TONI BLANK: A CASE STUDY OF THE LANGUAGE OF A SCHIZOPHRENE

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ABSTRACT

Schizophrenia is one of the chronic mental disorders. Patients of schizophrenia cannot communicate with others properly. Also, they cannot produce good utterances syntactically and semantically. This is caused by their language dysfunction. In this research, I am interested in analyzing language dysfunction in schizophrenia. I choose Toni Blank's utterances in "Toni Blank Show Session One" as the object of my research. I focus on how schizophrenic's language dysfunctions are classified and how these dysfunctions are being analyzed using linguistic framework. To analyze the data, I used Thought, Language, and Communication (TLC) scale and cohesion coherence frameworks. The purpose of this study is to give linguistic analysis about phenomena of language dysfunctions uttered by Toni Blank in "Toni Blank Show Session One". The data used in this research are utterances which contain language dysfunctions from three episodes in "Toni Blank Show Session One", entitled "Valentine Day", "*Teroris*", and "*Sehat Ala Mas Toni*". I used purposive sampling to collect the data. In analyzing the data, I used *Padan* and *Agih* methods by Sudaryanto (1993). To interpret the data, I used cohesion and coherence framework. In 26 utterances which contain schizophrenic's language dysfunctions in "Toni Blank Show Session One", I find that the language dysfunctions which are uttered by Toni are poverty of content, tangentiality, loss of goal, circumstantiality, illogicality, incoherence (word salad), neologism, clanging, echolalia, and self-reference. Poverty of speech, pressure of speech, distractibility, derailment, stilted speech, perseveration, and blocking are not found in the data.

Keywords: schizophrenia, language dysfunction, Toni Blank

1. INTRODUCTION

In this research, I would like to analyze and describe language dysfunction which is uttered by Toni Blank. Toni Blank is a schizophrenic patient who is cured in one of Social Departments in Yogyakarta. Toni Blank is famous in Yogyakarta because of weekly show entitled "Toni Blank Show". The show was broadcasted in one of social media called 'Facebook' (https://www.facebook.com/Toni-Blank-Show-161766623875724/?fref=ts). "Toni Blank Show" was created by one of film production communities in Yogyakarta, X-Code Films. I took this topic because this topic is interesting. Toni Blank is very unique. Toni is different from other schizophrenic patients. He is very talkative while other patients are taciturn and introvert. Toni has problem in creating meaningful sentences to deliver his thought.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Schizophrenia

Schizophrenia is one of chronic mental disorders. PPDGJ – III *dan* DSM – 5 classify schizophrenia into F20[1] (chronic mental disorder). Generally, patients of any classifications of schizophrenia have problem in expressing their thought verbally because they have language dysfunction. The standard foundation scale of schizophrenic language called 'Thought, Language, and Communication (TLC)', proposed by Andreasen (in Wrobel, 1990), is required for subsequent research. Andreasen's scale consists of 18 schizophrenic language dysfunction symptoms, as follow: (a) **Poverty of Speech (Alogia)** is a symptom in which the patients tend to reply the question briefly; (b) **Poverty of Content** is poverty in delivering thoughts. The patients

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[1] PPDGJ (*Pedoman Penggolongan dan Diagnosa Gangguan Jiwa*) – III (third edition) is a guide for mental disorder classification in Indonesia. DSM (the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder) - 5 (fifth edition) is a guide for mental disorder classification in USA. F20 is a diagnostic classification code for schizophrenia in PPDGJ – III and DSM-5.

tend to talk a lot but lack of sufficient content; (c) **Pressure of speech** is a symptom where the patients tend to speak rapidly and loudly; (d) **Distractibility** occurs when the patients "repeatedly stop during speech in response to nearby stimulus" (Andreason in Wrobel, 1990: 6); (e) **Tangentiality** is a tendency of patients with psychotic mania, particularly schizophrenia, to speak unrelated topic with the main topic of discussion (Kuperberg and Caplan, 2003); (f) **Loss of Goal** occurs when the patients start to speak one topic and the conclusion is about another topic instead; (g) **Derailment** is the condition where the patients shift topic from one reference to another topic; (h) **Circumstantiality** has something to do with "speech which is indirect and long-winded in reaching its goal" (Andreason in Wrobel, 1990: 6). (i) **Illogicality** occurs when "conclusions reached that do not follow logically" (Andreason in Wrobel, 1990: 6); (j) **Incoherence (Word Salad)** is a tendency which Patients tend to string real words together, so the mixture is incoherent; (k) **Neologism** is a a new word or phrase of a patient's own making often seen in schizophrenia; (l) **Word approximation** is "old words used in new, unconventional manner" (Andreason in Wrobel, 1990: 6); (m) **Stilted speech** is "excessively formal and pompous speech" (Andreason in Wrobel, 1990: 6); (n) **Clanging** occurs when the patients tend to utter a word only by its similar rhyming sounds rather than its meaning; (o) **Perseveration** occurs when patients tend to repeat the same word or ideas even though their partner changes the topic; (p) **Echolalia** is "Echoing of interviewer's words" (Andreason in Wrobel, 1990: 6); (q) **Blocking** occurs when patients tend to stop speaking suddenly in the middle of the sentence without any reason; (r) Patients with **Self-Reference** symptom always back to themselves while talking about a topic.

