

The Influence of Culture on Communication among Groups of the Hearing Impaired Persons in Malaysia and Tunarunggu Indonesian and Sign Language Learning Problems

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Abstract

Culture plays an important role in the formation of a community. The influence of culture not only influence way of life but also has an impact on their communication. Development and communication of hearing impaired persons in Malaysia and Tunarunggu Indonesia are also influenced by their local culture and education system. The only difference between the sign language of hearing impaired persons in Malaysia and Indonesia is the sign language itself where both countries have differences in terms of speech and words used. To study the influence of lifestyle and education culture towards hearing impaired persons in Malaysia and Tunarunggu Indonesia, one qualitative descriptive survey and interview had been implemented in Bandung, Indonesia which involved 10 hearing impaired persons from Malaysia and 15 Tunarunggu Indonesia in collaboration with Lembaga Pemberdayaan Penyandang Cacat Indonesia (LPPPI) and Orang Pekak Johor (SDJO). The result showed that the culture of education system, family, friends and learning medium influence their communication with minimum score of 5.48 (education), 1.48 (family and friends) and 1.44 (learning medium). This made their minimum score for low hanging out in society quiet high that is 1.32. This study will explore more about the influence of culture and learning sign language problems in both countries.

Keywords: People with disability (PWD), Malaysia PWD, Indonesia PWD, Communication problem among deaf, Culture influence towards communication of deaf

1. Introduction

According to Malaysia Welfare Department (2008), definition of PWD is a person who is unable to determine for themselves to acquire the whole or part of the ordinary needs of a person and cannot live in a society entirely due to a lack of physical or mental and whether it occurs at birth or later than that. They used to be called handicap people but later on the term change to PWD (Azlinariah, A, 2007). Hearing impaired persons can be divided into three categories, has minimum level of hearing (20-<30 db), medium level (30-<60 db) and the severe level (60-90 db).

Statistic of the hearing impaired persons in Malaysia is about 15% from the total of PWD, estimated about 68,000. This figure is considered less compared to total of PWD in Indonesia. In Indonesia this group is called Tunarunggu and its population is about 6,000,000. They scatter widely throughout Indonesia because of national geographic factors and this makes them have diversity of culture. This makes them have different cultures and ways of communication

Slightly different in Malaysia, hearing impaired persons in Malaysia facing fewer problems in term of culture and communication compared to Tunarunggu Indonesia.

However, through research and interview with their society, it showed that culture still affects communication for both countries. In this research, the similarities and differences in learning problems of BIM and BISINDO are also discussed.

2. The previous research

According to Haziah S. and Mujibu, the significant communication gap, all these years, have made them marginalized and have difficulties in receiving information. Draft of Proposed Law Act PWD 2008 has been presented in parliament but this group still facing problems in getting information. Education System in daily normal school is not suitable for PWD and as a result special school has been built for them. However, due to unsuitable syllabus together with different sign language that they have learned earlier, majority of them fail the examination.

Almost the same situation happens in education system in Indonesia where their focus is on getting comparable performance with normal students. Their education system is 30 -40 years lag behind compared to America, Sweden and Japan because of their misunderstanding the condition of Tunarunggu (Galuh Sukmara). If their basic education is