

## LANGUAGE PRODUCTION AND COMPREHENSION IN APHASIA

Friya Fadillah Setiawan  
Universitas Sebelas April  
Author's email

Received: 10-06-2023

Accepted: 28-06-2023

Published: 30-06-2023

### Abstract

This research focuses on the characteristics and process of language production and comprehension in Broca aphasia sufferer. In this study, the researcher uses qualitative method. In addition, research data was collected from interview, observation, personal documents, and other notes with the researcher itself who became the research instrument. This research focus on the characteristics and process of language production and comprehension in broca aphasia sufferer. From observation and interview, the researcher found five data included in the characteristics of broca aphasia sufferer, namely the existence of repeated gestures, frequent pauses when speaking, repetition, disfluency, and irregular speech rhythms. From this research, it can be concluded that people with broca aphasia have difficulty with expressing something even though they know what they want to convey to others. All problems that experienced by broca aphasia sufferer lead to the characteristics of broca aphasia.

**Keywords:** *broca aphasia, language production, language comprehension*

### INTRODUCTION

In psycholinguistics, the acquisition of human language is related to their mind. That is, when humans speak, the language is already in the human brain before they express it with their speech organs (Harley in Dardjowidjojo, 2003: 7). Since it has something to do with human brain, not a few people experience language disorders. One of them is aphasia. Aphasia is a type of language disorder caused by a stroke. When a person has a stroke, this causes no blood flow to the brain resulting in damage to the part of the brain that produces language. Based on an article on the official website of the Ministry of Health written by the RSST Promkes Team - dr. Soeradji Tirtonegoro Klaten in January 2023, it is known that around 25-40% of stroke sufferers suffer from aphasia.

Mrs. Imas is one of 25-40% of stroke survivors who suffer from aphasia. She is one of the elders who lives in Cijeler village, Situraja sub-district, Sumedang. Mrs. Imas had a stroke five years ago when she was 68 years old. This caused her to find it difficult to express what she wanted to convey. By this means, the language disorder experienced by Mrs. Imas is Broca Aphasia.

Language disorder like Broca Aphasia is discussed in the psycholinguistics field. Psycholinguistics is a scientific discipline that examines the psychological processes that make humans use and understand language. Menn (2017) emphasizes that psycholinguistics is the process of how the humans brain regulates a language so that they really understand, speak, read, and write that language. In other words, psycholinguistics is a study that discusses language in relation to the human mind.

Aphasia is a language disorder caused by focal brain injury, brain tumor, or stroke. Even though it does not affect intelligent, humans with aphasia usually have a few cognitive problems which caused language impairment (Menn, 2017). However, most of their brain is still working normally. Aphasia has many different types, and one of them is Broca aphasia.

Broca aphasia or expressive aphasia is a type of aphasia in which the sufferers know what they want to convey to other people, but has difficulty expressing it. This condition, which is also called motor aphasia. It is usually caused by damage to the left front side of the brain.

Research on Broca Aphasia has been carried out previously by several researchers. They are Mulia and Indah researching "Broca Aphasia Language Impairment In Sarah Scott's Youtube Channel" which focused on types of language impairment in Sarah Scott's Youtube Channel, Yuliana

and friends researching "A Psycholinguistic Study of Language Difficulties in Patients with Broca's Aphasia and Potential Treatments" which focused on language difficulties and potential treatments, Tampubolon and friends research "Aphasia in Theory Of Everything's Movie" which focused on the types of Aphasia suffered by Stephen Hawking. Unlike previous research, this research will focus on the characteristics and process of language production and comprehension in Broca aphasia sufferer.

## METHOD

In this study, the researcher uses qualitative method, where the research data obtained is natural or based on natural background so that the research results are scientific and can be accounted for. In addition, research data was collected from interview, observation, personal documents, and other notes with the researcher itself who became the research instrument. To strengthen the data, researcher also use a guide list based on Lisa Menn (2017).

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher found five data included in the characteristics of Broca aphasia sufferer from observation and interview. Those characteristics are the existence of repeated gestures, frequent pauses when speaking, repetition, disfluency, and irregular speech rhythms.

1. There are gestures that are repeated.

When the researcher doing the interview, on several chances, Mrs. Imas seemed nervous and intimidated by what the researcher asked. This can be seen from the gestures that are repeated. The gesture is that she plays her right hand with her left hand. Even though she made gestures that showed nervousness and intimidation, she seemed to understand what the researcher was saying. This can be seen from the appropriate answers to the questions asked.

Researcher: "Kantos terapi Ema teh?"

Mrs. Imas: "Kantos. Ngan saprak Corona we henteu teh..."

2. Often pause when speaking

When she was saying something, Mrs. Imas often paused in the middle of what she was saying. It is because Mrs. Imas has difficulty finding words in her brain. The presence of long or short pauses in the middle of Mrs. Imas' speech indicates hesitation in saying something. For example, when she explained her post-therapy condition, she said, "Diajar tina ... risbang nganggo ieu ayalima langkah," which means she was once able to move and walk five steps from the bed to her wheelchair and when she talked about her childhood where she wears samping fabric for salat. She said, "Pa ... panitih we nya baheula mah," which means she used a pin to wear samping fabric as a head cover.

3. Repetition

According to Ardila (2014) in Mulia (2021), repetition phenomena is limited auditory verbal short-term memory which causes difficulties at the level of production and understanding a language. From the data obtained, Mrs. Imas repeated words because she had difficulty producing words and understanding the structure and meaning of sentences. For example, when she told the researcher when she went for treatment, "Komo mun tas di... tas di eu.. ieunya, di cek darah tinggi, nya, sok ieu ... sok naon teh, sok reuwas."

4. Disfluency

Generally, people with Broca aphasia experience a stroke in face part. This causes the facial muscles, especially the vocal organs, to be difficult to move. Due to this, the pronunciation of a word is not clear or disfluency. Just like what happened to Mrs. Imas when the researcher made observations. Mrs. Imas said, "Naon, hmwa Ian?" This question was asked by her when she was interacting with someone, who is called Emak Ian.

5. Irregular speech rhythm.

When the researcher doing interview and observation, on several chances, Mrs. Imas' speech rhythm was irregular. Sometimes she spoke quickly, sometimes she did the opposite, so that what she said was difficult for listeners to understand. For example, when Mrs. Imas explained her post-therapy condition, she said, "Sataunma ... lebaran basa eta ma teu nganggo roda ... nganggo iteuk," which means she was able to walk with a cane, not the wheel for a year.

## CONCLUSION

From this study, it can be concluded that people with broca aphasia have difficulty with expressing something even though they know what they want to convey to others. Mrs. Imas, who suffers from aphasia, has problems with her language production and comprehension. All problems that experienced by Mrs. Imas lead to the characteristics of broca aphasia, namely the existence of repeated gestures, frequent pauses when speaking, repetition, disfluency, and irregular speech rhythms.

Since people with aphasia has difficulty with expressing something, we, people who interact with them should be patient to comprehend and understand what they are trying to convey so that there will not be misunderstanding in the conversation.

## REFERENCES

- Arswenda Dini Mulia, R. N. (2021). Broca Aphasia Language Impairment In Sarah Scott's Youtube Channel. *Journal Basis*, 239-250.
- Dardjowidjojo, S. (2003). *Psikolinguistik: Pemahaman Bahasa Manusia*. Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia.
- Klaten, T. P.-R. (2023, January Thursday). *Gangguan Afasia*. Retrieved from [yankes.kemkes.go.id: https://yankes.kemkes.go.id/view\\_artikel/2087/gangguan\\_afasia](https://yankes.kemkes.go.id/view_artikel/2087/gangguan_afasia)
- Menn, L. (2017). *Psycholinguistics: Introduction and Aplications (Second Edition)*. San Diego: PLURAL PUBLISHING.
- Selviya Yuliana, H. S. (2021). A Psycholinguistic Study of Language Difficulties in Patients with Broca's Aphasia and Potential Treatments. *HUMAN: South Asean Journal of Social Studies*, 219-227.
- Tampubolon, W. A. (2019). *Aphasia In Theory Of Everything's Movie*. *Ilmu Budaya*, 477-484.