

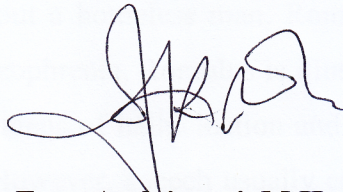
**A PSYCHOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF SCHIZOPHRENIC SPEECH
REFLECTING HALLUCINATION AND DELUSION IN
*THE CAVEMAN'S VALENTINE***

A Thesis

**Presented as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Attainment
of a *Sarjana Sastra Degree* in English Language and Literature**



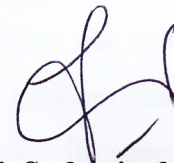
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A. Introduction

Persons living with mental illness face a double challenge. They must live with the symptoms of the disease and the attendant effects on their ability to work, live independently, or achieve a satisfactory quality of life. Additionally, they must live with common negative stereotypes of their condition—often based on ignorance, misunderstanding, and misinformation in the form of public stigmas (Rüsch et al., 2005: 529). In fact, schizophrenia is one of the most stigmatized mental health conditions (Thornicroft et al., 2009: 409).

The fact that the existence of this phenomenon is actually found common and ordinary in people's everyday life does not guarantee that people understand it well. Swink (2010: 1) states that popular media fuel stereotype about mental illness and dangerousness. This shows that what many people know about this phenomenon is merely that schizophrenic people are not the same as normal people, based on the fact that they may be behaving in ways that do not make sense to normal people.

Movie may exert a powerful influence that not only entertain, but also inform the audience, as well as countering negative portrayals of mental illness. One phenomenon of schizophrenia is like what is portrayed in a movie entitled *The Caveman's Valentine*. *The Caveman's Valentine* is a movie about a homeless man, Romulus, who suffered from schizophrenia. Since he is suffering from schizophrenia, Romulus is illustrated in the movie to have hallucination and delusion. In fact, the phenomena of hallucination and delusion are difficult to catch since they only occur in human thought. However, speech usually can portray such phenomena well since with speech people can express their thought. That is why, in this case, the researcher conducted a research on the kinds of speech displayed by a schizophrenic sufferer.

Finally, one way of analyzing the phenomenon of schizophrenia is by employing the approach of psycholinguistics. This is in accordance with the definition of psycholinguistics: the study of the psychology of language, which is concerned with any processes involved in language, in relation to human mind (Harley, 2005: 2). Therefore, when schizophrenia contains abnormal speech of which its existence is generally because of certain disruption that starts in human mind, it is of relevance to discuss this phenomenon by using the psycholinguistic perspective.

B. Literature Review and Research Method

The discussion of speech abnormality is undeniably an important topic in linguistics area since it involves certain processes and its occurrence is influenced by certain parts in human's brain. In fact, to be more specific, the discussion on those things is always under psycholinguistics—the study that explores the relationship between human mind and language (Field, 2003: 2).

The brain contains billions of nerve cells called neurons that must communicate and work together for the body to function normally, including in processing language. The neurons

communicate to each other through special chemicals, called neurotransmitters. In fact, when a person has damage or imbalance in some specific site of these chemicals in the brain, she or he may suffer from mental illness.

Based on National Alliance of Mental Illness Michigan (NAMI Michigan) (2010: 4) mental illness refers to a group of brain disorders that cause severe disturbances in thinking, feeling, and relating—often resulting in an inability to cope with the ordinary demands of life and cause great distress to the person affected. People who are diagnosed with mental illness display various symptoms, most of which are reflected in their speech. One example of mental illness of which the symptoms can be detected through speech is schizophrenia. Gendelman and Ikezu (2008: 504) state that schizophrenia is a chronic and disabling mental illness, characterized by the presence of psychotic symptoms, including hallucination and delusion. In fact, to determine the scope, quality, and duration of hallucination and delusion, people can note the quality of the schizophrenic's speech.

In conducting research on the speech of schizophrenia, the researcher employs Thought and Language Index (TLI) from Liddle (2001: 327). TLI comprises eight symptoms, of which the factors are divided into three groups, i.e.: impoverishment of thought and speech which consists of *poverty of speech* and *weakening of goal*; disorganization of thought and language which consists of *looseness*, *peculiar use of words*, *peculiar sentences*, and *non-logical reasoning (peculiar logic)*; and non-specific deregulation which consists of *perseveration of ideas* and *distractibility*. In fact, the phenomenon of schizophrenic speech is portrayed very well in *The Caveman's Valentine*. This movie is about a homeless man who suffered from schizophrenia.

This research employed a descriptive qualitative method. It was concerned with the description of the data in the form of utterances produced by the schizophrenic character, Romulus, in which the phenomena of schizophrenic speech abnormalities exist. Quantification of the data was also done in this research, only to strengthen the answer of the first objective. Meanwhile, for the second objective, the explanation is without number. Finally, in order to support the credibility of the data findings, data trustworthiness was maintained in the form of triangulation and peer discussion (peer debriefing).

C. Findings and Discussion

Based on the categorization system, among the eight types of schizophrenic speech abnormalities, Romulus only experiences four types of them. They are *looseness*, *perseveration of ideas*, *peculiar use of words*, and *non-logical reasoning (peculiar logic)*.

The first most-often appearing phenomenon is *looseness*. This phenomenon occurs when the connection between ideas in someone's utterance is tenuous or absent, or extraneous ideas intrude into the train of thought. In fact, the occurrence of such abnormality can be manifested during two

phenomena, i.e. *derailment* and *tangentiality*. The findings show that Romulus employs both *derailment* and *tangentiality*. One example of *derailment* employed by him is shown in the following datum:

- Matthew : Who do you think they're going to believe, huh? Me? Or the great David Leppenraub?
Romulus : **Y-rays. They're listening. He likes that. You and me, we're too small. He knows that.** There's nothing you can do, Matthew.

Datum no. 7 HL.6/00:16:05
DL.5/00:16:05

In the above example, the phenomenon of *derailment* is shown in the bolded words. In that situation, Romulus has a conversation with Matthew, a homosexual man whose boyfriend is murdered. He tells Romulus that David Leppenraub, a famous photographer for whom his boyfriend works as a model is the perpetrator of the murder. However, he seems in doubt to tell the truth that he knows to the police since Leppenraub is a famous and influential person, while he is only a poor ordinary person whose existence is always being expelled by his society. Facing this kind of situation, Matthew then asks Romulus' opinion, whether the police will believe on what he said or not. However, as presented in the bolded words, Romulus gives him a completely irrelevant answer. He talks about "Y-rays". Moreover, he even states sentences like "He likes that"... "He knows that", in which the pronoun "he" does not have a clear pronoun reference. Therefore, what is portrayed by Romulus' utterance above is in line with the theories of *derailment*—a phenomenon that happened when a schizophrenic sufferer has a pattern of spontaneous speech in which the idea slips off the track onto another that is clearly but obliquely related or onto one completely unrelated. Moreover, this phenomenon is often characterized by lack of cohesion between clauses and sentences and by unclear pronoun references.

Another phenomenon that also manifests *looseness* is *tangentiality*. This phenomenon is seen in the reply that may be related to the question or statement in some distant way or in the reply that may be unrelated and seems irrelevant to the question or statement. One example of *tangentiality* is shown in the following datum:

- Lulu : Rom, I-I got to get back to work.
Romulus : That what you call it, Lulu? You call that work? Terrorizing innocent people while murderers roam the streets like rats, huh? And you ashamed of me. I should be ashamed of you! You tell your boss he can't snake this one over on me. Tell him he can't kill me, 'cause I'm reaching for my wallet. He can't torture me with his anal broomsticks. **You tell Stuyvesant I'm going to tear his tower down! You....**

Datum no.8 DL.6/00:18:39

In the above example, the phenomenon of *tangentiality* is shown in the bolded words. In that situation, Romulus has a conversation with his daughter, Lulu. After some minutes conversing to each other, Lulu tells his father that she has to go back to work. At first, Romulus gives her a

relevant response. He talks about his daughter's job and boss. However, the utterance produced after seems irrelevant to the topic of conversation. Romulus spontaneously states about Stuyvesant—as shown in the bolded words above “You tell Stuyvesant I'm going to tear his tower down! You...”. Therefore, what is portrayed by Romulus' utterance here is in line with the theories of *tangentiality*—a phenomenon that is seen in a reply that may be related to its question or statement in some distant way.

Following *looseness*, as the second most-often appearing phenomenon, there is *perseveration of ideas*. In fact, this phenomenon is when a unit of speech, i.e. a word, idea, or phrase is repeated many times. One example of word repetition is shown in the datum below:

Romulus : **Help you?** I don't even know who the fuck you are. No, no, no. You on your own, son. You got your troubles, I got mine. Do I look like I can **help you**, huh? **Help you?** I don't know you.

Datum no.3 HL.3/00:03:32

The above datum the occurrence of *perseveration of ideas* in a level of phrase. The repetition in the level of phrase above is shown by the phrase “help you” which is produced three times in the utterance. In fact, such phenomenon occurred because of the influenced of Romulus' auditory hallucination. Romulus hears a man in a poster glued on the wall near him asks him for help. Romulus then answers the man's request by saying, “Help you? I don't even know...”. In the middle of his utterance, Romulus hears the man asks him for help again. He then answers him with the same expression “help you”, as illustrated in the utterance “help you...help you? I don't know you”.

