

LANGUAGE DISORDER: TYPES, CAUSES AND PREVENTION

By

Monojit Gope

Research Scholar

INTRODUCTION

Language disorder refers to a difficulty in understanding and using spoken or written language, which can affect a person's ability to communicate effectively. It is a neurodevelopmental disorder that affects individuals from childhood through adulthood, and can have a significant impact on academic, social, and professional outcomes.

AFFECTS OF LANGUAGE DISORDER

It is important to understand language disorder because it affects a person's ability to communicate, which is a fundamental aspect of human interaction. Individuals with language disorder may struggle to express their thoughts, feelings, and needs, and may have difficulty participating in social situations, making friends, and succeeding in academic or professional settings. Understanding language disorder can help us provide appropriate support and interventions for individuals with the disorder, improve their quality of life, and enhance their ability to communicate effectively.

STATISTICS ABOUT LANGUAGE DISORDER

- Here are some statistics and background information on language disorder:
- According to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, approximately 7-8% of preschool children in the United States have a language disorder.
- Language disorder is more common in boys than girls, with a male-to-female ratio of 3:1.
- Language disorder can co-occur with other conditions such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and intellectual disability.
- Language disorder can have a significant impact on academic and social outcomes. Children with language disorder are at higher risk of academic difficulties, social isolation, and mental health problems.

STATISTICS ABOUT LANGUAGE DISORDER

- Language disorder can persist into adulthood, with approximately 50% of children with language disorder continuing to experience language difficulties in adulthood.
- Early identification and intervention are critical for improving outcomes for individuals with language disorder. Research shows that early intervention can improve language skills and reduce the risk of academic and social difficulties.
- Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) are trained professionals who diagnose and treat language disorder. SLPs work with individuals with language disorder to improve their communication skills and support their academic, social, and professional success.

TYPES OF LANGUAGE DISORDER

- There are several types of language disorder, each with its own characteristics and symptoms. Here are the three main types of language disorder:

1. Expressive language disorder.

2. Receptive language disorder.

3. Mixed receptive-expressive language disorder.

EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE DISORDER

This type of language disorder involves difficulty with expressing oneself through speech or writing. Individuals with expressive language disorder may struggle to use appropriate grammar, vocabulary, or sentence structure. They may have difficulty formulating and expressing their thoughts, ideas, or emotions, and may use simple or incomplete sentences.

EXAMPLES OF EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE DISORDER

- Here are some examples of Expressive language disorder:
- A child who struggles to form complete sentences, such as saying "car go" instead of "the car is going down the street."
- A person who has difficulty using appropriate vocabulary, such as using basic or inappropriate words for the situation.
- A person who has trouble using correct grammar, such as consistently using incorrect verb tenses.

RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE DISORDER

This type of language disorder involves difficulty with understanding spoken or written language. Individuals with receptive language disorder may have trouble comprehending language, following instructions, or processing information. They may have difficulty understanding complex sentences, figurative language, or non-literal language.

SYMPTOMS OF RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE DISORDER

Symptoms of Receptive language disorder:

1. Difficulty understanding spoken language.
2. Difficulty following directions or understanding complex sentences.
3. Difficulty comprehending non-literal language, such as sarcasm or metaphors.
4. Difficulty understanding social cues, such as body language and tone of voice.

EXAMPLE OF RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE DISORDER

Example of Receptive language disorder are following:

- A child who has trouble following instructions or understanding spoken directions, such as not being able to follow multi-step instructions like "put your shoes on, grab your backpack, and come to the door."
- A person who has difficulty comprehending complex sentences, such as not being able to understand the meaning of idiomatic expressions like "it's raining cats and dogs."
- A person who struggles to understand social cues, such as not being able to detect sarcasm or understand indirect language.

MIXED RECEPTIVE-EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE DISORDER

This type of language disorder involves a combination of expressive and receptive language difficulties. Individuals with mixed receptive-expressive language disorder may struggle with both understanding and using language effectively. They may have difficulty with grammar, vocabulary, sentence structure, and comprehension.

SYMPTOMS MIXED RECEPTIVE-EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE DISORDER

Symptoms of Mixed receptive-expressive language disorder are following:

- Difficulty expressing thoughts and ideas through speech.
- Difficulty understanding spoken language.
- Difficulty following directions or understanding complex sentences.
- Incorrect use of grammar or syntax.
- Limited vocabulary and using simple or incorrect words.

