The Characteristics of Stuttering in the Utterances of an Indonesian Male Adult with Developmental Stuttering

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Abstract

This research aims at analyzing the characteristics of stuttering utterances including repetition, prolongation and block occurred in the male adult stutter. In this research, the researcher took the data by recording the face to face conversation and conversation through mobile phone. Then, the researcher analyzed the finding with the theory of characteristics of stuttering utterances proposed by Syder (1992). Moreover, there were the classifications of the word classes in each characteristics of stuttering utterances based on the Indonesian syntactical category in content and function words proposed by Alwi, et al. (2003). Based on the data analysis, the researcher found that the participant produced all the three characteristics of stuttering utterances including repetition, prolongation and block. The findings showed that the characteristics of stuttering utterances were mostly occurred in the words which begin with the consonant followed by vowel. Repetition was the most frequent character produced by the participant. Additionally, the repetition, prolongation and block mostly happened in content word, especially noun. Furthermore, there was an additional result which occurred in the setting of conversation through mobile phone. There was a long pause in the beginning of the conversation.

Keyword: Stuttering, Developmental Stuttering, Repetition, Prolongation, and Blocks.

1. Introduction

Speaking is one of the most complex cognitive operations that human beings perform. One of the ways that human conveys the message to be understood by the addressee is through the speech. Indeed, it relates to the process of speech production which involves the speaker’s brain where impulses along the motor nerves are sent to the muscles of the vocal organs. Beside the involvement of the speech organs and mechanisms, there is also the linguistic knowledge to be the part in the speech production. In other words, human beings will speak fluently if there is no troubles in the speech mechanisms and understand the linguistic knowledge well. However, there can be a problem that occurs in the speech production which has the relation to the fluency disorder such as stuttering. Hence, stuttering is commonly known as the part of communication disorders.

Communication disorders are the types of disorders which involve a wide variety of problems in speech and language. Syder (1992:21) stated that communication disorders are classified into six categories. The categories are disorders of language (e.g. developmental language disorders, dysphasias, schizophrenic language, the language of dementia), disorders of voluntary movement (e.g. dyspraxia), disorders of voice (e.g. dysphonia, pitch disorders), disorders of fluency (e.g. stuttering), and disorders of hearing (Syder, 1992: 21).

From the classification of the communication disorders above, the researcher is interested in focusing on the fluency disorder which is known as stuttering. In terms of stuttering, Syder (1992) stated that stuttering is the fluency disorder which characterized by repetition, prolongation and block. This type of fluency disorder usually happens in the beginning of the utterances. Moreover, twins might have a higher rate rather than 'single-born' children and more males than females experiencing stuttering (Bowen, 1999). In this research, there is a male adult who suffer the stuttering since the childhood. Bowen (1999) stated that if the onset of stuttering is from childhood, it will recovered in adulthood. However, there is a male adult who is not recovered this fluency disorder. Indeed, the researcher then wants to know more specific about the characteristics of utterance in stuttering in the male adult as the participant.
There is very limited research of stuttering in the aspect of language and use adult as the participant. Therefore, the researcher only uses the journals of stuttering which has been conducted in the aspect of language. There are several journals which became other references for the process in doing this study. The journal entitled *Influence of Public Speaking in the Control of Vowel Duration in Stuttering and Non-Stuttering Adults-Preliminary Result* which had been done by Langefelt, et al (2001). The other journal entitled *Neural Systems for Sentence Processing in Stuttering* which was done by Weber (2001). *Stuttering Frequency on Content and Function Words in Adult Who Stutter* conducted by Dayalu, et al (2002) become the other relates studies to support this research.

In specific, Langfelt, et al (2001) defined that the duration of vowel in adult with the context of public speaking determines whether they are stuttering or not. In this research, Langfelt (2001) used a public speaking situation because stuttering can occur more in this kind of situation. For the other research of stuttering in the aspect of language is the research from Weber (2001) which justified that sentence processing in stuttering which relates to the neural systems based on the syntactic terms. Moreover, Dayalu, et al (2002) concluded that the adult stutters mostly produce the content words rather than function words because the function words are limited in number and are used frequently.

