

A PSYCHOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF SPEECH ABNORMALITY EXPRESSING THE SYMPTOMS AND TYPES OF SCHIZOPHRENIA EXPERIENCED BY COLE SEAR IN *THE SIXTH SENSE* MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze phenomena of language and mind under psycholinguistic approach. There are two objectives: to identify kinds of symptoms of schizophrenia and to classify the types of schizophrenia based on the symptoms shown by Cole in *The Sixth Sense* movie. The research was conducted by using qualitative method with the researcher as the main instrument and data sheet as the secondary instrument. The results of the research were stated as follows. The findings reveal 29 fixed data. Among eight symptoms of schizophrenia, Cole only experiences four items. They are poverty of speech (PoS), weakening of goal (WG), peculiar use of words (PW), and non-logical reasoning or peculiar logic (PL). According to the symptoms of schizophrenia, the researcher classifies types of schizophrenia. Different types of schizophrenia are defined according to the most significant and predominant characteristics which presented in each person at each point in time. In the movie *The sixth Sense*, Cole as schizophrenic sufferer does not reveal all the types. According to the dominant symptoms, Cole suffers paranoid type.

Keywords: Keywords: psycholinguistics, schizophrenia, speech abnormality, *The Sixth Sense*

INTRODUCTION

Language is a means of communication which delivers information or message. It cannot be separated from the brain because the brain has an important role both in oral and written communication. The competence and performance of language is one of the functions of the brain. It works as neural mechanisms.

Brain is divided into the left hemisphere and right hemisphere. They have different functions, methodically and kinesthetically (Lacombe, 2014, par. 1-2). The left brain thinks methodically, organizes and categorizes information from the environment. It is in contrast with the right

brain which thinks holistically in pictures. The right brain learns something kinesthetically. It means that the right brain acquires information through movement of its large or gross motor muscles. The left brain focuses on verbal communication. It processes information in an analytical and sequential way. On the other hand, the focus of the right brain is visual communication. It processes information in an intuitive and simultaneous way.

The right-side of the brain is best at expressive and creative tasks. Some of the abilities popularly associated with the right side of the brain include recognizing faces, expressing emotions, music, reading

emotions, color, images, intuition, and creativity. Meanwhile, the left-side of the brain is considered to be adept at tasks that involve logic, language and analytical thinking. The left-brain is often described as being better at language, logic, critical thinking, numbers, and reasoning (Cherry, 2014, par. 7-8).

As the explanation above, the brain is closely related to mind. It is the most complicated part of human being. A small breakdown will cause great difficulties for interlocutors. One of the most serious psychological impairments is known as schizophrenia which severely distorts thought and action. Schizophrenics cannot use their mind to understand the reality well because they have no master stroke or common sense. As the result, they have impairment on language and comprehension.

According to Foster (2003:1), schizophrenia is an imprecise diagnosis, in some ways similar to one of heart disease or cancer. It is not a single illness but a spectrum of conditions that has similar symptoms, a symptom complex of abnormal brain function. It consists of a combination of disorders of thinking process, perception, emotions, and sensory stimuli. It is a mental disorder that is often associated with apparently inexplicable anxiety, rapid mood swings, and fatigue. Typically, schizophrenic

sufferer has auditory, olfactory, or visual illusion and hallucination. Their senses of touch, taste, and smell may be distorted. The sufferer behaves in strange ways, or say totally meaningless or inappropriate things.

The fact of existence of the phenomenon is actually found common and ordinary in people's everyday life. However the phenomenon does not guarantee that people understand it well. When they see someone who acts weirdly or speaks irregularly, they assume that he or she is mad. Hence, it is a need to give an understanding to common people about mental illness in order that they can treat the sufferer correctly. Many scientists explain about the mental illness. Then some producers try to imagine it in the form of movie or television program in order to make people easy to understand the phenomenon of mental illness. One of the movies which expose mental illness is *The Sixth Sense*. It portrays the phenomenon of schizophrenia. The movie tells about a young boy who suffers schizophrenia. He has hallucination and delusion. Finally, Dr. Malcolm tries to uncover the ominous truth about Cole's supernatural ability. In fact, the phenomena of hallucination and delusion are difficult to be explained since they only occur in human thought. However, speech usually can depict such phenomena as speech can express their thought. Thus, the researcher

conducts a research about the abnormal speech of schizophrenic. The research employs the approach of Psycholinguistics since schizophrenia is related to human mind. This research focuses on analyzing of the speech abnormalities which represent the symptoms and types of schizophrenia.

