VALUES IN THE SONG LYRICS AMONG ASPERGER'S CHILDREN: DISCOURSE ANALYSIS THEORY

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Abstract - Asperger's children need differentiation in teaching and learning as compared to normal children. Using songs in the classroom help them to boost up their motivation in learning. Therefore, the objectives of the study are to identify and discuss the values in "My Family" song lyrics for Asperger's Children. The samples of the study consist of four Asperger children from a school in Malaysia. The subjects were taught about the song and song lyrics were explained and discussed. The subjects were given the chance to give their views and opinions about the song lyrics. The results of the study revealed that the song lyrics consist of helping others, loving, caring and virtue. The song lyrics help the Asperger children in the process of understanding the values and inculcate the values in their everyday lives.

Index Terms - values, Asperger children, song lyrics, motivation

I. INTRODUCTION

Asperger's syndrome is a type of pervasive developmental disorder conditioning delay in the development of basic skills like social interaction, language skills and analytical skills. Asperger's syndrome therapy will improve the functioning of the skills by providing special education, behaviour modification, occupational therapy and social skill therapies. Children with Asperger's syndrome will face a lot of problems in socializing no matter at home or at school and most importantly difficulties during the process of learning. Some Asperger's syndromes are skillful as in drawing, playing the piano or other instruments, numbers or any other hands-on activities. This can be seen when the children are accepted in advanced learners' school. The children will not be learning in isolation so therefore, it is wise to ensure awareness among communities. The children will be given the chance to learn like normal children. They will be given a lot of exposure related to socializing. Although, most Asperger's syndrome children will not adapt to the surrounding as quickly as normal children but parents and teachers will try their best to give the children time to understand about the people around them. This way, the children will understand the reasons they are different as compared with normal children.

II. STUDIES ON ASPERGER'S CHILDREN

The social problems that occur among Asperger's syndrome children [28] have been the most research studied for a long time. The problems include difficulty in making and keeping friends and at certain point the children may be rejected by peers. However, these children are loving and affectionate with their immediate family but some prefer to be alone. On the other hand, the children are not socializing and their behavior do not reflect their age as they are lack of understanding. The children are also having difficulties in judging personal space and understanding others' feelings or showing empathy. This rigid social behavior is shown due to an inability to spontaneously adapt to variations in social situations. The problems related to rigid in social behaviour stated above show abnormality among Asperger's syndrome children and the communication patterns will also show awkwardness when talking to their peers and family members. Conversation between peers will be considered as impossible due to lack of understanding of turn taking in communication. The activities suitable for Asperger's syndrome children are often restricted, inflexible adherence to routines and also may have difficulty from one activity to another [20]. Studies by [23] [24] show that children with Asperger will learn if the environment is suitable for them. In other words, the teachers will have to ensure that the children will be motivated to learn. [26] [25] [16] add that differentiation in teaching and learning will help to boost up learners learning in the classroom. [5] study examines the efficacy of video self-modeling with video feedback using iPads for establishing mands and greeting to peers in three young children with autism using a multiple probe single subject design across participants. The results of the study revealed that the use of video self-modeling has shown the intervention has created a different scenario in learning and effective for improving the target behaviors of two of the three participants. The participants have shown interest in learning. The result also showed that greetings generalized in the short-term for one participant. The results of the study by [5] were parallel to the study of [6], [7] and [8] where inclusive settings in the classroom will help in the process of learning among autistic children. Also, [7] add that teaching independent transitioning among autistic children by using video self-modelling will help the children to respond to the activities given to them. This

way, the process of learning will show positive feedbacks among them. [8] claim that autistic children need attention and activities that interest them will help them learn in the classroom. One way to teach children is to include stories in the lessons. Listen to stories by read or being shown on videos will help in the process of learning. Studies by [18], [11] [12] [3] and [26] claim that stories as in folklores and animation help in the process of difficult learning among learners.[4] study focuses on teaching children with autism spectrum disorder with restricted interests. Children with autistic spectrum require teachers to understand and adapt to children's learning styles. Children with special needs bring challenges to classroom teaching, often exhibiting interests restricted to particular activities. Teacher must have different types of activities as in differentiation in hand in order to cater children need in the classroom. The study examined and discussed all studies of teaching children with autism spectrum disorder published between 1990 and 2014. The results of the study showed positive gains and responses in learning and social skills can be achieved by incorporating children's learning into classroom practice. The study by [4]) was parallel to the study of [29] where children with autism spectrum disorders need activities that suit their learning styles. [29] adds that the inclusion of technology has helped the children to understand the lessons in the classroom. Children were seen actively involved in the classroom and able to show positive interest towards the usage of computer in learning. The result of the study by [29] showed that the children were focused in learning for several hours. [30] support [29] study and add that personalising learning in using the computers in the classroom will help in educating the special needs children. [1] [22] [20] add that differentiation in learning will help children in learning. Also, [19], [21], [11], (2014), [17] and [24] claim that different aspects of teaching will help to motivate learners in the classroom. [9] on the other hand, claim that teaching observational learning to children with autism help in the process of the acquisition of social skills and may be an important skill for learning in modern or traditional educational settings. The study suggests that it may be limited in children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The study was to develop an assessment to test observational learning (OL) using a variety of tasks. If OL was deficient, the study sought to teach it by introducing and training specific skills. Six participants who had been diagnosed with ASD showed deficits in OL. After training, 5 of the 6 participants engaged in OL across multiple tasks and task variations, demonstrating generalization and these showed that the children accepted the tasks. For 1 participant, generalization of performance did not occur across tasks but occur within task variations. The results of the study showed that the participants engaged in the activities given to them. They showed interest and motivated in learning in the classroom. [2] supported the study by [9] where observational learning help to motivate the special needs children in learning. On the other hand, [7] agree with [9] and add that engagements among special needs children are crucial in the process of learning. Therefore, children are observed in order to find their ability in understanding the lessons.

The objectives of this study are to identify and discuss the values in song lyrics among Asperger syndrome children.

III. METHODOLOGY

The samples of the study consist of 4 Asperger's syndrome children. The children are picked at random at a special school in Malaysia. The children are exposed to the song entitled "My Family" for four weeks. The meanings of the lyrics are explained. After the fourth week, the children are given the chance to give their views and opinion on the values from the song lyrics. The song lyrics are in the Malay language so therefore the lyrics are translated to English for the purpose of the study. The song lyrics are analysed by looking at the values.

The values are analysed by using discourse analysis theory. Presupposition and inference are adapted from [31] discourse analysis theory. However, the social values are added to ensure that the theory is appropriate. Therefore, the analysis is focused on presupposition, values and inference.

Keluarga
Saya berasa puas hati
Menolong ibu bapa setiap hari
Bermula di pagi hari
Sehingga malam nanti

Ibu bapa yang disayangi
Saya tetap berhati-hati
Menjaga budi pekerti
Keluarga saya yang dicintai

Saya sayang ibu dan bapa
Abang, kakak, adik dan saudara
Mereka semua ada bersama
Semasa saya memerlukan mereka

My family
I am content
Helping mother and father everyday
Starting from morning
Till night time

To my lovely mother and father
I am cautious
Full of virtues
To my beloved family

I love you mother and father
Brother, sisters and cousins

All of them with me
When I needed them most

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Helping others, loving, cautious

The values in the song are written very clearly when the lyrics stated that "Helping mother and father everyday". It stated that the child involved is happy to help his/her mother doing chores at home. It also seemed that the child is content with the chores given as it stated in the lyrics "I am content" in the first line of the song. It is clearly shown that the child is fine with the chores given to him/her. Besides that, the child involved also showed his/her love towards his/her parents. As it stated in the lyrics; "beloved family", "I love you mother and father", "Brother, sisters and cousins" that the love exists among the family members. The lyrics also showed that the child is cautious with his/her parents and family members. This is clearly explained in the lyrics; "I am cautious" and dedicated to the family members. Subject 1 claimed that he helped his parents at home. He also stated that helping his mother will make him happy and content. On the other hand, Subject 2 stated that she also helped her parents and home and she loved her family. She understood the song lyrics and tried to relate it to her family at home. However, Subject 3 seemed to be happy with the song lyrics when she was seen verbalize the words help, love and cautious repeatedly. Subject 3 also claimed that all the values were shown at home. Lastly, Subject 4 mentioned that he loves his family like the words in the song lyrics. He also claimed that he helped his parents at home. He also helped his brother and sister to tidy up the house. Subject 4 understood the meaning of the word 'cautious' and said that it is a good value for everyone in the family.

The results above showed the values of helping others, loving and cautious. The evidence showed that the values are easy to understand as the child needs to be exposed with the values. Parents of teachers will explain or let the children discuss about the values in the classroom. Also, they can help the children to understand more by having role plays in the classroom. The children will understand the reasons why helping others, being loving among family members and cautious when talking with family members are important in their everyday lives. This will help them to socialise positively among them and the children will be more confident in talking or dealing with others.

Caring and virtues

The song lyrics also showed the caring value as in "I am content" whereby the child is happy and satisfied with the family members. This can also showed that the family members have shown their care towards the Asperger children. That is the reason the line "I am content" stated in the lyrics. The Asperger children are happy with the family members. Also, it can be seen that the lyrics also showed virtues when the Asperger children expresses his/her feelings when stated in the lines "Full of virtues" and "To my beloved family". It showed that the Asperger children are full of virtues after being treated nicely among the family members. The parents have been understanding towards the child and care for them therefore, they showed good virtues that can be followed by the children.

Subject 1 mentioned that he cares for his family members. He also stated that when he woke up in the morning, he will make sure all his family members are at home. He wakes up at 5am in the morning. On the other hand, Subject 2 stated that being caring and full of virtues will ensure happiness at home. Subject 2 claimed that everyone at home must be happy when they care for each other. Other than that, Subject 3 mentioned that her parents love her so much and they showed that they care for her. Also, her parents always remind her to being good and full of virtues. However, Subject 4 seemed to have the same views and opinions as Subject 1 where he is happy with the care given by his family members. Subject 4 claimed that being caring and full of virtues will make a happy family.

The results above clearly showed the values of caring and virtues. The Asperger's children will be able to understand these values since it can be clearly shown in the lyrics. Parents and teachers as well as community will be able to integrate these values in their everyday lives. This will help the Asperger's children in understanding the values. They can show their care towards human and animals as well as care towards their belonging. Moreover, the values will help normal children to be more caring towards the Asperger children. On the other hand, virtues will also help in the process of learning good values and disseminate the values among family members and friends. Besides that, virtues will also help the community to be more alert in showing their values towards Asperger's children.

CONCLUSION

The results of the study revealed that all the subjects are able to identify the meaning of all the values in the lyrics. This can be seen when the subjects gave their views and opinion on the lyrics. Also, the subjects are able to identify the specific values from the lyrics. Moreover, the subjects managed to act out the meaning of the lyrics in the classroom. The results of the study are parallel to the study of [14] where song lyrics are able to help in the process of teaching and learning. On the other hand, the results of the study are parallel to the study of [13], [15] where integration of values in lessons are important to enhance children in better understanding.

The study helps lyricist in producing a quality lyrics and disseminate values with it. Besides that, the study helps children with Asperger's syndrome to enjoy learning and at the same time understand the meaning

of the values. This way, the children will be exposed with the values and try to use the values in their everyday lives. The children will also be able to socialise with the community by adapting the values that they have learnt. It is hoped that further studies will focus on other song lyrics to enhance autistic children in learning.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This article is supported by Geran Putra 9571200 Universiti Putra Malaysia.

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