

## AN ANALYSIS OF VERBAL AND NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION CAPABILITY OF ONE AUTISTIC SUFFERERS AT SEDAYU

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**Abstract:** *This study uses a study of linguistics from the point of view of psycholinguistics. This study aims to determine the analysis of verbal and non-verbal communication in one autistic sufferers in Sedayu Village. The research method used in this research is a descriptive qualitative research method and involves collecting data using observation and interview techniques. The theory used in this study is the theory of Leonard Bloomfield (1877-1949). This theory is a series of stimuli and responses that highlight verbal and non-verbal language behavior. This research is a field research that was conducted on March 11, 2022, March 13, 2022, March 15, 2022, and March 17, 2022 in Sedayu Village and obtained fourteen data points from various kinds of questions given to one autistic sufferers during observation and interviews. In this study, it was found that one of the autistic sufferers was observed to be able to communicate verbally, even though it was only one to two words and non-verbally, but not as well as normal people.*

**Keywords:** *Psycholinguistics, Verbal Communication, Non-verbal Communication, Autistic*

**Abstrak:** Penelitian ini menggunakan kajian linguistik dari sudut pandang psikolinguistik. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui analisis komunikasi verbal dan non verbal pada satu penderita autis di Desa Sedayu. Metode penelitian yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode penelitian kualitatif deskriptif dan melibatkan pengumpulan data dengan menggunakan teknik observasi dan wawancara. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori Leonard Bloomfield (1877-1949). Teori ini adalah serangkaian rangsangan dan tanggapan yang menyoroti perilaku bahasa verbal dan non-verbal. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian lapangan yang dilaksanakan pada tanggal 11 Maret 2022, 13 Maret 2022, 15 Maret 2022, dan 17 Maret 2022 di Desa Sedayu dan memperoleh empat belas poin data dari berbagai macam pertanyaan yang diberikan kepada satu penderita autis selama observasi dan wawancara. Dalam penelitian ini, ditemukan bahwa salah satu penderita autis diamati mampu berkomunikasi secara verbal, meskipun hanya satu hingga dua kata dan non-verbal, tetapi tidak sebaik orang normal.

**Kata kunci:** Psikolinguistik, Komunikasi Verbal, Komunikasi Non-verbal, Autis

### Introduction

Language is the ability of humans to communicate with other humans. Humans as social beings cannot be separated from using language as a means of social interaction. In the community environment, this language is divided into two; spoken and written. Then the two languages are used according to the situation, conditions, and needs. When talking about communication, it is familiar because communication is very often used as an interaction in everyday life. Although it is often done, sometimes some of us do not understand communication and its forms. Communication is defined as notification, conversation, or mind exchange. Communication is also distinguished into several forms, such as verbal and non-verbal communication.

Verbal communication is communication that uses verbal symbols. The symbol can be in the form of spoken language. Non-verbal communication is a communication process that delivers messages without the presence of verbal symbols. Several indicators can be used to detect non-verbal communication, namely: eye and face, movement, touch, smell, distance, language, time, attractiveness, clothing, and physical environment.

In this study, the researcher chooses autistic sufferers in Sedayu village because this is someone who has a speech disorder. In addition, one autistic sufferers in Sedayu village in this study is unique in communicating and using language between individuals and groups verbally and non-verbally. This uniqueness is what makes researchers interested in using it in this study. The uniqueness in communicating is seen in the verbal and non-verbal language used in everyday life and in the attitude in everyday life that is different from ordinary people. When talking to ordinary people, it is easier to receive or send messages, autistic sufferers who have language limitations and find it difficult to send or receive messages. Meanwhile, what will be discussed this time is about verbal and non-verbal communication skills, one autistic sufferers in Sedayu village, namely, behavioral disorders that have been present since birth. Autistic sufferers will have difficulty learning language and social skills related to their environment and may also be aggressive. The physical characteristics of autistic sufferers look like those of ordinary people in general.

Autistic sufferers have problems loading questions or commands, so they experience delays in verbal communication skills. For example, in the following conversation:

Code of Data :Dt-001/conv-1

Anik : *Kamu suka masak apa?*  
(*What do you like to cook?*)

Rina : *Loncom (like soup)*

The explanation of the example above is that the researcher asks the favorite food of autistic sufferers. One autistic sufferers' answers was *Loncom*. *Loncom* is one of the Indonesian foods we know as soup, but in Sedayu village, it is not uncommon for people to use the word when mentioning food. Suppose the same question is given to people who do not suffer from autistic sufferers. In that case, the answers will be more precise, such as "*Saya tadi masak sayur loncom dan goreng tempe*" (I just cooked soup and fried fermented soybean cakes). Besides verbal communication, there is non-verbal communication, for example, in the following conversation:

Code of Data :Dt-002/conv-1

Anik : *Kamu tau tas adek mu dimana ?*  
(*Do you know where your sister's bag ?*)

Rina : *Eeeemm...(silence and eyes looking in all directions)...Meja (eyes focused on the living room) (Emmm...table)*

In the conversation above, it can be seen that one autistic sufferers needs more concentration than people who do not have autistic sufferers. As in the example above, with eye contact, the autistic sufferers can do it and can be seen when she sees the bag in the living room. Therefore, psycholinguistics in the psychological process means that when someone says a sentence while speaking, an understanding is needed so that communication can run smoothly. In this study, the researcher wants to analyze verbal and non-verbal communication to tell readers about the

verbal and non-verbal communication skills of one autistic sufferers. The researcher examines by interviewing and observing to get the analysis results in the form of verbal and non-verbal communication skills of autistic sufferers.

## Research Methodology

The researcher uses qualitative research because it analyses data through verbal and non-verbal communication. Qualitative analysis was used to describe and analyze the verbal and non-verbal communication of autistic sufferers in Karang street Sedayu village. The data used in this study are the verbal and non-verbal words of a woman from the village of Karang street Sedayu village who has been an autistic sufferer since birth. The researcher collected data four times through observation and interviews. The researcher used primary data sources, namely primary data. The respondent is a woman who is 29 years old, unmarried, and lives in Karang Street and Sedayu Village, Jumantono District, Karanganyar Regency. The selection was based on the level of social interaction of the people of Karang Street and Sedayu Village, namely the social interaction between autistic sufferers and ordinary people. The aim is to understand the process of interaction and communication of autistic sufferers, especially in acquiring verbal and nonverbal language. In this study, the population consisted of autistic sufferers in Karang, Sedayu, Jumantono, and Karanganyar Regency. The researcher only used one person as a sample.

The researcher uses purposive sampling (Mahendratta, 2019), a sampling technique of data sources with specific considerations. A taking technique is used because the person knows best about what we expect. The researcher feels that the sample taken is the most knowledgeable about the problem. This technique aims to find out how communication occurs with autistic sufferers in Sedayu Village, which is right in Karang street.

This research was conducted through observation and in-depth interviews (Sanati, 2016). Observations and interviews were carried out four times by identifying the questions formulated in the study. For example, the number one question used interview techniques, and the number two question used observation. In this study, the researcher made observations (Pujaastawa, 2016), namely direct observations of the daily life of one autistic sufferers. The researcher observes how autistic sufferers communicate with normal humans and aims to obtain information about the subject. The researcher also wants to know the social interactions built on the symbols used in communication. Next, the researcher conducted an in-depth interview. In-depth interviews were conducted to obtain data that might not have been acquired during observation. This technique is used to collect data by asking questions directly to informants. The researcher conducted interviews with one autistic sufferer. If the researcher finds it difficult to communicate with autistic sufferers, they consult with family members who usually communicate. The researcher aims to get more concrete data. The interview process was unstructured, meaning that the researcher conducted interviews freely without bringing a guide containing a list of questions.

The researcher used a test technique to test the validity of the data related to verbal and non-verbal language acquisition of the autistic sufferer in Karang Sedayu Village. Testing data from qualitative research is done by adding observations and triangulation (Ryeo, 2019).

The author makes additional observations by conducting field interviews and making observations. Through triangulation, the authors check data from various sources and at different times. There are four kinds of triangulation; source, method, investigative, and theory (Valentina & Sari, 2018). The researcher uses the source (data) triangulation technique to test the research's validity. The researcher triangulated the findings, namely reporting the research findings to the interviewed informants. Triangulation is a data analysis approach that synthesizes data from various sources. (Bachri, 2010). Finally, do research conclusions. The researcher summarizes what has been stated in the previous sections but synthesizes of all that has been stated previously.

## Findings and Discussions

The researcher conducted a study to determine the verbal and non-verbal communication skills of one autistic sufferer. The researcher conducted research in Karang Sedayu Village on March 11, 2022; March 13, 2022; March 15, 2022; and March 17, 2022. The researcher used data collection methods, namely observation, and interviews. Communication is essential in everyday life wherever and whenever communication has a significant role in it. The primary communication tool is language, while language is divided into two: verbal (oral) and nonverbal (gestures or expressions). The following are the results of psycholinguistic studies on verbal and non-verbal communication skills in one autistic sufferer. The object of this research is a 29-year-old woman who has difficulty communicating. The following are the findings of the data collected by the author.

