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Title: Rethinking Covert Stuttering

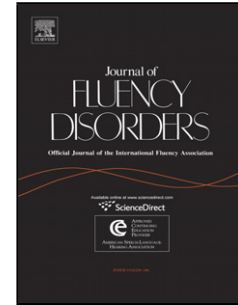
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Rethinking Covert Stuttering

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Highlights

- A more nuanced definition of covert stuttering is proposed
- An understanding passing as fluent as an inauthentic form of stuttering is rejected
- Instead passing is understood as an active resistance to a hostile environment
- Passing is produced through specific ways of relating to oneself and one's speech
- Ways of altering this relationship are suggested

1. Introduction

Stuttering is commonly understood as a speech disorder that manifests as part-word repetitions, prolongations, and blocks (Bloodstein & Bernstein Ratner, 2008). These are all overt speech events that carry acoustic and perceptual consequences that are available to the listener. However, some people who stutter are adept at obscuring the overt aspects of their disorder. They can speak without revealing to their speaking partner that they are a person who stutters, effectively passing as fluent speakers. Due to the secret nature of their stuttering, they are said to covertly stutter. These individuals are perhaps the best example that, at its core, the experience of stuttering is something that is felt and experienced rather than something that can be observed and measured by the listener (Moore & Perkins, 1990; Perkins, 1990).

Traditionally, passing has been attributed to pathological levels of social anxiety, moral failing or weakness, or the internalization of social stigma (Brune & Wilson, 2013; Douglass & Quarrington, 1952;

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