



Language Disorder in *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story* Series

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Abstract:

*Not many people realize that bipolar sufferers who have difficulty controlling their emotions can also cause language disorders. With that, the researcher discusses the types of language disorders experienced by bipolar sufferers in responding to conversations to communicate well. The theory used in this research is the theory of types of language disorders by Haris (1995), Dulm (2002), Field (2003), and Lanier (2010). In conducting this research, the researcher used descriptive qualitative methods to solve the problem of language disorders in bipolar sufferers in the series *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story*. The result of this research, (1) The Researcher found two types of language disorders, 5 data are in the receptive part and 4 data are in the expressive part.*

Keywords: *bipolar; language disorder; film*

A. INTRODUCTION

Language disorders are disorders that arise in the process of learning language and its implementation, such as speaking, writing, and using verbal communication in individuals. It is difficult for people who suffer from language disorders to understand words, syntax and do not have the ability to enter conversations. People with language disorders understand what they want to say, but the message is difficult to convey (Joffe 2008). There are many causes of language disorder, one of which is bipolar disorder. Children will be able to overcome language disorder issues early to prevent other problems that may occur in the future in early detection and proper treatment are applied (Kurniasari & Prima, 2020). Bipolar disorder previously referred to as manic depression, is a chronic mental

disorder that creates sporadic and unpredictable changes in mood, energy, and concentration. Moods can fluctuate between extreme highs, during which an individual may feel overly excitable and energized, to extreme lows, during which they may feel hopeless and indifferent. The “highs” are referred to as manic episodes, and in less severe cases they can be categorized as hypomanic episodes. Whereas the “lows” are referred to as depressive episodes.

Bipolar disorder can affect a person’s life, such as abilities in various fields, and major disruptions to health, social relationships, and lifestyle. This could be a result of the frequent relapses and other negative consequences that bipolar disease can have on the patient, family, and society. However, they are only capable of acting strangely when their illness flares up a second time. As social creatures who rely on one another, we can all stay with them during a relapse of their illness and attempt to assist them in controlling it. People with bipolar disorder often face difficulties in communicating and social interaction, especially during episodes of mania and depression. During manic episodes, they may speak too quickly, impulsively, and excessively, which can make it difficult for others to follow the flow of the conversation. In contrast, during depression, the sufferer may withdraw socially, speak little, or appear slow to respond. Both phases can lead to instability in social relationships and isolation (Martínez-Arán, A., et al. 2004).

Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story is a historical romantic drama written by Shonda Rhimes and directed by Tom Verica. This series was adapted from a novel by Julia Quinn. The series was released on 4 May 2023. This series tells In *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story*, King George III is portrayed as a young, charismatic monarch whose character is marked by both depth and complexity. Despite his marriage to Queen Charlotte being arranged for political reasons, a genuine and profound love develops between them, forming the emotional core of the series. However, George's struggle with mental illness, historically recorded as episodes of madness or bipolar disorder, casts a shadow over their relationship and his reign. His illness, manifesting in confusion, paranoia, and withdrawal, creates a significant strain on their marriage and his ability to fulfill his royal duties. The series presents George as a tragic yet sympathetic figure, whose deep love for Charlotte is constantly tested by his unpredictable condition. Through his character, the story explores the emotional turmoil and sacrifices both he and Charlotte endure, highlighting themes of love, duty, and the personal costs of royal life, while offering a poignant commentary on the complexities of mental health in a historical context.

Researching language disorder by the sufferer of bipolar is very challenging in finding a theory that fits this case because most people research language disorders from autistic people, whereas this disorder often affects a person's communication skills, especially during episodes of mania or depression. In the manic phase, sufferers may speak too fast or disorganized, whereas, during depression, speech tends to be slow or limited. This research can help understand

how mood disorders affect cognition and language, as well as develop appropriate interventions to improve the quality of life of George, a character who suffers from bipolar disorder in this series, especially in aspects of communication and social interaction. Therefore, the researcher ventured to discuss language disorders in bipolar patients to help future researchers who wanted to discuss the same problem.

