

VERBAL EXPRESSION DISORDER MOON SANG TAE CHARACTER: PERSON WITH AUTISM IN KOREAN DRAMA IT'S OKAY NOT TO BE OKAY (PSYCHOLINGUISTIC STUDY)

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ABSTRACT

In psycholinguistic studies, there is discussion regarding verbal expression disorders, a person's inability to use language to express their feelings. This research aims to analyze and describe forms of verbal expression disorders in utterances from people with Autism, such as the character Moon Sang Tae in the Korean drama It's Okay Not to Be Okay. For this purpose, researchers used descriptive qualitative research. The data analyzed comes from two sources, namely primary data sources in the form of utterances of the character Moon Sang Tae from the Korean drama It's Okay to Not Be Okay and secondary data sources in the form of scientific journals, proceedings, articles and books related to relevant psycholinguistics. With the research topic raised. Data was collected by listening to the drama and noting essential things related to verbal expression disorders. The results of language disorders due to the autism spectrum experienced by the character Moon Sang Tae in the Korean drama Its Okat to Not Be Okay are 183 data, divided into 50 data on social interaction disorders, 62 data on communication disorders and 71 data on behavioural pattern disorders.

Keywords: Psycholinguistics, verbal expression disorders, Moon Sang Tae character.

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INTRODUCTION

Language plays an essential role in our daily lives. Language is the only human property that has never been separated from human activities throughout life as social beings. Language is used from waking up to bedtime (Di et al., 2019). Language acts as a medium for conveying ideas, interacting, and communicating. Language refers to terms for describing meaning and thought in linguistic systems used as the basis for transporting thoughts (Tarigan, 2019). Clear language can help people communicate well with each other. Without language, communication cannot be done well, and the information conveyed will not be easily understood. Therefore, language helps humans express themselves (Hastuti & Neviyarni, 2021). Language development and cognitive development are closely related and interconnected. Language development is an indicator of children's mental abilities, which ultimately affects their success in the future (Mufidah & Antono, 2019). As children develop, the language they acquire is not solely used to convey their desires or desires but is used as a means of communicating (Lili Herawati Parapat, 2022).

As mentioned earlier, language skills are of four types: listening, reading, writing, and speaking (Susini, 2020). Speaking skills are skills that a person needs to interact with others verbally. For more details (Ratih & Nuryani, 2020) explained that how a person can master language skills is closely related to a person's psychological development. Expressive language is speaking and writing down information to communicate with others. That is why language skills must develop in human life because with language, humans can interact and talk about anything (Fahrudin et al., 2022).

Since childhood, a person can speak and understand language naturally according to his psychological development. However, this is different for children with Autistic symptoms. Autism is one of *the pervasive* developmental disorders (GPP) and is included in autistic spectrum disorder or ASD (*Autistic Spectrum Disorder*). They experience *pervasive developmental disorders* due to impaired social interaction and communication skills (Iskandar & Indaryani, 2020). People with Autism often have difficulty conveying intent in the communication process, characterized by weak articulation, stammering speech, and difficulty performing other verbal expressions (Julianto & Umami, 2022).

Psycholinguistics focuses on one form of language expression, which is one of the essential indicators of language thinking. Psycholinguistics refers to language thinking that can describe the form of ideas, emotions, and symbols that produce systematic thought patterns that make humans learn thoughts and digest language (Julianto, 2022).

A field of study called psycholinguistics is focused on language disorders. Speech disorders, language disorders, thinking disorders, and social environment disorders are the four categories in which language problems are included. The human psyche, or the state of mind in the circumstances we experience or find in the environment, is the focus of psycholinguistic language problems. (Chaer, 2009) said that, medically, language disorders can be divided into three, namely (1) speech disorders, (2) language disorders, and (3) thinking disorders.

In the Korean drama, *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Moon Sang Tae is portrayed as a character who has difficulty processing certain information and has difficulty speaking and recognizing other people's emotions due to suffering from autism spectrum disorder. In the drama, Moon Sang Tae's character never looks into the eyes of his interlocutor when communicating. In addition, Moon Sang Tae also has limited interests and says the same lines repeatedly and is often seen in his own "world". This is depicted in several episodes that show the character Moon Sang Tae, who always holds tightly to the dinosaur encyclopedia. This study focused on the verbal expression disorder of Moon Sang Tae's character because he is autistic and has a language disorder.