Peculiar use of word comes as the third rank. In fact, what is meant by this phenomenon is simply when people employ unusual or invented words in their speech. One clear example of this phenomenon is as follows:

Romulus : Mm-hmm, **Z-rays**. **Z- rays** are green and soft like moonlight and seductive and much more vicious. **Z- rays** smell like a rich man's bank account. They smell like success.

Datum no.15 HL.11/00:53:44

In the above example, the bolded word “Z-ray” represents the phenomenon of *peculiar use of word*. “Z-ray” is a new word made by Romulus to name a phenomenon of green light that smells like success.

After *peculiar use of word*, *non-logical reasoning (peculiar logic)* comes as the fourth rank. Like its name, it is when people have a pattern of speech, which does not follow logically. It may take the form of saying something based on faulty premises. One example of such phenomenon is shown in the datum below.

Police : **You saw this no-face prop the body in the tree?**
Romulus : **That's right.**
Police : **But you were in there in your bed the whole time? How'd you see all**

this?

Romulus : I told you, **I saw it on my TV.**
 Police : What kind of shows you get on that TV?
 Romulus : All of them. The whole heady broth of American culture, right?
 Police : **You get cable?**

Datum no.6 DL.4/00:10:28

In the example above, Romulus has a conversation with a police officer whom investigates the case of Scotty's murder. The police asks Romulus related to his admission that he knows the chronology of the murder. In fact, he has been in his cave the time when the murder happened. In this case, *non-logical reasoning (peculiar logic)* is illustrated in Romulus' statement that he sees the murder on the television in his cave. In fact, there is no electricity in his cave and even if there is electricity, it is impossible for someone (the murderer of Scotty) televisions his or her crime, so that other people can see it.

Related to the characteristics of schizophrenia, there are two characteristics of schizophrenia shown by the schizophrenic character in *The Caveman's Valentine*, i.e. hallucination and delusion. Out of the five types of hallucination, there are only two types experienced by Romulus, i.e. visual hallucination and auditory hallucination.

Visual hallucination means seeing things, i.e. shapes, figures of people, colors, or humanlike objects, that are not actually present or that other people cannot see. An example of visual hallucination in the movie is in the following datum:

(Romulus sees himself sits alone in a building where a lot of winged man to which he calls angels, fly around in the building. He hears the sound of the angel's flapping wing. He also hears the voice of women whom call his name, mumble, whisper, and shout)

Man : What I think, Mr. Ledbetter, is the temperature's dropping.
 Romulus : **Well, I got legions of angels up here, like little moths, and they're going to beat the hell out of you with their wings...**
 Girl : Freaks.
 Romulus : ...I'm gonna crap you out, Stuyvesant!

Datum no. 1 HL.1/00:01:59
 DL.1/00:01:59

In the example above, the occurrence of visual hallucination is represented in the bolded words. In this situation, a man comes near Romulus and informs him about the dropping temperature. However, Romulus gives a reply that seems irrelevant to what man says. As presented in the bolded words, he talks about legion of angels. He says that they are going to bit the man with their wings. This phenomenon happened because he sees many winged-men that he calls angels to fly around him. In fact, no one around him sees them.

Explaining what it feels to hear a voice that other people cannot hear is hard especially when the voice comes from no physical source. However, some people with schizophrenia sometimes do not realize whether the source of the sound exists or not. That is why, people sometimes think that

those with schizophrenia seem like talking to themselves. One example of such phenomenon is illustrated in the following:

Romulus : *(Romulus hears someone poses as a model in a poster glued on the wall in front of him asks him for a help “help me”)* **Help you? I don't even know who the fuck you are. No, no, no. You on your own, son. You got your troubles, I got mine...** *(Romulus rehears the model asks him for a help “help me”)*... **Do I look like I can help you, huh? Help you? I don't know you.**

Datum no.3 HL.3/00:03:32

In the above example, Romulus seems talking to himself in front of a poster. In fact, phenomenon happened because of the influence of his auditory hallucination. At first, he hears the man in the poster that is glued on the wall in front of him asks him for help “help me”. Then he responds it by asking the man back “help you? I don’t even know you...”. After that, he hears the man asks him for help again. Then he responds it with a similar style of speaking with the previous—he asks the man back “do I look like I can help you, huh?...help you?”.

Finally, the next phenomenon is delusion. Out of the four types of delusion, Romulus only experiences two types only, i.e. paranoid delusion and delusion of reference. Paranoid delusion or delusion of persecution is when people believe that others are "out to get" them, or the thought that others are doing things when there is no external evidence that such things are taking place. One example of paranoid delusion that is portrayed in the movie is as follows:

Romulus : What do I think?
Leppenraub : That's what I asked.
Romulus : It's empty.
Leppenraub : Empty?
Romulus : So empty, it hurts the eyes. You see, the angel is-is looking heavenward, but he can't see because Stuyvesant has sucked out his soul and just left a shell.

