojciechowska is the first such detailed diagnostic set in the field of speech therapy. It is a kind of revolution in Polish speech therapy. I believe that all speech therapists – both those who already have professional experience and, in particular, young speech therapists who are gaining professional experience – will be able to benefit from this publication.

The publication is quite unusual, although we have already encountered this type of publication by Pluta-Wojciechowska – *Strategic Therapy for Peripheral Dyslalia. Inspiration for Lip and Tongue Exercises for Children and Adults* (2021), which, in addition to the handbook, also included a set of pictures for speech therapy exercises. The whole thing was collected in a fairly large folder.

The new publication, released in 2025, is an articulation assessment tool for children and adults, consisting of: a handbook, a multi-page assessment card (in a separate folder), two bound booklets for assessing articulation through – *Onomatopoeic sounds and syllables* and one larger bound book with thematic pictures for testing the realisation of consonant and vowel phonemes, as well as puppets. The entire publication is enclosed in a practical case.

The handbook contains the latest knowledge in the fields of speech therapy, orthodontics, paediatrics and audiology needed by speech therapists to correctly diagnose articulation. The eight chapters of the book describe the theory of dyslalia, the basics of diagnosis and organisation of therapy for phoneme realisation disorders, pronunciation testing with a comprehensive description, assessment of perception and realisation processes along with assessment of anatomical and functional conditions, interview, preliminary diagnosis, and organisation of post-diagnostic activities.

The author of the publication analyses in detail all the issues that answer the question of what dyslalia is and how to make a correct diagnosis of its causes. Based on the many years of work of Polish speech therapists recorded in numerous publications and, very importantly, on her own practical and theoretical experience, the author has conducted a detailed analysis of dyslalia diagnosis. This departure from traditional diagnosis based on auditory assessment is a proposal for an in-depth diagnosis based on hearing, sight, touch and experimentation. Such a diagnosis is intended to help find the connection between the symptom and the cause of the phenomenon. The author encourages us to seek a strategic diagnosis that provides an answer as to where the cause lies and how to deal with it in order to achieve success in therapy. The author shows us the value of multisensory diagnosis in the search for the sometimes hidden cause of dyslalia. She also boldly encourages us to make our own interpretations of speech defects. Each of us has repeatedly encountered speech impediments in our practice that we have been unable to classify according to previously described patterns. The author has relieved us of this burden and shown us new possibilities for describing speech impediments, where we can independently determine the non-standard characteristics of sounds. This me-

thod of description gives us a more precise description of a given sound, and as a result increases our awareness and guides us towards effective therapy.

The content of the first chapter of the book is a confrontation between the traditional approach to dyslalia and diagnosis, and a new, strategic approach to diagnosis and, consequently, therapy of dyslalia. The following chapters are devoted to a detailed analysis of strategies for examining pronunciation. In terms of assessing perceptual processes, the author presents a range of possible methods that can be used both by ENT specialists/audiologists and those that speech therapists can use independently. She presents new methods for testing phonemic and phonetic hearing. Chapter five is devoted to the assessment of realisation processes, which speech therapists should evaluate during diagnosis. There is no other diagnostic category described in such detail in Polish speech therapy literature, as the author has described in detail how to diagnose both anatomical and functional conditions, which are the basis for a good assessment of the disorder. The description is based on a scheme: the perspective of assessing a given phenomenon, the assessment criteria, the method of examination and the most frequently observed deviations from the norm. This provides the reader with a clear, repeatable method of description. The following chapters focus on a detailed interview and the organisation of additional activities resulting from the diagnosis.

The book clearly presents the patient's activity versus the speech therapist's activity. The author describes in detail both the patient's and the speech therapist's body posture. This is extremely important for the diagnosis process itself.

The appendix to the handbook contains suggestions for referrals that speech therapists can use in their diagnostic work, e.g. to ENT, orthodontic and surgical clinics, as well as a template for speech therapy reports. This frees us from having to 'think up' a template for a letter addressed to individual specialists, which greatly facilitates the speech therapist's work.

*Diagnosis cards* are a proposal to note down extensive observations and speech therapy examinations, which the author suggests describing on as many as 20 cards. These cards can be photocopied for personal use as needed. They contain general data, a preliminary examination of phoneme realisation based on a conversation with the patient, and a detailed examination. This part consists of linguistic material written down for each phoneme (suggested words and sentences) and cards for recording the results of the examination in the categories of location, modality and sonancy. The next card concerns perceptual processes, i.e. objective, phonemic and phonetic hearing. The author devoted as many as seven cards to the assessment of realisation processes, first anatomical conditions, and then functional ones. The last card summarises the diagnosis.

Booklets (2 pieces) for articulation diagnosis – *Sounds and onomatopoeic syllables*, are a practical diagnostic material, prepared on hard, varnished paper with excellent illustrations by Anna Andrusowicz. Pluta-Wojciechowska prepared this material in such a way that the child/adult sees the picture, while the speech therapist sees the written sound or onomatopoeic syllable. This is a convenient way to focus on the face of the person being diagnosed, rather than guessing what is in the picture.

The larger bound book contains 36 thematic pictures and material for testing the realisation of phonemes in words and sentences. The set of pictures is not a typical picture questionnaire for assessing pronunciation, but rather thematic, situational illustrations depicting objects and phenomena with the sound being tested. This allows the test to be tailored to the child's verbal abilities.

The diagnostic packet is complemented by a puppet, which can be helpful in diagnosing phonetic hearing or articulation in young children by having the puppet repeat sounds/words/sentences instead of the child.

The publication by D. Pluta-Wojciechowska – DADID is the expected consequence of the author's previous publications. The book presents a new approach to diagnosis in speech therapy, providing a detailed analysis and translating it into practical activities for speech therapists during diagnosis. This publication is both the basis for a new way of thinking 'about' and 'in' speech

therapy. We are witnessing a revolution in speech therapy in the field of dyslalia, a change in thinking about diagnosis and therapy for the most common disorder that Polish speech therapists work with.

I recommend this publication both to speech therapists with extensive practical experience who are constantly looking for new effective solutions, and to young practitioners of this profession. It is a perfectly written book that is easy to read, as the material is well thought out and logically arranged. The dialogue is also valuable, a kind of narrative with established views that the author encounters in numerous training sessions with practitioners in the field of speech therapy. I highly recommend this publication to anyone who is searching for answers.



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