Previously, there was also a similar study that explained the condition of language disorders. One of them is a study conducted by Aziz Fauzi and friends with the research title "Analysis of Language Disorders in Jasmine Characters in the Film *Moga Bunda Disayang Allah: A Psycholinguistic Study*" in 2023 (Fauzi et al., 2022). This study focuses on Melati's psychological condition, which is blind and deaf. A deaf person has hearing impairments, so Jasmine uses sign language as a medium to communicate. He is a patient with deafness due to neurological disorders. This disease has social, behavioural, and linguistic effects, i.e. language disorder, which is the inability of individuals to use and understand verbal and nonverbal dialogue. This study used qualitative research techniques with a descriptive approach. The following research entitled *Psycholinguistic Study of Communication Skills of Down Syndrome Children Who Are Classified as Able to Train* was conducted by Indra Rasyid Julianto in 2022 (Julianto & Umami, 2022). This study examines verbal and nonverbal communication skills with psycholinguistic studies that focus on Down syndrome children who are categorized as able to train and include lexical and grammatical abilities. The method in this study uses qualitative descriptive methods with note-taking and interview techniques. The results of this study found that children with Down syndrome experience delays in their lexical and grammatical abilities, such as not being able to pronounce words perfectly and not being

able to form phrases, clauses, and sentences correctly and emphasizing the role of parents in providing good stimulus to children with Down syndrome. Then the following research, entitled "The Effectiveness of Using Picture Card Media to Improve Children's Speaking Skills", was conducted by Fahrudin and friends in 2022. This study aims to determine the effectiveness of using picture card media to improve the speaking skills of group B children in Nurul Iman Sekarbela Islamic Kindergarten for the 2021/2022 school year. This study used quantitative methods of Pre-experimental Design experiments with one group pretest-posttest design. The sample in this study was group B children in Nurul Iman Sekarbela Islamic Kindergarten, a total of 15 people consisting of 7 boys and eight girls—data collection techniques in the form of observation and documentation. Analysis techniques include effectiveness tests, normality tests, and statistical hypotheses. The results showed significant effectiveness of the use of picture card media on the speaking ability of group B children in Nurul Iman Sekarbela Islamic Kindergarten in 2021/2022. It can be seen from the significance value of the child's speaking ability of 0.000 is less than 0.05 ($0.000 < 0.05$), which means that the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. The alternative hypothesis (H_a) is accepted. This means that using picture card media is efficacious in improving the speaking skills of group B children in Nurul Iman Sekarbela Islamic Kindergarten for the 2021/2022 school year (Fahrudin et al., 2022).

From the research above, after the author watched the Korean Drama *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, the author found other cases related to verbal expression disorders or expressing expressions verbally, namely people with autism disorders. That is why the author raises the Verbal Expression Disorder of Moon Sang Tae: Autism Sufferers in the Korean Drama *It's Okay to Not Be Okay* as a Psycholinguistic Study.

RESEARCH METHOD

A qualitative descriptive approach was chosen in this study to understand a phenomenon of verbal expression disorders experienced by the character Moon Sang Tae in the Korean drama *It's Okay to Not Be Okay*. The steps in this study are using the data analysis techniques of the Miles and Huberman model. The data collection process was carried out by listening directly to the Korean drama *It's Okay Not to Be Okay* to obtain data in the form of verbal expression disorders, focused on using language in the communication process carried out by Moon Sang Tae. This stage lasts continuously from episode 1 to episode 16. Intended to further sharpen and explore verbal expression disorders following psycholinguistic studies. The data source in this study is the Korean drama *It's Okay to Not Be Okay*, which aired in 2020, totalling 16 episodes, each lasting approximately 80 minutes. After recording the findings of verbal expression disorders, the authors grouped them into forms of symptoms of language disorders due to Autism based on the theory of Johann Friedrich Karl Asperger. The last step is to conclude; this stage is in the form of finding what is included in the verbal expression disorder experienced by the character Moon Sang Tae in the Korean drama *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*.