Therefore, to analyze a series, the researcher used a theory of language disorder. It is because bipolar disorder includes language disorder and it can make clear what the researcher means. In language disorder, the using of language refers to the reasons why individuals speak and the ways they construct conversations depending upon what they know about the listener and the context (Bloom, 1988). It means when every person makes a conversation, it will be influenced by someone who will be invited to speak and what will be discussed. So, it is related to language disorder by the sufferer of bipolar disorder in *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story* series when the sufferer of bipolar disorder makes conversations with people around them.

The result of this research can improve people's knowledge about the analysis of linguistics study that is related to the analysis of language disorder in this series with the title *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story* by Shonda Rhimes. The researcher hopes this research will give some new knowledge and comprehension about the language disorder by the sufferer of bipolar, especially in *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story* series. Many aspects could be analyzed in the series *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story* by Shonda Rhimes which was released in 2023. This series has 6 episodes with duration 1 hour 2 minutes. However, the researcher limits the analysis of language disorder by the main character who suffers from bipolar disorder in the conversation of language disorder in the series *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton story* by Shonda Rhimes.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

Psycholinguistics encompasses the cognitive processes that can produce meaningful and grammatically correct sentences from vocabulary and grammatical structures, as well as the processes that make understandable expressions, words, writing, and so on. Language must express human internal thought, comprehension, and message, which are all related to the mind. It must also describe the entire process of the mind-language highway, which both leads to and originates from the mind. A mind-to-mind method of communication is established by the language that connects each mind. Language governs human behavior, regulates the functions of the brain and mind, and, last but not least, organizes the development of mental and behavioral processes. (Fingelkurts, Marchetti, 2010: 14).

A mental health condition known as bipolar disorder can lead to fluctuations in mood, energy, activity level, focus, and capacity to do everyday tasks. Individuals who have this condition could be feeling pleased before may suddenly become

incredibly depressed and despairing. Their sleep patterns, energy levels, activities, behavior, and cognitive capacities may all be impacted by this abrupt shift in mood. According to (Rahma Gulaid, et al., 2021: 1) she stated that bipolar disorder, often known as manic depression, is a long-term mental illness that causes irregular and erratic swings in mood, energy level, and level of focus. Extreme highs and lows are commonplace in mood swings, where a person may experience excessive energy and excitement or hopelessness and indifference. Manic episodes are the term used to describe the “highs,” while hypomanic episodes are the term used to describe less severe occurrences. On the other hand, the “lows” are known as depressive episodes.

Language disorder can be developmental (emerging from early childhood) or it can be the result of surgery, a stroke, an accident, or old age (Field, 2003: 53). In certain cases, this impacts their ability to communicate in speech or writing. American Speech and Hearing Association (1982) states that language disorder is an ability to communicate because of having some problems in communication. Language disorders can manifest in various ways, including difficulties with grammar, vocabulary, comprehension, expression, and social communication skills. These difficulties may arise due to underlying neurological, cognitive, developmental, or environmental factors. Such as in the *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story* series, the main character as the sufferer of bipolar disorder has some problems when he speaks the language to communicate with people. According to Field (2003) there are two types of language disorder, namely: receptive language disorder and expressive language disorder.

The researcher found five previous studies related to the research. First, *Language Disorder and Features Response of Main Character in The Forrest Gump Movie* in 2023 by Febiola Widodo, Y. (n.d.). Second, *Language Disorder in The Main Character of Tyson's Run Movie* in 2023 by Matilids N. and Ersam S., Third, *Language Disorder by The Main Character in The Good Doctor Series: Psycholinguistics Approach* in 2022 by Cut N. Dwiyaniti. Fourth, *Language Disorder of the Main Character in Dancing in the Rain Movie* in 2022 by Arofati, Z, & Ekawati, R. Fifth, *An Analysis of Language Disorder on A Stuttering Character in IT (2017) Movie* in 2020 by Sartika, R.F.M discussed language disorder, but had different focuses. The first focused on language disorders and autistic response features experienced by Forrest Gump. The second study focused on the types of language disorders and finding out the kinds of language therapy given to the main character of Tyson's Run movie. The third focused on language disorder caused by Autism experienced difficulties in interacting and communicating. The fourth focused on types of language disorders and explained the symptoms shown in each type of language disorder experienced by the main character in “Dancing in the Rain” movie. The fifth focused on language disorder in the “IT” movie that shows stuttering phenomena suffered by the main character named Bill Denbrough. All of the researchers analyzed the movie because language disorder can be found in people who deliver the language. The researcher will analyze a series entitled *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story*. It

