

Speech Disorders in Deaf People

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Abstract

Speech impairment in deaf people is a complex challenge in the context of learning and communication development. This study aims to determine speech production by deaf people. This research used a qualitative approach with the subject of the research is a single subject aged 50 years. Data was collected through interviews with the family of the deaf person and observation of a single subject aged 50 years who also had a speech disorder and mental health problems. This research shows that there is one statement from the respondent said that "she sometimes gets frustrated and angry when what she wants to say cannot be conveyed properly, which disturbs her mental health". That is one of the main causes so that they can be mental health. Therefore further research is needed to understand more about speech impairment in deaf people and to develop more effective intervention strategies. By combining these findings, we can gain a better understanding of the complexities of speech impairment in deaf people and formulate recommendations for clinical practice and future research.

Keywords: *Deaf People, Speech Disorder, Psycholinguistics*

Introduction

Deafness is a condition that affects a person's hearing function, which can have a significant impact on their communication abilities. Limitations in speech perception and spoken language can cause a number of challenges in the development of speaking and communication skills. In this context, speech disorders are an area that requires special attention, because it can affect a person's ability to interact effectively with the surrounding environment. (Alothman; 2021). Although there are many factors that can influence an individual's speaking ability, both biologically and environmentally, this research will focus on deaf people. This group has unique characteristics that differentiate it from the rest of the population without hearing loss. Thus, an in-depth understanding of speech disorders in deaf people is important to improve their quality of life and increase their participation in various aspects of life. (Cawthon et al; 2021)

Speaking is defined as "saying words orally, communicating as by talking, making a request, and giving a speech" by the Webster New World Dictionary. Chaney defines speaking as the act of creating and conveying meaning through the use of both verbal and nonverbal symbols in various settings (Yairi et al 2020). Brown defined Speaking is a collaborative

process of meaning-making that involves information production, reception, and processing. Spoken text is defined as a cooperative effort involving two or more individuals within a common time and environment. Speaking is a collaborative process that necessitates collaboration to handle speaking turns (Felhofer et al; 2022). Speaking is a skill that is often underappreciated, according to Bygate. It could be that we take speaking for granted because we can do it virtually all the time. Nonetheless, speaking is a linguistic ability. They should be evaluated on this ability more than on literary ones, as it is the one that is used to evaluate them the most through which they may make or lose friends. (Leigh et al; 2020)

Language and speaking processes are two different things. Language is a verbal tool used to communicate, while language itself is the process of conveying information in that communication. The language process is a mental process that occurs when we speak or the mental process that is the basis for when we hear, understand and remember can be explained by a cognitive system that exists in humans. (Harris et al; 2020). Hearing loss is loss of hearing in one or both ears. There are five different categories for hearing loss severity: mild, moderate, moderately severe, severe, and very severe. The process of hearing starts when sound waves enter the ear and cause the eardrum to vibrate (Leigh et al; 2022)

Mazouzi contends that the equivalency between accuracy and fluency attainment should guide the design of learning activities. A key component of the communicative method is accuracy as well as fluency. Students can improve their verbal ability through classroom practice. Consequently, students ought to be aware of how the linguistic system functions. (Mariana et al; 2018). Fluency is the first and most important quality of a speaking performance. Hughes defines fluency as the ability of learners to communicate in a way that is understandable without disrupting conversation since the audience may become disinterested. According to Hedge, being fluent in speaking involves connecting words and sentences, clearly pronouncing sounds, and employing stress and intonation to give a logical response. (Shezi et al; 2020)

Speaking performance's precision is its second quality. Students should speak a foreign language fluently. The last characteristic is comprehension. The main component of this part how people understand about the topic that is talked between two people or more. (Miceli et al; 2022). Characteristic of Speaking, Fluency, Performance, and Comprehension. Previous research has revealed various challenges faced by deaf people in language and communication development. Delays in mastering vocabulary, difficulties in pronouncing words, and difficulties in understanding and using language structures are some of the problems that are often faced. Apart from that, psychosocial aspects such as social isolation, stress, and low self-confidence are also often associated with speech disorders in deaf people. (Tanner et al; 2024)

Therefore, this research aims to better understand the characteristics of speech disorders in deaf people, as well as the factors that influence their language and communication development (Tyler et al; 2020). Thus, it is hoped that this research can provide a valuable contribution in efforts to improve the quality of life and social integration for deaf people.