HASIL DAN PEMBAHASAN

1. Psycholinguistics

Psycholinguistics comes from two disciplines, namely psychology and linguistics. These two fields of science differ in their procedures and methods, but both examine language as formal objects; only the material is different: linguistics examines language structure, while psychology examines language behaviour or language processes (Pratama, 2022). Lebih clearly (Apriliyanti, 2023) states that psycholinguistics is a study that describes the processes that occur when a person utters the sentences he hears when communicating and how he acquires language skills. From the above understanding, it can be concluded that human psychological processes are indeed involved in producing a sentence or making words.

Intrinsic and extrinsic factors significantly affect a person's language skills. Intrinsic factors include a person's physical state or physiology since birth, including the five senses (sight, hearing, taste, touch, smell). External factors, namely, depend on the stimulus in the surrounding environment as a support for language skills (Tarigan, 2019).

According to (Theoharides & Tsilioni, 2016), Language disorders are grouped into four groups, namely:

1. Aphasia is also called multimodality language disorder, which means the inability to speak, hear, write, and read. Aphasia arises when the left part of a person's brain is disturbed. Because the front left brain serves to help process the contents of thoughts in good language, and the left back brain serves to translate the language heard from others. The types of aphasia are the first Broca aphasia (inability to be without words), the second Wernicke's aphasia (inability to understand others), the third anatomical aphasia (inability to name objects seen), conduction aphasia (inability to repeat words/interlocutors), and finally global aphasia (total or total incompetence).
2. Autism is a language disorder experienced by people on the autism spectrum; this spectrum causes significant neurobiological developmental disorders that occur in the first three years of life and cause impairments in communication, language, cognitive, social, and adaptive functioning. Signs of people with Autism are communication disorders, namely language disorders, both verbal and nonverbal.
3. "dyslexia" refers to a person's inability to read or recognize letters and syllables while writing. People with dyslexia face difficulty distinguishing phonetic sounds when constructing words or sentences. They cannot write these words on paper, although they can perceive them with their sense of hearing. Dyslexia is caused mainly by genetic factors, namely the lineage of their parents. This bloodline does not always come from direct parents but can come from grandparents.
4. Speech delay can be called motor delay (maturity) of the central nervous processes necessary to produce speech in children.

1. Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a common neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by widespread difficulties since childhood in mutual social communication as well as limited and repetitive interests and behaviours (Murphy et al., 2016). ASD, referred to as "autism" language disorder, is experienced from a young age (Milner et al., 2019).

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by pervasive difficulties since early childhood across reciprocal social communication and restricted, repetitive interests and behaviour (Murphy et al., 2016).

According to (Amalia, 2020), Autism is a condition of a person or oneself who experiences physical and mental disorders that can be known at less than the age of three and requires special care to be able to live life like ordinary people in general. Some signs of Autism include slow language development, excessive obsession with patterns or routines, very fond of being alone, and lack of ability to interact socially (Rieskiana, 2021).

In their research, the experts found that autism seeds existed long before the birth of a baby, even before vaccinations were given. According to American embryologist Patricia Rodier, brain tissue damage occurs before twenty days during fetal development, leading to symptoms of Autism and congenital disabilities. Minshew, another researcher, found that in children with Autism, the part of the brain that regulates memory and emotions is smaller than in normal children. This study shows that brain development disorders occur in the third semester of pregnancy or when the baby is born (Amanullah, 2022).

Autism is a disorder of complex neurobiological development that lasts throughout a person's life. According to (Fakhiratunnisa et al., 2022), Children with Autism exhibit the following disorders:

a) Disturbances in social interaction:

1. Characterized by a decrease in the use of some nonverbal behaviours such as not seeing the opponent, flat expression, and others;
2. lack of mastery of ways to build relationships with peers appropriate to their level of development and
3. Decrease spontaneity towards everything that happens, such as when the interlocutor commits a violation or makes him angry.

b) Communication disorders include:

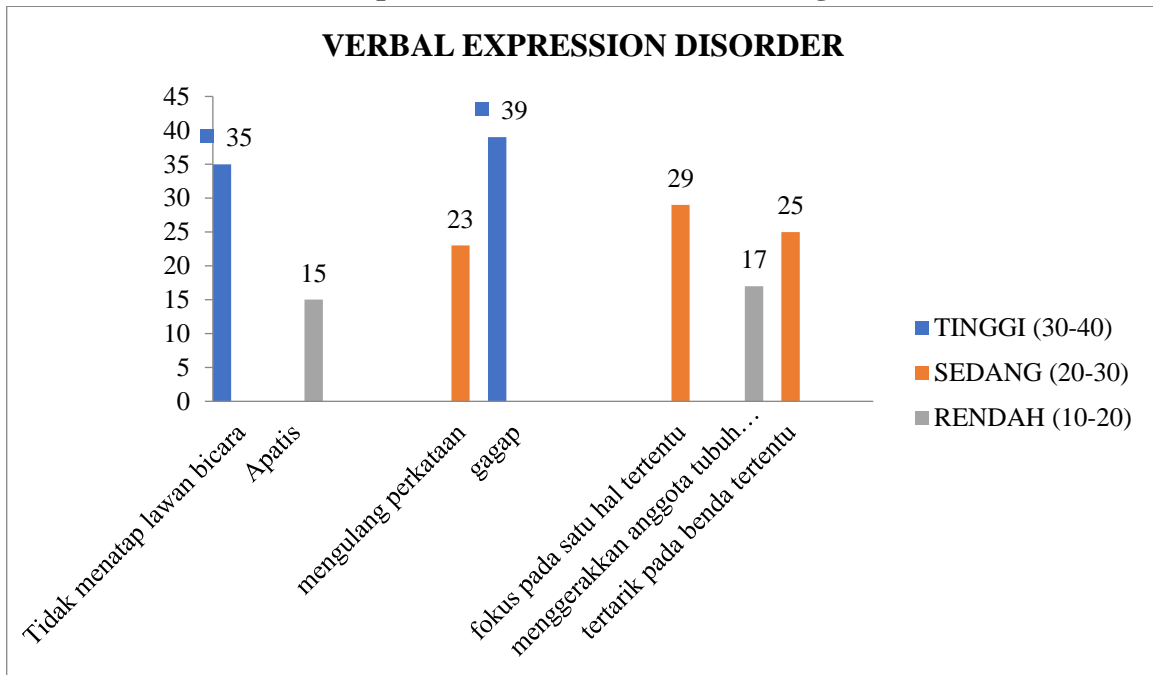
1. delay or lack of growth of spoken language;
2. decreased ability to initiate or maintain conversations with others, and
3. repeating a language or privileged language.
4. Social imitative games or imaginary games that are not suitable for the developmental level.

c) Repetitive patterns of behaviour, interests, and activities such as:

1. interested in one or more things that are abnormal in terms of both intensity and focus;
2. inflexibility to specific routines or rituals that are not essential;
3. repetitive movement of limbs, such as continuous clapping of hands and
4. I am interested in the peaceful parts of objects.

Speech and language disorders are one of the most common causes of developmental disorders found in children with Autism. Communication to convey thoughts, feelings, and emotions with others in children with Autism is expressed with verbal or acoustic symbols. In the Korean drama *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, Moon Sang Tae's character has a language disorder caused by the Autism spectrum. The following is data on the verbal expression disorders of the character Moon Sang Tae in the Korean drama. *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, which was successfully collected.

Table 1. Verbal Expression Disorders of Moon Sang Tae Characters



The table above shows some verbal expression disorders committed by the character Moon Sang Tae in the Korean drama It's Okay Not to Be Okay. More details can be seen in the snippet below:

Data: No. 1
Personal involved: Moon Sang Tae and other factory workers. Context: Repetitive behaviour patterns include moving limbs repetitively and clapping hands continuously. Speech form: Moon Sang Tae: <i>"Ah....aaaa....aaaaaaaaa!"</i> (Screaming while pounding your head) (It's Okay Not to Be Okay, episode 1 minute to 3 past 40 seconds)

Moon Sang Tae's speech above is included in verbal expression disorders in the category of repetitive behaviour patterns, evidenced by the behaviour of banging heads while shouting tantrums. Other data from this repetitivebehaviourr pattern is also shown in the snippet below.

