ABSTRACT

Nardinasari, Puput. Word Order Produced by an Indonesian Autistic Child Aged 5 Years Old. A thesis submitted as a partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Sarjana Degree of English Department, Faculty of Humanities Airlangga University, 2010.

The autistic children tend to have problems in understanding and producing syntactically complex sentences. Meanwhile, the syntactic ability is determined by the ability in ordering the words. This study purposed to find out the word order in a phrase level and simple sentences produced by an Indonesian autistic child aged 5 years old and the frequency of word order in a phrase level and simple sentences produced by the participant. The method of this study is qualitative descriptive since it is attempted to gain a description of word order produced by the participant. The data were collected from the utterances produced by the participant that occurred between the participant and his therapist. Then the writer transcribed the participant's utterances into orthographic transcription. The writer then identified and classified the data. After that the writer counted the frequency of word order in the phrase level and simple sentences. Finally, the writer interpreted the data based on the theory proposed by Alwi (2003). The writer found that the participant produced the correct word order in a phrase level and simple sentences more frequent than the incorrect one. The participant produced the incorrect word order since the cognitive process that underlies the construction of the lexicon might be disturbed and caused the participant difficult to understand the conceptual ideas that contribute to the formulation of language.

Keywords: Autistic children, Word Order, Phrase, Sentence