

**RECOGNIZING AND OVERCOMING SPEECH DELAY IN CHILDREN:
A CASE STUDY OF 6-YEAR-OLD CHILD IN PEMATANG
CENGAL**

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Abstract

This article aims to describe how to overcome speech delays in children that can be used and beneficial for parents whose children have speech delays. There are several causes of speech delays experienced by children, namely mental retardation which makes it difficult for children to speak and their brains have difficulty producing language. So this research is very useful for parents who have children with speech delays. This study uses a qualitative method with data collection in the form of observations, interviews and also documentation using case studies. Thus, this research was conducted by children aged 6 years in Pematang Cengal with the results of the research to be described. The results obtained in this study are ways to overcome speech delays in children by using several simple ways that can be applied every day such as inviting children to have simple conversations, inviting children to sing and also memorizing lyrics, reading story books to children, and the last is by dictating word by word so that the child can repeat it properly and correctly.

Keywords: *language processing, speech delay, speech production*

Introduction

When it comes to what people say, do, and talk, language is nothing but what people do. Language is a product of the speaking subject's innermost thoughts, which become visible in the speaker's specific, meaningful intent. A language, on the other hand, is something that comes from the outside, from the speech community, something that is supplied to the speaking subject from the heritage of speaking technique (Martinez del Castillo, 2015). Meanwhile,

according to Aldhaferi et al., (2022) language is a very important thing for everyone to know to be able to express what is inside and also communicate with anyone. In language, we are taught to learn, speak, think or express in life and social interactions. Therefore, language is very important to know or learn in order to be able to communicate with all people. Language must be learned from childhood. According to Stegemann (2007) that normal children will be able to speak at the age of 18-28 months. Before that, even from infancy children should be taught small things, such as seeing or hearing something, saying a word or two like mama and papa. It is very important for children to be able to reach the language from a young age. However, besides that, there are still many children who experience language problems, such as having delays in speaking or difficulties in interpreting language and also learning it (Okitasari, 2023).

In language, the brain plays an important role in producing language that will be issued by the vocal cords. Between language and the brain, there are studies that study the relationship between the two, namely neurolinguistics. According to Nathan, et.al (2011) declared that neurolinguistics is used to provide understanding and explanation for the nerves in language use. Neurolinguistics has a great impact on the treatment of people with aphasia or other language disorders. Neurolinguistics studies the relation of language and communication to different aspects of brain function. It tries to explore how the brain understands and produces language and communication. (Ahlsen, 2006). The problem that usually occurs in children is speech delay. A child will be said to experience speech delay if the child cannot speak like his peers. There are many causes of children experiencing speech delay. Because children aged 0-5 years are easier to learn everything that exists. However, if there are several causes for the child, the test can be a distraction so that the child experiences speech delay.

According to Hasanah et.al (2023) stated that delays in talking about illness are dangerous, but can interfere with a child's communication or interaction. So, parents must play an important role in this problem. In this speech delay problem, the way to overcome it must be by educating children who are affected by speech delays in the way they speak intensively. Because when a child has a speech delay, parents must really teach the child to talk or invite them to talk

so that the child is accustomed to speaking. The main purpose of this study is that there are no children who have speech delays or so that parents of children with speech delays can read this research and make this research a source of learning. In addition, the purpose of this study is so that the reader can find out what are the causes of speech delays experienced by children so that they can be used as sources not to make the same mistake.

There are four steps comprise the speech production mechanism, such as: (1) Language processing: the conversion of an utterance's content into phonemic symbols in the brain's language center, (2) In the brain motor center, motor orders are generated for the voice organs. (3) Articulatory movement based on these motor commands for speech generation by the vocal organs. (4) Air emitted from the lungs in the form of speech. Meanwhile according to Shetty (2012), there are several causes of speech delay disorders, namely:

1. Mental retardation, which can cause children to speak late is also due to poor hearing so that the child cannot understand the existing language.
2. Hearing loss can also cause speech difficulties in youngsters. Because the hearing cannot correctly understand what is heard from other people, and the brain cannot correctly interpret what is heard, youngsters struggle to talk and have speech delay.
3. Children who speak two languages may experience speech difficulties. In one context, for example, the mother tongue or father language is different. Then there's another setting with a different language. Understanding the present language can therefore have a significant influence on youngsters. In certain ways, the youngster feels perplexed about which language to utilize and acquire first.
4. Depression psychology can lead children to be traumatized by what happened, resulting in speech delays. Children who suffer from economic and nutritional deficits, as well as parental discord, may experience depression. When a youngster feels pressure from the factors mentioned above, he or she prefers to remain silent and eventually becomes late in speaking.

5. Autism is a person who has a disorder in his neurological development. Autism are people who experience disturbances in the nervous system and ultimately affect daily behavior. Autism is impaired in language development and eventually becomes deviant. Autistic children usually always fail to make eye contact with anyone and they have a world of their own.
6. Elective mute, is a disorder in which children don't want to talk because they really don't want to. And elective mute children, usually only talk to people who are close to themselves, usually they will avoid the public and strangers. Elective mute is more common in girls than boys. They experience Elective mute because it is usually genetic and makes the child quiet and shy.

The formulation of this problem is to find out how to overcome the problem of speech delay experienced by children. Speech delays can be overcome or reduced in various ways, because late speech is a disorder that can be treated and overcome. There is an important role from parents and even doctors to overcome speech delays. Neurology is also very important so that children can overcome and treat speech delays that occur in children. The benefit is that children who experience speech delay can follow the method that will be presented in the results and discussion, especially for parents who have to read this article. This study was carried out by the author in order to discover ways to overcome speech difficulties in youngsters. As a result, in this study, the author will pay close attention to or monitor youngsters who have speech impairments in order to determine the best strategy to address this issue. With the findings of this study, it is hoped that children who have speech delays will be able to overcome their difficulties and eventually talk fluently like other children.

Methods

This study uses a qualitative method by using data collection techniques on the final result. Qualitative research relates to ideas, perceptions, opinions or beliefs of the person being studied and all of them cannot be measured by numbers. According to Creswell (2012), qualitative research is a means for

exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social human problem. Instead of transforming humans into quantitative things, research seeks to preserve and evaluate human form and behavior. So after getting data from data collection techniques, the researcher will write down the final results in a descriptive way to explain the results obtained.

This research was conducted in Pematang Cengal Village, Alur Kapal V Hamlet with the research subject a boy who was born on October 5, 2015 at the age of 6 years at the time of the study. Researchers observed every day the activities and interactions of children carried out on January 26, 2022 to February 16, 2022. At the time of the study, the parents of three children played an important role in this study because parents were interviewed in this data collection. Therefore, this study uses data collection techniques from qualitative methods in the form of observation, observation, and documentation.

Findings and Discussions

There are many reasons why children experience speech delays, as experienced by the subjects of this study. The cause of children experiencing late speech is often underestimated by parents, because parents think that one day the child will be able to talk by himself. However, this is wrong because speaking must also want the child to get used to speaking. As observed in the field, it was found that these children very rarely interacted with other people. These children play more cell phones than interact with other people. This can trigger children to experience speech delays because they do not interact with other people. In addition, the researchers interviewed the mother of the child and the mother of the child said that from infancy to the age of four, they lived in an environment that was very far from the population. So that not many people were there and the child rarely interacted. Parents also realized that it was also their fault, because they also very rarely invite children to communicate and more often allow children to play alone. Even so, when the parent speaks, the child understands but does not answer what is said.

This is what will result in delays in speech delays. However, because the child is already in a more crowded place and even though the child can't speak

yet, the researchers believe that one day the child will be able to speak fluently like any other 6 year old child. So that the research that has been done, provides several ways for children to overcome speech delays. At the time of the study, researchers did several things that were done by children with the aim of improving their speaking skills, namely:

1. Have simple conversations with children. The point here is that parents must have simple conversations with their children, so that children can listen to their parents.

2. Speak and the child can answer questions from parents. This will result in children being able to produce language from conversations that will be carried out by their parents. For example, a simple conversation would be parents asking their children to talk about their favorite cartoon or about the activities the children did that day. So that children will be interested in answering questions from parents and make them practice speaking.

3. Learn to sing. This method is also effective for parents to teach their children to sing. Since children's world is a cheerful world, singing is an effective way that parents can choose to let their children sing or say what they are going to say. In addition, singing can make children add to their existing vocabulary. With a different song every day, but parents can ask the child to sing the same song every day.

4. Storybook reading. Children like hearing intriguing or amusing stories, such as fairy tales. As a result, reading tale books to youngsters can help parents overcome communication barriers with their children. Children will frequently hear tales from their parents, as well as new terminology, which will entice them to participate in the discussion.

5. Dictation Method. This dictation method is intended for children to repeat what their parents say. For example, when a child cannot pronounce words clearly, the role of parents here is for the child to continue to pronounce the sentence so that he can pronounce it clearly. After the child pronounces it clearly, the parent can dictate another vocabulary for the child to follow.

Here's how to overcome speech delays in children that can be done by researchers by acting as parents for a while. On the other hand, the researcher interviewed the father of the child about the reasons why the child had difficulty speaking or was late in mastering the language. That's because the father is too busy working and doesn't invite his son to talk, so the child becomes a shy child and doesn't talk much. In addition, children spend more time playing with their cellphones. So that children see a lot of videos or cartoons that use foreign languages such as English or Japanese. In addition, there are other factors, namely the environment that uses Javanese and Malay, while their parents use Indonesian. By mixing several languages, children become confused about which language to use to communicate. So because the child is confused, he chooses to be silent and finally doesn't talk much and experiences speech delay. Speech delay in children can be associated with their withdrawal from social interactions and play activities with peers, highlighting the complex interplay between language development, parenting style, gadget use, and social skills in effectively addressing this issue (Mujahidah et al., 2021; Rahmadhani et al., 2021)

With the research that has been done, it turns out that the above methods are very effective in improving children's speaking abilities. Although not all of the above methods are effective, in fact in the study the children's abilities actually increased. Initially, children who can only say a few words, in research that has been done children become able to speak a few sentences by saying they want to eat something or ask for something. In this effort, researchers did not allow children to play cell phones at all. Although this is very difficult, because children are used to it, researchers continue to force children not to play cell phones anymore. Researchers also continue to invite children to interact, the result is that children become much happier than before. Because previously, the child was more silent and chose to play with his cell phone so he didn't care about his surroundings. After being given several ways by the researchers, the children became more frequent in speaking although sometimes the conversation was not very clear.

This is also supported by interviews with the kid's parents, who stated that the toddler is now more conversational and frequently encourages them to talk.

This makes parents extremely pleased, and they always use some of the tactics mentioned above with their children on a daily basis. The children's parents also pledged to ask their children to engage more frequently since they lamented the child's speech delays in the past. In this case, the speech delay experienced by the child is not due to a disease such as autism or hearing loss. So, children who experience speech delays with this simple problem can be overcome in several ways above. Researchers wrote this study with the aim that parents can read this research and make this research a source for doing things that can avoid delays in children. Therefore, this study is useful not only for parents who have children with speech delays but also for parents who want to overcome them so that their children do not experience speech delays before the speech delay itself occurs. The same results were also found in (Siregar and Hazizah, 2019) which concluded that speech delay is caused by a lack of word knowledge, difficulty recognising letters, children are confused about using language in speaking, and parents are too busy and pay less attention to child development.

Conclusion

There are several causes of speech delay disorders experienced by children, namely due to mental retardation which makes it difficult for the child to speak and his brain is difficult to produce language. In addition, because of hearing loss which makes it difficult for the child to hear what is being said, the existence of two languages in the child's environment which causes the child to be confused about the language he uses, the psychology of depression experienced by the child, autism experienced by the child and also elective mute which causes the child does not like to talk to people he does not know.

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