

Handicap and Disability: What is the Difference?

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ABSTRACT

In mass media, there has been much news about people with special needs; however, the articles or broadcasts do not use appropriate diction. In Indonesia, the term handicap has been changed to disability since 2009 based on the humanity right perspective. The purpose of this research is to show the understanding about the concept of the terms: disability and handicap toward the people who rarely interact with disability. This research used qualitative approach. Referential and pragmatic identity methods were used for analyzing the data. The findings showed that the respondents did not understand the difference between the terms: disability and handicap. The perspective was still based on the cause of the impairment. It was a birth defect or an accident effect

Introduction

The term of handicap has been changed to disability, because of the change in perspectives. In Indonesia, the term handicap refers to the abnormality. That is usually used in medical scope. It considered the difficulties caused by the abnormality of the person. It caused a negative point of view towards people with impairment, such as handicap should be normal to interact with other people or enjoy the public facilities. One of the effects is that handicap was isolated by the environment. It is thought handicap is useless. Since 2009 in Indonesia, the term handicap has been renewed to become disability, referring to Convention of the Right of People with Disability (CRPD).

However, the changing of the word has not been understood. There were many articles that have not used the word disability in their writing; handicap was still used, whether on online or offline media. Educated people, like journalists, reporters, and teachers still use the word handicap when lecturing and reporting. This phenomenon shows that citizens have not understood how to choose words based on context. The aim of this article is to investigate the understanding of people toward the difference between handicap and disability, terms used to represent the society awareness toward people with special needs. Maftuhin (2016) compared between the use of terms: handicap and disability in online mass media and in academic scopes. The data were collected on online resources. In business scope inclusivity means creativity, they will interact more broadly thus utilizing the full spectrum of perspectives that exist in a multicultural organization.

Lauring and Klitmøller (2017) state that inclusive societies interact with everyone with the best speech and words. Gorenflo (2017) examined the co-occurrence of Natural WHSs with languages, as a key index of cultural diversity, to identify locations for integrative conservation opportunities aimed at protecting human and non-human

diversity; in contrast, this article aimed to expose language similarity for inclusiveness for indigenous communities but the object were local languages.

A study about language and ethics that used Balinese languages as the subjects discussed honorific dictions in praying. Lowland villagers did not have respectful dictions in daily communication as the mountain villagers, but they had the dictions in religious situation (Mayuko, 2015). The results showed that there were many load words from mountain language in lowland language. The study also showed that people used different languages in different contexts. It was not different to the case of word handicap and disability. However, the case that was taken by Mayuko (2015) was in religious context.

The study of paradigm of persons with disability was that conducted by Santoso and Apsar (2017) to provide services to people with disabilities has shifted, starting with The Traditional model, which was charity in nature, shifted toward the Individual Model – Medical Model, emphasizing rehabilitation for disability population. The second model was fairly insufficient to eliminate the obstacles dealt with the disabilities, thus the professionals developed the third paradigm, which was The Social Model, where focus of services was meant to create social change – community change. Currently, services for disability population are based on the Inclusion Model, which was inclusive development – inclusive society. The inclusive approach is utilized to present the disability population in the lives of the community, thus accommodating more of human rights of the disability population. However, the changing of paradigm did not make the opportunity of persons with special needs wider. The discriminations in many sectors still happened. It was similar to the background of this paper. A study about negative politeness strategies investigated by Mugrib and Purnanto (2019). The purpose of the investigation was to examine the varieties of negative politeness on visual information media transportation. Stating threatening acts as a general rule” was the most common strategy, that was used, because the information conveyed is related to regulations about the utilization of transportation that need to be known and followed by people as users of transportation services.

Literature Review

Disability

According to WHO (World Health Organization), (2011), disability is a permanent or temporary human condition. It makes impaired at some point in life, and those who survive to old age will experience increasing difficulties in functioning. Every epoch has faced the moral and political issue of how best to include and support people with disabilities. According to International Classification of Functioning on (WHO (World Health Organization) (2011), this issue will become more acute as the demographics of societies change and more people live to an old age.

Referring to difficulties encountered in any or all three areas of functioning, the ICF can also be used to understand and measure the positive aspects of functioning such as body functions, activities, participation, and environmental facilitation. The ICF adopts neutral language and does not distinguish between the type and cause of disability – for instance, between “physical” and “mental” health. “Health conditions” are diseases, injuries, and disorders, while “impairments” are specific decrements in body functions and structures, often identified as symptoms or signs of health conditions.” Bureau (2015) stated that disability is caused by diseases of central and peripheral neurological systems, traumas or other congenital diseases of the musculoskeletal systems, which leads to hindrance or limitations in one or more aspects in daily living. In Hong Kong, physical disabilities mainly include the following categories: cerebral palsy, spina bifida, spinal muscular atrophy, muscular dystrophy, amputation, osteogenesis imperfecta and juvenile idiopathic arthritis. People may have more than one disability and may experience additional disadvantages to adequate service provision due to factors such as being from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds or because they live outside the metropolitan area or outside a regional center (Westren Australia Disability Service Commission, 1993).

