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May 7th, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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Cross-Language Transfer in Intervention with Bilingual Adults Who Stutter: Two Case Studies

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PURPOSES

- 1) Examine the effectiveness of bilingual stuttering intervention in two sequential Spanish-English bilingual adults who stutter
- 2) Evaluate cross-language transfer in a single-subject design model of intervention

METHOD

Participants

- Two sequential Spanish-English bilingual adults who stutter
- Participant 1:
 - 21 year-old female
 - L1 = Spanish, L2 = English
 - English dominant
- Participant 2:
 - 22 year-old male
 - L1 = Spanish, L2 = English
 - Spanish dominant

Experimental Design

- Participant 1:
 - Ten 30-40 minute individual sessions (5 in English, 5 in Spanish)
 - Received one 30-minute Spanish group session
 - In total, received 200 minutes of therapy in English and 200 minutes in Spanish
- Participant 2:
 - 14 thirty-minute individual sessions (7 English, 7 Spanish)
 - Received one 30-minute Spanish group session
 - In total, received 210 minutes of therapy in English and 240 minutes of therapy in Spanish

Outcome Measures

- % of words stuttered (Figures 1a & 1b)
- % accuracy of stuttering modification techniques
 - Cancellation (Figures 2a, 2b)
 - Pull-out (Figures 3a, & 3b)
- Speech Rate (Figures 4a & 4b)

Limitations of Study

- Client-centered therapy - treatment was designed around needs of clients, not around gathering research data points.
- Short data collection period due to the constraints of the quarter system.
- Scheduling challenges led to fewer group therapy sessions than planned.

RESULTS

Participant 1

Figure 1a. Percent stuttering/total words

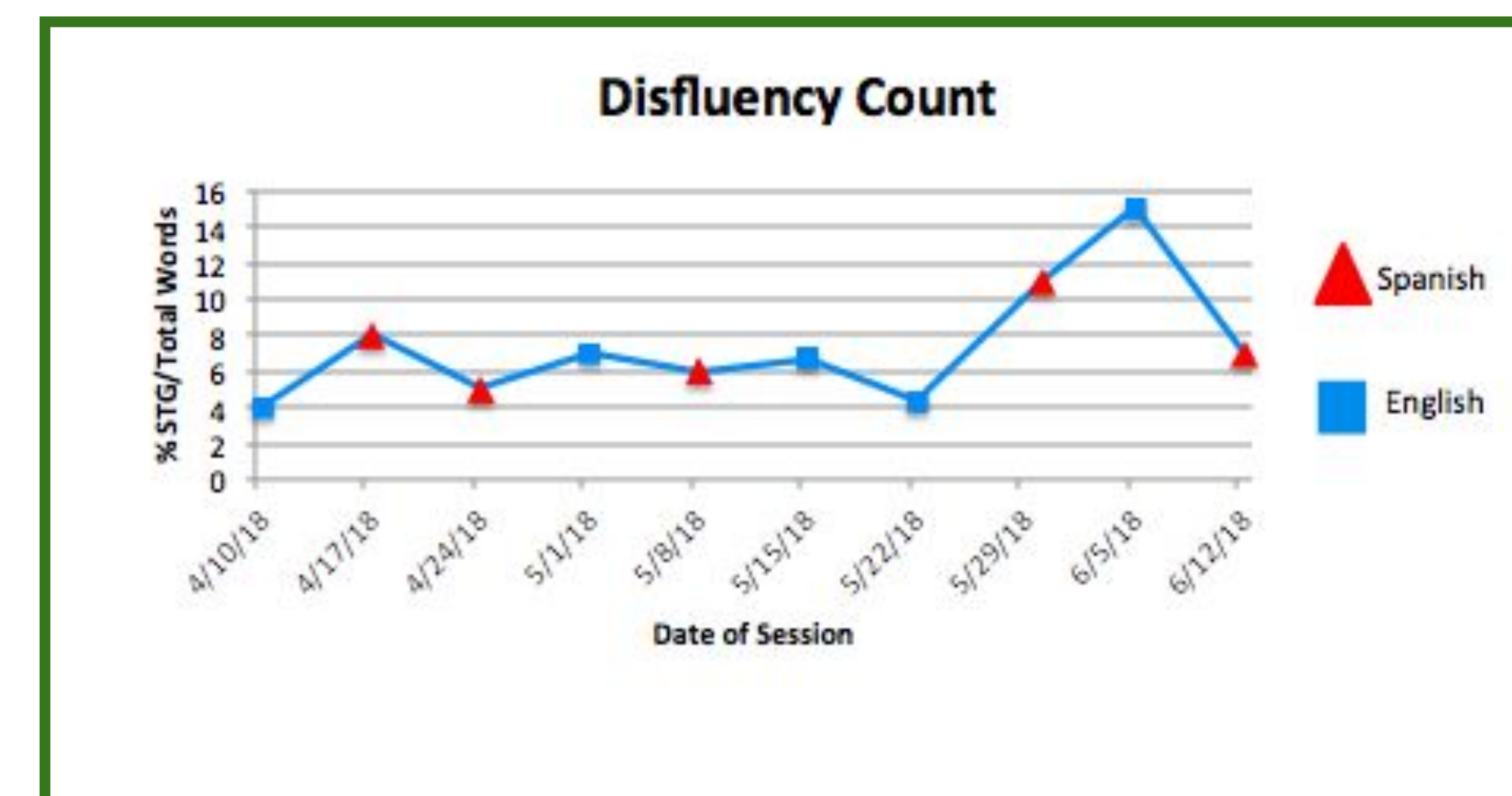


Figure 2a. Percent accuracy implementing cancellation at sentence level

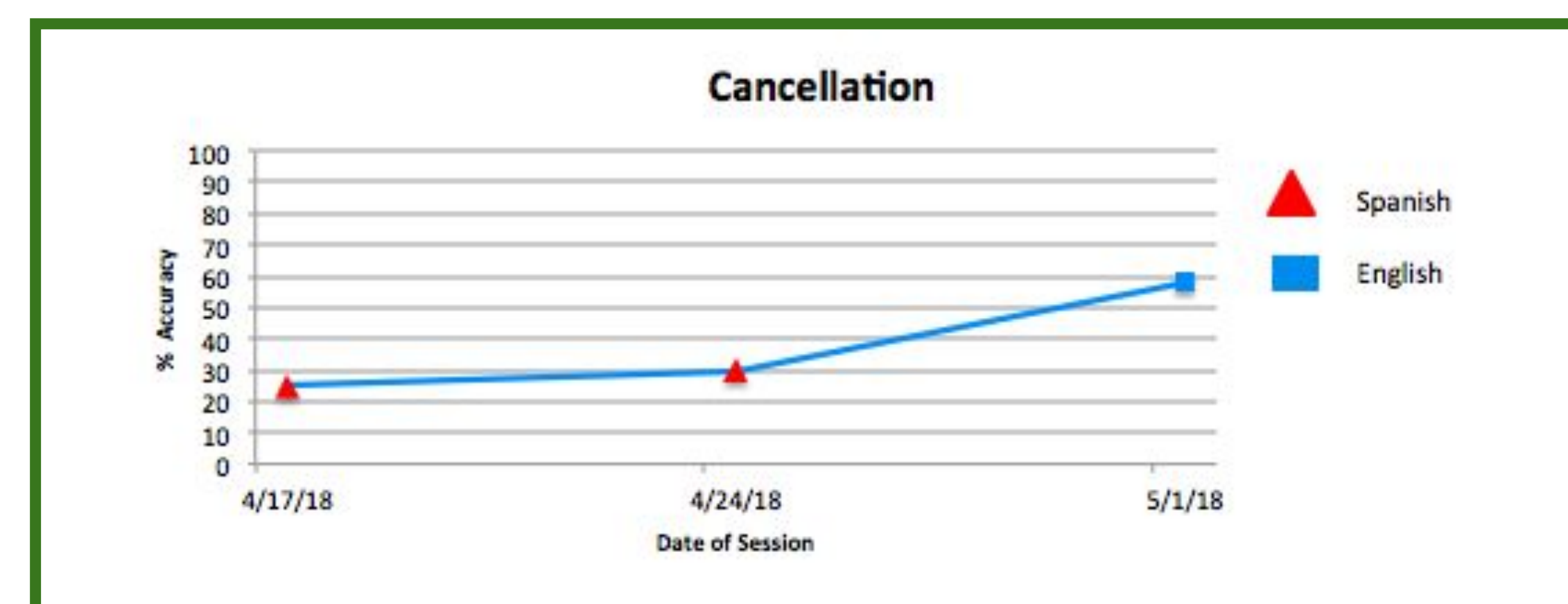


Figure 3a. Percent accuracy implementing pull-out technique
*Indicates generalized environment instead of treatment room.

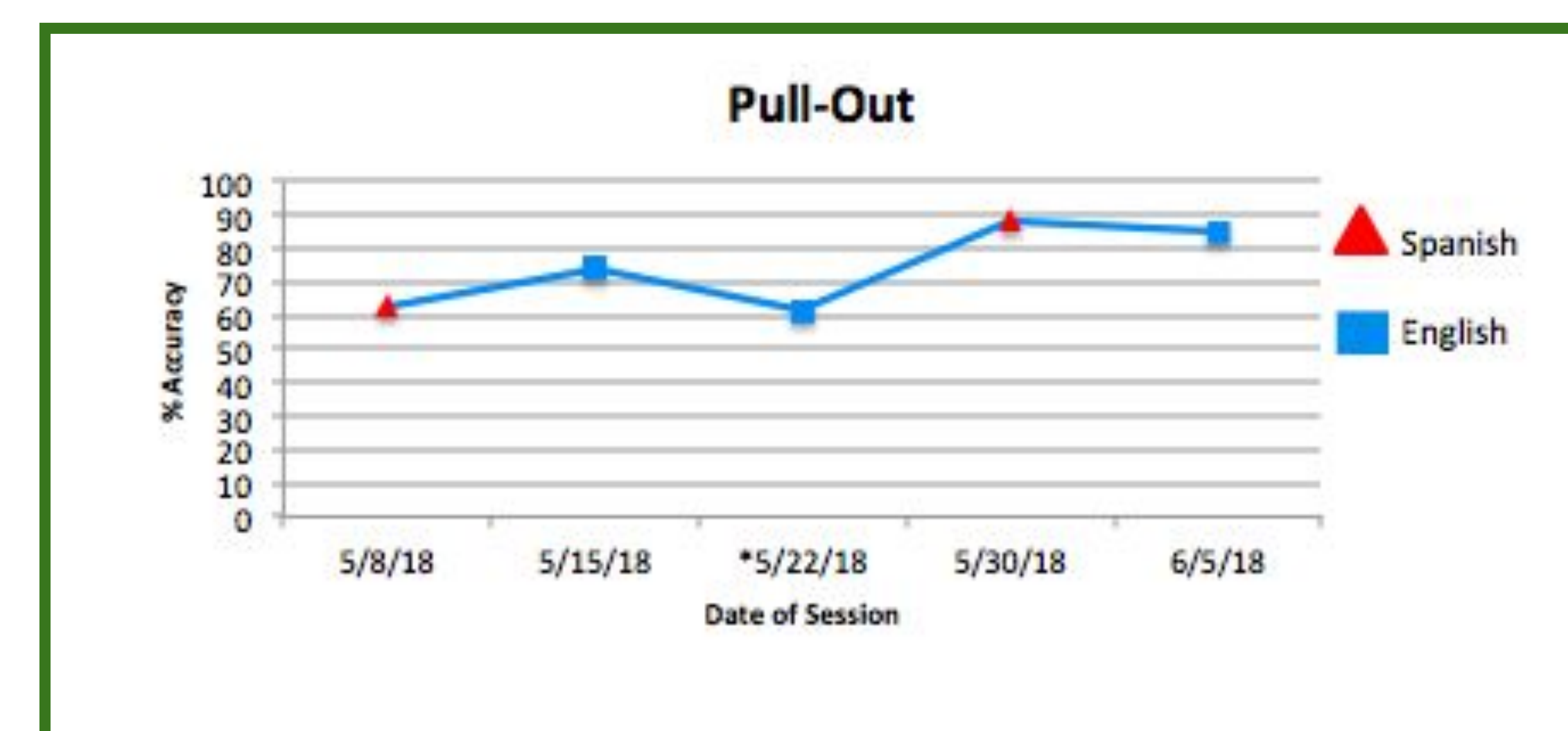
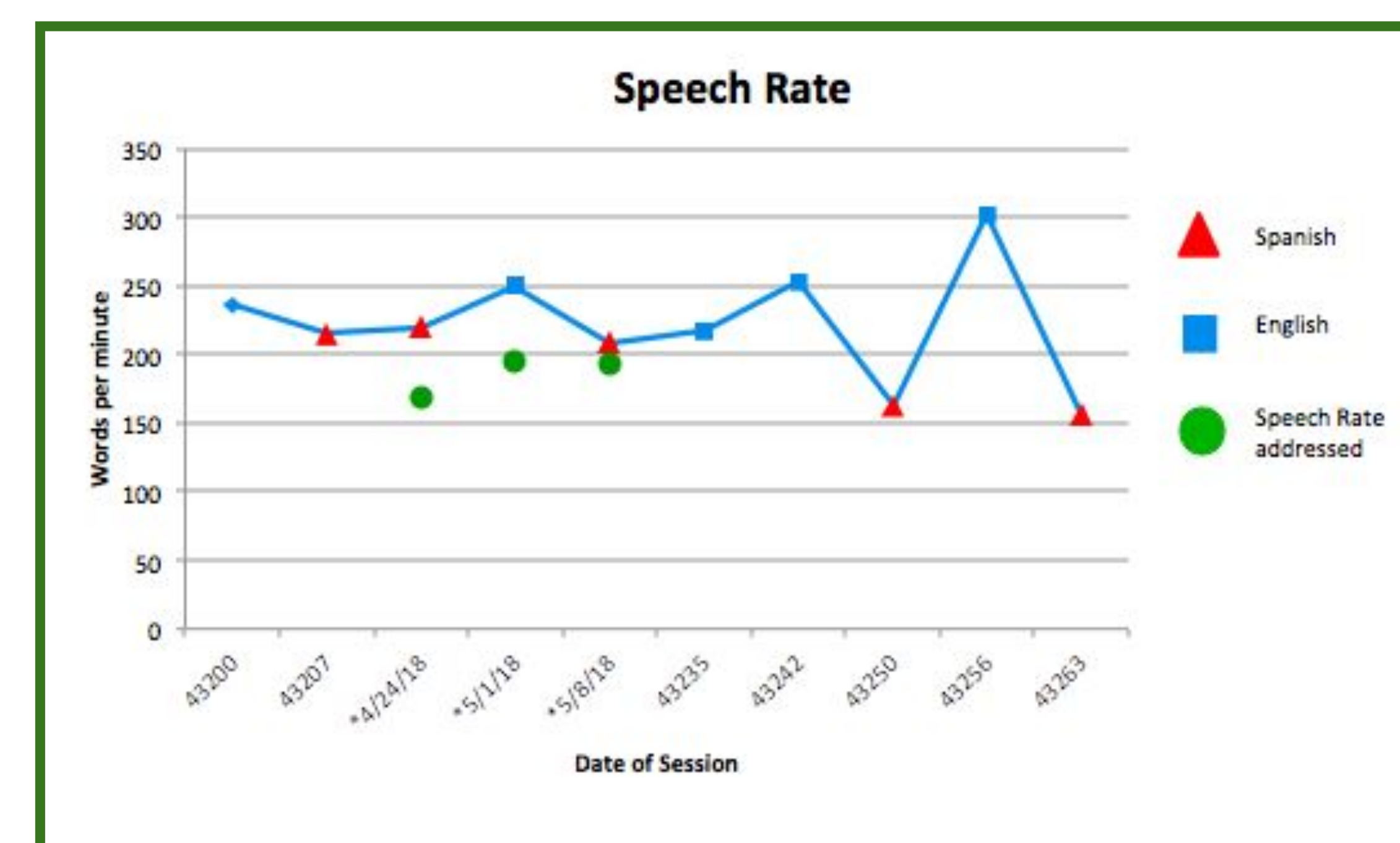


Figure 4a. Speech rate across sessions in words per minute (WPM)
* Indicates speech rate was targeted in therapy. WPM are reported both before and after speech rate is targeted.



Qualitative data for Participant 1 indicated that eye contact goals may be easier in Spanish than English due to cultural expectations during conversations.

RESULTS

Participant 2

Figure 1b. Percent stuttering/total words

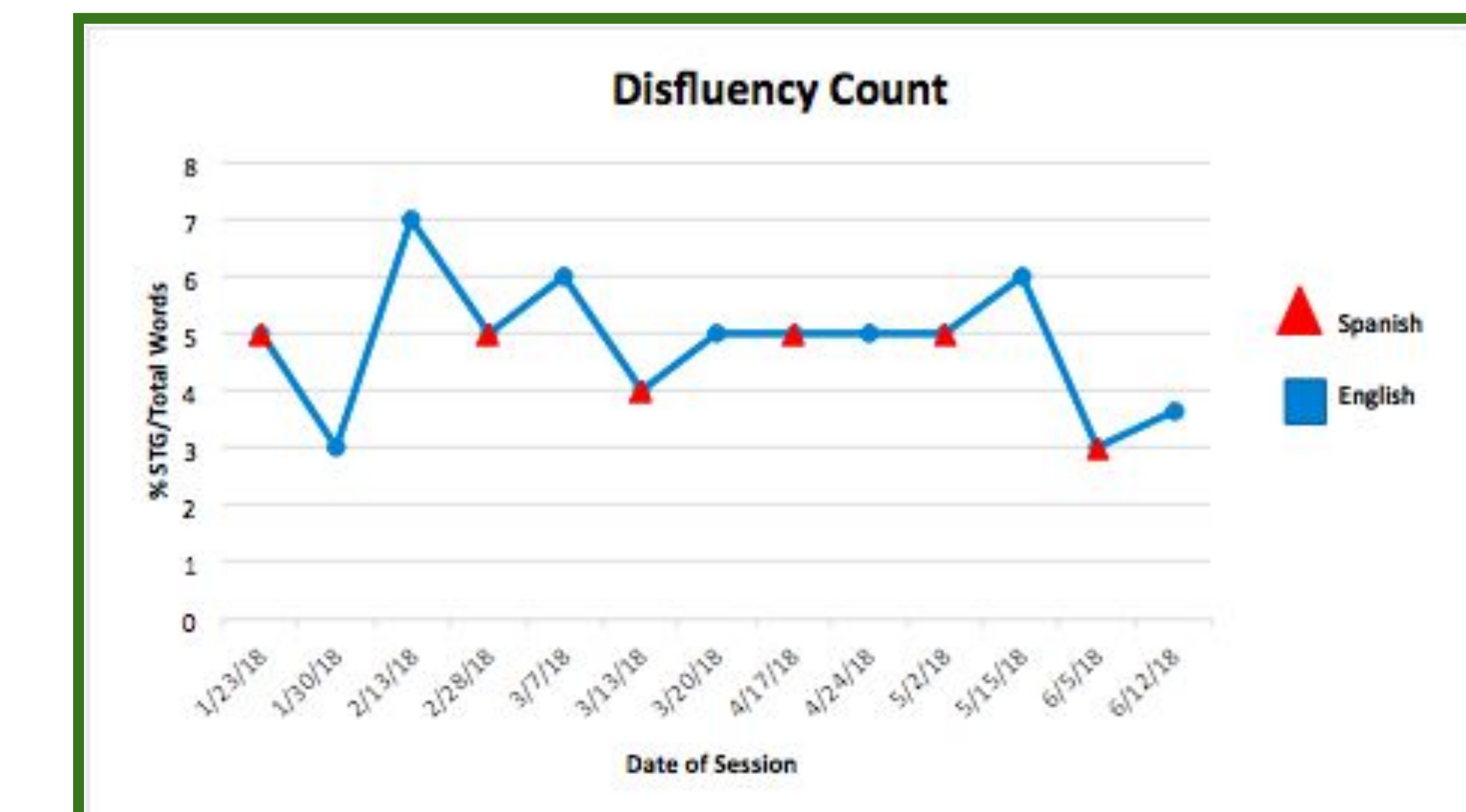


Figure 2a. Percent accuracy implementing cancellation at sentence level



Figure 3a. Percent accuracy implementing pull-out technique

