

**A PSYCHOLINGUISTIC STUDY ON COMMUNICATION  
IMPAIRMENT FOUND IN THE CHARACTER “WHITNEY”  
IN MAVERICK NOVEL**

**THESIS**

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## ABSTRACT

Sri Hartuti. 2014. **A Psycholinguistic Study on Communication Impairment Found in the Character “Whitney” in Maverick Novel**. Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literatures, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Fatimah; Co-Supervisor: Ismarita Ida R.

Keywords: Psycholinguistics, Communication Impairment, Speech and Language Impairment, Maverick Novel.

People need language to express or deliver messages to others. The process of conveying the messages is called communication. Communication is not successful when people's speech and language are impaired, which is then called communication impairment. It is a condition when someone cannot use speech and language well. The example of this impairment is depicted in Maverick novel which its main character named Whitney suffers from this impairment. Based on this background, there are 3 problems appear: (1) what are the referral characteristics of speech and language impairment suffered by Whitney?, (2) what are the types of communication impairment suffered by the character “Whitney” in Maverick novel?, (3) What does the nonverbal communication used by the character “Whitney” in Maverick novel to communicate with others?.

This study belongs to qualitative research since it focuses on dialogues rather than numbers. In obtaining the data, the writer did some steps: reading the novel, taking notes of the dialogues, and making list. Meanwhile, there are five theories used in this research to answer the problems, they are ADE: Special Education Unit (2014), Lanier (1963), NICHCY (2011), Pearson et al (2006), and DeVito (2005).

The result of this study reveals that Whitney suffers from communication impairment. Intellectually, he cannot respond environment with ease. Academically, his writing skill is below expected level. Behaviorally, he prefers to gaze hanging toys than playing with them. Moreover, his communicative ability is weak particularly his speaking ability, and physically, his hearing ability is not very good. In addition, he experiences speech disorder; his articulation is impaired, he repeats the same word many times, and his voice sounds monotonous. Meanwhile, language disorder plays significant role, he cannot follow verbal instruction and even he uses the wrong word in speech. Nevertheless, he still communicates through nonverbal communication by using his body movement: gesture and facial expression. As the conclusion, with these symptoms Whitney suffers from communication impairment.

By here, the writer gives suggestions to the readers to be aware of the characteristics of communication impairment and to those who have children to develop their language ability particularly receptive and expressive. Moreover, it is hoped the next researchers who are willing to conduct in the same field to use this study as the reference. The last, they can find other theories (Morrisey, 2010 or Guralnick, 2002) so that the result can be various.

## ABSTRAK

Sri Hartuti. 2014. **Kajian Psikolinguistik pada Gangguan Komunikasi yang terdapat pada Karakter Utama “Whitney” dalam Novel Maverick**. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing (I): Fatimah; Pembimbing (II): Ismarita Ida .

**Kata Kunci:** Psikolinguistik, Gangguan Komunikasi, Gangguan Berbicara dan Bahasa, Novel Maverick.

Manusia membutuhkan bahasa untuk mengekspresikan atau menyampaikan informasi kepada yang lainnya. Proses menyampaikan informasi disebut komunikasi. Komunikasi tidak akan sukses jika bahasa mereka terganggu, yang kemudian disebut gangguan komunikasi. Gangguan komunikasi merupakan sebuah kondisi dimana seseorang tidak bisa berbahasa dan berbicara dengan baik. Contoh dari gangguan ini tergambar dalam novel Maverick yang mana karakter utamanya bernama Whitney menderita gangguan ini. Berdasarkan latar belakang ini, ada 3 masalah yang muncul: (1) Sifat-sifat bawaan gangguan komunikasi apa saja yang dialami oleh Whitney dalam novel Maverick?, (2) Jenis-jenis gangguan komunikasi apa saja yang diderita oleh Whitney dalam novel Maverick?, (3) Bagaimanakah karakter Whitney di dalam novel Maverick berkomunikasi dengan yang lainnya?.

Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif karena ia berfokus pada dialog-dialog daripada angka-angka. Dalam usaha memperoleh data, penulis melakukan beberapa langkah termasuk; membaca novel, menandai dialog, dan membuat daftar dialog. Sementara itu, ada lima teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini, yaitu; ADE: Special Education Unit (2014), Lanier (1963), NICHCY (2011), Pearson dkk. (2006), dan DeVito (2005).

Hasil penelitian ini menyatakan bahwa Whitney mengalami gangguan komunikasi. Secara intelektual, dia tidak bisa merespon lingkungan dengan baik. Secara akademik, kemampuan menulisnya masih ditingkat yang rendah. Perilakunya, dia lebih suka memandang mainan yang digantung daripada bermain dengan mereka, dan secara fisik, kemampuan mendengarnya tidak begitu baik. Sebagai tambahan, dia mengalami gangguan berbicara; artikulasinya terganggu, dia mengulang kata yang sama beberapa kali, dan suaranya terdengar sengau. Sementara itu, gangguan bahasa memainkan peran yang signifikan, dia tidak bisa mengikuti instruksi verbal dan bahkan menggunakan kata yang salah ketika berbicara. Walaupun demikian, dia masih berkomunikasi melalui bahasa isyarat dengan menggunakan bahasa tubuhnya: gerak-isyarat dan ekspresi wajah. Sebagai kesimpulan, dengan semua gejala ini, Whitney menderita gangguan komunikasi.

Dengan ini, penulis juga ingin menyampaikan saran kepada pembaca untuk mengetahui ciri-ciri gangguan berkomunikasi dan bagi orang tua yang memiliki anak-anak untuk meningkatkan kemampuan bahasa; reseptif dan ekspresif. Selain itu, untuk peneliti selanjutnya yang ingin membuat penelitian yang sama untuk menjadikan penelitian ini sebagai referensi. Terakhir, mereka bisa menemukan teori lainnya (Morrisey 2010, atau Guralnick, 2002) sehingga hasil penelitian lebih bervariasi.

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