The purpose of this case study in the field of psycholinguistics approach is to discover the characteristics of stuttering including the repetitions, prolongations and blocks which occur in the utterances of an Indonesian male adult with developmental stuttering. Moreover, the researcher wants to find out the most frequent characteristics of stuttering utterances which is produced by the participant of this research.

1. What characteristics of stuttering utterances are produced by an Indonesian male adult with developmental stuttering?
2. Which characteristics of stuttering utterances do dominate the utterances of an Indonesian male adult with developmental stuttering?

2. Method

2.1 Research Approach

This research uses qualitative approach because the result interpreted in the descriptive data. Indeed, the qualitative method is the appropriate method to analyze the data of this research. According to O’Cornor (2011), qualitative method does not necessarily have to be expressed in numbers. In addition, qualitative study is descriptive data which involves the case study of the phenomenon. In this research, the researcher only observes one participant. Therefore, it can be considered as case study. As O’Cornor (2011) stated that a case study occurs when all the information is about one unique offender, and wants to generalize about all offenders of that type.

2.2 Participant

The participant of the study is a male adult with developmental stuttering. In specific, the participant is a Javanese from middle class society. The participant is bilingual speakers of Javanese and Bahasa Indonesia. He uses Bahasa Indonesia and Javanese depend on the context. The age of the participant is twenty three years old. He was born as fraternal twin. According to Bowen (1999), fraternal or dizygotic (Dz) twins are from two different eggs being fertilized by two different sperm which have about 25% of their genes in common. Half of all fraternal twins are boy-girl twin pairs, a quarter are boy-boy, and the remaining 25% are girl-girl. Indeed, the participant of this research has a twin-sister. Both of them were born prematurely in the time of thirty two weeks or eight month. The weight of the participant of this research was only 1.4 kilogram with the length 39 cm and he had been in incubator for two month because of the low heart rate and low birth weight. His twin-sister does not suffer the stuttering as him. In other words, the participant’s twin sister speaks normally.

The onset of stuttering of the participant of this research is when he was three years old. This happen was in the stage of the child speech and language development. He can speak with the normal people and his IQ level is the same average of the normal people. Moreover, he suffered stuttering since he was a child until now. However, his stuttering occurs in the typical situations such as when he has a presentation in front of the audience, meet a new people and talk to other people through mobile phone. Then, he can speak more fluently if he is alone and talk to the people whom he knows well such as the member of his families.

2.3 Data Collection
In collecting data, the researcher makes an ethics clearance with the participant and the parent. At the first time, the researcher asks permission to the participant and his parent before conducting the research. The researcher sets a time to conduct an interview with him and his mother in order to know deeply about the background of the participant’s life. In this case, the researcher can be able to know the boundaries information which relates to the stuttering of the participant. The researcher conducts the face to face conversation 30 minutes. The natural conversation has been done with the particular topic.

The conversations are recorded at the same time in the process of doing the natural conversations. Indeed, tape recorder is the instrument for this research. The researcher records the natural conversations and notes the words that are indicated as the stuttering. The researcher also becomes the part of the natural conversations but it is only for observing the process of the natural conversation. In this part, the researcher uses other person to talk to the participant because the participant can be more stuttered when he meets a new people. This kind of situation makes the participant more stuttered due to the feeling of nervous. After that, the researcher identifies the words which are stuttered or difficulty produced by the participant from those set of the direct natural conversations.

2.4 Data Analysis

There are several steps done to analyze the data after the researcher collect the data. At first, the researcher transcribes the whole conversation into the orthographic transcription. Then, the researcher classifies the stuttering words and groups them into the characteristics of stuttering in terms of repetitions, prolongations and blocks which proposed by Syder (1992), then transcribes it with the Indonesian phonetics transcription. Indeed, the lists of the stuttering words are counted in order to know the most frequent characteristics occurred in the utterances of the participant. For the next step, the researcher drew the conclusion for this research.

3. Result

3.1 The characteristics of utterances in stuttering

According to Syder (1992), there are three characteristics of utterances in stuttering. The characteristics are repetition, prolongation and blocks. In this research, the participant produced those three characteristics of utterances in stuttering in the setting of face to face conversation.

3.1.1. Repetition

According to Syder (1992), repetitions are the sounds, words and phrases that are repeated. The occurrence of repetition in the utterances of the participant in the time of doing the face to face conversation can be formed as sound, syllable, word and phrase repetitions. From the data, the participant produced all the types of repetitions. The occurrence of those types of repetitions are at the beginning of a word with the various position in a sentence because it sometimes occurs at the beginning, middle and end of a sentence. Moreover, the data showed that repetitions, especially the syllable repetition are more highly produced rather than other characteristics of utterances in stuttering posposed by Syder (1992).

3.1.1.1 The sound repetition

In this research, the sound repetitions are found in both of face to face conversation. In the setting of face to face conversation, the sound repetition only occurs in one utterance. The examples of sound repetition produced by the participant in the setting of face to face conversation are as in the following below:

-Face to face conversation
(122) P Iya..masih jauh..apalagi di I-i-indonesia itu..

3.1.1.2. The syllable repetitions:

The syllable repetitions occurred in face to face conversation. The participant produced many times of the syllable repetitions. Moreover, many words with the consonant in the initial position then followed by vowel were mostly produced by the participant in terms of syllable repetition. However, the result showed that the participant sometime repeats the words which begin with the vowel in the initial position and followed by the consonant. The examples of the syllable repetitions produced by the participant are as in the following below:

-Face to face conversation
(120) P ..a-a-aiti (IT) luas sebenere itu jadi ka#lo dibilang..
3.1.1.3 The word repetitions

In this research, the participant produces the word repetitions in the face to face conversation and conversation through mobile phone. The word repetitions mostly produce in the words which begin with the consonant in the initial position. In the word repetition, the participant sometimes repeats once or more than twice. The examples of the word repetitions produced by the participant are:

-Face to face conversation
(106) P ..Kalo yang paling kecil mungkin lebih dekat ke saya...
(128) P ..Kalo kalo kalo salah ya ya ya maap aja..
(16) P Adik saya itu terus saya yang kedua.

3.1.1.4 The phrase repetitions

In this research, the participant produces the phrase repetitions in face to face conversation. Again, the words which begin with the consonant are mostly produced by the participant in this research. In specific, there are only two phrases repeated by the participant in the setting of face to face conversation. The example of the phrase repetition produced by the participant:

-Face to face conversation
(48) P kayak database database apotik.
(78) P Sering dipake buat ngumpul-ngumpul sama sahabat sama sahabat.

3.1.1.5 Prolongations

Syder (1992) stated that prolongations are a consonant may be extended beyond its normal length. In this research, the researcher found that the participant also produce the prolongations in the time of doing the direct natural conversation in the topic of families. The example of prolongations that the participant produced are as the following below

-Face to face conversation
(122) P ...kalo disini itu,jadi ya simpelnya IT..
P ada ya itu sering saya lihat.
(192) P ...dan jadi salah satu studi pokok sekolah..

3.1.1.6 Blocks

Syder (1992) defines blocks as the condition when a consonant is blocked part of the way through its production and either no sound at all or a distorted sound is produced. In this research, the researcher found blocks in the utterances of the participant. The listed of the stuttering words which relates to the term blocks can be seen as in the following below:

-Face to face conversation
P Na#maku A#ditya Risky.
(122) P jadi ya simpelnya IT teknologi ten#tang du#nialuar.
(212) P Ka#lo aku di di rumah si seringnya sih ya.

