

CHAPTER I

BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH

A. Background of the Research

Communication is a complex process including both verbal and nonverbal types of expression. Verbal communication consists of spoken language, in which human thoughts and information are expressed using voices. Meanwhile, nonverbal communication includes written language, in which information is expressed without using voices. These types of communication work together to improve information conveying and interaction with others.

In verbal communication, the roles of speaker and listener are key to being able to communicate through spoken words. Therefore, proper speech articulation becomes essential for ensuring that information is communicated to others understandably and clearly. In this way of communication, conveyors use their speech articulation ability to make accurate sounds and to make sure the message is well comprehended by the receiver.

Furthermore, the receivers of information participate in the complex process of understanding the meaning of spoken language and producing appropriate responses. When people receive information, their brains actively interpret linguistic information, comprehending the meanings of words and sentences. As a result, the receivers will use their knowledge to create contextually suitable responses.

On the other hand, nonverbal communication relies on symbols and word structures to express thoughts and information without using spoken words. In nonverbal communication, written language allows humans to remember thoughts and information for a longer period. Apart from that, written language allows humans to communicate with others over long distances and periods. That is why, in written language, humans may access information from any place, including past periods.

In this case, language might be characterized as the foundation of human communication. Language allows humans to express their thoughts and encourages comprehension when communicating. Linguistics, which is the study of language, investigates the complexity of language structure and function, exploring how sounds, words, and grammar work together to enhance communication.

That is why linguistics has various subfields to discuss and analyze everything related to language. Daulay (2011, p. 1) states some important subfields in linguistics are the analysis of language structure (grammar) and the analysis of meaning (semantics). Grammar includes morphology (word creation and structure), syntax (rules managing how words combine into phrases and sentences), and phonology (the analysis of how sounds work and abstract sound elements).

Phonology assists humans in understanding not only the distinctions between sounds in language, such as the voiceless sounds /p/ /t/ /k/ with the voiced sounds /b/ /d/ /g/ but also the fundamental structures and rules that

control these sound variations. This field of study focuses on how sounds are created and structured in language. Furthermore, phonology analyzes how changes in sound patterns can affect the meaning of words, highlighting the complex connection between sound and meaning in spoken communication.

Meanwhile, semantics is examining meaning in words, phrases, and sentences. Semantics also aims to ensure that people understand what each other is trying to say and all the information they are receiving from the other person. It helps humans to understand what different words mean and how they connect in creating meaning. For example, when someone says "I'm feeling blue," semantics helps people comprehend that it is not expressing thoughts about the color blue, but instead talking about being sad.

This field of language studies also analyzes how words and phrases can have many meanings depending on the situation. For instance, the word "bank" might refer to a place where you keep your money or the side of a river. Semantics makes it possible to determine which interpretation is intended based on the words that surround it and the situation. Paying attention to the meaning behind the words, will ensure human brains are on the same page and avoid misunderstanding each other's messages.

In understanding the meaning of these words, the formation of the words must also be considered. This is because a word can change its meaning when it is combined with other words. In this way, morphology also plays an important role in human communication activities. Morphology explains how words change and adapt to convey various meanings. For example, adding the

prefix "un-" to "happy" changes it into "unhappy," conveying the opposite meaning. This explains how even small changes in a word can have a significant impact on its meaning.

In morphology, a word can be divided into free morpheme and bound morpheme. Free morphemes are independent words that are capable of standing alone and have its meaning. Words like "happy," "agree," and "hope" don't require any additional words to make meanings. On the other hand, bound morphemes function as partners, requiring another word to hang onto to make meaning. Words like "unhappy," "disagree," and "hopeless" show they must be attached to other words to convey their meaning. In this way, the addition of bound morpheme words such as "un-", "dis-" and also "-less" will not be meaningful if they stand alone.

In addition, selecting the right words and creating sentences properly is crucial for effectively communicating. The branch of linguistics that studies sentence structure is known as syntax. Syntax determines how words with various parts of speech are placed to produce meaningful phrases and sentences. However, syntax is more than just the arrangement of words. It also analyzes how words are used as subjects, verbs, objects, and other components of speech. Understanding syntax allows people to understand the basic structure of language and how sentences are created.