The objectives of this research are to identify and describe the symptoms and types of schizophrenia represented by a schizophrenic, Cole Sear in *The Sixth Sense* movie. Regarding the background and objective, this research is expected useful and bringing benefits to everybody, including the education community, public and society both theoretically and practically.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research employed a descriptive qualitative method which focused on the way humans interpret and make sense of their experience. The method produced narrative or textual description of the phenomenon under study. In addition, this study was classified into descriptive qualitative since the data were analyzed descriptively without numerical form. Strauss and Corbin (1998: 11) in Richie and Lewis (2003) assert that qualitative research means any type of research that produces findings not arrived at by statistical procedures or other means of quantification.

According to Holloway (1997:1), qualitative research is a method which

focuses on the way people interpret and make sense of their experiences and the world where they live. The qualitative method is applied to address research question that require explanation or understanding of social phenomena and their contexts. It is particularly suited to explore issues that hold some complexity and to study processes that occur over time. In this research, the object of the study was schizophrenic speech which revealed the symptoms and the type of Schizophrenia represented by Cole Sear in the movie entitled *The Sixth Sense*.

The researcher utilized primary and secondary instruments. The primary instrument was the researcher herself. The secondary instrument was data sheet. Meanwhile, the data collecting technique in this research was note taking and the following procedure of data collecting technique. The first step was watching the movie entitled *The Sixth Sense*. Second, the researcher downloaded the transcript of the dialogues of the movie from internet. The aim of this transcript was to facilitate the researcher in classification the data. Third, the researcher downloaded the transcript of the dialogues of the movie from internet. Forth, the researcher applied literature review to see what other experts had done and known about the subject. The last step was selecting and

classifying the valid and relevant data based on the categorizations.

After classification, the researcher started to analyze the data. In this research, she utilized content analysis technique with set of definitions and theories. Content analysis concerned with the research technique for systematic classification and description the content according to certain categories.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the research consist of analysis of the symptoms and types of schizophrenia represented by Cole in *The Sixth Sense* movie. Based on the categorizations system, among of eight symptoms of schizophrenia, Cole only experiences four of them. They are poverty of speech, weakening of goal, peculiar use of words, and non logical reasoning (peculiar logic). The other items, namely looseness, peculiar sentences, perseveration of ideas and distractibility do not occur in Cole's speech. Those occurrences of the symptoms become the base in determining the type of schizophrenia.

The first most-often appearing symptom is non-logical reasoning or peculiar logic. It occurs 16 times from the total of 29 (55.17%) occurrences. Following non-logical reasoning or peculiar logic, as the second most appearing symptoms, there are poverty

of speech and weakening of goal. They have same occurrences; each of them occurs 6 times with the percentage of 20.69%. The last rank is achieved by symptom of peculiar use of words which occurs once (3.45%). For further explanation, an example from each symptom will be presented as follows.

An example of the symptom of non-logical reasoning (peculiar logic) is shown in the datum below.

- Lynn : Well, you know what I did today? I, uh, I won the Pennsylvania Lottery in the morning, I quit my jobs, and I ate a big picnic in the park with lots of chocolate mousse pie. And I swam in the fountain all afternoon. What'd you do?
- Cole : **I was picked first for kick ball teams at recess. I hit a grand slam to win the game. Everybody lifted me up, on their shoulders and carried me around, cheering.**

In the example above, Cole has a conversation with his mother, Lynn. His mother begins by telling about her experiences in order to build a good conversation. She wants to know Cole's activities in school. Then, Cole answers his mother's question. His answers are seemingly related to Lynn's question in which he tells about his activities in school. He says that he and his friends play together in the ground. He tells that his friend love him so much. Actually, he is isolated from his friends. He spends his day in school by sitting in the class while his friends are playing in the ground. In

this case, non-logical reasoning or peculiar logic is illustrated by Cole's statement. He says to his mother that he plays with his friends. In fact, no one wants to play with him. His friends call him "freak" because they think that Cole is odd. Therefore, it is impossible if his friends lift him up on their shoulder and carry him around.

