

**EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE DISORDER USED BY AUTISTIC MAIN
CHARACTER IN *PLEASE STAND BY* (2017) MOVIE**

Thesis

*Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain Strata One (S1)
Degree in English Department*



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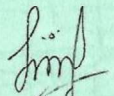
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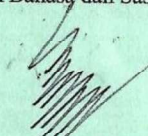
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ABSTRACT

Putri, Reza Augusti. 2021. *Expressive Language Disorder Used By Autistic Main Character In Please Stand By (2017) Movie*. Faculty of Language and Arts. Universitas Negeri Padang.

This research aims to find out the types of expressive language disorder used by the main character in *Please Stand By (2017)* movie through verbal impairment. This study used the descriptive qualitative method. The data source of this research is the movie script. Once collected, the data are categorized and analyzed based on each category. To increase the reliability of the data in this research, expert theories and methods were applied. Carroll (1985) categorizes autism language difficulties in speech into four forms and their language production. They are phonology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics. In this research, the researcher found that Wendy, the main character in this movie, had expressive language disorders. From the symptoms shown by Wendy through her speech, the researcher found that Wendy experienced several expressive language disorders, including syntactic disorders with an occurrence percentage of 59.26%, semantic disorders with an occurrence percentage of 18.52%, and pragmatic disorders with an occurrence percentage of 22.22%. From these percentages, it can be seen that the type of expressive language disorder that is often experienced by the main character in the *Please Stand By (2017)* movie is syntactic language disorder.

Keywords, is: language disorder, expressive disorder, verbal impairment, autism, *Please Stand By (2017)*

ABSTRAK

Putri, Reza Augusti. 2021. *Expressive Language Disorder Used By Autistic Main Character In Please Stand By (2017) Movie*. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni. Universitas Negeri Padang.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan tipe gangguan bahasa ekspresif yang dialami oleh penderita autistic pada movie *Please Stand By (2017)* melalui verbal impairment. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber data dari penelitian ini adalah naskah movie. Setelah terkumpul, data dikategorikan dan dianalisis berdasarkan kategori masing-masing. Untuk meningkatkan kepercayaan data dalam penelitian ini, teori dan metode ahli diterapkan. Carroll (1985) mengkategorikan kesulitan bahasa autisme dalam berbicara menjadi empat bentuk dan produksi bahasa mereka. Mereka adalah fonologi, sintaksis, semantik, dan pragmatik. Dari gejala yang ditunjukkan oleh Wendy melalui tutur katanya, peneliti menemukan bahwa Wendy mengalami beberapa gangguan bahasa ekspresif, antara lain gangguan sintaksis dengan persentase kejadian 59,26%, gangguan semantik dengan persentase kejadian 18,52%, dan gangguan pragmatik dengan persentase kejadian. 22,22%. Dari presentasi tersebut dapat diketahui bahwa jenis gangguan bahasa ekspresif yang sering dialami oleh tokoh utama dalam film *Please Stand By (2017)* adalah gangguan bahasa sintaksis.

Kata kunci: language disorder, expressive disorder, verbal impairment, autism, Please Stand By (2017)

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research Problem

Language disorder is a disorder of communication that causes the sufferer to have difficulty in learning and using various forms of language (i.e., spoken, written, sign language). The language skills of people with language disorders are usually far below their age average, which limits their ability to communicate or participate in academic, social, or professional fields. When they begin to learn and use language, the symptoms of language disorder first appear in the early stages of development.

Individuals with language disorders as stated by the American Psychiatric Association in the journal Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (2013: 5th ed.), that individuals with language disorders usually speak with grammatical errors, have a bit of vocabulary, and sometimes have difficulty to find the right words. So that the language or sentences they produce tend to be short and simple. When communicating, people with language disorders usually also have difficulty telling a coherent story and conveying important information and points about what they are discussing. Because individuals with a language disorder may have difficulty understanding what other people say, they may have an unusually hard time following directions. Usually, these difficulties refer to language dysfluency. Language disfluency happens because of an inability to use

language to express a language known as expressive language disorder and inability to give responses known as a receptive language disorder.

Expressive language is the ability to express oneself through speech, movement, writing, or other forms of expression that aim to convey or deliver an idea or thought to others. As described by Kid Sense Developing a Bright Future (2016), stated that expressive language is the use of words, sentences, gestures, and writing to convey meaning and messages to others. Expressive language skills include being able to label objects in the environment, describe actions and events, put words together in sentences, use grammar correctly, retell a story, answer questions and write a short story. In contrast to expressive language, receptive language is the ability to understand information. It involves understanding the words, sentences, and meaning of what others say or what is read. Although these two things are very interesting to be studied, the analysis in this research will focus only on expressive language, peculiarly in expressive language disorder.