can be seen that this research and those previous research have similarities and differences.

C. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted using a descriptive qualitative design. Qualitative data The psycholinguistic approach, which combines psychological and linguistic studies, is particularly relevant in qualitative research because it can explore how language reflects and influences human thoughts and behavior in various aspects of life (Field, 2003). To analyze, this research used a psycholinguistic approach. This approach is a type of linguistic study that examines literary works from a psychological point of view. In this case, the researcher tried to analyze the data in psychological theory. The series contains one of the main characters who shows some psychological indication of what happens in real life. It is described that the character has a problem with a psychological condition. Through this approach, the researcher expected to study intensely what happened with the character.

In this research, the researcher applied data collecting techniques by Patton (2011), which consist of three basic types: observation, interview, and documentation. The researcher used documentation to collect data through library research such as books, newspapers, artistic works, memorabilia, biographies, etc. The research steps are based on the documentation technique include. First, find and download the series on Netflix. Second, find and download the series script. Third, watch and read the series repeatedly to make sure they correlate to the research.

The researcher used descriptive techniques to analyze the data. According to Miles & Huberman (2014, p: 10) There are 3 steps in data analysis, such as data reduction, data display, and data verification. First, the researcher analyzed or categorized the data based on the research problem, which focused on finding the types of language disorders and the treatment of bipolar disorder. Second, the researcher used data visualization to display graphics and dialogs on data that the researcher had previously reduced. Third, finding in the *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story* series have been analyzed and validated the best conclusion about the types of language disorder and the treatment of the problem response in conversation of language disorder of bipolar disorder.

D. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

The research found twelve data produced by George as the character with language disorder in the *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story* series. By using Field (2003) theory, there are two types of language disorder, namely receptive and expressive language disorder. Then, by using Harris (1994) the research found nine characteristics of receptive and expressive language disorder. Those are

presented in figure 1 and 2. It showed that difficulty categorizing related words or concepts is the most dominant data.

