

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE BACKGROUND OF THE RESEARCH

People usually have their own activities fitted to where they are and who they are and the activities can be chosen or followed because they should obey the certain rules. If they are students, they must do the compulsory activities at the school where they are studying. They may do their preferred activities out of the school. Children follow the rules of doing their activities at the house based on instructions of their parents, sisters, brothers or whoever surrounds them. The workers must finish their activities at the factory by obeying the strict rules from their boss, then they may choose other activities out of their work times. It means that everybody always has his or her activities and the activities can help them activate themselves. If people have no activity, they may be stiff and boring quickly. Hence the activities can be the daily routines either at work or at home.

People's routines certainly have daily utterances although they do not always realize them. For example students at the school have the routines such as making line in front of their class before they get in, praying before and after studying, greeting their teachers and friends. To do those they certainly express the daily utterances such as *Good morning Be ready!, Stand up please!, Let us pray.,* etc. The activities also happen for the mentally retarded children, but the utterances are in Indonesian because they live in Indonesia and speak Indonesian also. There are some words to name mentally retarded children such as mental

subnormal, mental deficiency, language deficiency, cognitive deficiency, mental handicapped, but the writer has decided to use Mentally Retarded Children (MRC) because it is more suitable nowadays.

Mentally Retarded Children (MRC) are children who get Mental Retardation (MR). MR is a situation of mental development which is stopped or not completed. It can be seen from impairment skills during development age, so it influences intelligency such as cognitive, language, motoric and social abilities. It happens because of mental disturbance or another physic disturbance. (WHO Geneva, 1992 in Lumbantobing, S.M. 2000 : 2).

Many people have not recognized the mentally retarded children or they may not give good attention because of their disability and rather get slow to do some activities especially activities which need brain activity. MRC can be specified into four degrees according to American Psychiatric Association, Washington, 1994. They are **Mild Mental Retardation** (IQ Level 50-55 to approximately 70), **Moderate Mental Retardation** (IQ Level 35-40 to 50-55), **Severe Mental Retardation** (IQ Level 20-25 to 35-40), and **Profound Mental Retardation** (IQ Level below 20-25). Mild Mental Retardation can be classified as *educable* and Moderate Mental Retardation as *trainable*. The both mild and moderate retarded children can go to special school for MRC. In Indonesia, SLB-C (Sekolah Anak Tuna Grahita) is the school name of MRC. The pupils of the school is usually called as children who have education with special need, so the activities should be fitted to their abilities.

Some of them can not speak perfectly and need speech therapies. Some have difficulties in moving some parts of their bodies such as head, hands, legs, etc, so they need physiotherapies to exercise those to move so that they will not be so stiff. Some of them must be helped to do many things such as speaking, bathing, dressing, dining, and soon. It means that they need persons as their servers who can accompany them with looking at their limitations. Those persons can be teachers, social workers, nurses, volunteers, therapists, and whoever is willing to pay attention. They should be more patient to help the MRC. Therefore parents of MRC should choose the best school which may have such persons for their sons or daughters so that they can develop as they hope for their future although they are not same as the normal ones.

They often do their activities by using others' help, so their servers who accompany them must also teach them how to do many things and use utterances which can be understood by the children. MRC have their own activities both at the school and at the boarding house as their home. They have units in the boarding school, but they have the big rooms such as dining room, recreation rooms, and a hall to do activities together. If they do their activities, they communicate with their friends by speaking or utter some words, phrases, simple sentences. But some of them are so limited to use language as their communication and use gesture or specific signs to make the others understand what they are talking about.

There are some schools for MRC in Medan and they have boarding schools such as SLB-C Abdi Kasih in Martubung, SLB-C Karya Tulus in

Tuntungan, SLB-C Melati in Tembung and SLB-C Santa Lusia in Laut Dendang. And the main discussion in this research is SLB-C Santa Lusia Laut Dendang.

Kongregasi Suster Fransiskan Santa Lusia (KSFL) or Franciscan Sisters of Sint Lucy in English is one congregation which has option for the poor including mentally retarded children. One of the boarding schools is for mentally retarded children, so sisters of KSFL take care of them by educating them at the mentally retarded school (SLB-C) and looking after them at the boarding school (Asrama SLB-C). This is one of charity works. The writer is one member of KSFL sisters who is interested in doing special language research because she lives at the same place where the MRC study and live and nobody has done a research there since the school and boarding school were built in 2002.

In this globalization era, the teachers or people who have an attention to education development should also do their best to develop all kinds of education including education for people with special need (Mentally Retarded Children).