In addition, in this study, I also use Cohesion and Coherence framework by Halliday and and Hasan (1976). **Cohesion** occurs when the interpretation of some element in the discourse is

dependent on that of another. Halliday and Hasan distinguish cohesion into reference, substitution, ellipsis, conjuncton, and lexical cohesion. On the other hand, **Coherence** is needed to understand the relation between a text and another text. The main purpose of coherence is to make a discourse meaningful. Coherence is caused by several factors. They are causality, temporal relation, and conditional relation.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

This research is descriptive qualitative research because I describe Toni Blank's utterances in three episodes of "Toni Blank Show Session One" that contain language dysfunction. This research is conducted to explain the implementations Andreasen's TLC (Thought, Language, and Communication) framework about language dysfunction in schizophrenia. The data of this research are Toni Blank's utterances taken from "Toni Blank Show Session One" video. There are 13 episodes in this session, but in order to simplify the amount of the data, I only use three episodes in session one by using random sampling.

4. DATA ANALYSIS

There are 26 utterances which contain schizophrenic's language dysfunctions in "Toni Blank Show Session One". The dysfunctions are poverty of content, tangentiality, loss of goal, circumstantiality, illogicality, incoherence (word salad), neologism, clanging, echolalia, and self-reference. Poverty of speech, pressure of speech, distractibility, derailment, stilted speech, perseveration, and blocking are not found in the data. There are, however, some utterances which show more than one language dysfunction.

4.1.Poverty of Content

(4.1.b) Bom bunuh diri itu apa?

Bom bunuh diri itu kelihatannya akal yang tidak masuk akal atau cunthel. Yang mempunyai ketidakwarasan dalam suatu pemikiran. Melakukan yang tidak bisa sanggup melakukan tugas akhirnya, dia dibujuk membelotkan negaranya dan disuruh, diprogram untuk mengkhianati keluarganya sendiri dan sampai di negara-negara tetangga atau asia eropa dia hanya dijadikan sebagai robot atau budak. Apakah kau mau begitu?

Toni's utterance (4.1.b) is poor in content. Toni was asked about the definition of *bom bunuh diri*. He explained that *bom bunuh diri* is *akal yang tidak masuk akal atau cunthel. Yang mempunyai ketidakwarasan dalam suatu pemikiran*. In other words, he implied that the people who committed suicide bombing did not have common sense. Then, Toni continued his explanation:

Melakukan *yang tidak bisa sanggup melakukan tugas akhirnya,* ***dia*** *dibujuk membelotkan negara**nya** dan disuruh, diprogram untuk mengkhianati keluarga**nya** sendiri dan sampai di negara-negara tetangga atau asia eropa* ***dia*** *hanya dijadikan sebagai robot atau budak.*

In the extract, we can see that Toni has a problem in cohesion. His answer is poor in meaning because it lacks of cohesion, especially referential cohesion. In the extract, Toni mentioned the verb ***melakukan***. In addition, Toni also mentioned a pronoun '***dia***' and possessive pronoun '**-nya**'. If we trace Toni's utterance, the only referent of *'dia'* and *'–nya'* is *'akal'*. Toni used *'akal'* as the main subject in his utterance (4.1.b), and this makes Toni's utterance nonsensical because Toni uses 'akal' as an animate subject. This can be seen from the attached verbs (e.g. melakukan, dibujuk, membelotkan, disuruh, and mengkhianati), which are generally attached in animate subject. The cohesion problem in utterance (4.1.b) makes poverty in content.

4.2. Tangentiality

(4.2.b) *Sehat itu apa Mas?*

Sehat adalah suatu original *atau asa yang mempunyai kecerdasan alami yang mempunyai suatu kontrasepsi.*

The conversation (4.2.b) is another example of tangentiality. Conversation (4.2.b) is from an episode entitled "*Sehat Ala Mas Toni*". In the conversation, Toni was asked about his opinion toward the definition of *sehat* (healthy) but Toni's answer does not reach its point. It is caused by incoherence of his utterance.

According to Toni, *sehat* (healthy) is original or '*asa*'. The first problem of Toni's answer is because he did not mention in detail about what kind of original referred by him. Then, in his answer, Toni used two conditional clauses to further explain what he meant by original or '*asa*'. The first clause is *yang mempunyai kecerdasan alami*. This clause is slightly coherent with his main answer. On the other hand, the second clause, *yang mempunyai suatu kontrasepsi*, is incoherent with the answer. It is caused by the absence of conjunction to connect the first and the second clauses. In addition, the second clause is incoherent because there is no clue as whether this clause refers to the main answer or to the previous clause.

4.3. Loss of Goal

(4.3.a) *Senjata apa yang dipakai teroris*?

> *Teroris biasanya sering menggunakan suatu senjata, senjata ilegal bom atau ilegal logging*

Excerpt (4.3.a) is an example of loss of goal utterance. The conversation is taken from an episode entitled "*Teroris*". In (4.3.a), Toni was asked about weapon used by a terrorist. In the answer, Toni tried to answer the question by adding detail information. Toni's purpose is to give more explanation about his answer. At first, he managed to answer the question by saying *Teroris biasanya sering menggunakan suatu senjata*. Then, he gave detail about '*senjata*' his answer as follow:

*…, senjata ilegal bom atau **ilegal** logging.*

The preceding is the detail information which explains Toni's answer, *senjata*. Toni lost his goal in utterance (4.3.a) because he gave inappropriate detail, namely 'illegal logging'. Illegal logging is a special term that is used in forestry. The phrase 'illegal logging' is not cohesive with Toni's preceding words. In other words, Toni violated 'conjunction cohesion' because there was not semantic relation between 'illegal *bom*' and 'illegal logging' which are connected by the use of conjunction '*atau*'. That is the reason why Toni's utterance in (4.3.a) is classified as loss of goal utterance. In addition, conversation (4.3.a) is also classified as perseveration utterance. This can be seen from the repetition of the interviewer's words by Toni, such as: *senjata* and *teroris*.

4.4. Circumstantiality

(4.4.a) *Mas Toni punya pacar*?

> *Toni kiranya sedang sendiri. Walaupun hari* valentine *ini Toni tidak mempunyai suatu pasangan, tetapi tetap merayakan hari* valentine day *untuk mencurahkan semua* aspiration *karya anak bangsa.*

In (4.4.a), Toni was asked whether he had a girlfriend or not, and he replied that he was single. His answer is considered as circumstantiality because he added unnecessary detail information. Toni's first utterance, "*Toni kiranya sedang sendiri*" was informative enough to answer the question. However, Toni's additional explanation is incoherent. He always adding word or phrase which does not has referent in the utterance. For example, Toni said "…*untuk mencurahkan* **semua** **aspiration** *karya anak bangsa*". The extract is incoherent because of referential cohesion. Toni did not mention the referent of the bold phrase '*semua* aspiration'.

4.5.Illogicality

(4.5.b) *Makanan apa yang dapat menolak AIDS*?

> *Makanan yang dapat menolak AIDS adalah beras, bawang brambang dan teh dan minyak goreng kelapa dan garam.*

The utterance (4.5.b) is another example of illogicality. It is also from "Sehat Ala Mas Toni" episode. Toni's utterance is classified as illogical because Toni's answer is unacceptable. In the conversation, Toni was asked about food that can prevent AIDS. In his answer, Toni mentioned raw materials, e.g. *beras, bawang, brambang, teh, minyak goreng kelapa dan garam*. As we know, the materials mentioned by Toni are not AIDS-preventing foods. There is no research which proves that those are AIDS-preventing foods, so that is why Toni's utterance (4.5.b) is classified as "illogicality" and incoherence in terms of lexical cohesion.

4.6. Incoherence (Word Salad)

(4.6.b) *Kalo gizi itu apa*?

> *Gizi adalah suatu kebutuhan tiap hari untuk mencerdaskan atau kesehatan dalam awal pertama atau yang disebut dengan pukesmas atau disebut dengan* medicine [medIsaIn] *sosial*, *sosialita atau* hospital make, *poin chu, ce huk atau auk*.

