

# Distortion Convergence: Towards Humanist Communication for PMD/People with Mental Disorders in an Inclusive Society

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**Abstract.** This qualitative study aims to reveal the language dynamics of PMD (People with Mental Disorders), discover odd linguistic patterns, and introduce humanist designed instruments for developing PMD's communication skills in the landscape of Inclusive Society 5.0. The ethnographic approach focused on 12 PMDs who had psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and personality disorders. Distortion on recognition of communication components, repetitive production of Out of Context Speech, the offensive-aggressive Speech, and activation of emotional extralinguistic features are the major findings in this research. The curative system called "TCA : The Communication Arrow" is a prototype that was introduced as an assistive instrument for PMD to engage in inclusive society.

**Keywords:** PMD (People with Mental Disorders); communication components; BOAC; Bow and Arrow Communication; Inclusive Society 5.0

## INTRODUCTION

Mental health is one of the affected areas that requires serious treatment during the Covid-19 pandemic (de Filippis et al., 2023). A person's psychological profile can be disrupted through volatile disharmony (Bartel, 2003) that takes place in the context of disruption due to a pandemic. Without any intervention from the environment, the risk of the severity of psychiatric disorders is assessed to escalate and affect the socio-cultural harmonization of the related community. One of the general results is that the existence of People with Mental Disorder / PMD becomes marginalized (Killaspy et al., 2022). Handling PMD is a collaborative responsibility whose implications touch collective efforts (Wampold & Flückiger, 2023) between health workers, the wider community to the scope of the nuclear family.

This multistakeholder involvement is the main feature of the study by Asher et al. (2022) who recommend community-based rehabilitation. On the physical aspect, Sampogna et al. (2022) emphasized the need for physiological intervention through sports platforms to improve PMD's quality of life. On the other hand, the availability of green spaces for PMD is needed to support the recovery process (Wood et al., 2023). Mohaupt (2023) also introduced the process of rehabilitation through the use of natural aspects through animal relations to have a joyful effect on PMD. From a technological perspective, Naja et al., (2023)

emphasize the implementation of telemental interventions in the form of short videos that can have a calming effect on mental health. Interventions based on augmentation technology and virtual reality as a psycho-educational platform for PBM are the focus of study in the study of Tay et al., (2023). From a linguistic perspective, linguistic distortion is assessed as a PMD biomarker as found in de Boer et al.'s research. (2020). From a morphological level, Pinheiro et al., (2014) revealed that the use of single words together with prosody production indicates an abnormality in PMD. Meanwhile, Ziv et al., (2022) reported the characteristics of using PMD morphology which tended to be simple, associative, and self-focused. The use of transcranial magnetic stimulation therapy was used by Xie et al. (2023) in order to reduce auditory verbal hallucinations that typically appear in people with schizophrenia. This research takes an exploratory gap in the form of explication of communication distortions in PMD which is then converged for the formulation of passive instrument prototypes that support humanist communication. Its implementation is projected on an inclusive community landscape.

## METHODS

Speech data was compiled from fragments of informal conversations involving 4 PMDs as research participants, consisting of 2 male PMD and 2 female PMD lived in The School of Life foundation, Semarang, Indonesia. Participants

had a mental disorder background with a specific psychotic disorder, i.e. schizophrenia. To maintain the confidentiality aspect of PMD's personal data, codification is an option in this study, with the notation code A {agent} + sign {-} + code i-iv, i.e. A-i represents the first order agents.

A-i is a man aged  $\pm 35$  years. Divorced marital status. Experiencing social exclusion. Psychiatric disorders are triggered by financial problems experienced in the past. A-II is a male aged  $\pm 40$  years. Marital status is unmarried. Experiencing social exclusion. Psychiatric disorders are triggered by problems with study and family burden experienced in the past. A-III is a woman aged  $\pm 61$  years. Divorced marital status. Experiencing social exclusion. Psychiatric disorders are triggered by problems of domestic violence experienced in the past. A-iv is a male aged  $\pm 33$  years. Marital status is unmarried. Experiencing social exclusion. Psychiatric disorders are triggered by problems of sexual violence experienced in the past.

Each conversation fragment was recorded and transcribed verbatim (Scheu & Jünger, 2022). The transcription data is then analyzed for its communication components which consist of S.P.E.A.K.I.N.G and Genre elements to find patterns of communication distortion in it. Distortion exposure is then converged in a compilation matrix of language disorders to discover idiosyncratic patterns. Pattern construction is a prototype construction formulation platform for inclusive communication tools.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

An ethnographic study of communication on the speech data of four research participants showed a unique finding, namely that there were similar patterns that were exposed evenly to the components of Setting, Participant, End, Act of Sequence, Key, Instrumentalities, Norm of Interaction, Norm of Interpretation, and Genre. The difficulty of perception-production of context-accurate speech (Mahr, 2018) in each communication component is indicated by A-i, A-ii, A-iii, and A-iv.

Participants show a capacity constraint to recognize discriminatory factors (Vössing et al., 2023) on the spatial dimension when they are in communication events that have various locations and times of implementation. It is noted that the aggressive offensive speech type is present in

extreme every communication setting. A similar pattern was also found at the level of participant plurality. Types of utterances with negative nuances are consistently produced without considering the different factors of the participants. In this component, the values of language politeness which also take into account the social position of the participants (Krause & Dittmers, 2022) are not seen as being implemented by PMD.