Therefore, understanding the sound of words, the structure of words, the structure of sentences, and the meaning of words that humans understand and use every single day cannot be separated from the role of the brain, which

processes all the language received and conveyed to each other. This is because the specific parts of the brain connected to language processing control different functions. For instance, certain brain parts are highly active during speech, whereas others are active during comprehension of words or texts. Wernicke's and Broca's areas are two of these significant parts.

Wernicke's area is located in the upper center of the brain, called the temporal cortex. It functions as a command center for language processing. This unique region not only analyzes the words that are heard and read but also plays an important role in connecting them to their meanings. Wernicke's area is the link between language and understanding. It helps to figure out the words that come across, comprehend their meanings, and connect them to human thoughts and experiences. Without this essential area, humanity's capacity to understand and communicate through language would be extremely limited.

During conversations, the left side of the brain's Broca area plays a critical function. This part assists you in selecting words and structuring sentences that have logical meaning. Broca's area functions as a language controller, assisting in the selection of suitable words and arranging them into meaningful sentences. The crucial part of the brain works closely with Wernicke's area, receiving information about the meaning of words and sentences and processing that knowledge into coherent speech. In simple terms, Broca's area interprets the data provided by Wernicke's area into understandable speech.

In addition to the mentioned areas, the motor cortex areas of the brain are critical in supporting verbal communication. This area of the brain serves as the command center for numerous body movements. The motor cortex controls the exact movements of the lips, tongue, and surrounding mouth muscles during talking. These exact movements are necessary for articulating sounds and producing words while speaking. The motor cortex ensures that the verbal communication created by the brain's language centers, such as the Wernicke area for understanding and the Broca area for speech production, are effectively converted into spoken words.

The relationship between language and human brain function is a scientific topic discussed in neurolinguistic studies. Neurolinguistics is an interdisciplinary study that studies both neuroscience (the science of the brain and nervous system) and linguistics (the scientific study of language). This interdisciplinary study explores deeply how the human brains understand and produce language, offering an understanding of the complex processes that support the ability to speak. Neurolinguistics is fundamentally concerned with understanding how the brain acts as a complex system for language communication.

Furthermore, neurolinguistics studies how brain problems or abnormalities may affect language processing and communication. Communication disorders can occur when certain parts of the brain responsible for linguistic processes are damaged as a result of injury, stroke, or neurological diseases. One of these instances is aphasia. Aphasia is defined by problems in

language understanding and production caused by injury to the brain's language centers.

Aphasia sufferers have difficulty receiving information and transferring information verbally and in writing when communicating with each other. The specific symptoms of aphasia differ based on the location and severity of brain damage, as well as the person's linguistic and cognitive ability. Broca's aphasia is characterized by non-fluent speech and full understanding, whereas Wernicke's aphasia is characterized by fluent but meaningless speech and lack of understanding. Other variations include anomic aphasia, which is characterized by difficulty finding words, and global aphasia, which causes serious problems in all language types.

The writer chooses to research communication disorders in this research because these issues happen often in daily life, whether consciously or unconsciously. Especially the writer interested in researching communication disorders using a neurolinguistic approach. The writer became fascinated by the brain's complex functions, and analyzing communication disorders offered a unique perspective on how language is processed, understood, and created.

This approach allows the writer to gain a better understanding of how the brain controls communication processes and how issues in brain function can impair a human's ability to speak effectively. One of these conditions is a condition such as aphasia which seriously impairs a human's ability to communicate. As a result, the purpose of this study is to gain more knowledge

of the cause of communication disorders and how the human brain contributes to disorders.

In this case, the writer identifies that communication disorders are also found and experienced by Gabby Giffords in the documentary movie *Gabby Giffords Won't Back Down* by Julie Cohen and Betsy West. The documentary *Gabby Giffords Won't Back Down* tells the true story of Gabby, a Congresswoman or one of the members of the United States House of Representatives who was the main victim of a shooting in front of a Safeway supermarket in Tucson on January 8th, 2011.

After the shooting, Gabby suffered a serious brain injury in the left hemisphere of her brain. This caused the part of the brain that processes Gabby's speech and language usage to suffer significant damage which is called aphasia. This aphasia is also what makes Gabby experience communication disorders. The writer can thoroughly research and understand communication disorders caused by aphasia by using this documentary movie as a research object. This is used by the writer to understand the various types of communication disorders and the types of aphasia that cause communication disorders. The findings of this research also provided new insights for the writer.

