

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the study, the research question, the objectives, the significance, and the scope and limitations of the study. This chapter is the fundamental in conducting this research.

1.1 Background of the Study

Speaking is one of the communication skills that generally obtained by everyone. Speaking is an important point in communicating in order to achieve the objectives of what is conveyed. In application, speaking certainly cannot be separated from language. Based on Fitriyani et al., (2018) language is a tool to convey the contents of thoughts, feelings, expressions and interactions with people and the surrounding environment. Meanwhile, according to Haviland, et al., (2008, p.100) language is a communication system that uses voice or gestures that are put together according to certain guidelines to produce meaning that can be understood by everyone who shares the language. In simple terms, language is a medium of communication between human beings to convey content in order to achieve the intended purpose.

Lev Vygotsky (1978) stated that language develops through social interaction between children and their environment. Children learn language by observing and interacting with adults or speakers of other languages. Vygotsky also emphasized the important role of games and symbols in language learning. In simply, language development is a natural and universal process by which every individual learns and masters a language. This ability refers to the acquisition, understanding, and how to use language effectively. In the process of language development there are stages of how a person can speak. Starting from babies who can only make vocal sounds such as a, i, u, e, o but cannot be accompanied by consonants so that the language conveyed can only be understood by few people or even cannot be understood. Entering the age of the stage, children are generally able to speak clearly, they have quite a lot of vocabulary so that when interacting

with others they can still understand what is being conveyed, although sometimes in some conditions the sentences spoken are quite confusing or not in accordance with the corridor of linguistic composition (S.V.O). and then generally begin to be able to assemble a complete and coherent sentence.

Based on observations of Hurlock (1972) learning to speak includes three basic tasks, that is pronouncing words, using vocabulary, and combining words into sentences. Meanwhile, according to Putri (2020) there are several levels of language development that occur in humans from infancy to adulthood. Normal humans will experience this level according to their age. The levels are *babbling*, *holophrastic* (producing one word), *telegraphic speech* (producing a combination of two words and sentences). After that they can combine sentences such as interrogative sentences, negations, and various kinds in stages. The explanations from the two experts are closely related in that the level of language development has occurred in humans since infancy and basic skills in speaking can be developed well with age if they are always trained to speak and use their vocabulary correctly.

According from the explanation above, language development has an important role in the growth of a child. If a child's language development condition does not develop properly, certainly this will affect the child's growth period. However in practice, language development does not always run smoothly for some children. As in some cases, there are some children who experience language delay when they are in the language acquisition stage. Language delay is a delay in language development as a whole, covers several aspects such as understanding and expression of language, use of words, grammar, and ability to speak verbally (Hurlock 1972). In language delay there is one condition which is namely speech delay. Based on Hurlock (1972) speech delay is "if the level of speech development is below the level of quality of speech development of children of the same age which can be seen from the accuracy of words, then the child's social relations will be hampered the same way if their playing skills are below the playing skills of their peers". In general, children with speech delay have difficulties in producing language sounds correctly and pronouncing them clearly. Speech delay

phenomenon can occur because each child has different abilities and backgrounds from other children, even those who have the same lineage and obtain the same environment may get different language development abilities. The problem that often occurs in children who experience speech delay is difficulty to control their behavior and emotions and also affect to the child's academic achievement (Nelson et al., 2006).

Based on the information that provided by *Bisnis.com*, in 2022, 20% of children in Indonesia have experienced speech delay, which means that if there are 5 million children, 1 million children will experience speech delay. Basically speech delay are divided into 2 separate groups, namely functional and non-functional. Functional is when the child lacks stimulation and gets less precise parenting, while the notion of non-functional is children who have receptive language disorder, which means it is quite difficult to distinguish between meaningful and meaningless sounds (ability to listen and read), for example *autism* or *ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)* (American Psychiatric Association, 2013).

Speech delay has been a problem from the past in Indonesia, where the growth rate is increasing every year and peaks when the world, including Indonesia, is hit by the Covid-19 virus disaster. This could be happen because children are forced to stay at home while the role of parents are felt to be lacking in provide attention and care for children and focusing more on the demands of their work so that it is quite difficult for children to interact with their environment. Generally, parents will choose to give gadgets to their child to stay quite rather than play around with them. The effect is the child is very lacking in interaction because he only focus on gadget screen, so that the child experiences speech delays. Other causes of speech delay are that the child may have hearing problems, impaired function of the oral structure muscles, autism, or family history/genetics. According from this statement, it is found that speech delay should be a problem that must be handled seriously and precisely.

In this research, the subject is a 3 year old boy with the initials R. This child was born into a relatively well-off family because his parents worked as distributors of raw materials, but did not have enough time to give full attention to R. On the other hand, the environment R's social life can be said that is less supportive because in the environment around his house he doesn't have any peers, so it's quite difficult for R to have playmates other than his parents.

From the case above, the researcher illustrates that problems regarding children's language development skills should be the concern of parents in educating and teaching their children, so what happens is the children can develop their abilities according to their age. The purpose of this study is to investigate the linguistic characteristics and the factors that experience speech delay in the 3 year old child.

1.2 Research Questions

1. What are the linguistic characteristics of children with speech delay?
2. What are the factors that can cause children experienced speech delay?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Based on the research question, the objectives of the study are :

1. To identify the linguistic characteristics of children with speech delay
2. To find the factors that can cause children experienced speech delay

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of the research can be seen as follow :

1. Theoretically

The result of this study are expected to contribute to the study of Psycholinguistics in terms of increasing understanding of the linguistic

characteristics of children with speech delay and the factors that caused speech delay.

2. Practically

The result of this study are expected to be a provision for readers in the phenomenon of speech delay in real life, in order to minimized and handled appropriately. So, the children can grow and develop normally and do not feel different from their peers.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is a study in the field of Psycholinguistics that focuses on analyzing the linguistic characteristics and factors underlying the occurrence of speech delay. The thesis used a characteristics children with speech delay by Hurlock (1972) and main possible factors by Shetty (2012). The limitation of this research is the researcher examine the utterances of the 3 year old child with speech delay and statements by the parents while question and answer session.