These children may be helped to develop by knowing these followings,

- how they do their activities,
- whether they always express utterances when they do their daily activities
- what kinds or what forms of utterances they produce
- how specific their utterances are
- how the MRC servers (persons who involve directly to accompany them at the boarding school) teach or help them produce the utterances.

Although some say that they are normal persons who have lateness to do certain things especially which involve intellectual ability, but they are different from others including their speaking ability because not all of them can speak with good utterances, so every activity is usually completed by giving them vocabulary lesson. And the activity will be their language lesson and it is directed to develop their language in order that they can communicate orally with their environment. The expected language ability which can be reached e.g. repeat the order of numbers, words (listening exercise), follow the orders altogether, use and answer the questions with question words i.e what, why, where, how much, how many, etc, and speak fluently by using simple sentences. (Depdiknas, 2001 : 12). The activity helps them produce their utterances. And they want to express their utterances by using sentence, but phrases come out or phrases are desired, but words are uttered or just certain syllables, even sounds, etc. Besides the skill of their servers to teach them in producing utterances are not separated from this research because some or many of them should be helped or encouraged to utter. Therefore the writer has chosen this title, **UTTERANCES USED BY MENTALLY RETARDED CHILDREN IN DOING DAILY ACTIVITIES .**

1.2 THE RESEARCH PROBLEMS OF THE RESEARCH

Ary and Jacobs, said, "Selecting and formulating a problem is one of the most important aspects of doing research in any field. There is no way to do research until a problem is recognized, thought through, and formulated in a useful way." (1979 : 41) If a research includes a very wide problem, the achieved

result may be floating. On the contrary, the narrowest problem will produce a shallow theory. Hence the problems or questions are important to be limited so that the reached result can fulfill an expected criteria. This case is related to this statement, "The question must be formulated so that any investigation may be carried out within the limitations of the resources available for the research." (Seliger and Shohamy, 1989 : 52) Based on those statements, to do this research, the researcher formulates the research problems.

The normal children certainly express their daily utterances better than the mentally retarded children because some of them are difficult to speak well. If the MRC live at the boarding school, they have their daily activities which may be done individually or groupingly. For example dining three times a day, praying, doing sports, gardening, cleaning house, and soon. The children also have some activities which need preparation like a party for example they have guests who take care of their daily need, they may give meal or bring food. In these situation they may have different linguistic routines which can be utterances such as greetings, leave takings, prayings or welcoming expression, etc. The MRC can not also be separated from their teachers' involvement to do their activities including how to utter well or at least the others who hear them can understand what they are talking about. By seeing those situations, research problems are formulated in these five questions below.

1. How do the mentally retarded children express their daily utterances when they do their activities at the boarding school?

2. Do they have the same form of utterances to do their daily activities such as dining, praying, doing sports, gardening, cleaning house, and soon?
3. How do they express the utterances if there is a certain occasion or event?
4. How specific is the utterances of MRC in doing their daily activities?
5. How do the servers help them to produce their daily utterances?

Research problems are stated in five questions and the main question is *How specific are the utterances of MRC in doing their daily activities?*

1.3 THE OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

There are five questions in research problems will be answered as the objectives of the research, they are :

1. To know how the mentally retarded children express their utterances when they do their daily activities at the boarding school.
2. To identify the forms of utterances which are expressed by them such as words, phrases, or sentences.
3. To know the differences of their utterances when they have special occasion such as party or welcoming guests.
4. To know how specific the utterances of MRC when they do their daily activities?
5. To know how the servers of mentally retarded children involve themselves to help them speak in daily.

1.4 THE SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH

We have seen the objectives of the research and one of those which is specifically to be seen as the scope of this research is that **How specific the utterances of mentally retarded children in doing their daily activities at the boarding school of SLB-C Santa Lusia in Laut Dendang is.**

1.5 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH

The significance of the research is everything which can be useful for readers, teachers whether in the ordinary schools or mentally retarded schools, organizations or institutions, people who take care of mentally retarded education with special need and others. And the results of this study are hoped to be beneficial for the civitas academic and the writer herself. Hence the significances of the study will be :

1. as a consideration for education world in developing children's language ability especially the mentally retarded children so that they can communicate in their community through daily utterances.
2. as an input for the teachers, sisters of Kongregasi Suster Fransiskan Santa Lusia , and social workers who accompany the mentally retarded children at the boarding school in empowering those children as well as they can.
3. as an input for the writer in increasing her scientific ability as a teacher or principal who will get a master degree and is also responsible for the future of education world in Indonesia.