Datum no.11 DL.7/00:38:06

In the above example, paranoid delusion or delusion of persecution is illustrated in the bolded words. in the dialogue above, Romulus has a conversation with Leppenraub, a famous photographer at that time. Leppenraub asks for Romulus’ comment about his work. Romulus thinks that Leppenraub’s work represents emptiness because the man in the photograph looks heavenward, but his expression shows that he cannot see anything. As represented in the underlined words, Romulus states that this condition happened because Stuyvesant has sucked out the man’s soul. In fact, there is no relation between Stuyvesant and human’s soul because Stuyvesant is the name of the figure that is manifested only in Romulus’ delusion. Therefore, there is no evidence that proves Romulus’ statement about Stuyvesant since it is never exist in real world.

In fact, in that situation, Romulus relates Stuyvesant with the loosing soul of the man because he believes that Stuyvesant is an antagonist figure who likes to do something bad, including take someone’s soul. Therefore, what is portrayed by Romulus here is in line with the theories of

paranoid delusion—a situation people believe that others are doing thing when there is no external evidence that such things is taking place

Delusion of reference is when people believe that things in their environment seem to be directly related to them when there is no evidence that such situation happened, i.e. people believe that others are talking about them or special personal messages are being communicated to them through the TV, radio, or other media. One example of delusion of reference is illustrated in datum below:

(Romulus sees masked man put a dead body on a tree from his broken television)

Police : You saw this no-face prop the body in the tree?
Romulus : That's right.
Police : But you were in there in your bed the whole time? How'd you see all this?
Romulus : I told you, **I saw it on my TV.**
Police : What kind of shows you get on that TV?
Romulus : All of them. The whole heady broth of American culture, right?
Police : You get cable?

Datum no.6 DL.4/00:10:28

The phenomenon of delusion of reference occurs when Romulus believes that what he sees on television is a message delivered to him to inform the chronology of Scotty's murder—the man whose dead body is found by Romulus on the tree. Knowing this situation, Romulus then tells the police officer that he knows the chronology of the murder. However, the officer does not easily believe him since he knows that there is no electricity in Romulus' cave, and even if there is electricity, it is impossible for someone (the murderer of Scotty) televises his or her crime, so that people can know it.

D. Conclusions

Among the eight types of schizophrenic speech abnormalities, Romulus only experiences four types of them. *Looseness* gets a greater occurrence because the requisite of its occurrence is simpler than the others. The manifestation of this phenomenon is when there is a losing connection between one idea and another, in which case the loss is influenced by either hallucination or delusion. In fact, the losing connection does not latch only onto specific terms, i.e. the repetition of a word, idea, or phrase like in *perseveration of ideas* or the occurrence of new words like in *peculiar use of words*, but in a broader phenomenon of disconnection. In addition, *non-logical reasoning (peculiar logic)* gets a smaller occurrence since not all meanings of speech abnormalities in schizophrenia are difficult to catch—some are still understandable although the thing that influence such abnormalities is not real or impossible to exist.

Meanwhile, the other types of schizophrenic speech abnormalities, i.e. *poverty of speech* (PoS), *weakening of goal* (WG), *peculiar sentences* (PS), and *distractibility* (DS), do not occur in this research. *Poverty of speech* does not occur because as a representative of a real schizophrenic sufferer, the schizophrenic character in *The Caveman's Valentine*, Romulus, likes to share what he

feels, sees, or hears, to other people. Not only about the phenomena, which do occur in real world, but also about those which, are only manifest in his hallucination or delusion. To do this, Romulus usually uses spoken language that employs many words and elaboration. This condition seems far different from the concept of *poverty of speech* in which lack elaboration of word occurs as the main indicator of its occurrence. In addition, although employs many words, the construction of the sentences produced by Romulus are not too peculiar, since their meaning are not difficult to discern like in *peculiar sentences*, so that the essential information contain, are not difficult to be caught like in *weakening of goal*. Meanwhile, *distractibility* does not occur because there is no strange phenomenon (the phenomenon that manifest only in Romulus' hallucination or delusion) occurs in real-thing near Romulus that can break his speaking concentration.

Another new fact is also found in this research. In *looseness*, the phenomenon of *tangentiality* can be seen in two different ways, whether the losing connection happened at the beginning of an utterance or at the end of the utterance. Then, in *peculiar use of words*, the unusual use of words does not only depend on the level of making-up a new word, but also on semantic level.

Related to the characteristics of schizophrenia, there are two characteristics of schizophrenia shown by Romulus in *The Caveman's Valentine*, i.e. hallucination and delusion. Both of them are found in this research. Hallucination is represented by the occurrence of visual and auditory hallucination, while delusion is represented by the occurrence of paranoid delusion and delusion of reference. In addition, for the characteristics of schizophrenia, the number of the occurrence of each phenomenon is not important since the existence of each characteristic is enough to judge that someone suffered from schizophrenia.

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