Method

The research approach used in this research is qualitative research. Qualitative research is research conducted in natural object conditions (Sugiyono; 2010). A similar opinion was expressed study using a qualitative approach uses language and word descriptions in a unique, natural setting to try and comprehend the phenomena that study participants actually experience. (Nofiaturrehma; 2018). The researcher used some techniques in collecting the data, namely using interview, observation and documentation. Explains that an interview is a meeting between two people to exchange ideas and obtain information through questions and answers, leading to communication and a shared creation of meaning around a specific issue. (Esterberg; 2002). The researcher will explain that there are three part of interview, namely:

1. **Structured interview:** A structured interview is a method for gathering data when the researcher is aware of the information they will be gathering. Thus, in conducting this interview, the researcher has supplied the research tool, which is the alternative question along with its response. In a structured interview, each participant is asked the same question, and the researcher is required to record the response.
2. **Semi-structured interview:** This type of interview is referred to as an in-depth interview since it allows for greater application freedom than a scheduled interview. This interview's main goal is to fully understand the issue, at which point the respondent is asked for ideas and their opinions. When conducting an interview, the researcher must carefully listen to the respondent's response and record it in writing
3. **Unstructured Interview:** Unstructured interviews are conducted without the researcher using notes or structured interview techniques to gather data. The researcher just makes use of the primary argument of the question that will be posed.

Therefore in this case the researcher used semi-structured interview to get the result. Thus, the research report contained data quotations to provide an overview of the presentation of the report. This data comes from interviews, field notes, photos, videos and personal documents (Meleong et al; 2005). Choosing a qualitative research method, this research attempted to collect descriptive data which was mostly used in the form of reports and descriptions and did not prioritize statistical figures although it did not reject quantitative data. Therefore, this research seeks to obtain a real picture of speech disorders in deaf people. The researcher conducted interviews using several questions with the help of the respondent's family (her nephew).

Results and Discussion

Based on the result of interviews with respondents, it can be concluded that respondent has difficulty pronouncing phoneme sounds. Since the beginning, the respondent has never used hearing aids and has never done speech therapy. The respondent always struggles when trying to speak, her voice sounds clear but it is very difficult for her to pronounce words and spell words correctly. Despite this, respondents still look confident when talking with others. (Núñez et al; 2023)

According to one of the families that the researchers interviewed, support from family and relatives has been quite good for her speech impairment. The family often tried to engage her in normal conversation, but she felt very frustrated because she could not hear them or catch their meaning. There are several factors that could have exacerbated her speech impairment, one of which is. She was never treated by a professional since childhood, and also the social situation was not supportive and did not facilitate her to learn to communicate with other normal people because she was never equipped with sign language from the beginning. She also suffered from mental health problems, she was often found talking to herself as if she was chatting with someone and of course using her own sign language, which was sometimes not understood by the family. (Quinto et al; 2020)

According to her family there is result from the interview. Below the result of the interview from her family. "She sometimes gets frustrated and angry when what she wants to say cannot be conveyed properly, which disturbs her mental health". One of the things that cause her to be very frustrated is the family environment that has limitations in communicating with her because from the beginning the family was also not equipped with good and correct sign language knowledge. The treatment for her is actually very late, considering her advanced age and also her mental health which is quite severe. But actually even though it was very late, she still needed professional treatment for her mental health problems. Although it will also be very difficult, given that she will not be able to explain what she feels in detail. (Ramkumar et al; 2023)

The causes of hearing loss or deafness can also occur before the person is born, or after the person is born.

1. Factors before the child is born (pre natal): (a) Hereditary factors Chickenpox, (b) Measles (Rubella, Gueman measles). (c) Toxaemia (blood poisoning). (d) Use of large amounts of pills or drugs. (e) Lack of oxygen (anoxia). (f) Hearing organ abnormalities from birth
2. Factors when the child is born (natal)
3. Faktor Rhesus (Rh) mother and child are similar: (a) Children born pre-mature. (b) The child was born using forceps (forceps tool). (c) The birth process is too long
4. Factors after the child is born (post natal): (a) Infection, (b) Meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain), (c) Hereditary perceptive deafness, (d) Chronic otitis media, (e) Infection of the respiratory organs.

The researcher concluded that the factors that cause speech impairment are pre natal (heredity), natal (congenital from the mother's side), post natal (otitis media). Deafness is a term that refers to a condition in which a child's hearing organs or ears are dysfunctional. This condition causes them to have distinctive characteristics, different from normal people in general.

Characteristics of Deaf People:

1. Social – Emotional: (a) Frequent suspicion and prejudice. This attitude is due to their hearing impairment. They cannot understand what other people are talking about so deaf

people become suspicious easily, (b) Often being aggressive. Deaf people are aggressive because they feel they cannot interpret what others are saying. Deaf people also have abnormalities in their hearing function that cause obstacles in communicating with people who can hear. This of course can hinder the development of their potential.

2. Intellectual: (a) Intellectual ability is normal. Deaf children basically do not have intellectual problems. But due to limitations in communication and language, intellectual development is slowed down, (b) Academic development is slow due to language limitations. There is often a delay in intellectual development due to communication barriers, but deaf children also experience delays in their academic performance.
3. Language: (a) She does not have much vocabulary, (b) Difficulty interpreting words that contain idiomatic expressions, and (c) The grammar is less organized.

Emotional and Social Characteristics:

1. Egocentrism that exceeds that of normal children.
2. They have a fear of the wider environment.
3. Dependence on others.
4. Their attention is harder to divert.
5. They are generally innocent, simple and without many problems.

Needs of DeafPeople

1. The need for biological regularity such as the need to eat, drink, sleep, play, and so on.
2. The need to be an integral part of the family. Deaf people need reasonable treatment, to participate in the joys and sorrows and activities just like other family members.
3. The need for success in an activity both individually and collectively. Deaf children want all efforts to achieve satisfactory results both for themselves and for others, even though deaf children must experience various obstacles and difficulties as a result of their disability.
4. The need for activity, which is the need to be involved in family activities and in the wider environment. As with other normal children, deaf children also want to engage in play with their peers.
5. The need for freedom, that is, he needs freedom to act, to take initiative, to be free to take responsibility for his own actions. Deaf people do not want to always be bound by others. The freedom that deaf children need is not absolute freedom, but freedom with certain limits.
6. Health needs. Deaf people need a healthy, strong body and are able to protect themselves from various diseases.
7. The need for expression, which is the need to express opinions that can be understood by others. Deaf people need reasonable communication guidance to be able to express their thoughts, feelings, and will to others.

This need for expression is not only related to communication problems, but also other forms of expression such as drawing, role-playing, doing other activities or work that can represent the outpouring of their heart. (Rizal et al; 2023)

Conclusion

Based on the results of the above research, it can be concluded that the importance of early identification of speech disorders in deaf people to start interventions as soon as possible. This study highlights the unique challenges, limitations in verbal and non-verbal communication. The results show certain intervention methods are effective in helping deaf people overcome their speech impairment, such as speech therapy or the use of assistive listening technology. In this case, the importance of family support in the intervention and rehabilitation process of deaf people with speech impairment. This study shows that further research is needed to understand more about speech impairment in deaf people and to develop more effective intervention strategies. By combining these findings, we can gain a better understanding of the complexities of speech impairment in deaf people and formulate recommendations for clinical practice and future research.

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