

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Schizophrenia is a mental disorder of unknown causes typically characterised by a separation between the thought processes and the emotions; a distortion of reality accompanied by delusions and hallucination, a fragmentation of the personality, motor disturbance, bizarre behaviour, etc., often with no loss of basic intellectual functions. In the society, it is, generally, known as insanity.

Until this present time, people cannot really tell what certain factors that can change a person who previously has a normal life to be a schizophrenic. There is no definite theory about the cause of schizophrenia occurrence. After many years of researches, experts can only conclude that combination of factors plays role in the presence of this disorder.

One interesting fact about schizophrenia is that schizophrenics, persons who suffer from this mental disorder, seem to possess a language of their own. This rather different language is characterised with the occurrence of changes in grammar and syntax, such as a string of words which is not syntactical, cutting of words or deletion of essential elements of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences (at least, according to the Western researches). They also introduce the existence of neologism, glosollalia, and word salad.

Despite the presence of those language disturbances, these people can still communicate with others using this language. Even though, sometimes, there are

incoherencies and misunderstandings between the schizophrenics and the other participants of the conversation due to their using this rather “different” language, they are able to talk and tell others what they have in their mind; their thoughts, feelings, experiences, etc. This can be proved by their success in using all functions of speech acts, except declaratives.

Like most people, the schizophrenics fail to produce the declaratives because of the lack of requirement that goes with the uttering of this function of speech acts, that is the person who utters declaratives must have authority to perform them. Examples of declaratives are utterance of a priest when marrying a couple or baptising a baby, judge’s utterance when sentencing an accused, or utterance of an employer when firing his employee.

Except for this failure, the schizophrenics have no difficulty in using other functions of speech acts: representative, directive, commissive, and expressive.

The intelligence and consciousness of the schizophrenics do not decrease. They are as intelligent and conscious as when they were sane. This enables them to remember things they have in their past or get new knowledge about their surroundings. It also makes them realise happenings around them. They can find this “knowledge of the world” by means other people do, such as reading newspapers, listening to radio, watching television, or chatting with others. This affects the uttering of the representatives they make.

With “the knowledge of the world” they get they can discuss about politics, social matters, or just about themselves because they are still able to



remember things related to their lives, such as their families, friends, experiences they have in the past, etc.

The violation of principles of this function of speech acts occurs when they utter statements against what is known in the society or which are inappropriate with the reality. It is said that the schizophrenics typically reverse usual procedures for reality testing. Unlike others, they use their inner experiences as the criteria against which they test the validity of outer experience. Since they are suffering from hallucinations and delusions, their judgement about anything will be affected by this condition. They tell others what they think they see, hear or experience without realising that these things only exist in their mind. It usually consists of imaginary stories.

Another function of speech acts successfully produced by the schizophrenics is directives. They use these utterances to ask others, that is the hearers, to do or stop doing something. Mostly, they utter direct directives by directly requesting what they want. As they can utter the directives to ask for something well, the schizophrenics are also able to produce the commissives. They use this function of speech acts to promise or refuse to do something.

Due to their consciousness and intelligence which do not decrease, the schizophrenics are able to tell others about their experiences and feelings. This enables them to utter expressives, which are used to express feelings they have, such as happiness, sadness, likeness, hatred, disappointment, etc.

The success of using all functions of speech acts, except the declaratives, which is shared even by sane people, in their conversation with others and also

despite the violation of principles in producing representative utterances, proves that the schizophrenics are still able to communicate with others.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY