

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

Human beings are unique in their communication abilities, as each individual has their style and means of communication. The ability can be powerful or insignificant. It is influenced by various factors, including illness, articulation disorders, and, most importantly, the environment, which significantly impacts the development of speaking capacity. The most common causes of speech dysfluency are brain injury, articulation problems, and psychogenic factors such as anxiety, pressure, and environmental stress. The term "speech disorder" refers to individuals who have difficulty speaking fluently. Feldman (2005) defined *speech disorders* as persistent deficits and errors in acquiring speech abilities and voice quality. Speech disorders include difficulties with expression, interruptions in the flow or rhythm of speech, problems with the pitch, tone, or quality of the voice, and impaired intelligibility. Feldman (2005) defines a *speech disorder* as a delay in generating expression and developing speech and a decline in voice quality, including tone, volume, and a change in sound flow, making hearing difficult. Feldman (2005) classifies speech into three categories: tone, which encompasses articulation, control of breath and gestures, motor preparation and execution; voice and resonance; and fluency. People's communication has evolved into an allegory for their relationship with society. Suffering from a communication capacity deficit will cause the sufferer to feel isolated. Individuals with speech disorders are also marginalized in society. For instance, children with speech disorders are frequently bullied at school.

Speech disorders can affect social, work, and mental health and can worsen communication. Palmer et al. (2016) stated that having a speech disorder can result in social isolation. Lanier (2010) differentiates five types of speech disorders: apraxia, aphasia, stuttering,

cluttering, and dysarthria. Apraxia, aphasia, and dysarthria are caused mainly by brain damage, such as sensory-motor or neurological, whereas cluttering and stuttering can be psychogenic or neurogenic. As per the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), children's speech disorders are mostly ignored until adults begin stuttering. Eldridge (1968) stated that adult stuttering is typically caused by the neurological effects of poor speech quality and a rise in tension. However, stuttering, a common communication disorder with biological or psychological factors, could be at fault.

According to Bloodstein and Ratner (2008), stuttering is a speech disorder characterized by unintentional repetition and prolongation of terms and syllables, as well as unintentional disruptions of speech flow. Stuttering can be exacerbated in any case by inherited factors, physical deformities, or mental malfunctions. It may also be triggered by the sufferer's personal and family pressure history. Sastra (2011) noted that stuttering caused by a neurological factor is typically experienced by children subjected to authoritative and strict parental admonishment. When children are punished by their environment, their psychological stammering may worsen.

Stuttering is a psychogenic disease that does not occur naturally; it is carried about by psychology. As previously stated, stuttering is one of the motivations elicited by the psychological impact. Besides, psychopathology, such as mental illness, and speech disorders, stuttering as one of them, are inextricably linked. Bloodstein (1995) also stated that males are more likely than females to experience stuttering. Guitar (2006) distinguishes three types of stuttering: repetitions, prolongations, and blockings. Based on the observed situation, the writer chose speech disorders as the subject of the study.

Additionally, there are a number of explanations for why the writer chose The King's Speech as the data source. First, a speech disorder occurs when those who suffer from it are

unable to express or produce language properly; an inability to produce the utterance suffered by the main character called Bertie is one of the reasons the writer conducted the research. Second, several researchers conduct research on speech disorders. The writer is then motivated to conduct research as well, particularly on stuttering. Another possibility is that the film depicting a male main character with a speech disability is based on a true story, the life story of King George VI, who suffers from stuttering.

The King's Speech is a biographical film about King George VI, who suffered from stuttering and was deteriorating when he was crowned as the next king to succeed his father, King George V, who died. The film depicts King George VI's struggle to overcome his stuttering through various treatments. The disorder began when King George VI's nickname Bertie was 3-4 years old. Bertie, born left-handed, was forced to become right-handed as a child. This was one of the factors that contributed to the onset of the stuttering. At the time, in the United Kingdom, a dominant hegemonic discourse believed a left-handed person had approximately 40% brain damage, and it became a source of fear and shame.

1.2. Scope and Limitation of Research

The speech disorder which becomes a problem can be differentiated from other types such as aphasia, apraxia, dysarthria, stuttering, and cluttering. In this research, the writer limits the issue to stuttering, which will be explored further in the classification of stuttering and types of stuttering. Previously, many kinds of speech disorder research have been undertaken by researchers and related to the therapy process for speech disorders. However, a few researchers try to research the relation between psychological factors and stuttering by using *Praat* as the software package for speech analysis in phonetics. Therefore, this research will discuss stuttering

due to a psychological factor called psychogenic stuttering. The stuttering case as a speech disorder is also portrayed in *The King's Speech*, where the male main character, Bertie or King George VI, is described as a king who suffers from stuttering. The film portrays the main character's attempt to overcome his stuttering through therapy.

Based on the explanation in the research background above, the analysis's scope is a speech disorder. In this case, the research object will be limited to the types of stuttering such as repetition, prolongation, and blocking produced in the character's dialogue utterances in *The King's Speech* movie. Furthermore, the utterances containing types of stuttering will be analyzed through non-linguistic factors such as psychological factors.

1.3. Identification of the Research

The speech disorder often suffered by children and adult inspires the writer to observe more about the speech disorder, stuttering to be exact. Due to the phenomenon, the research aims to answer the following research questions:

- a. What are the types of stuttering produced by the main character in *The King's Speech* movie?
- b. What are the non-linguistic factors of stuttering and the effect on the main character's speech fluency in the movie?

1.4. Objective of the Research

Specifically, this research aims to answer the questions stated in the formulation of the research as follows:

- a. To identify the types of stuttering produced by the main character in the movie
- b. To explain the cause of stuttering factors and the effect on the main character's speech fluency in the movie.

1.5. Significance of the Research

The research about speech disorders and stuttering, to be exact, is expected will be of great advantage theoretically and practically. Theoretically, the result of research can be advantageous for applying linguistic theory and can be used as a comparison or reference for other researchers to observe more related to the disorder. Practically, the research might be advantageous for people with a speech disorder, especially stuttering, to identify their type of stuttering and find solutions to overcome the disorder. Moreover, the research is expected to help the stutterer's family treat the stutterer.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

A speech disorder is chronic deficiencies and defects in acquiring speech abilities and voice quality. The disorder is also characterized by a delay in generating expression, decreasing voice quality such as tone, volume, and a change in sound flow, making it difficult to hear (Feldman, 2005).

Stuttering is a speech disorder characterized by involuntary repetitions or prolongations of words or syllables or by involuntary interruptions in the flow of speech, known as blocks (Bloodstein & Ratner, 2008).

Neuro-Psycholinguistics is the study of the biological basis of language and language use that is oriented toward the relationship between language production and understanding, cognitive aspects of language acquisition or learning, description of brain language function, and aphasia (Sastra, 2011).