Next example is the symptom of poverty of speech.

Lynn : Cole. Cole!
 Cole : **(No response)**
 Lynn : Hey, your Cocoa Puffs are getting' soggy. Let me see you. Oh, honey, you got a spot. Head up. Okay, here we go. Something you were looking for, baby?
 Cole : **Pop tarts?**
 Lynn : There are right here.
 Cole : **Oh.**

The conversation above happens in the morning before going to school. Cole sits at the kitchen table and he looks around the kitchen without saying anything. His mother looks at Cole as he is looking for something. Then, she asks Cole, but Cole just gives a brief answer with a flat expression. He does not make eye contact with his mother. In this dialogue, Cole experiences the symptom of poverty of speech in which he lacks additional content which is seen in normal speech.

Furthermore, there is an example of the symptom of weakening of goal.

Cole : I drew a man. He got hurt in his neck by another man with a screwdriver.
 Malcolm : You saw that on TV, Cole?
 Cole : **Everyone got upset. They had a meeting. Mom started crying.**

Weakening of goal is illustrated when Dr. Malcolm is interested in Cole's statement in which he draws hanged people. He thinks that Cole gets the inspiration by watching television. However, Cole's answer is uncorrelated with the question. Cole says, "**Everyone got upset. They had a meeting. Mom started crying**". Cole seems as he is explaining something, but there is no information which answers Dr. Malcolm's question. Cole is supposed to explain from where he gets such inspiration.

The last example reveals the symptom of peculiar use of words.

Cole : **Pro..fun..add.**

In the movie, there is only one example which reveals the occurrence of peculiar use of words. This scene is taken in a church. Dr. Malcolm finds Cole playing in his pew with a set of green and beige plastic soldiers. Cole makes the soldiers talk to each other. He says, "**Pro..fun..add**". The words are intelligible. In this example, the bolded words represent the symptom of peculiar use of words. "Pro..fun..add" are new words made by Cole. None can understand the meaning of those words except him. When Dr. Malcolm asks

him about the words, he replies that it is called Latin. It is a language.

Next findings talk about types of schizophrenia. People with schizophrenia may show variety of the symptoms of schizophrenia. The kinds of the symptoms are utilized to make diagnosis of schizophrenic type. There are five types of schizophrenia, namely paranoid, disorganized, catatonic, undifferentiated, and residual type. In this research, the researcher analyzes the symptoms which are represented by Cole to indicate his type of schizophrenia.

The results of data analysis show that paranoid type becomes the most dominant type. It occurs 28 times from the total 29 occurrences. In other words, out of 100% in total, paranoid brings 96.55%. Categorization of paranoid type is determined from the symptoms of poverty of speech, weakening of goal, and non-logical reasoning or peculiar logic. Next type indicated by Cole's condition is disorganized type which occurs once. In this research, the types of catatonic, undifferentiated and residual type do not appear since Cole does not experience the symptoms which indicate those types. To provide a complete explanation, the researcher gives some examples.

The first example is the type of paranoid. Typically, paranoid schizophrenics suffer auditory and visual hallucinations.

They experience fewer issues with concentration, memory, and emotional apathy, allowing them to function better in everyday life. However, people with this type may be more functional in their ability to work and engage in relationships than people with other types of schizophrenia. People with the paranoid type may appear to lead fairly normal lives by successful management of their disorder.

Cole : I wanna tell you my secret now.

Malcolm : Okay.

Cole : **I see dead people**

Malcolm : In your dream? Cole

: (Shakes his head) Malcolm :

While you're awake? Cole :

(nod)

Malcolm : **Dead people like in grace, in coffins?**

Cole : **Walking around like regular people. They don't see each other. They only see what they wanna see. They don't know they're dead.**

Malcolm : How often do you see them?