3.2 The frequency of the characteristics of utterances in stuttering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The setting of face to face conversation</th>
<th>The Characteristics of Stuttering</th>
<th>Total Syntactical Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repetition</td>
<td>Prolongation</td>
<td>Blocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faceto face conversation</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>49.42%</td>
<td>8.62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3.1. The frequency of each characteristics of utterance in stuttering in the participant

The result based on the table above showed that the repetition is the highest frequency in the characteristics of utterances in face to face conversation.

4. Discussion
The goal of this research is to find out the characteristics of stuttering including repetitions, prolongations and blocks proposed by Syder (1992) which produced by the participant from the stuttering words. The result also provides the frequency of the characteristics of utterances in stuttering which dominate the

From the result above, the participant of this result produced all the characteristics of stuttering including repetition, prolongations and blocks. The result showed that the characteristic of stuttering which mostly produced by the participant is repetition, especially syllable repetition, then followed by blocks and prolongation.

The terms of repetition, the participant of this research produced the syllable and word repetitions. The researcher can not find the phrase repetition which produced by the participant. All the types of repetition mostly occurred in the initial position of a word. The examples that the repetition occurred in the initial position of a word of the words are as in the following:

(122) P Iya..masih jauh..apalagi di I-i-indonesia itu..
(120) P ..a-a-aiti (IT) luas sebenere itu jadi ka#lo dibilang..
(138) P .. itu kan net-net-network terus mungkin gadget itu.
(128) P ..Kalo kalo kalo salah ya ya ya maap aja..

The repetition in the initial position of a word occurred in the words such as Indonesia, IT, network, kalaup and other words. The repetition also indicates that the participant often repeat the words which begin with the consonant in the initial position.

The data showed that the participant repeated the sound in three words which began with the vowel /i/. The participant repeated the words which consist of vowel in the beginning of a word and followed by the two consonant after vowel (Indonesia). The examples of utterance in the face to face conversation above could be known as the sound repetition because the word “Indonesia” actually consist of five syllable in which in-do-ne-si-a [in-do-ne-si-a], but the participant repeated the first sound of the word. The participant repeated the word Indonesia become “I-i-indonesia [i-i-indonesia].” In this type of repetition, the participant repeated the first sound of the words twice (i-i-indonesia) then uttered the full form of the word (Indonesia). Therefore, it was the part of the sound repetition.

In the face to face conversation, the result showed that the participant produced more syllable repetition in the words which begin with the consonant in the initial position and followed by the vowel. In this setting, the participant produces the the syllable repetition in the beginning of a word. However, there were many words as the part of syllable repetition produced by the participant. The examples of syllable repetition in the setting of face to face conversation above showed both of the words with the vowel and word with the consonant in the initial position produced by the participant.

From the examples above, the participant repeats the words “IT” into a-a-aiti, the word “network”. All the words are the part of the syllable repetitions because the participant utters the words into its syllable. In the example number 2, the participant utters the word IT (aiti) into a-a-aiti. In this case, the participant repeats the first syllable because the word IT (aiti) actually has three syllable a-i-ti. Therefore, that example includes as the syllable repetition. In this case, the participant repeats the first syllable twice a-a-aiti then utters the full form of the word (IT). Moreover, the last two examples also show that the participant also produces the syllable repetition. In the second and third example, the participant uttered the word “network” as net-net-network. Therefore it is also called as syllable repetition. Meanwhile, the word kalo, lebih, ya and saya are the word repetition because the participant repeats the word more than once.

In this case, the participant repeats those words because the feeling of nervous, afraid or other psychological symptoms which cause the participant repeats the parts of words. Beside the psychological symptoms, the cause of the repetition is due to the forms of a word itself. The repeated words are mostly the part of noun which many forms of words. Indeed, the participant feel difficult to retrieve, select and utter the target word.

In terms of prolongations, the result showed that this character of stuttering has less frequent from the first characters, repetition. The participant of this research mostly prolongs the words which have the consonant in the initial position. The example of the prolongation which occurred in the utterances of the participant are:

Face to face conversation
(122) P ...kalo disini itu..jadi ya ssimpelnya IT..
P...ada ya itu sssering saya lihat.

In the setting of face to face conversation, the participant produced the prolongation in the several words which began with /s/ in the initial position. The examples of prolongation in the setting of face to face conversation are simpelnya, sering and other words. The participant prolongs the first sound of a word. The examples above can be known as prolongation because the sound /s/ is prolonged in which become “sssimpelnya” [sssimpalni]. The other word prolonged by the participant are the word sering. The participant prolonged those words became [ɔsssarĩ]. Therefore, those examples are the part of prolongations.

Again, the participant tends to prolong several words which begin with /s/ consonant because the fear that he has. Actually, the context, situation, mood influence the participant to be more stuttered or speak fluently. Then, the participant tends to prolong the words as stated in the example above because he faces the difficulty to select the right words correctly.

Blocks as the other character of stuttering, has the smallest range of frequency in the utterances of the participant. The term of blocks actually has unpredictable position which is uttered by the participant. This term sometimes occurs in the beginning, middle and last of the words and sentences. There are sort of example of the blocks that are produced by the participant as in the following below:

P Na#makuAditya Risky.
(122) P .jadi ya sssimpelnya IT teknologi ten#tang du#nia luar.
(212) P Ka#lo aku di di di rumah si seringnya sih ya.

In the setting of face to face conversation, the participant produces blocks such as in the word namaku, Aditya, tentang, dunia and kalo. It can be said as the blocks because there are broken words in the utterances of the participant. For example, the word “namaku” uttered as na#maku [nam#maku], the word “tentang” uttered as ten#tang [tan#tang] and it also for other example words. Therefore, those words were the part of blocks. The occurrence of blocks could not be predicted due to the its position in a sentence. Moreover, blocks usually occur in the first syllable of a word.

In general, the participant produced the three characteristics of utterances in stuttering as the theory of Syder (1992). The data showed that all the characteristics of utterances in stuttering produced by the participant are in the beginning of a word with the various position of a sentence. The three characteristics of utterances in stuttering are produced by the participant due the psychological symptoms and the parts of the word itself. The feeling of nervous, fear and the context of situation influence the rate of stuttering. Moreover, the part of word are also being the other factor which cause the stuttering of the participant. Specifically, it happens in the parts of words which has a lot of synonyms in a language and the words derived from other language such as network, IT, instal and other words.

For the next result is about the frequency of the characteristics of utterances in stuttering produced by the participant. The table showed about the numbers and the percentage of each characteristics of utterances in stuttering produced by the participant. From the table above, it can be known that the repetition is the highest percentage of the stuttering rate. The numbers of repetition that the participant produced are 86 repetitions or 49.42% from the total all the characteristics of utterances in stuttering produced by the participant. Then, the second range for the highest frequency in the characteristics of utterances in stuttering is blocks. From the table, it can be seen that the participant produced 73 blocks or 41.95%. The numbers of blocks are almost the same as the numbers of the repetitions. Then, the smallest frequency of the characteristics of utterances in stuttering is prolongation. The table above showed that the participant only produces 15 prolongation or 8.62% from the total numbers of the characteristics of utterance in stuttering in the setting of face to face conversation.

5. Conclusion

The participant of this research produces the three characters of stuttering including of repetitions, prolongations and blocks which mostly occurred in the beginning of a word with the consonant in the initial position. Moreover, the result showed that the characteristics of stuttering which mostly occurred is the repetition, especially syllable repetition. Then, the next character which mostly produced by the participant is blocks then followed by the numbers of prolongation. Overall, the result shows that the words with the
consonant in the initial position and the stuttering in the beginning of a word are difficulty uttered fluently by the participant of this research.

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