EXAMPLE OF MIXED RECEPTIVE-EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE DISORDER

Example of Mixed receptive-expressive language disorder:

- A child who has difficulty understanding spoken language and struggles to express their thoughts and ideas, such as not being able to respond to questions appropriately.
- A person who has trouble using appropriate vocabulary and syntax, and also struggles to understand the meaning of words and sentences.
- A person who has difficulty using language effectively in social situations, such as not being able to initiate or maintain conversations, and may struggle to understand non-literal language like jokes or sarcasm.

CAUSES OF LANGUAGE DISORDER

- The causes of language disorder are complex and can involve a combination of genetic, neurological, and environmental factors. Here are some possible causes of language disorder:

- 1.Genetic factors:** Language disorder can run in families, suggesting a genetic component. Studies have identified specific genes that may be involved in language development, although the genetic basis of language disorder is not yet fully understood.
- 2.Neurological factors:** Language disorder can be caused by neurological conditions that affect language development, such as developmental brain abnormalities, traumatic brain injury, stroke, or degenerative diseases. These conditions can disrupt the brain's ability to process and produce language.

CAUSES OF LANGUAGE DISORDER

3. Environmental factors: Environmental factors such as poverty, neglect, or abuse can impact language development. For example, a child who experiences chronic stress or deprivation may have difficulty developing language skills.

4. Developmental factors: Some children may experience a delay in language development that may or may not be related to other developmental delays. This delay can be temporary, and children may catch up to their peers with appropriate intervention.

5. Co-occurring conditions: Language disorder can co-occur with other conditions such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), or intellectual disability. These conditions can further impact language development and can make language disorder more complex to diagnose and treat.

DIAGNOSING OF LANGUAGE DISORDER

- Language disorder is typically diagnosed by a speech-language pathologist (SLP) through a comprehensive evaluation. Here are the steps typically involved in diagnosing language disorder:

1. Referral: A referral for a language evaluation is often made by a pediatrician, teacher, or parent who has concerns about a child's language development.

2. Case history: The SLP will typically conduct an interview with the child and/or parent to gather information about the child's developmental history, medical history, and language skills.

3. Standardized assessments: The SLP will use a variety of standardized assessments to evaluate the child's language abilities. These assessments may include measures of vocabulary, grammar, syntax, and comprehension.

DIAGNOSING OF LANGUAGE DISORDER

- 1.Observations:** The SLP will observe the child's language use and social communication skills in a variety of settings, such as at home or in the classroom.
- 2.Additional assessments:** In some cases, the SLP may recommend additional assessments to rule out other conditions that can impact language development, such as hearing or vision impairment.
- 3.Diagnosis:** Based on the results of the evaluation, the SLP will determine whether the child meets the criteria for a diagnosis of language disorder.
- 4.Treatment planning:** If a diagnosis of language disorder is made, the SLP will develop a treatment plan that is tailored to the child's specific needs and strengths.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES FOR LANGUAGE DISORDER

- Teaching techniques for individuals with language disorders depend on the specific language difficulties involved. However, here are some general tips that can be helpful:
1. **Use clear and simple language:** Use short, simple sentences and speak slowly and clearly to help individuals with language disorders understand you.
 2. **Use visual aids:** Visual aids, such as pictures or diagrams, can help individuals with language disorders understand abstract concepts or complex language.
 3. **Model language:** Model the language you want individuals with language disorders to use. This means repeating what they say, but using correct grammar and sentence structure.
 4. **Provide repetition and practice:** Repetition and practice can help individuals with language disorders learn and remember new language skills. Repeat key vocabulary words, phrases, or concepts several times and provide plenty of opportunities for practice.

TEACHING TECHNIQUES FOR LANGUAGE DISORDER

- 5. Encourage communication:** Encourage individuals with language disorders to communicate as much as possible. Use open-ended questions and encourage them to ask questions, make comments, or share their ideas.
- 6. Use multi-sensory teaching:** Engage multiple senses, such as sight, sound, and touch, to help individuals with language disorders learn. For example, you can use music or physical activities to teach language skills.
- 7. Break down tasks into smaller steps:** Individuals with language disorders may have difficulty processing complex language tasks. Breaking down a task into smaller, more manageable steps can help them understand and complete the task successfully.
- 8. Individualize instruction:** Every individual with a language disorder is unique, so instruction should be individualized to their specific needs and strengths. Consider their interests and abilities when planning instruction.

THANK YOU