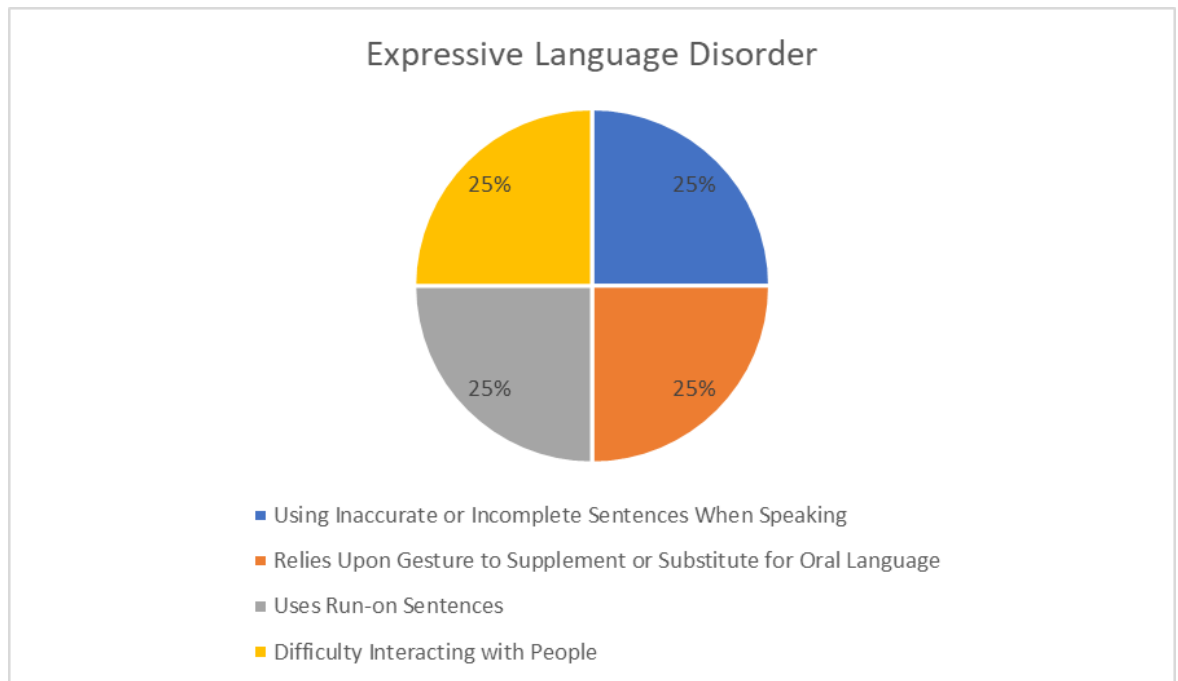


Figure 1 Expressive Language Disorder

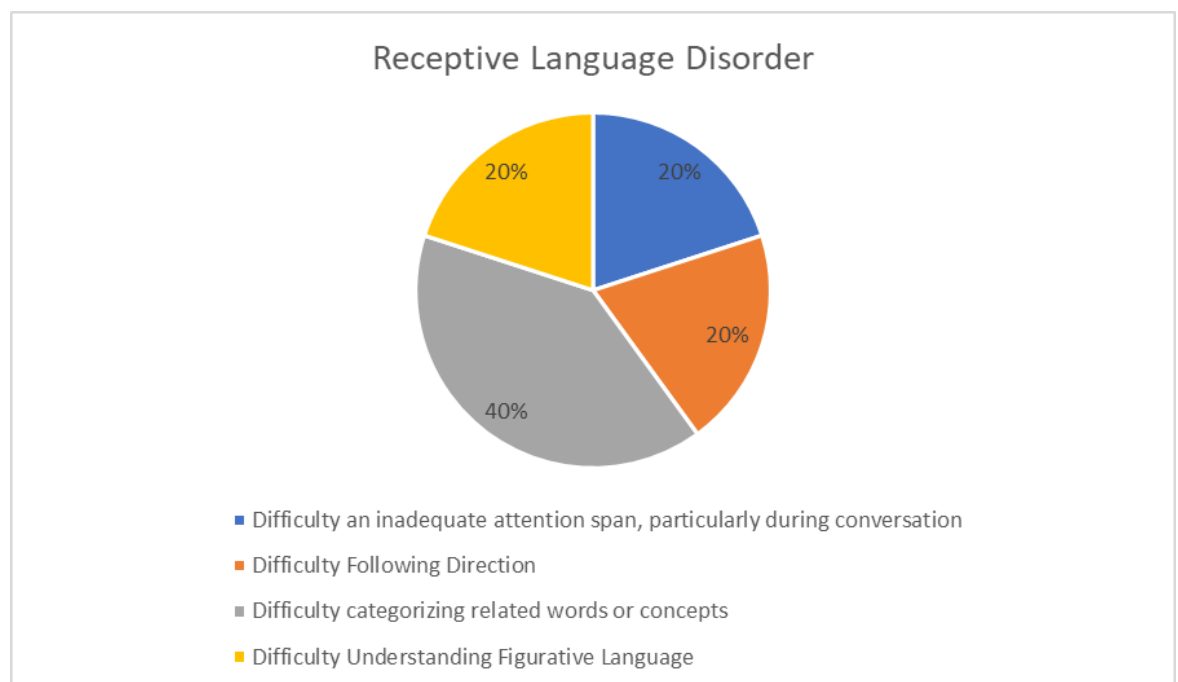


Figure 2 Receptive Language Disorder

Discussion

Expressive Language disorder of Bipolar Sufferer

Expressive language disorder he most frequently happens on George in the film *Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story*. People who have expressive language disorder difficulty produce the language that adequately represents the child's / youth's intended message and may include problems with word retrieval, word use, sentence formulation, and/or conversational skills (Harris, 1994). One of characteristic is difficulty interacting with people. It can be seen in the dialogue, when George into the palace to do his first speech as a king of England. Reynolds called him several times, "Your majesty!" This case showed that Reynolds tried to ask George to come out of the carriage. Eventually, he locked himself on carriage and ignored Reynolds to avoid interacting with people.

Using Inaccurate or Incomplete Sentences When Speaking

In general, speaking in a way that differs from a language's complete grammatical structure or communicates incorrect information is known as using inaccurate or incomplete sentences. Nevertheless, these types of sentences can cause miscommunication or require for clarification, it can also be an effective means of communication in situations where the meaning is clear. **"Not only the moon. Pollux, lost. Regulus, lost, Pollux, lost. Regulus, lost. And... after Pollux..."** From the dialogue, George came into the palace after playing with his horses in the meadow. Before that, Reynolds told him that his mother insisted on calling him back because she had found George a future bride. When George came inside, his mother awaited him accompanied by the other nobles. George already knew what his mother was trying to say yet he was not interested in every noblewoman his mother found for him.

It was a bit different this time because his mother had arranged his marriage and his future bride was already on a ship come to London and his arranged marriage would be held in a week. He did nothing but surprise. After hearing the fact that the girl was on her way, he started to talk inaccurately, even the people nearby got confused. From this case, we could classify as using inaccurate and incomplete sentences when speaking.

Relies Upon Gesture to Supplement or Substitute for Oral Language

When one relies on gestures to support or replace spoken language, body language, facial expressions, and physical movements are used to convey ideas besides to or instead of spoken words. In some situations, this nonverbal mode of communication might completely replace verbal communication, emphasize important points, or improve understanding. To sum up, gestures are essential to communication since they can emphasize, increase, or even replace spoken words. They improve communication by facilitating the expression of feelings, providing explanation of meanings, and controlling interactions. To avoid

