

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is intended to contain descriptive explanations regarding this research, research problems, research objectives, research significance, and definitions of key words.

1.1. Background of Research

Language is considered the central aspect of a conversation that plays an important role. However, some cases such like stroke is defined as a physical disturbances which affect language and its functions, so that communication activities will be significantly disrupted (Wade et al., 1986). As stated by Broca, this phenomenon is commonly referred to as a language disorder (Broca, 1861, in Hecaen & Dubois, 1969). Language disorders can manifest as various disorders affecting a person's mastery of language, both in the ability to understand language and to convey it. These disorders are mostly related to a person's physical condition, injuries and congenital disabilities and are often referred to as brain damage (Justice, 2010).

A person who experiences a language disorder can indicate a malfunction in certain parts of the brain, which are language-producing devices. This issue arises because the brain needs the ability to speak well, including the ability to produce (expression) and understand (reception). This ability will fully function when the two language-producing brain parts, Broca and Wernicke, can work properly. Therefore, when these two parts of the brain are damaged,

the brain's language processing ability will be disrupted and can cause a person to experience language disorders.

Aphasia are commonplace in the public's ears, especially if they are associated with stroke. The object contained in this research somehow serve this common topic into something special and impressive. The object of this research is a documentary film initiated by Lotje Sodderland as the sufferer herself. Lotje recorded her activities using a smartphone camera as a medium for sharing her experiences and was then assisted by documentary filmmaker Shopie Robinson. Uniquely, this film was made with funding generated from voluntary collections posted on the *Kickstarter* website and was successful in raising funds worth £37,340. According to *Idfa.nl*, this film made its world premiere at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam and gained success by winning the DOC U Award. Apart from that, this film also received various positive comments and reviews such as "Certified Fresh" on *Rotten Tomatoes* and "Remarkable" praise by *The Austin Chronicle*.

Psycholinguistics is focuses on discussions related to activities or processes connected to language production, reception, and recognition (Lyons, 1968 in Suharti et al., 2021). Language production is the ability and function of the human brain to make, process, and release products in the form of language (Bach & Harms, 1968). A popular language disorder related to the system of production, reception, and language recognition is aphasia.

Aphasia is a language disorder caused by damage to the human brain and causes language function failure, especially in the characteristics of speaking,

reading, and writing (Lyons, 1968 in Suharti et al., 2021). In their study, Benson and Patten (1967) clarify the classification of aphasia based on differences of opinion, which are divided into two, namely Broca's aphasia and Wernicke's aphasia. Broca's aphasia is a common disorder involving, in general, injuries to parts of the brain caused by accidents, injuries, and diseases such as stroke. Broca identified that this disorder results from damage to certain parts of the brain that cause speech problems. This disorder is characterized by utterances that tend to be short but have a reasonably long meaning and purpose. In addition, this disorder also affects grammatical mastery and matters related to linguistic rules. At the same time, Wernicke's aphasia is a disorder that puts sufferers in a condition where they speak using strange words, although grammatically correct, not unreasonable. In addition, they often use substitute words with similar sounds or features (Steinberg et al., 2013).

Broca's and Wernicke's aphasia is the most common type, and most people have it. In addition, there are many other types of aphasia. As stated by (Suhartono et al., 2010) that there are five different types of aphasia, Broca's aphasia, Wernicke's aphasia, anomic aphasia, global aphasia, and conduction aphasia. The symptoms shown by patients from each aphasia have different characteristics. Symptoms of other types of aphasia will be described in more detail in the literature review.

Besides aphasia, several other disorders can coexist with aphasia such as paraphasia and agraphia. This is obviously related to the damage in certain parts of the brain, especially in fluent aphasia's territory. For example, in

Wernicke's aphasia, paraphasias tend to occur at the same time with aphasia because the damaged areas in the brain are located in close proximity which lead up to multiple disorders (Sinanović et al., 2011). As well as paraphasia, agraphia is also appears in same condition and time with other neurologic disorder especially aphasia (De Smet et al., 2011).

According to Manasco (2020) in *Introduction to Neurogenic Communication Disorders*, paraphasia is an error expressed in expressive language that explained not to be related to motorism but it is considered have more relation to aphasia. Goodglass, Kaplan, and Baressi (2001) in Manasco (2020) explained that basically paraphasia is an utterance that comes out either in the form of phrases, letters or syllables from someone with aphasia unconsciously and unintentionally. While agraphia is a disorder that infects the basic language skills of sufferers such as composing letters and forming words or even forming the letters themselves. Lesions in the language-producing hemisphere in the angular gyrus, the language-producing region, will be the main cause of agraphia (Manasco, 2020).

WHO defines stroke as a clinical syndrome that affects brain structures such as subarachnoid haemorrhage (the protective layer of the brain). A stroke is a "brain attack" that cannot be recovered for a long time (Warlow et al., 2003). Aphasia is one of the side effects caused by stroke due to brain damage that occurs, so aphasia is very closely related to stroke; even most patients with aphasia are affected by this disease. Although aphasia is very common when it comes to stroke, aphasia is still not well known to the general public. Aphasia

looks like a unique disorder seeing how a person can lose the ability to speak due to damage to certain parts of the brain, while the ability to think and knowledge besides language still have.

The phenomenon of aphasia experienced by stroke patients is illustrated in a documentary film named *My Beautiful Broken Brain*. This film is produced by Shopie Robinson with the sufferer herself, Lotje Sodderland, as a director. This film tells how Lotje Sodderland's life changed after what happened. One night she suddenly had a stroke and fell unconscious, found by her brother later lying unconscious in her apartment. Lotje was diagnosed with a hemorrhagic stroke which was identified as the result of a congenital vascular malformation or an abnormality in the blood vessels affecting the system. After that, she was again diagnosed with aphasia due to the stroke she suffered. At first, she had difficulty reading, then gradually became difficult to write, and then had difficulty speaking well. Gradually all of Lotje's linguistic abilities eroded and faded. There are many exciting events and phenomena related to Lotje's aphasia, how her language skills are disappearing until her language development is getting better, how Lotje has difficulty understanding words and pronouncing words, and difficulty reading and writing well.

The phenomena described in this film inspire the researcher to clarify and deepen the symptoms of stroke patients who experience aphasia. In addition, the researcher chose the object of research with film because the film is a medium of delivery that can be easily understood by the public, so a particular explanation is needed regarding the depiction of aphasia symptoms displayed

in the film in more depth to get a better understanding and broader knowledge. A film with a story and this phenomenon is not something so strange, and there are many films out there that raise the same thing. The researcher chose the film *My Beautiful Broken Brain* as the object of study based on several things. This film presents aphasia sufferers who are stroke patients; the aphasia patients in this film are not common types of aphasia. Then the researcher also chose this film because it is a documentary that contains original scenes and events without any fiction. Therefore, the researcher is interested in doing research related to Language Disorders Of Stroke Patients In Robinson's *My Beautiful Broken Brain* Documentary Film.

Research that contains material and problems related to psycholinguistics, especially on language disorders, has been carried out by many participants. Several researchers reviewed by the authors, such as Nabila (2018) which titled “*Gangguan Fonologi Afasia Pada Penderita Stroke*”, investigated phonological disorders in patients with aphasia due to stroke. This study focuses on the phonemes pronounced by people with aphasia through observation, interviews, and recording techniques. In this study, the results stated that people with Broca's aphasia due to stroke in pronunciation of words tended to omit, simplify, add, replace, and irregular.

Then another study by Hanum (2018) titled “*Cacat Gramatikal Keluaran Wicara Penderita Afasia Broca Pasien Yang Mengalami Gangguan Stroke Studi Kasus Di Rumah Sakit Tentara Tk Iv Binjai*” examined how grammatical syntactic defects were in sentences of patients with Broca's aphasia who had

stroke disorders. This study found that the patient had many syntactic errors in spoken sentences, one of which was the omission of the subject.

The significant difference that differentiates this research from previous research is that this research uses documentary films as the object of study. Apart from that, this research does not specify research in specific terms, but provides light with basic research and analysis on the broad term of language disorders.

1.2. Statements of Problem

The stroke patients mentioned in this study are people with aphasia; this directs the study to discuss how they process language and the symptoms of aphasia they experience as the problem. Therefore, to limit this problem the researcher made a psycholinguistic analysis of stroke patients in the film "*My Beautiful Broken Brain*" through formulating following questions:

1. What are the linguistic symptoms experienced by stroke patient in the film *My Beautiful Broken Brain*?
2. What types of disorders are experienced by stroke patient in the film *My Beautiful Broken Brain* based on linguistic symptoms found?

1.3. Research Objective

Based on the problems that have been described previously, researchers can find out some of the objectives of this study, including:

1. To find out what the linguistic symptoms experienced by stroke patients are in the film *My Beautiful Broken Brain*.
2. To explore the types of disorders experienced by stroke patients in the film *My Beautiful Broken Brain* based on linguistic symptoms found.

1.4. Research Significance

This research is expected to contribute to the progress and development of science, especially psycholinguistics, and to increase knowledge in related fields. The results of this study are expected to be a general description of the symptoms of aphasia. The researcher hopes that this research can make psycholinguistic science get more attention from the whole community, especially if this language disorder can be better known and known. In addition, this research can be the basis for other researchers to conduct further research on other psycholinguistic materials or materials and can be a reference for English Literature students at Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University, Bandung. The results of this study can expand their knowledge about psycholinguistics, especially language disorders in stroke patients, both from its symptoms and their effect on language skills as a reference for further research.

1.5. Definition of Key Terms

To minimize ignorance about certain terms in this study, some terms can be defined as:

Psycholinguistic : Scientific discipline that contains a discussion between psychological and linguistic elements.

Stroke : A condition in which the brain lacks blood supply due to blockage of blood vessels or rupture of blood vessels.

Aphasia : Speech disorder caused by damage to certain parts of the brain.

My Beautiful Broken Brain : A documentary film produced by Sophie Robinson and Lotje Sodderland as the sufferer herself.