Expressive language skills or the ability to pronounce are very important in everyday life because when someone needs help or wants something, he/she will easily convey it to those around, and other people can also easily understand what is needed and wanted. However, some people suffer from language disorders. One of the individuals, who experience expressive language disorder is an autism sufferer.

In people with autism, the ability to use expressive language in terms of speaking is experiencing obstacles. As it is known that autism is a developmental

disorder that includes disturbances in language/communication, social interaction, and behavior. Individuals with autism have difficulty communicating verbally. Field (2003: 93) states that individuals with expressive language disorder have difficulty using language. They cannot express their needs, wants, and feelings. As for those who can speak, they also face difficulties in language, and the language used is also often repeated and sometimes cannot be understood by the interlocutor.

The language of autism sufferers in expressive language disorder involved verbal and nonverbal impairment. Verbal has to do with the failure to convey communication verbally through words and phrases. Whereas, nonverbal impairment is indicated by autism when they are not able to express emotions in a descriptive word or phrase.

Not only in everyday life but indications of people with autism can also be found in many movies. Currently, many movie producers tell the story of the struggle of someone with special needs in living their life in society. There are also many moral messages displayed in this type of movie such as love, family, friendship, society, and others. Movies as a media are now also used as a data source for research. The focus of studies related to movies is also diverse and many, such as pictures (graphics), stories (plots), and even the language used by the actors. In the study of language, the movie can assist researchers in collecting the data for the study. In movies the audience can grasp verbal and nonverbal information. Through verbal, viewers can capture the information through conversations spoken by the characters. While nonverbal, the audience can grasp

the information through body language, intonation, and expression are played by actors.

The researcher is interested in the above phenomena and wants to apply and increase linguistic knowledge to analyze expressive language disorders experienced by autism sufferers. The researcher also found several other researchers who had conducted similar or related research with autism sufferers in movies. Among them is research done by Evi (2016), Suherman (2015), Resti, Jufriзал, and Marlina (2019), and Nafiah (2008). In addition, there are also several researchers who conducted similar research with autism sufferers in real life. Among them is Octavia (2018). Furthermore, there is also another researcher who conducts related research on language disorders. However, the object the focus of the research is different. In previous studies, researchers took research data from people with autism but in this research, the researcher took data from stroke sufferers. As analyzed by Hilfa (2018) in her research entitled *The Syntactical Analysis of the Influence of Speech Therapy to Post Stroke Patients with Broca's Aphasia's Speech Ability*. Based on the previous studies above, the researcher found gaps that could be further investigated in the language skills of people with autism. This is because the previous researchers still left several problems that could be investigated further.

This research tries to reveal the language disorder of the expressive ability of the speech process of people with autism in the movie *Please Stand By (2017)*. The difference between this research and previous research is that this research will focus on expressive language through verbal. In addition, how it is

represented in terms of cores of areas of linguistics (phonology, syntac, pragmatic, and semantic).

The researcher uses the movie and transcript *Please Stand By (2017)* as research objects that show the verbal process of expressive abilities of people with autism. A movie is a play that tells a story that is played by several people with literary aspects. As explained by Agustin, Mulyani, and Sulistiono (1999:93), it is explained that a movie is also a literary work consisting of literary and staging aspects. The literary aspect in the movie is in the form of a scenario. The intrinsic elements of the movie consist of theme, message, plot, disposition/characterization, conflict, dialogue, artistic arrangement (makeup, lighting, clothing, property, stage setting, actors, director, clothing, sound system, audience), casting (role determination), and acting (movement demonstration of the players). From this explanation, it can be seen that movies can also be studied from a literary point of view (language). The researcher chose a movie as data analysis in this research because movies use expressive language as a medium to convey messages or stories to the audience, this can be seen from the visualization and vocalizations played by the players.

The researcher chose *Please Stand By (2017)* as research data because this movie shows how people with autism can interact and establish social relationships with other people in their daily lives. This movie plays a woman with autism as the main character, not like most movies that play a male as the main character. For example in the movie *My Name is Khan (2010)* which has a man with autism as the main character, and the movie *Mercury Rising (1998)* it

also features a boy as the main focus. At other times, the researcher can get a charming depiction of autism, and expects more narrative like this. Wendy's character is intelligent, resourceful, and believes in herself. The struggle of autism is humanized in this movie. Wendy is front and center in this picture and is not distracted by another narrative. The researcher considers this movie as a good data source for this research as a whole.

A very significant difference or very visible from this research with previous research is the perspective of this research. The researcher takes the study of linguistics as the point of view of this research because linguistics involves a vast, complex and systematic study, with different core areas such as phonology, syntax, pragmatics and semantics. It is also intertwined with various other disciplines and contains fields like sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, etc. It also encompasses the analysis of every aspect of language, as well as the methods for studying and modeling them.

1.2 Identification of Research Problem

Based on the research background above, Individuals with language disorders may have impaired receptive or expressive abilities or both. Receptive ability refers to the process of receiving and understanding language, while expressive ability refers to the production of verbal signals or gestures. Overall, sufferers of this condition have deficiencies in understanding and producing vocabulary, sentence structure, and discourse, they also have a limited capacity to engage in conversation.

A person with receptive language disorder usually has difficulty understanding what is being said to him or her. In most cases, people with receptive language problems also have expressive language disorders, which means they have difficulty using spoken language. Another name for receptive language disorder is a deficit in language comprehension. There is no standard symptom set that suggests receptive language disorder, as it varies from individual to individual. However, symptoms may include; not listening when spoken, appearing less interested when a book is read, difficulty understanding the meaning of words and sentences, difficulty remembering all the words in a sentence to understand what has been read, inability to understand complex sentences, and inability to follow verbal instructions, especially if the instructions are long or complicated.

When someone experiences expressive language disorder, it affects their ability to express their feelings, needs, and thoughts through verbal and non-verbal communication (Hartanto et al, 2011: 387). Verbal relates to the inability to express communication through spoken words and sentences. It involves phonological disorders (speech sounds). This disorder causes the sufferer to experience difficulty pronouncing the sound of a word or sentence. In pronouncing a language, several phonological errors were found, namely deleting phonemes and syllables, changing phonemes, adding phonemes, and disturbances caused by stuttering when pronouncing a word. Syntactic disorder (echolalia), this disorder causes the sufferer to repeat the word or phrase that is often heard. Semantic disorders (meaning of words), this disorder causes sufferers to have

difficulty conveying messages and receiving messages properly. The last one is pragmatic disorder (social communication), this disorder causes sufferers to have difficulty communicating with other people. This happens because the sufferer has a weakness in understanding the context of a conversation. Which results in problems in daily conversation. Meanwhile, non-verbal relates to inability through writing. One of the children who experience verbal and non-verbal expressive language disorders is a person with autism.

1.3 Limitation of Research Problem

Related to the problem identification above, this research will be limited to the analysis of one type of language disorder, namely expressive language disorder through verbal in autism sufferers. This research will focus on communication problems between individuals with autism by the main character in the movie and how people with autism use expressive language through verbal in the movie *Please Stand By (2017)*.

1.4 Formulation of Research Problem

Related to the limitations of the problem above, the formulation of the problem from this research is to know the types of expressive language disorder used by an autism sufferer through verbal impairment in *Please Stand By (2017)* movie.

1.5 Research Question

The formulation of the problem above is elaborated in the following research question:

What kinds of expressive language disorder in verbal impairment are produced by an autism sufferer of the main character in *Please Stand By (2017)* movie?

1.6 Purpose of The Research

To describe what kinds of expressive language disorder through verbal impairment are produced by an autism sufferer in *Please Stand By* movie.

1.7 Significance of The Research

The significance of the research is as follows:

Theoretically:

1. This research is expected to give additional knowledge to people who are interested in learning a linguistics study on language disorders.
2. This research is expected to give additional knowledge about how the autism sufferer used expressive language to communicate through verbal.
3. This research is expected to contribute to enriching the knowledge and understanding of other writers in the field of linguistics, especially in language disorders.
4. This research is expected to contribute to the world of education as a material for analyzing literary works, especially for students of the English and Literature Department.

Practically:

1. This research is expected to give additional knowledge to people about language disorders in people with autism.

1.8 Definitions of the Key Term

a. **Language disorder:**

Language disorder is an impairment or deviant development of comprehension and/or use of a spoken, written, and/or another symbol system. The disorder may involve: the form of language, the content of language, and/or the function of language in communication in any combination.

b. **Expressive language disorder:**

Expressive language disorder means difficulty in conveying or expressing information in speech writing, sign language, and gesture.

c. **Verbal impairment:**

Inability to use the word to convey messages orally. It involved phonological disorder, syntactic disorder, and pragmatic disorder.

d. **Autism:**

A complex neurobehavioral condition that includes impairments in social interaction and developmental language and communication skills combined with rigid, repetitive behaviors.

e. **Please Stand By (2017)**

Please Stand By is the American comedy-drama film in 2017, starring Dakota Fanning as Wendy and directed by Ben Lewin and is based on

the 2008 short drama of the same name by Michael Giamco, who also wrote the screenplay.