ABSTRACT

Rachmanti, Yani. A Study of Word Retrieval Errors Produced by the Two Autistic Children Aged Ten Years Old (A Case Study). A Thesis submitted as partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Sarjana degree of the English Department, Faculty of Letters, Airlangga University, 2008.

Word retrieval problem frequently occurs when the speakers have difficulty in retrieving such known word at a certain time. Children with autism frequently have word retrieval problem due to several factors, such as unfamiliar word, slip of the tongue or tip of the tongue. This study is aimed at analyzing the word association between the errors of actual words which have been retrieved by the participants and the target words. Besides, it is also intended to find out the association which is mostly found in the participants' utterances, whether association on meaning, association on form or both of them. In this study, the writer took the data from twelve hours recording for almost seven weeks of utterances produced by two autistic children aged ten years old. This study uses case study because the writer focuses on one particular case. In taking the data, the writer conducted naturalistic observation. Then the participants' utterances were transcribed into orthographic transcription. Next, the writer identified, classified, and analyzed the data with the theory of word association proposed by Field (2003).

Based on the data analysis, the writer found that the word association which is mostly found in the participants' utterances is association on meaning. It is due to the fact that the concept in the participants' mental image plays an important role in helping them to retrieve the target words. If the participants could not imagine the concept or they did not know the name of the concept, then they might retrieve another word which is similar to the target word in terms of meaning or form association.

Keywords: Autism, Word retrieval, Actual word, Target word.