



DESCRIPTION OF SPEECH DELAY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

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Abstract

Every parent expects their children to grow normally. However, some factors may affect the children's growth and bring about the delay of their getting old. There are several reasons, internally and externally, that lead to impaired child development. Parents are making some efforts to handle this situation, especially when it is related to speech. This writing aims to describe the factors influencing the delay of the children in speaking. The data were taken from around 5 of 7-8 years old children who suffered from speech delays in Padang city. The observational method with note-taking and interviewing techniques was involved in collecting the data. By using the concept of speech delay, the data were analyzed. After analyzing the data, it is found that some factors are causing the speech delay. They are 1) family relationship, 2) speech model and 3) gadget-cholic.

Keywords: children, early childhood, speech delay

1 Introduction

Language is a tool for humans to interact with each other, where interaction is important in human survival. In addition to functioning as a medium for interacting with each other, language also serves as a medium to express the culture and what the user of the language is feeling. Therefore, language has an important role in human life to communicate with each other. According to Kridalaksana (Kushartanti & Lauder, 2009:3-6) that meant by language is a sound signal system that is agreed to be used by members of certain community groups in cooperating, communicating, and identifying themselves.

At the stage of language development, the influence of the people around is very important in obtaining vocabulary, especially for children who are just learning to speak. The growth of children at an early age is very fast, so it is referred to as the Golden Age. Golden Age is a very important time for the growth of children because, at this time, the provision of stimulation or stimulation for all aspects of development has an important role in early childhood. If at this age, the child is not given sufficient stimulus and a supportive environment, it will have an impact on the ability to speak that the child has.

The World Health Organization states that children aged 0-6 are said to be children in the golden age. This happens because children's growth and development process occurs a rapid increase in the range of human life development. In the golden period, children learn by seeing, hearing, and feeling what is happening around them. The development of the child at the next stage will be influenced by the fulfillment of the child's developmental tasks in the previous stage (Hockenberry & Wilson, 2009).

Children 2-6 years old have a characteristic that is always asking, paying attention, and talking about everything they see, hear, and feel about their environment spontaneously. The child spontaneously asks when he sees something that catches his attention. Children who have the ability to speak have shown maturity and readiness in learning because by speaking, the child will express his desires, interests, feelings and convey his thoughts orally to those around people.

There are children whose speech development is faster and some are experiencing delays. If a child is able to produce sounds or sounds that correspond to their age level, then the child is said to have good speaking skills. On the contrary, if there is a disturbance in this phase that is related to difficulties in the production of sounds or sounds that are specific to speak then the child has difficulty speaking

The problem of speech delay in children is a serious problem that must be addressed immediately because it is one of the most common causes of developmental disorders found in children. Speech delay can be known from the accuracy of the use of the word, which is characterized by unclear pronunciation and in communicating can only use sign language, so that parents and people around him cannot understand the child, although the child can actually understand what people are talking about.

Early detection of speech delays should be carried out by all individuals involved in handling this child. This early detection activity involves parents, families, obstetricians who have been caring since pregnancy, and pediatricians who take care of the child. According to Hurlock (1978: 194-195), the definition of speech delay in children is if the level of speech development is below the level of quality of speech development of children of the same age that can be known from the accuracy of the use of words. Obstacles to the development of speech can affect the child's social and personal adjustments and the academic adjustment of the child due to the importance of the function of speech development in the child.

At this time, in cases that many children in Indonesia who speech delay around of 2-6 years. This makes many parents worried about the child's condition who experienced the case. So the purpose of this study is to describe the factors that affect speech delay in children and the ways of handling that parents can do in overcoming speech delay.

2 Methodology

The approach in this study used qualitative descriptive and the method used is the case study method. Qualitative research is descriptive and more likely to use inductive approach analysis. The process and meaning are displayed based on the perspective of the research subject (Sugiarto, 2017).

The research was conducted on children who experienced cases of speech delay. The data for the study came from several experiences of parents experiencing problems in children with cases of speech delay. The data source is sourced from social media YouTube because the condition is still pandemic and must comply with the government's, so researchers can only search for data from YouTube. The data found there are 3 videos that explain the experience of parents in caring for children who experience the longest speaking.

1. 4-year old (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0k-RvQKYnM>)
2. 3- years old (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxwtH1c5A2s&t=624s>)
3. 2- years old (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmjrrvOankO&t=421>).

After finding the data, the researchers described the data by paying attention to the factors of speech delay and how the parents handled it.

3 Results and Findings

A. *Children's factors are delayed speaking*

The cause of speech delay needs to be done to determine the right efforts in the management of children's speech skills. The condition can be good or bad also determined from the identification of the cause of the problem. Various parties and disciplines widely review guidelines in identifying the cause. The approach of developmental psychology by Hurlock (2003) suggests the various causes of speech delay, among others in accordance with the findings, the absence of a good model for

the child to emulate, the lack of motivation of the child as well as the opportunity is not strong enough to speak.

From the findings, the following factors cause children to experience speech delays in early childhood.

1. Family relationships

Usually, parents who have business will have little time to accompany the child to play and interact with the child. This is in accordance with (Taufik, 2020) Joseph's statement (2010:122), saying that a healthy relationship between parent and child (attentive and affectionate from parents), facilitates the development of the child's language, while unhealthy relationships result in the child having difficulties or lags in the development of his language.

3rd video

Kebetulan saya waktu itu masih bekerja ketika kanta berusia 2 tahun, jadi kanta tinggal bersama kakek neneknya dan oomnya. Jadi saat itu kalau di rumah sama kakek neneknya dan kebetulan rumah dipinggir jalan jadi tidak pernah bermian diluar rumah hanya didalam rumah dan itu dia hanya bermain mobil-mobilan sendirian ga ada teman main

2. Imitated speech/model style

Nowadays, parenting patterns applied at home tend to follow the will of modern parents as well as inconsistent use of language that causes the child to be late in speaking. The case is found in the first and second video explaining that their child has been taught to use a language other than the mother tongue, but during the communication, the child experiences confusion in the pronunciation of sentences and sentence structures that are often reversed, thus making the child have a delay in speaking. In line with the opinion of Hurlock (1978), who said that in order for children to know to say the word correctly and then combine it into the correct sentence, then they must have a good speaking model to emulate.

1st video

Karena mungkin dia bahasanya campur kali ya, bahasa inggris dan bahasa Indonesia, jadi struktur bahasanya kebalik balik. Kayak misalnya "aku mau makan" jadi aaa... "aku makan mau", kayak sekarang masih dibalik-balik gitu.

Nah dirumah itu kan saya dulu niatnya anak itu bisa ngomong banyak bahasa, jadi saya ngomongin pake bahasa inggris, kadang-kadang sedikit bahasa prancis, trus ibunya pakai bahasa arab sama keluarganya kadang-kadang, kemudian disekolahnya juga aa.. apanamanya hafalan doa gitu kan. Jadi waktu masih kecil perkembangannya kalem jadi agak bingung untuk bisa memahami logika bahasa.

'He probably has mixed languages, English and Indonesian, so the language structure is reversed. For example, "I want to eat" so aaa... "I want to eat" like now it's still being turned around like that.

Well, at home, my intention was for the child to speak many languages, so I spoke in English, sometimes a little French, then the mother used Arabic with her family sometimes, then at school too... what's the name of memorizing prayers? Right. So when I was young, I was calm, so I was a bit confused to understand the logic of language.'

2nd video

Anak saya jadi bingung bahasa karena dari lahir sampai usia satu tahun dibiasakan menggunakan bahasa jawa dan setelah satu tahun anak saya semakin menjadi bingung harus menggunakan bahas apa,karena waktu itupun saya sempat pindah dan ketika anak saya bermain dia diejek karena menggunakan bahasa jawa jadi anak anak saya jadi tidak mau banyak berbicara dan lebih banyak merengek.

‘My son was confused about the language because from birth to the age of one year he was accustomed to using the Javanese language, and after one year my child became increasingly confused about what to use because even then I had moved and when my son played, he was ridiculed because he used Javanese so a child. So I don't want to talk much and whine more.’

3. Using gadget

The use of gadgets that are too often at risk makes the child experience speech delays. In the data found, children are given gadgets when parents are busy. They give gadgets also have a definite reason. Usually, children are given gadgets to play games and then watch children's spectacles. When children often give gadgets, they rarely interact with children who are the same age and enjoy themselves, so communication becomes rarely done. And it makes the child have a delay in speaking. This case happened to all the data that the researchers found.

1st video

Juga dipengaruhi oleh tontonan dia, tontonan dia juga mempengaruhi gaya bicaranya. Dia nonton 2 kartun ya ada minions sama onggi. Kartun itu dia ngomongnya agak aneh kan, jadi di bawa itu kesehariannya kale.

‘Also influenced by his spectacle, his spectacle also affects his speaking style. He watched 2 cartoons. There were Minions and Onggi. The cartoon he spoke was a bit strange, right, so he carried it with him daily.’

2nd video

Saya memberikan izin Gibran untuk main gadget, berhubung saya cuman ibu rumah tangga ngurus rumah ngurus suami jadi saya belum bisa ngurus waktunya, jadi dengan terpaksa kalau misalnya saya masak saya kasih hp,kalau saya mau beberes rumahpun dikasih hp. Jadi anak saya menjadi tertarik dengan chanel orang luar dengan bahasa inggris, bahasa spanyol yang bahasanya kurang dimengerti bahkan aku juga ga ngerti. Jadi intinya bukan lagi 2 bahasa tapi 4 bahasa yang bikin anak saya semakin bingung dan memutuskan untuk lebih baik diam.

‘I permitted Gibran to play with gadgets because I am just a housewife taking care of my husband so I cannot take care of the time, so I am forced to give my cellphone if I cook, for example, if I want to clean the house I'm given a cellphone. So my son became interested in foreign channels with English, Spanish whose language is not understood even I do not understand. So the

point is that it is no longer 2 languages but 4 languages that make my child even more confused and decide to keep quiet.’

3rd video

Dirumah pengalaman kebanyakan sih daripada dia menangis misalnya bosen atau mencari mamanya, senjatanya itu biasanya diputerin dvd melalui tv atau terkadang malah di hp.

‘At home, most of the experience is that instead of crying, for example, when he is bored or looking for his mother, the weapon is usually played on a DVD via TV or sometimes even on a cellphone.’

B. Parents' concerns for children who experience speech delays

Erikson's theory of psychosocial development explains that the task of development in life span should be well implemented (Papalia & A, 2009). Unfinished developmental tasks will affect later life development, including the development of children with speech delays. This condition needs to be handled appropriately based on the condition that the child is experiencing (Tarshis, Rodriguez, & Seijo, 2007). Here's the data found in the handling of parents when the child has difficulty speaking.

1. Doing therapy

On the video that is used as data, all parents do therapy for their child's treatment. Parents take their children to the doctor and at the same time to a psychologist. There the doctor will examine the child's health condition. If they have other disorders, then the psychologist will look at the child's behavioral condition during therapy. Many parents do this because experts in their field handle it.

1st video

Saya mencoba membawa anak saya ke dokter untu diterapi, untuk menanyakan kondisi anak saya apakah mengalami gangguan bahasa atau hanya mengalami keterlambatan bicara saja.

‘I tried to take my child to the doctor for treatment, to ask if my child had a language disorder or just had a speech delay.’

3rd video

Saya membawa anak saya ke dokter spesialis. Disana Qanta melakukan terapi bicara dan perilaku.

‘I took my son to a specialist. There Qanta does speech and behavior therapy.’

2. Prohibiting to use of gadgets or TV

As described above, the factors that cause children to experience speech delays are electronics. Therefore parents stay away from their children from gadgets, tv, or other electronic items and focus on language sedation in children. This is done by the parents of all three videos and makes the child start to be able to read smoothly and well

1st video

Terus kita membatasi tontonan, jadi kita kasih waktu dalam satu hari itu maksimal satu jam, tapi kalau misalkan aku (ibu) lagi ada acara trus harus bawa Kalef biasanya aku lebihan dari satu jam lagi.

‘Then we limit the viewing, so we give the time in one day a maximum of one hour, but if, for example, I (mother) have an event and have to bring Kalef, I usually have more than one hour.’

2nd video

Jadi saya dan suami memutuskan untuk tidak dulu memberikan gadget sama anak. Mau gak mau saya dan suami harus mengalah gak megang hp dulu.

‘So my husband and I decided not to give a gadget to our children. Like it or not, my husband and I have to give up not holding a cellphone first.’

3rd video

Kemudian saya stop tv, stop nonton dvd, stop gadget stop semuanya. Memang pada awalnya untuk mengalami perubahan itu kanta selalu menangis. Tapi kita harus punya pendirian sebagai orang tua kalauitu tidak baik jadi semua distop.

‘Then I stopped TV, stopped watching DVDs, stopped all gadgets. In the beginning, to experience the change, the lens always cried. However, we have to stand as parents if it is not good, so everything is stopped.’

3. Invite children often communicate

After parents can prohibit their children from using gadgets or other electronic items, the next treatment is to communicate with the child, often starting from chatting at all times, then invite the children to sing and others. It will quickly make the child quick to talk

1st video

Kalef kalau ngomong dibagi dua, saya (ayah) ngomong pakai bahasa inggris, ibunya ngomong pakai bahasa Indonesia, jadi kalef kalaungomong sama saya pakai bahasa inggris, kalau dia ngajak pakai Bahasa Indonesia. Saya nggak jawab. Juga saya ngomong sama Kalef pakai bahasa inggris, ga pakai bahasa Indonesia dan ibunya juga sebaliknya. Kita mengajaknya berkomunikasi secara konsisten tidak dicampur campur.

‘When he speaks, Kalef divided the utterances into two, I (father) speak in English, his mother speaks in Indonesian, so if he speaks to me, he uses English, when he invites, he uses Indonesian. I did not answer. Also, I spoke to Kalef in English, did not speak Indonesian and his mother did the opposite. We invite him to communicate consistently without being mixed up.’

2nd video

Jadi saya lebih memperbanyak waktu bersama anak, mengajak bermain anak sambil belajar. Saya mengajak anak bermain, belajar sambil sering berkomunikasi. Jadi saya terus terusan mengajak anak saya berkomunikasi sehingga allhamdulillah ada perkembangan bahasa pada kosa kata pada anak saya.

‘So I spend more time with my children, invite children to play while learning. I invite children to play learn while communicating often. So I continue to invite my child to communicate so that, thank God, there is language development in my child's vocabulary.’

3rd video

Kemudian saya mengajak bernyanyi, saya beli speaker kecil. Nah mulai saat itu dia mulai terpancing bernyanyi dan dia mulai tertarik untuk berbicara.

‘Then I asked to sing. I bought a small speaker. So from that moment on, he started to get hooked on singing, and he became interested in talking.’

The occurrence of each factor could be seen in the following figure 1.

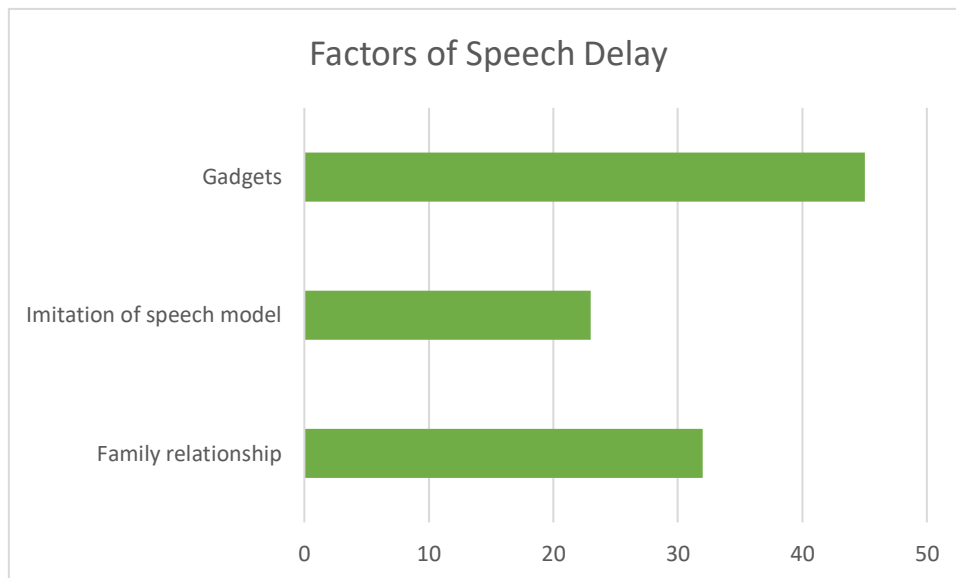


Figure 1. Factors of Speech Delay

Gadgets are the most dominant factor among the three. The situation is getting worse as the children need to use gadgets to study at home in this pandemic time. Without any control from parents, the number of children suffering from speech delay as well as the severity may increase.

Some parents have tried to overcome and decrease the suffering by some actions. These actions are shown in figure 2.

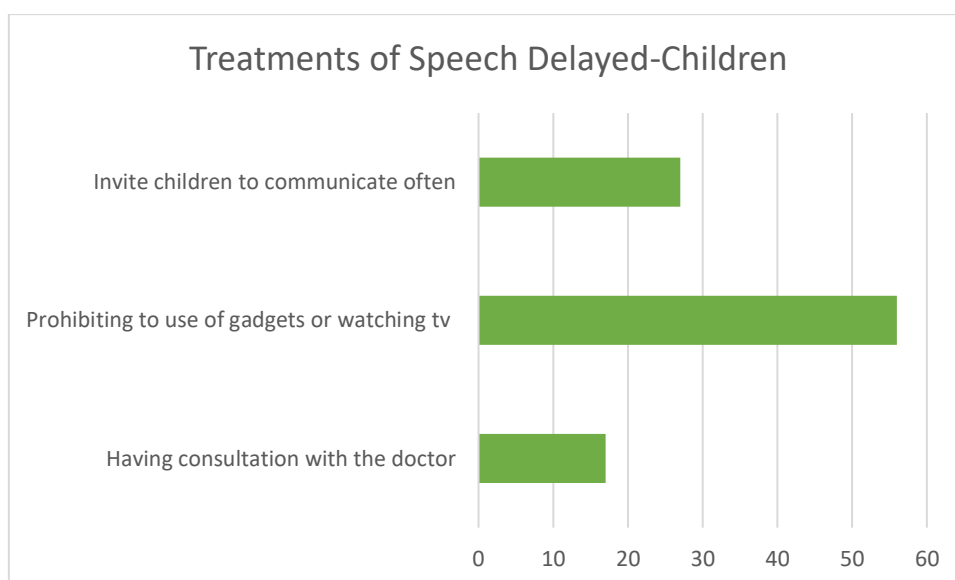


Figure 2. Treatments of Speech Delayed-Children

Prohibiting children from watching tv and playing with gadgets is mostly done by parents to prevent their children from being worse. This treatment must be in line with other actions, like continuously having communication with the children and consulting the doctors. As the parents commit to doing so, the situation may get better and the speech-delayed children can be decreased in terms of quantity and quality.

4 Conclusion

Based on the findings, the conclusions can be stated that there are some factors that make children experience speech delays. They include (1) family relationships, (2) imitated speech styles/models, and (3) the influence of gadgets use. Then, many treatments are done by parents such as (1) Having a consultation with the doctor, (2) Prohibiting to use of gadgets or watching tv, and (3) Inviting children to communicate often. Among these factors, the use of gadgets is the most dominant factor. The situation is getting worse as it occurs to those whose age is more than 6 years because they have to have the gadget to study at home.

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