misunderstandings, it is crucial to understand cultural factors and any potential ambiguities in gestures. **“No. I'm fine. I do not need him. [shuddering breaths] [exhales forcefully]. Yes, yes. Get him here. [breathes heavily] Charlotte?”**

In this movie, we saw that a person with bipolar disorder named George, in a condition did not allow it to be seen that the worries due to the disorder made him speak stammeringly and difficult to convey information to the interlocutor. What can help them in conveying something is by using expressions and gestures. Not only George's illness interfered with his health, but he also had difficulties in communicating and deciding things. As seen in the scene above, after arguing with his mother, his illness relapsed and he has difficulty in deciding, which is the best thing to do so that he could return to normal. In that abnormal condition, he also tries to communicate and is assisted by body gestures so that the other person can understand easily.

Uses Run-on Sentences

Run-on sentences occur to a person who has expressive language when they make conversation or tell a story without proper punctuation or pauses. If the listener did not really understand the conditions, they could not follow the main point of the story, especially if they are not familiar with the conditions affecting the speaker. To improve communication, it's helpful for the speaker to practice breaking their thoughts into shorter sentences and for the listener to ask clarifying questions when needed. **“She will lose... She will lose the... moon.”** Bipolar disorder can relapse at any time depending on several factors, one of which is stress. That's what happened to George when he found out that he was going to be married to a woman he didn't know. not only that, the worries due to his shortcomings and George's displeasure with the agreement that was signed unilaterally.

When Augusta told George that she was getting married and her partner was already on his way to London, George began to have difficulty managing his emotions. Eventually, the disorder returned and disrupted George's way of communicating with people. Like the scene above, Lord Bute did not understand George's explanation. This is due to George's response that is not in accordance with the topic of conversation and the speed in explaining it is also the cause of Lord Bute not really understanding the conditions, he also could not follow the main point of the story, especially Lord Bute is not familiar with the conditions affecting George.