### Verbal and Non-Verbal Communication by One of Autistic Sufferers at Sedayu Village

In this section, the researcher analyses the verbal communication of one autistic sufferers. Verbal communication uses words, whether spoken or written. This communication is most often used in communication among humans. Through words, they express their feelings, emotions, thoughts, ideas, or intentions; convey facts, data, and information, explain them, exchange feelings and thoughts, argue with each other, and fight. The verbal communication of one of autistic sufferers at Sedayu Village is presented as follows:

Code of Data : Dt-003/conv-3  
Question : *Hai mbak rina, apa kabar ? Apa lagi sibuk ?*  
(*Hi Ms. Rina, How are you? Are you busy?*)  
Answer : *gak (No)*  
Interpretation : An Invitation to Talk

(Interpretation is the process of giving meaning and significance to the analysis carried out.)

Verbal : The answer "*gak*" was given by one autistic sufferer when someone asked her if she was busy. The short answer was given because one autistic sufferer did not know the other person. If a normal person is asked like that, then the answer should be "*saya baik mbak, sekarang saya sedang tidak sibuk*" (I'm fine sis, now I'm not busy.)

Non-verbal : One autistic sufferer does not make expressions or gestures in non-verbal communication since she believes she is among people she does not know. This makes one autistic sufferer feel uninterested in the other person.

Code of Data : Dt-004/conv-3

Question : *Mbak rina lagi apa?*  
(*Ms. Rina, what are you doing?*)

Answer : *Emm...Nyapu (menunduk)*  
(*Eemm... Sweeping the floor (bows head)*)

Interpretation : Activities in progress

Verbal : The word "*nyapu*" is a term used by Javanese people when cleaning the floor or yard. If an average person is asked, the answer is "*saya sedang membersihkan rumah mbak*" (I'm cleaning the house, Ms.).

Non-verbal : When the other person talks to her, one autistic sufferer bows her head because she feels uncomfortable with the situation. If ordinary people are spoken to, they should pay attention and look at the other person.

## Discussion

In this discussion, the researcher wishes to interpret the findings presented earlier, to answer the number one question, "What is the verbal communication capability of one autistic sufferers at Sedayu?". Based on data analysis, the researcher found the verbal communication ability of one autistic sufferers in Sedayu Village. The researcher used observation and interview techniques conducted at the residence of one autistic sufferers, namely in Sedayu Village. The researcher found fourteen data from one autistic sufferers in Sedayu Village, such as: "*gak, nyapu, makasih, coklat, masak, mandi, maem, Tv*". The utterance is the answer to the question given by the researcher to one autistic sufferers in Sedayu Village. One of the questions the researcher asked was "*Mbak rina lagi apa?*" but one autistic sufferers in Sedayu Village did not give a clear answer and only gave the answer "*Emm... Nyapu*". If the question is given to people who do not know her, then the person who asks will feel confused by the answer. The answer that should be given is "*saya sedang membersihkan rumah mbak.*" One autistic sufferers in Sedayu Village can only use a few words to answer questions or communicate with others. This is due to autism's speech disorders, so communication is disrupted. In this study, one autistic sufferer who can still communicate verbally is included. She can still speak but does not communicate on her own without the help or orders of others because the patient is quiet, shy, and cowardly, making it difficult to interact with others.

In this study, the researcher wishes to interpret the findings presented earlier, to answer the number two question, "What is the non-verbal communication capability of one autistic sufferers at Sedayu?". Based on data analysis, the researcher found fourteen data non-verbal communication ability of one autistic sufferers in Sedayu Village. When the researcher asked the question, "*Assalamualaikum, mbak rina lagi apa ?*", she only responded to non-verbal communication in the form of pointing her hand at the TV. One autistic sufferers cannot

perform full verbal communication, for example, always give facial expressions when speaking and body movements.

In this study, the researcher is interested in researching and analyzing verbal and non-verbal communication skills. Several researchers have investigated verbal and non-verbal communication skills. In connection with this study, the researcher drew from several relevant studies. The first research conducted by Dani Saputra Tarigan (Tarigan, 2016) in his thesis entitled "An Analysis Of Verbal And Nonverbal Communicating Capability Of Autistic Sufferers At Alpha Omega Foundation Kabanjahe." This research uses field research methods, observation and interview data collection methods. The obtained data, both primary and secondary, were analyzed qualitatively. He examines the problem of verbal and non-verbal communication skills and finds the most effective way to transfer ideas when communicating with sufferers at the Kabanjahe Alpha Omega Foundation. The results showed that there were four autistic sufferers with different classifications. Of the four autistic sufferers, there were three who were able to communicate verbally. They are the first object, the second object, and the third object. Autistic sufferers communicate verbally better than verbally. This can be proven in this study. On average, autistic sufferers, such as the first object, second object, third object, and fourth object, can communicate through facial expressions and gestures, which are types of nonverbal communication. Then the most effective method for transferring ideas to people with autistic is the Picture Exchange Communication System method.

