

# The Phenomenon of Language Disorder in Children With Autism

**Husni Mubarok**

Universitas Subang

Email: [husnimubarok2504@gmail.com](mailto:husnimubarok2504@gmail.com)

**Lusiana Suciati Dewi**

Universitas Subang

Email: [lusianasuciatidewi11@gmail.com](mailto:lusianasuciatidewi11@gmail.com)

**Abstract.** *Language is a means of communicating between people, but there are those who are unlucky so that they have language disorders, language disorders are phenomena that occur in a person both in receiving and expressing language in communication, not only parents can be affected by language disorders, children can also receive language disorders because the causes of language disorders vary. This study examines language disorders in children with autism using qualitative research methods, as well as descriptive analysis. The aim is to determine the phenomenon of language disorders in children with autism both in terms of receptive and expressive.*

**Keywords:** *language disorder, autism*

**Abstrak.** Bahasa merupakan alat berkomunikasi antar manusia ,akan tetapi ada yang tidak beruntung sehingga memiliki gangguan bahasa , gangguan bahasa merupakan fenomena yang terjadi pada seseorang baik dalam menerima ataupun mengekspresikan bahasa dalam berkomunikasi,tidak hanya orang tua yang bisa terkena gangguan bahasa anak pun bisa saja menerima gangguan bahasa karena penyebab gangguan bahasa bervariasi. penelitian ini mengkaji gangguan bahasa pada anak yang menderita autisme dengan menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif,serta analisis deskriptif,tujuannya untuk mengetahui fenomena gangguan bahasa pada anak yang menderita autisme baik dari segi reseptif dan ekspresif.

**Kata kunci:** gangguan bahasa, autisme

## BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Language is a human communication system expressed through a structured arrangement of sounds or written expressions to form larger units, such as words, morphemes, and sentences (Wiranto and Santoso 2014).Not all people have excellent language skills. Some people have language impairments that can impact their lives. Language disorder is the inability to recognize spoken, structured, gestural and other picture frames. Children with language disorder have difficulty in understanding language and communicating (cika et al, 2023).Language disorders can appear at various stages of life, from young children to adults, and can be caused by a variety of factors such as genetic disorders, brain injury, or developmental disorders.

According to the classification made by DSM-5 (APA, 2013), autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is defined by persistent impairments in communication and social interaction in a variety of situations, as well as limited or repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities.

Language disorder is one of the major characteristics of autism spectrum disorder (Tager-Flusberg, 1990). Children with autism have the potential to suffer from disorders in receptive and expressive language. Children with autism experience language problems, dominant language disorder, language delay, or specific language disorder. found in varying degrees (Loucas, 2008). The same point of deficits in Autistic children is also explained by the American Psychiatric Association (Filipek, 1999) which explains that autism is characterized by autism criteria diagnosed with various indications and occurs in various combinations. Autistic children experience four aspects of language disorder, namely phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantic disorders (Ridwan,et al, 2018 ).

This research focuses on language impairment in children with autism and how children receive and express their language. by understanding their experiences and challenges, we can develop better strategies to support their communication needs.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **1. Language disorder**

Several things can cause the ability to speak and understand language to be impaired. One of them is damage to the part of the brain responsible for producing language (Steinberg, 2001). According to Rao (2007), language disorder is a disorder in using or understanding language that includes several aspects, namely form, shape, content, and or function in any combination, because language and thought cannot be separated..meaning that language disorder is a specific disorder .specific in understanding various thoughts and ideas, ideas that involve language information. this information refers to the disorder of the first language or mother tongue of the patient.

### **2. Types of language disorder**

There are two types of language impairment: expressive and receptive. People with expressive language disorders have difficulty using language, while people with receptive language disorders have difficulty understanding language. In addition, Field (2003) states that the type of language impairment can be expressive (impaired language production), receptive (impaired language comprehension), or a combination of both. Growth delays and difficulties in understanding spoken language and speech production are known as mixed expressive-receptive language disorders (Tots cited in Purwaningsih, 2011). The

inability of a person with receptive-expressive disorder includes the inability to understand and use words in certain contexts, to communicate ideas, etc.

### **3. Autism spectrum disorder**

(NIH, 2020) Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that can cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges. The term "spectrum" refers to the range of symptoms, skills and levels of impairment that people with ASD can experience.

ASD affects people in different ways and can range from mild to severe. People with ASD have some symptoms in common, such as difficulties in social interactions, but they differ in when symptoms appear, how severe they are, and whether there are other problems. Symptoms may change with time.

Behavioral signs of autism spectrum disorder usually appear early in development. Many children show symptoms before twelve months to eighteen months of age.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The method used in this research is a descriptive method with a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is social research that basically relies on human observation in its various fields and aspects. data is collected from interviews, personal documents on children with autism. therefore qualitative research by matching researchers with relevant theories using descriptive methods.

This qualitative research method was chosen as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of writing, oral and expressions based on observations of autistic children who experience language disorders. where when the child conveys information that is lacking according to the researcher.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Research on children with autism provides some findings of language disorders, here are some of the language disorders found:

## 1. Difficulty in understanding a question or instruction given

The results of observations of children who experience autism are less even difficult to receive instructions (receptive language). Below is a table of interviews with children with autism.

question / instruction	reaction	answer
namamu siapa ? what's your name ?	cengengesan snicker	Mil
amir hobinya apa ? amir what's your hobby ?	malu - malu , sambil memegang hpnya embarrassed, the child holds his cell phone	men p ( main hp ) play smartphone
kaka , boleh minjem hpnya gak ? Can I borrow your cell phone?	mengerang , sambil mengeratkan pegangan pada hpnya groaned, while tightening the grip on his cellphone	no answer
amir main game apa ? What game are you playing?	tenang , menempelkan hpnya ke telinga sambil mendengarkan musik dari backsound game calm, putting his cell phone to his ear while listening to the music from the game's backsound.	tidak ada jawaban no answer
amir ayo foto sama kaka amir let's take a photo with kaka	melirik ke ibunya 2 kali , dan mengangguk. glanced at his mother twice, and nodded.	euummm

The table above illustrates how difficult it is for autistic children to answer questions. However, his desire to interact with speech partners is very good, as can be seen from his responses, which are always responsive and try to answer questions, but his verbal language production is not perfect. It is seen that autistic children find it quite difficult to accept questions and instructions. below is a group photo after the interview.



## 2. Inappropriate expression or overexpression

Researchers found that children with autism gave expressions that were inappropriate and excessive, based on the table above, it can be seen in the child's expression section.

### **3. Missing some vowels and consonants (phonological deficit)**

Researchers also found that children with autism are missing some vowels and consonants such as: the letter A in the word "Amir", and the letters H and R in the words "HP" and "Amir".

## **DISCUSSION**

The phenomenon of language disorders in autistic children has irregular language and expressions. Based on data analysis, Amir, a child with autism, had difficulty producing and understanding language, indicating that there was a phonological decline, this shows that expressive and receptive symptoms were present in Amir. Expressive language disorders related to the use of spoken language. Meanwhile, receptive language disorders have a lot to do with how and what people say and understand spoken language. Of the 5 data, the researchers found that 3 of the data showed expressive disorders and the rest showed receptive disorders

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Autism can be researched in the fields of neurology, psychology and linguistics, in this research I focus on linguistics according to the field of science that I study. From the data obtained it can be concluded that children who suffer from autism experience language disorders, both expressive and receptive, as well as excessive expression.

It is recommended for parents to help children develop language so that it becomes good. For the surrounding environment, it is hoped that they can work together and understand that each creature has its own advantages and disadvantages, then other researchers, who want to carry out similar research, are expected to be able to examine other areas such as human relationships. parents and children, and language acquisition.

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