In addition, this real incident also shocked the American population and government. The United States in particular has deployed several security officers in investigating this shooting. Not only that, Barack Obama as president at the time also officially ordered FBI Director, Robert Mueller to

monitor the investigation into this incident. Besides that, this movie also has a rating of 7.4/10 IMDb on Prime Video. As a result, this movie is suitable to be used as a research object, especially since no prior research has been conducted on this documentary movie in any academic research.

B. Question and Scope of the Research

1. Question of the Research

Based on the background of the research above, the writer makes some questions in this research as follows

- a. What types of communication disorders does Gabby Giffords experience in Gabby Giffords Won't Back Down?
- b. What are the causes of communication disorders experienced by Gabby Giffords in Gabby Giffords Won't Back Down?

2. Scope of the Research

In this research, the writer tries to analyze the types and causes of communication disorders experienced by Gabby Giffords in Gabby Giffords Won't Back Down. The writer uses Owens et al. (2015) theory to analyze the types of communication disorders. This research's underlying types of communication disorders include language disorders and speech disorders. Then, the writer also uses Robb (2020) to analyze the causes of communication disorders. The underlying causes of communication disorders in this research underlying causes of communication disorders such as aphasia include Broca's aphasia, Wernicke's aphasia, and anomic aphasia.

C. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. Objective of the Research

Based on the question of the research above, the writer found out the objective of the study as follows:

- a. To find out the types of communication disorders of Gabby Giffords due to aphasia in Gabby Giffords Won't Back Down.
- b. To analyze the causes of the communication disorders experienced by Gabby Giffords in Gabby Giffords Won't Back Down.

2. Significance of the Research

Theoretically, the results of this research are expected to be useful for readers to learn and understand more about communication disorders, especially in terms of the types and causes of communication disorders. After reading the research, readers can partially recognize the types of communication disorders and the causes of communication disorders.

D. Operational Definition

1. Communication Disorders

Communication disorder occurs when the sufferer cannot properly express their emotions, feelings, ideas, and information because they have difficulty speaking to express something.

2. Aphasia

Aphasia is a disorder that occurs when a person experiences damage to the part of the brain that produces language.

3. Documentary Movie

A documentary movie is a movie with the setting, plot, and location of an actual event, often using real-life footage, interviews, and factual content to provide a detailed, accurate representation of the subject matter, usually to document the story or incident for a specific purpose.

E. Systematization of the Research

In the systematic systematization of the research, the writer simplifies this research with the intention that readers can more easily read and understand this research. The writing in this research consists of five chapters as follows:

Chapter I Introduction. This chapter consists of six points; the first is the Background of the Research, which describes the problems and why the writer chose the research. The second is the Question and Scope of the Research, which consists of questions that contain problems from the topic discussed in this research and limit the issues of these questions to make the research more specific without getting out of the problems. The third is the Objectives and Significance of the Research, which consists of research objectives that serve as problem-solving in the previous point and the research benefits provided from this research. The fourth point is Operational Definitions, which include the meaning of theory and research data. The fifth point is the Systematization of the Research, which consists of the summary of the research arrangement from Chapter I to Chapter V.

Chapter II Theoretical Description. This chapter will consist of descriptions of concepts I and II that explain the research variables and also of

Relevant Research in the form of reviews from previous researchers that are still relevant and related to research problems to strengthen this research.

Chapter III Research Methodology. This chapter consists of the Method of the Research, Procedure of the Research, Technique of the Data Collection, Technique of the Data Analysis, and Data Source. Method of the Research provides several expert theories that explain the period, the location, and the research methodologies used in this research. The Procedure of the Research outlines the steps involved in creating research, starting from the preparation, implementation, and reporting. The Technique of the Data Collection details the data collection theories and techniques the writer used to write this research. After collecting the data, the Technique of Data Analysis analyzes the problem formulation and research objectives. Data Source that focuses on primary and secondary data sources related to research.

Chapter IV Data Analysis. This chapter analyzes the results of the data findings collected in the previous chapter in detail. The writer then interprets the data and reports the data in the research.

Chapter V Conclusion and Suggestion. This chapter summarizes the details of the research findings and recommendations for the research with the intention that readers can easily understand the essential points contained in the research. Meanwhile, the suggestion indicates how the research findings were presented, analyzed, and concluded.