In the conversation (4.6.b), Toni was asked about the definition about '*gizi*' (nutrient). Toni's answer is classified as incoherent utterance because Toni mixed words which are incoherent with the topic, e.g. *sosialita, poin chu, ce huk*, and *auk*. At first, Toni explained that *gizi* is a daily need for health. Then, Toni mispronounced words, e.g. *pukesmas* (it should be "puskesmas" in Bahasa Indonesia) and medicine [medIsaIn], and then he started to combine the unrelated words with conjunction '*atau*'. He used the conjunction '*atau*' too often. In addition, Toni mentioned neologism words, e.g. *poin chu*, *ce huk*, and *auk*. Those three words are neologism and I cannot find their literal meaning. Toni might use it randomly and connected those neologisms because they are very similar in rhyming. These are why Toni's utterance (4.6.b) is classified as incoherence (word salad).

4.7.Neologism

(4.7.a) Kesimpulannya?

        Furgodo separatos uesbeste go. Valentine Day. *Uesbeste*. *Separatos*, *tos*.

The conversation (4.7.a) is from the last question in an episode entitled "Valentine Day". In the utterance (4.7.a), I find three neologisms. They are '*Furgodo*', '*separatos*', and '*uesbeste*'. They are newly formed words and not listed in any language in the world. Syntactically, their 'part of speech' is unidentified and semantically, Toni's utterance is meaningless. The problem of the extract (4.7.a) is also that the reader cannot key the text into a context to make sense of it. The one and only which is related to the topic of discussion is a phrase "Valentine Day".

4.8.Clanging

(4.8.b) *Rokok itu apa, Mas*?

        Berarti rokok berarti kok. Suatu pabrik atau go public *atau nilai poin saham dunia atau* **konjuresien** *atau* **combination** *antara awal pertama dan akhir atau* output *atau* input. *Mempunyai suatu pasang surut laba. Laba-laba*.

Conversation (4.8.b) is another example of clanging symptom. It is from an episode entitled "*Sehat Ala Mas Toni*". Toni was asked about the definition of 'rokok' (cigarette). In his answer, he mentioned rhyming words *konjuresien*/konjureshən/ and combination \käm-bə-ˈnā-shən\. As we can see that *konjuresien* is a neologism which does not have any literal meaning, whereas according to Merrian-Webster online dictionary, the meanings of combination are

> (1)   a result or product of combining two or more things or people; (2) an act of combining two or more things; (3) a particular series of numbers or letters that is used to open a lock

(Merrian-Webster online dictionary, n.d., http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/combination)

If we refer to the literal meaning of both *konjuresien* and combination, it is clear that the two words incoherent in meaning. Toni used the words simply because they have similar ending (-tion/shən/).

4.9.Echolalia

(4.9.a) Mandi yang sehat itu seperti apa?

> **Mandi** yang sehat seperti biasa, **mandi** air alami. Tetapi ada alternatif lain. Bisakah mempunyai alternatif lain **mandi** tidak ada air tetapi bisa mengeluarkan air, hanyalah **mandi** chodong atau cudong-cudong.

In the conversation (4.9.a), Toni was asked about healthy bathing. The main point of the question is '*mandi*' (bathing). In his answer, he repeats the word 'mandi' four times.

4.10. Self-reference

(4.10.a)*Bagaimana cara teroris menjalankan aksinya*?

> *Sempurna, contohnya pakaian-pakaian saja. Pakaian seperti ini dapat disalahgunakan. Saat dia memakai* t-shirt *sepertinya rapi tetapi tidak bawa apa-apa, tetapi* t-shirt *itu benangnya mengandung unsur suatu bom.* **Nah yang terbaru yang aku, yang aku apa itu, aku temukan saat aku melihat jarak jauh atau jarak dekat dengan suatu handycam**.

Conversation (4.10.a) is from an episode entitled "*Teroris*". The interviewer asked Toni how a terrorist works. At first, Toni seemed to be able to answer the question. He explained how a terrorist worked by using his/her stuff, e.g. t-shirt which contains elements of bomb. However, Toni suddenly talked about what he saw with his handycam. It sounds nonsensical because there was no evidence which proved that Toni witnessed a terrorism action and why suddenly he talked about himself. This phenomenon is called self-reference. In the data, I find two utterances containing self-reference. They are utterance in (4.1.b) and (4.10.a) utterances.

5. CONCLUSION

From 26 utterances, I have found words, phrases, and clauses which contain schizophrenic language dysfunctions such as poverty of content, tangentiality, loss of goal, circumstantiality, illogicality, incoherence (word salad), neologism, clanging, echolalia, and self-reference. Poverty of speech, pressure of speech, distractibility, derailment, stilted speech, perseveration, and blocking are not found in the data. Among those language dysfunctions, the language dysfunction that mostly appeared in "Toni Blank Show Session One" is tangentiality (18.52%) because Toni often answered the questions with inappropriate answer or in other words, he did not reach the point of his answer. On the other hands, the least appeared of language dysfunction is self-reference (3.68%).

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