The coercion of PMD's personal intention becomes the main feature in the end component. Self-focused speech characterizes all participants in the communication event. Structurally, it is marked by an unbalanced series of discourse (Beinlich, 2022) between the PMD's speech and the speech partner. In this context, dialogic utterances become apparent because the quantity of speech turns is dominated by the verbal bulk A-i, A-ii, A-iii, and A-iv which contain the main theme of individual preference. Anomalies are also seen in the act sequences component through violations of the A-B-A-B order. It is recorded that PMD's utterances do not follow the general conventions of dyadic conversational structures (Beinlich, 2022) so that the potential for negative face-threatening acts on the speech partner is possible.

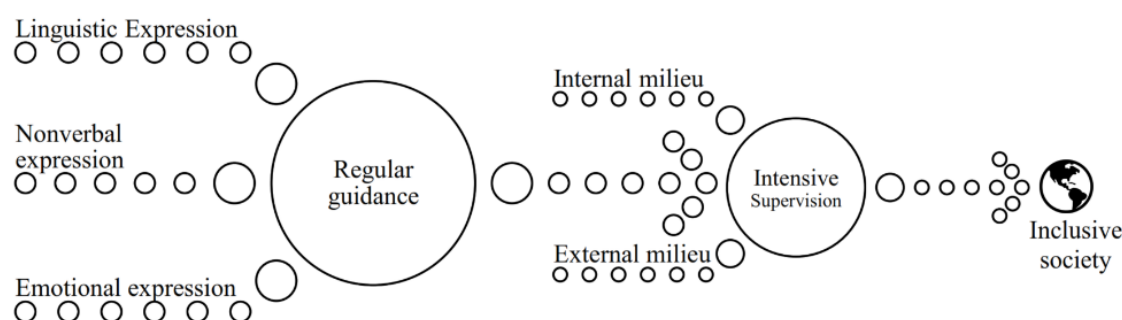
The combination of several distinctive features characterizes the key components of PMD. Its constituents are distinctive prosodic features which are manifested through high pitched speech interspersed with screams and screams. Then gestural features in the form of awkward body postures, and oculistic features in the form of sharp eyes looking towards the addressee. For the instrument component, the use of L1, namely the regional language, i.e, the Javanese language of the Ngoko variety of Semarang dialect and the Javanese language of the Semarang Chinese sociolect are recorded as the dominant verbal means used together with the activation of L2 Indonesian in the informal variety along with other non-verbal features, such as expressions facial and other kinesic expressions.

Problems in the speech perception area in the conversation scheme with speech partners occur evenly in A-i, A-ii, A-iii, and A-iv. This problem is the main feature of the norm of interpretation component. These limitations on interpretation result in technical communication difficulties (Holliday, 2022) such as speech out of context and silent responses, resulting in an unconstructed conversational atmosphere

(Urfalino, 2005). Similar constraints are also found in the norm of interaction component. PMD's difficulty in recognizing and applying communication norms that apply to certain speech communities is manifested through aggressive offensive speech and repetition of personal favorite topic utterances. These two things appear repetitively and use extreme prosodic features, i.e. high-pitched speech, fast speech tempo, and tense gestures.

Ignoring the types of speech acts shows the limitations of PMD in the implementation of the genre component. It was noted that A-i, A-ii, A-iii, and A-iv did not differentiate between the types of speech when they were in a formal, informal, humorous, sermon, or in a mourning event. Aggressive offensive speech expressions and repetition of favorite topic utterances are the main features in every genre of conversation.

The convergence of speech production-perception distortion in all components of S.P.E.A.K.I.N.G explicitly indicates PMD's communication capability which is on a marginal scale. This minus condition has an impact on the distortion of communication between PMD and normal people. At a certain level, avoidance of communication is a possible logical consequence. The implication is that the risk of PMD alienation in the constellation of social-interactional relations (Parpart et al., 2018) becomes wider. For this reason, a curative-rehabilitative approach (Ommert, 2020) in the form of intensive interventions in nine communication components is recommended. This study introduces a prototype of PMD's verbal communication ability rehabilitation instrument called The Communication Arrow / TCA.



**Figure 1.** The TCA

Intensive guidance is carried out in three units of speaking skills that are used in communication situations. The first is prescriptive-proscriptive guidance (Janoff-Bulman et al., 2009) in linguistic expression units which include choosing the right diction and variety of utterances in various communication contexts. The second is a nonverbal unit that includes the use of prosodic, gestural, kinesic, oculesic, to proxemic features that are appropriate in context. The third is an emotional expression unit in the form of assistance for emotional control based on consideration of the context

Intensive guidance is sharpened at the intensive supervision stage which is implemented in two domains of speech situations. The first is internal milieu which is carried out in the innermost circle of PMD, and the second is external milieu which is characterized by a wider scope of interactional relations. The integration of the implementation of regular guidance and intensive supervision in the two milieu is

progressively oriented, namely the construction of an inclusive society which opens up space for communication accessibility for PMD. With broad community acceptance of PMD through this communication channel, it is hoped that the mental recovery process can be accelerated.

## CONCLUSION

The alienation of PMD from the disruptive constellation of the postmodern era has a preventive opportunity through linguistics. The implementation of TCA is recommended in order to construct verbal communication capabilities. In this context, collective cooperation between stakeholders becomes a necessity to support the construction of humanist communication. Thus the vision of an inclusive society as a feature of a superior civilization can be achieved.

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