Cole : **All the time. They're everywhere.**

Visual hallucination occurs when a schizophrenic sufferer sees something that other people do not see. From the dialogue above, hallucination is illustrated by Cole's speech. He says that he sees dead people while he is awake. Cole explains that they are walking around like regular people. Then Dr. Malcolm asks him how often he sees them. Cole replies that he sees them all the time because they are everywhere.

The other example talks about disorganized type. Although the type of

schizophrenia suffered by Cole is clear, there are some symptoms that reveal the tendency of other types. One of them is symptom that refers to disorganized type. Disorganized type is characterized by incoherent and illogical thoughts and behaviors. In the movie, this type is only revealed by symptom of peculiar use of words which occurs one time. This symptom belongs to disorganized type because peculiar use of words is caused by disorganized thought which produces unusual words that never exist in reality.

Cole : **Pro..fun..add**

This example reveals the occurrence of disorganized type in which Cole creates unusual words. No one can understand his words except himself. Without any reason, he calls it Latin, a language. This uncommon train of thought indicates the type of disorganized.

catatonia when he does something that he is not aware about it. In the movie, it is illustrated when Cole writes many words in papers. He writes upset words, but he does not know what he writes. He only keeps his hand moving unconsciously.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results both the findings and discussions in chapter IV, this research can be concluded as follows:

1. There are 29 occurrences of symptoms of schizophrenia. From the total eight symptoms (poverty of speech, weakening of goal, looseness, peculiar use of words, peculiar sentences, non-logical reasoning or peculiar logic, perseveration of ideas, and distractibility), the findings only reveal four symptoms. They are poverty of speech, weakening of goal, peculiar use of words, and non-logical reasoning or peculiar logic. The first most-often appearing symptom is non-logical reasoning or peculiar logic. It occurs 16 times or 55.17% from the total of 29 occurrences. Following non-logical reasoning, the second rank is possessed by poverty of speech and weakening of goal. They have same occurrences; each of them appears 6 times with percentage 20.69%. Finally, the last place is occupied by the symptom of peculiar use of words which occurs once or 3.45%.
2. Non-logical reasoning or peculiar logic gets a greater occurrence than others because Cole, the schizophrenic, often show his patterns of speech which do not follow logically. He states something which never exists in reality. In addition, poverty of speech and weakening of goal get fewer occurrences since Cole isolates himself from social life. He gets difficulties to build a good interaction. The

last symptom which is seldom experienced by Cole is peculiar use of words. The symptom has small percentage because not all meanings of Cole's speeches are difficult to be understood. Some of them are still understandable although the things are not real or impossible to exist.

3. Based on the result of the data analysis, Cole can be diagnosed as a paranoid sufferer. Most of the symptoms which are revealed by Cole point out to paranoid type. This type is determined by the symptoms of poverty of speech, weakening of goal and non-logical reasoning. The data show that paranoid type becomes the dominant type. It occurs 28 times from the total 29 occurrences.

Suggestions

Based on the conclusions above, some suggestions are given to improve other research under the same topic and avoid past errors. They are addressed to:

1. English Education Department
Psycholinguistics is one of the important subjects to be learned since it talks about the relationship between language and human's psychology. Therefore, more time is needed for studying Psycholinguistics. The aim is to make students understand it well and conduct advanced research. In addition, English education department needs to provide more psycholinguistic

books because there are limited references in library. It will help students and lecturers enrich their knowledge of Psycholinguistics.

2. English Students
They need to explore more topics under Psycholinguistics approach for their thesis since Psycholinguistics has a wide range to be discussed. Therefore, it is suggested that other researchers apply Psycholinguistic approach since it is still rarely used.
3. Future Researchers
In this research, discussion of the types of schizophrenia is less detailed. There is no specific theory which explains the features of schizophrenia types. The future researchers can conduct research under the same topic by using other theory which elaborates the symptoms and types of schizophrenia clearly and does not only give general knowledge about them.

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