Difficulty Interacting with People

Difficulty interacting with people refers to the difficulty or obstacles an individual may have in engaging in social interactions effectively. This can include a variety of issues, such as communication barriers, social anxiety, understanding social norms, and empathy and emotional understanding. These obstacles can come from several causes, including developmental disorders (e.g., autism spectrum disorder), mental health issues (e.g., social anxiety disorder and

bipolar disorder), lack of social skills, or past traumatic experiences. **On the carriage, his way to palace) [breathing deeply] [book shuts] [breathing forcefully]**. At Buckingham house, Charlotte attempted to calm George, who was beginning to feel anxious about his first speech after being sworn in as king. The anxiety arises from George's unpreparedness to speak in front of people. It can also worsen the situation because of his disorder.

George is worried about his appearance, so he needs Charlotte to give him peace of mind and reassurance that he can do his best in front of the parliament. Upon arrival at the palace, the anxiety returned, caused by George's difficulty positioning himself in a crowd. His bipolar disorder also worsened his condition. With his condition no longer allowing him to perform a speech, he returned to Buckingham House and postponed the performance of his first speech after being sworn in as King. When feeling anxious, people with bipolar disorder need other people to calm them down, which is what Charlotte did before George went to the palace to deliver his speech.

Receptive Language Disorder of Bipolar Sufferer

Receptive language disorder refers to difficulties in understanding or processing language. This disorder may make it difficult for a person to understand spoken or written words, sentences, or instructions. They might have trouble understanding grammar, vocabulary, or sentence meaning. This may have an impact on their capacity to absorb written information, engage in dialogue, and follow directions. From mild to severe, receptive language problems can range in severity. One of the characteristic found is difficulty categorizing related words or concepts. This difficulty can manifest in various ways and is often observed in individuals with language disorder. It is described in the dialogue, **“There are storms over the North Sea. Matters not your captain or your sextant. No sky, no moon. No moon, no lunars. No lunars, no longitude.”** When his bipolar disease relapses, he had difficulty in controlling emotions. This can also affect his communication skills.

Difficulty an Inadequate Attention Span, Particularly During Conversation

Difficulty with inadequate attention span, particularly during conversation, is about having trouble staying focused and keeping attention on the topic being discussed. It can also impact communication effectiveness, as it may lead to misunderstanding, missed information, and problems in maintaining social interaction. **“I do not understand what you complain about.”** Based on the dialogue, Charlotte met George at his observatory room. He has been there since their wedding. He spent more time watching the constellations than to be with Charlotte. He slept, ate, staring at the sky in the room leaving Charlotte alone at the Palace. It made Charlotte judge that George felt more excited to be there than to be with her. As a result, Charlotte got a bit angry with George. Charlotte directly talked about spending time with her husband, George. However, George seemed not to understand the complaint that Charlotte had explained. From this case, the researcher found this as an indicator that George had difficulty with an

inadequate attention span, particularly during the conversations. It can be seen in the dialogues above, specifically when George said “I do not understand what you complain about” which prefers to impact communication effectiveness, as it may lead to misunderstanding.

Difficulty Following Direction

One of the most common characteristics of language disorders is difficulty following instructions, which includes difficulty processing and comprehending oral or written instructions. This could have a significant impact on the ability of an individual to carry out tasks or participate in activities that require following an array of instructions. **“I see you! (Still running into the garden).”** As we know, George has bipolar disorder. He sometimes had his bipolar relapse. In the film, particularly at the observatory minute 48:48—50:32 we could see that in the middle of the night George left his room leaving Charlotte alone. Soon after, Charlotte woke up and she was trying to find George after hearing his voice. Charlotte found out that George’s bipolar relapse, she saw George made a lot of drawings of Venus and made some noise about the king of the farmer found Venus. Charlotte tried to get close to him, nevertheless George ran outside ignoring Charlotte.

Charlotte tried to chase George who was wearing nothing on his feet. Charlotte told him to stop because it was cold outside and he should wear something. However, he ignored Charlotte's order and kept running into the garden. He said he saw Venus and started to babble as if he was talking to Venus. From this case, we could classify that George has difficulty following Charlotte’s direction.

Difficulty categorizing related words or concepts

Difficulty categorizing related words or concepts refers to challenges individuals may face in organizing or grouping words, ideas, or concepts based on their similarities or relationships. This difficulty can manifest in various ways and is often observed in individuals with language disorder. **“There are storms over the North Sea. Matters not your captain or your sextant. No sky, no moon. No moon, no lunars. No lunars, no longitude.”** George was in the meadow playing with his horse. Soon after, Augusta, George’s mother, delegated Reynolds to call him back to the Palace. George arrived at the Palace and met his mother. Evidently, his mother has found a bride for him. She is from Germany and her name is Sophia Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. However, George looked a bit shocked to hear that. After his mother said that his partner was close and on her way to London, George's response is out of context, he did not respond to what his mother said about his bride. He just babbled about something his mother did not even know about. This is included in the difficulty categorizing related words or concepts. It can be seen in the Palace at the observatory minute 03:41—04:23 when his bipolar disease relapses, he had difficulty in controlling emotions. This can also affect his communication skills.

Difficulty Understanding Figurative Language

Difficulty understanding figurative language is a common issue for individuals with certain language disorders or developmental conditions. Figurative language includes idioms, metaphors, similes, and other non-literal expressions that convey meanings different from their literal interpretation. “**Are you demanding I perform my marital duty to you?**” Based on dialogues and pictures above, the explanation and use of words given by Charlotte to George that she wanted George to stay at Buckingham House seemed a little bit difficult to understand by George. As we could see in the dialogues above, when Charlotte said that they were married and she thought they were supposed to do something. She gave codes by saying those sentences to George. At first, George did not know what Charlotte was trying to say to him. He did not understand the codes at all.

Furthermore, it took a while for George to get the gist of Charlotte's statement. He finally figured out the codes given by Charlotte although need a second. This showed that George has difficulty understanding figurative language. It is advisable to use easy-to-understand language when communicating with those who have a language disorder.

E. CONCLUSION

There were two types of language disorder, namely receptive language disorder and expressive language disorder. The first one has ten characteristics and the researcher only found four out of ten. They are: one data for difficulty with an inadequate attention span, particularly during conversation; one data for difficulty following direction; two data for difficulty categorizing related words or concepts; and one data for difficulty understanding figurative language. Besides, for the second type, namely expressive language disorder, has seven characteristics and the researcher only found four out of seven. They are: using inaccurate or incomplete sentences when speaking with; relies upon gesture to supplement or substitute for oral language; sees run-on sentences; and difficulty interacting with people. The researcher found one data for each characteristic.

There were three ways to treat the problem response in conversation of language disorder, namely language interventions; narrative interventions; and relationship-based interventions. In this research the researcher only found three data for the language interventions. The researcher did not find the data for narrative interventions and relationship-based interventions because there are no scenes or dialogues that are suitable with the explanations of narrative interventions and relationship-based interventions. As in the theory, narrative interventions focus on strengthening adolescent narrative skills and can give a naturalistic approach to addressing specific language issues yet the researcher did not find any scene that contains the main character trying to improve those skills. Meanwhile, relationship-based interventions are intended to foster teenage connections.

In conclusion, the findings in this research showed us that language interventions is the most dominant because it has three data. More than other formulation problems. As from the scene, when dr. John Monro cured George's

illness for the first time, he said sometimes we do not need a complicated theory or method, just simply talking. Language interventions focus on specific language skills (phonology, syntax, and morphology) or more general language and communication abilities (verbal expression, story production, and social communication).

This research also showed us the types of language disorder, namely receptive language disorder with four characteristics and expressive language disorder with four characteristics as well. Besides, this research also showed us how to treat the problem response in conversation of language disorder through language interventions.

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