Data: No. 2
Personal involved: Moon Sang Tae and museum visitors. Context: Repetitive behaviour patterns include moving a limb repetitively, such as holding a specific limb. Speech form: Moon Sang Tai: <i>"No Mulailal Manjiji Maasaye!"</i>

"Don't touch my hair!"
(Screaming while pounding your head)

(It's Okay Not to Be Okay, episode 2 minutes to 34 past 39 seconds)

This pattern of behaviour began when Moon Gang Tae invited Moon Sang Tae to visit the museum. When Moon Gang Tae received a call, Moon Sang Tae disappeared from surveillance, so he walked through the crowd. Moon Sang Tae is obsessed with dinosaurs, and at the same time, he sees a little boy wearing a stegosaurus costume. Because Moon Sang Tae is limited in expressing verbal expressions, he, without permission, holds the costume's tail, which causes the child's parents to get angry and grab Moon Sang Tae's hair. That's when he banged his head again while shouting tantrums, "Don't touch my hair!".

In some episodes, verbal expression disorders are also often shown by Moon Sang Tae's character when interacting socially, namely, not looking at the other person when having a conversation.

Data: No. 3

Personal involved: Moon Sang Tae and Moon Gang Tae.

Context: Disturbances in social interaction are characterized by not looking the other person in the eye.

Speech form:

Moon Sang Tae: ***"You can rely on your brother!"***

(Talking while tidying up the book without looking at Moon Gang Tae)

(It's Okay Not to Be Okay, episode 2 minutes to 60 past 13 seconds)

In the data snippet above, the incident begins when Moon Gang Tae's character asks his brother, Moon Sang Tae, about his residence. Moon Gang Tae worries that Moon Sang Tae will object to moving many times to new locations. But unexpectedly, Moon Sang Tae's answer made Moon Gang Tae nervous. He said, "*You can count on your brother.*" Despite having autism disorder, his affection looks sincere as a big brother. This behaviour of not staring at the other person is often shown by the character Moon Sang Tae in the Korean drama. It's Okay to Not Be Okay from the beginning to the end.

In addition to not staring at the other person when communicating, Moon Sang Tae's character also shows communication disorders in the form of repetition of words when performing speech events. Look at the data snippet below:

Data: No. 4

Personally involved: Moon Sang Tae, Moon Gang Tae and Jo Jae.
Context: Communication disorders include the repetition of words in speech events.
Form of speech:
Moon Sang Tae: **"Turn your back." Oh my God, forgive me!.. The Elyson is coming!**
(Ini palsu, palsu! Palsu! Ini palsu .. palsu!)
(Shouting while repeating the same remark)
Moon Gang Tae: **"Hyung, mianhe!"**
"I'm sorry, sister!"
(It's Okay Not to Be Okay, episode 1 minute to 52 past 24 seconds)

This incident began when Moon Sang Tae asked Moon Gang Tae for the autograph of his favourite author, Ko Moon Young. However, due to several incidents, Moon Gang Tae forgot about it, so he asked his friend Jo Jae to imitate the author's autograph. Unfortunately, Moon Sang Tae realized that the signature brought by his sister was fake. So he showed his disappointment while holding the signed paper and saying, "This is fake, this is fake, fake, fake," he said repeatedly.

CONCLUSION

The drama *It's Okay Not to Be Okay*, which totalled 16 episodes, is outstanding in raising issues related to autism disorders. Moon Sang Tae is described as an adult male figure who behaves like a child; he has impaired verbal expression due to the autism spectrum. The disturbances shown by the character Moon Sang Tae in the Korean drama *It's Okay Not to Be Okay* include: 1). Disturbances in social interaction, as many as 50 data divided into 35 data not staring at the other person and 15 data apathetic behaviour. 2) Communication disorders: As many as 62 data were divided into 23 data, including repeating words and 39 stuttering when speaking. 3). Behavioral pattern disorders, as many as 71 data divided into 29 data focused on one thing, 17 data moving limbs repeatedly, and 25 data interested in one object (in this case, it is an encyclopedia of dinosaurs).

People with Autism cannot be cured, but their tantrum behaviour can still be prevented from causing too much social impact. Warm acceptance and treatment can make him more comfortable in acting.

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