The second research was conducted by Istijabatis Sanati (Sanati, 2016) in his thesis entitled "Pola Komunikasi Verbal Dan Non-Verbal Antara Mahasiswa Asing Dengan Mahasiswa Lokal". This qualitative descriptive research uses interviews and observations for one month in the UNS dormitory. This study aimed to find out the communication patterns primarily used by international students living in the UNS dormitory, both verbally and non-verbally. This study involved ten international students who became subjects and acted as informants, and communication patterns (verbal and nonverbal) became the objects. Based on interviews and observations made by the researcher over approximately one month, it turns out that many international students communicate more often using verbal than nonverbal language.

The third research was conducted by Rosi Dwi Aminah Chusnul Khotimah in her thesis entitled "Pengaruh Komunikasi Verbal Dan Non-verbal Guru Terhadap Motivasi Belajar Siswa Kelas IX Mts Ar- Rohman Tegalrejo" (Chusnul Khotimah, 2019). This study aimed to discuss the effects of teacher verbal and non-verbal communication on the learning motivation of grade IX students at MTs Ar-Rohman Tegalrejo. This study uses quantitative methods with statistical techniques such as multiple regression analysis of two predictors, which aims to determine whether there is an effect of verbal and non-verbal communication of teachers on learning motivation in class IX at MTs Ar-Rohman Tegalrejo. Data collection techniques using the documentation and questionnaires. The questionnaire method was used to determine the level of verbal and non-verbal communication between teachers and students and the students' learning motivation. The conclusion of this study shows that there is an influence of teacher verbal and non-verbal communication on the learning motivation of class IX students at MTs

Ar-Rohman Tegalrejo, namely that communication in the field of education is very important and has a good effect on student motivation.

Therefore, the researcher conducted a different study from the three previous studies. The first research differs from this study, although it is the same in verbal and non-verbal communication skills, with observation and interviews, as well as knowing the most effective way to transfer ideas when communicating. The first study only focused on finding verbal and non-verbal communication skills at Alpha Omega Foundation Kabanjahe. In contrast, this study focused on finding verbal and non-verbal communication skills in Sedayu Village. This study is also different from the previous two studies. This qualitative descriptive research uses interviews and observations for one month in the UNS dormitory. The purpose of this study was to determine the communication patterns used mainly by international students living in the UNS Dormitory. In contrast, this study focused on the communication skills of people with autism in Sedayu. The third previous study was different from this research because the third study focused on the effect of teacher verbal and non-verbal communication on the learning motivation of class IX students at MTs Ar-Rohman Tegalrejo and used quantitative research methods. In contrast, this study focused on verbal and non-verbal communication skills in the village of Sedayu and used qualitative research methods.

### **A Psycholinguistic Analysis of Verbally and Nonverbally Communicating Capability of Autism Sufferers.**

In general psycholinguistics, children's language acquisition processes experience the same level and even occur in all normal children. All normal children can acquire language and can learn a language. Besides that, some children have difficulty with speech, namely people with autistic sufferers. For several reasons, autistic sufferers have difficulty acquiring and learning a language. This study found that this autistic sufferer has had trouble in speech or communication since birth, so it can be said that this is a hereditary factor. In terms of developmental psycholinguistics, the language acquired by autistic sufferers is developed through efforts to communicate with other people. One autistic sufferer who cannot speak tends to be quiet children and with draw from the social environment. This is viewed from a psychological point of view. In terms of Applied Psycholinguistics, the object can apply the acquired language. This is related to child psychology, namely the will from within the child to be able to communicate. Patients can communicate with people they know, such as their families.

### **Conclusion**

From the results of observations, interviews, and analysis, it can be concluded that one autistic sufferers in Sedayu village has verbal and non-verbal communication skills. The total of verbal and non-verbal communication is fourteen data points. One autistic sufferer can communicate verbally but is not as good as ordinary people at communicating. One autistic sufferers in Sedayu Village is only able to use one to two words of verbal communication.

One autistic sufferers in Sedayu Village can also communicate non-verbally. In non-verbal communication, one autistic sufferer is better at verbal communication than non-verbal

communication. This can be proven in this study that objects can communicate through expressions and gestures but are limited to hand movements and facial expressions.

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