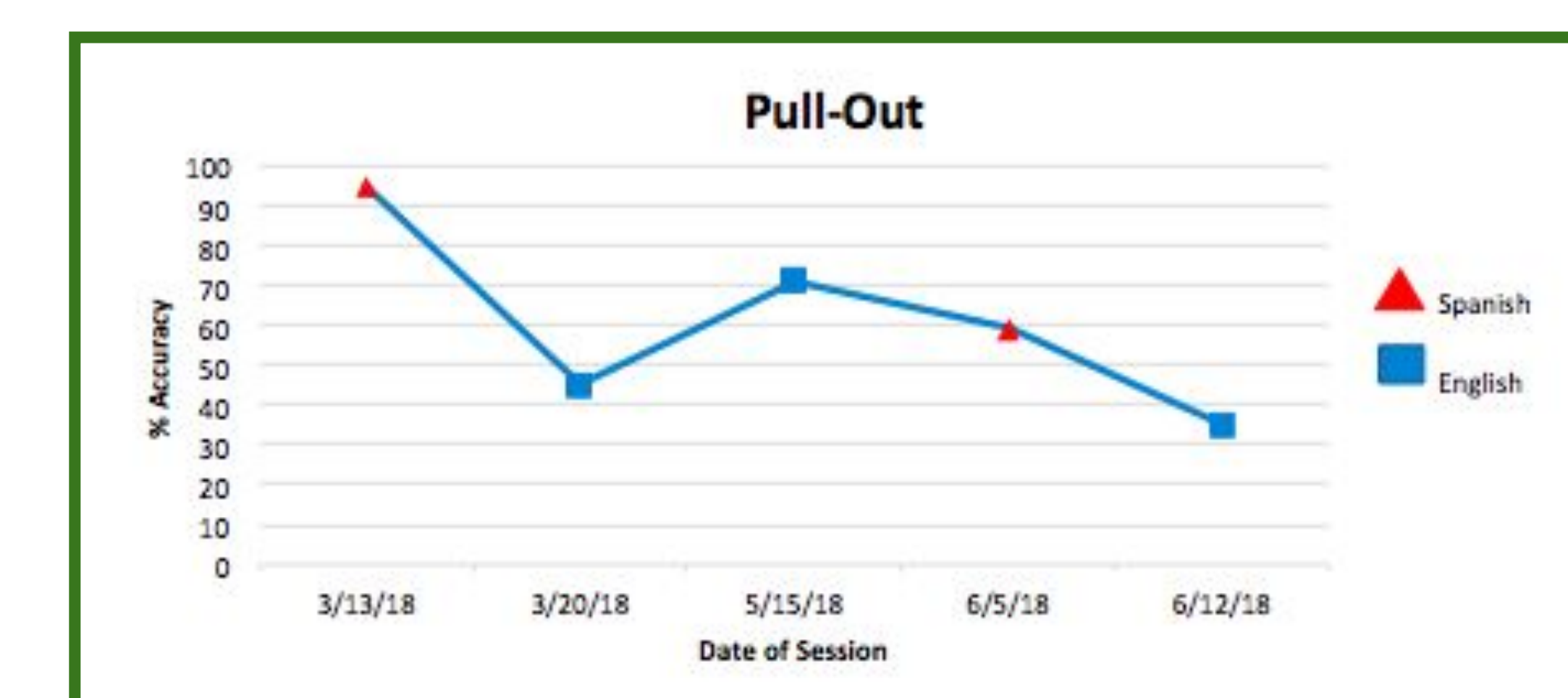
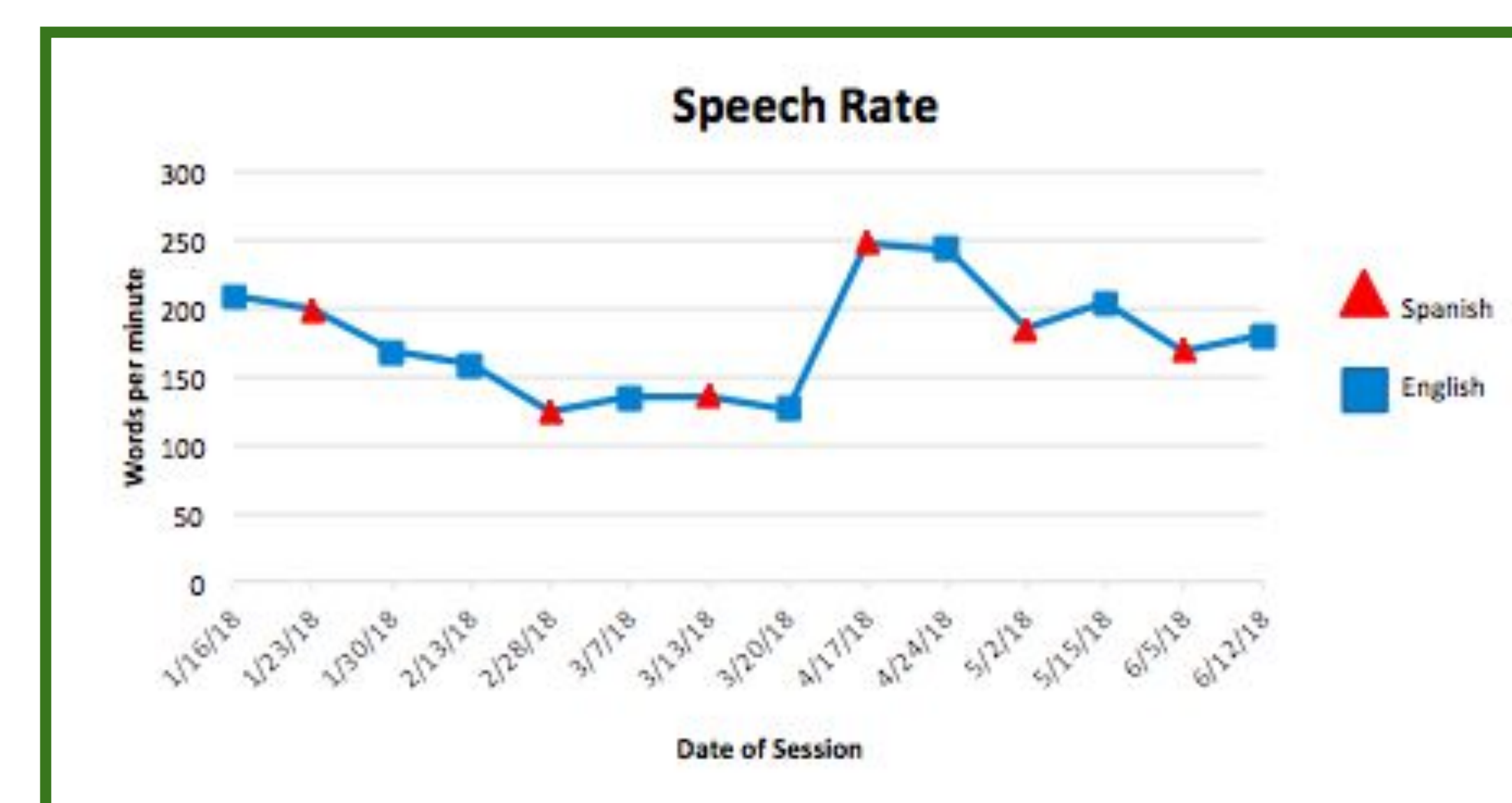


Figure 4a. Speech rate across sessions in words per minute (WPM)



Qualitative data for Participant 2 indicated that he spoke about and reflected on his attitudes and emotion towards his stuttering more when the session was conducted in Spanish, his dominant language.

CONCLUSION The results of this study are preliminary. Based on these case studies, cross-language transfer was present after addressing speech rate and stuttering modification techniques in therapy. Taken together, qualitative and quantitative findings support the value of providing therapy in both languages to meet the different demands that the participants faced in their two language environments.