

# Review of: "A Review of Prosody, Punctuation, and Dyslexia: Implications for the Use of Speech Technologies"

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**Potential competing interests:** The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

Dear author,

I would like to congratulate you on your very good job. The topic is really interesting and you make an amazing analysis of the existing literature as well as provide the readers with useful guidelines on how to improve teaching practices to help students with dyslexia through using assistive technologies. I have reviewed your work and, even though I found it very interesting, I have some comments that might help you to improve your article.

As far as I understood, this paper comes from your thesis dissertation and perhaps that is why you did not follow the typical structure of a review paper. However, when you present it as an independent piece of research it clearly needs a more formal structure in which you provide more information about the research questions, objectives, the procedures you follow to arrive to the results, as well as your contribution to the existing research body through a discussion and conclusions section.

In this regard, I invite you to reflect on the questions and suggestions below:

1. How about if you include the key points analysed and discussed throughout the paper in your abstract? What did you find? What did you learn from your study? What practical implications does your work have for teachers and researchers? How your work will contribute to understanding the problem under review?
2. What kind of review did you conduct? Could you offer more information about it and why it is useful to address the research problem?
3. In the first statement of the introduction —“Dyslexia is a specific learning disability characterised by reading difficulties, especially in accurate and fluent word recognition, poor decoding and spelling abilities (International Dyslexia Association, 2002)”—, I would use another up-to-date definition such as the one used in the APA DSM-V or something newer.
4. I expected to read about the identified research gap, as well as how your study will fill it, in the introduction. However, the information you gave, in my opinion, does not provide any details in that regard. This is your explanation: “Gaps in the relevant literature are identified throughout this paper and summarised in the conclusive remarks towards the end.” You basically said that your results and discussion just describe the research gaps; but the readers are looking for

your contribution on that matter. That is, one conduct a study for addressing the unsolved questions you posed in the research problem, so what we expect in your discussion and conclusion is how the research gap is covered with your results, what implications does your research have for theory and practice, and what lines of work do your results suggest to deeply investigate in the future. In this regard, I encourage you to use the introduction for explaining more about the identified research gaps and how your study will contribute to improving the knowledge on the topic under review.

5. There are some obsolete citations than do not come from seminal research, especially some studies focused on relating prosodic and dyslexia, that were conducted in the 90s or at the beginning of the 2000s. If you incorporate more updated references it would help to understand what we actually know about the topic nowadays.
6. What about the table included in the “Punctuation and Prosodic ” section? I did not find any reference in the narrative neither the title nor the number of the table.
7. In some citations, you use the page number but do not include any text between quotation marks, which reference style did you use?
8. Does TTS mean text-to-speech? It would be better if you define it the first time it is used in the text and keep it throughout the paper to avoid any confusion.
9. In the sentence “More recent studies examine the use of punctuation by dyslexic students in languages other than English”, I was wondering which languages did they examine so you can discuss what characteristics cause more difficulties to students with dyslexia and how teachers (through assistive technologies tools) could help them to address those issues effortlessly.

This is it from my side. I hope my comments and suggestions help you to enhance your paper.

Best wishes!