Handicap

According to WHO (World Health Organization), 1980) handicap is orientated to the impairment, same definition also stated by Purwanta (2011), handicap is those who live with disorder because of damage or abnormality of the function of organ(s) or body part(s). The Constitution of Indonesia (1997) defined handicap as people with physical and mental abnormality and the effects make they have difficulties in daily life. Furthermore, the constitution stated that handicap cannot be independent in social and economic sectors. The traditional view of disability focuses on the individual, which is though being incapable to perform certain activities due to one or more functional impairments (Michailakis, 2015).

Disability Violence Varieties

The systematic review on violence against adults with disabilities, published in February 2012, found that overall they are 1.5 times more likely to be a victim of violence than those without a disability, while those with mental health conditions are at nearly four times the risk of experiencing violence (Hughes et al., 2012). While many parents are violent towards children where no disability exists, when a disabled child lives in a violent setting his or her disability often serves to compound and intensify the nature and extent of the abuse. For example, a mobility impaired child may be less able to flee when physically or sexually assaulted (UNICEF, 2005). The victims of violence are mostly women with disability PWDA and DVNSW & Violence (2015) reported Women with disability are vulnerable to violence due to a combination of gender- and disability- based discrimination. PWDA and DVNSW & Violence, (2015) gave some example of the violence, such as physical, sexual emotional and financial violence. Forced isolation, denying or trivializing the disability, humiliating the individual, threatening violence, institutionalization or the withdrawal of care, and threatening to hurt guide dogs, pets or other family member are the examples of emotional violence. Furthermore, the Second Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022 priorities women with disability. It recognizes that women with disability are disproportionately affected by domestic violence.

Methodology

Data collection technic that was used in this research is that researcher participates in a conversation with the target, listen and note all the data needed. According to Sudaryanto (2015) the characteristic of this technic is that researcher participate actively or just listening to the conversation. The other characteristic is the respondents know that researcher include in the conversation. However, respondents do not know that researcher focus on the language that is used by respondents, the topic is not important. Social media is used as a tool for collecting data. This is the easiest way because researcher can hold a conversation with some people together. The advantage of using social media researcher does not need to note taking and recording to save the data. The researcher and the respondents discuss the difference of handicap and disability based on the opinions of the respondents. The data are analyzed with qualitative approach. It is an approach that is in terms of the meanings people bring to them, stated by Shank (2002) in (Ospina, 2004). Milles, Hubberman, & Sadana (2014) stated that there were four steps that should go through to get the findings, noticing the phenomenon, identifying, analyzing and understanding the data.

Referential and pragmatic identity methods are used for analyzing the data. Referential identity method is a statement that refers to something. For example, "Fira is the first handicap who holds bachelor degree in Tuban." In Indonesian context, handicap means that people with impairment must be recovered, whereas handicap cannot be recovered. An illustration, from some members of disabled community a person got an accident, and his leg must be amputated. Prosthetic can be used for helping him walks, but the way he walks never be the same as the real leg. A baby has short muscles because she does not get enough oxygen in the womb. So, doctors make the muscles longer by operating. She can walk hard and slowly.

Results and Discussion

Result

The respondents are university graduates and they are officers. The interview is using Indonesian language. The detail is in table 1.

Interview Transcript

Question	perbedaan istilah pemyandang disabilitas dan penyandang cacat? (What is the difference between disability and handicap?). . .
Respondents	Answer
	Cacat itu karena kecelakaan itu bawanan lahir" (Handicap is an effect of accident). Disability is birth defect.
	Cacat itu karena kecelakaan itu bawanan lahir" (Handicap is an effect of accident). Disability is birth defect.
	Cacat itu yang fisiknya beda, disabilitas itu yang memiliki kekurangan" (Handicap is focuss on physical impairment, disability are people with disorder).

The table describes the understanding of respondents toward disability and handicap concept. The respondents argued that the difference of both was based on the cause of disorder or impairment. Even though the term has changed by different perspective. The new perspective come from humanity view point. In other words, based on referential identity technic, respondents argued that handicap referred to the effect of accident and disability was prenatal disorder. Beside that the finding from pragmatic identity technic respondents confuse and uncertain when explain about the term.

Discussion

In summary, based on the pragmatic and referential technics, the levels of understanding of the term disability are not high. As explained before, the aim of this research was investigating the understanding of term disability and handicap to people who interact with disability rarely. Maftuhin (2016) investigates the similar issue. He investigated the popularity of term handicap, disability and different ability. In online media and education scope, handicap was still the most popular terms in Indonesia. There is no significant effect of the changing words handicap in linguistic scope. This study proved that term handicap is still more popular than disability in Indonesia. Moreover, the society still lack knowledge of both of the terms. However, this study did not have capacity to solve the lack of awareness on word choice to call persons with special needs.

Conclusion

The purpose of this research was to show the understanding about the concept of the terms: disability and handicap toward the people who rarely interact with disability. The findings of the study revealed that the respondents did not understand the difference between disability and handicap. The perspective was still based on the causes of the impairment. It is a birth defect or an accident effect. It means that educated people do not guarantee the understanding and the awareness to society especially marginal society. It can be seen from wrong references when both of the words were mentioned and also expressed.

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