

## **CHAPTER II**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT OF THE STUDY**

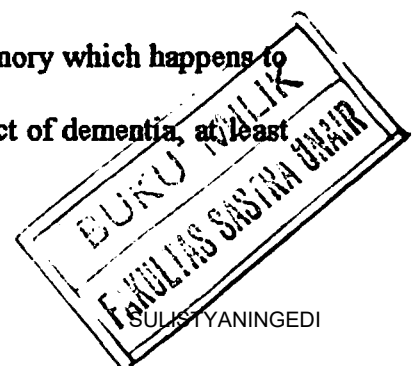
#### **II. 1 Elderly People**

The obvious changes that occur in old ages are physical appearance. The wrinkles and grey hair as in the middle age become clearer now. Decreasing in fat and muscle tissue may effect in inelastic skin that tends to hang in folds. The craggy, line, and weaether features of the age's person face and loss of hair are included in the elderly people's physical description for both sexes. (Rossman, 1977;154).

All the sensory systems show loss of efficiency in old age. In the area of vision, there are changes that effect to the retina and nervous system which cause visual acuity and colour vision decreasing for them. The most usual sensory loss is hearing. 17 percent of people with the age above 65 show signs of hearing loss due to degenerative changes in the auditory system. Those above physical changes typically do not prevent an elderly person to live in normal life.

#### **II. 2 Dementia**

The problem in dementia is related to the loss of memory which happens to elderly people. It has been cited as the most prominent aspect of dementia, at least



in the early stages, and is ranked as the most common problem. It certainly has the most devastating effect of the life of a person with dementia.

The stages of memory disturbance in dementia develop gradually. At the early stage, a person may have the occasional memory lapse and forgets to perform a certain activity. It often remains unnoticed until the person changes the activities or is in another place. An inability to take and keep track on new information or events is temporal. During the progress of dementia, the deterioration of memory becomes clearer and may extends to familiar environment, such as relative's home. At the more severe stage of the illness, the deterioration may occur along with the person forgets who their relatives are and even their own name. The stages below show the development stages of memory impairment in dementia.(Morris and Miller, 1992;17).

Stages in the development of memory impairment in dementia:

#### **Stage 1. Mild Memory Impairment**

Mild memory lapses occur, but cause only a few problems for the person and are often wrongly considered to other factors, such as the normal effects of aging. These includes forgetting daily activities or errands, failing to pass on messages, and becoming disorientated in unfamiliar surroundings. Memory for episodes in the near distant past is poor, including memory for conversations with other people.

**Stage 2. Mild to Moderate Memory Impairment**

Memory impairment is more pronounced and starts to have significant effect on daily living activities. At this point, the person may seek help (usually prompted by relative or friend) and is likely to become reliant on a carer. Memory errors include forgetting familiar people or friends, becoming disorientated even in familiar surroundings, confusing the time of day or day of week, and becoming increasingly unable to keep track of daily events.

**Stage 3. Severe Impairment.**

Forgetting close relatives, marked signs become apparent, such as confabulation or paramnesia. Memory errors become more severe and can present safety problems for the person, such as wandering, forgetting to turn off the electricity equipments. Loss of information about person may occur, for example details of personal information, such as relative's name.

**II. 3 Dementia Tests**

There are two types of tests used to identify the stages of memory impairment of dementing illness patients. They are the *Mini-Mental test/Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE)* and the *Boston Naming Test*. Unfortunately, most dementia centres and hospital do not release any information about the score of dementia patients on specific test. The information they do provide is often

restricted to information regarding the stage of the disease which the patient is diagnosed to be (mild, mild to moderate, moderate, and severe).

### **II. 3. 1 Mini-Mental Test**

The mini mental test is a standard measurement of mental status. The test is concerned with verbal abilities; reading, writing, recognizing, naming, and also narrating. The score taken will indicate the stages of memory impairment (mild, mild to moderate, severe).

### **II. 3. 2 Boston Naming Test**

The Boston Naming Test is given as secondary examination. Several pictures are shown to the patients. They must define or try to recognize the pictures. The two types of tests are meant to recall the short-term memory and long-term memory.

## **II. 4 General Description Of The Respondents**

All the respondents' age are above 65 and diagnosed with senile dementia. After taking the Mini-mental test and the Boston naming test, the result indicates features commonly associated with dementia; long-term memory loss, trouble in finding words, difficulty in concept, speaks more slowly, and repeats more. All interviews are conducted in Indonesia

#### **II. 4. 1 First Respondent**

The first respondent is 87 year-old Soelati. She was diagnosed to be in stage mild to moderate. She has been living in infirmities house for two years. I interviewed her during my second visit.

#### **II. 4. 2 Second Respondent**

The second respondent is 84 years-old Soelastri. She was diagnosed to be in stage moderate. She has been living with her daughter. I interviewed her during my second visit.

#### **II. 4. 3 Third Respondent**

The third respondent is 79 year-old Soekinah. She was diagnosed to be in stage mild to moderate. I interviewed her during my third visit.

**CHAPTER III**  
**PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA**