

## **A CASE STUDY: A LINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF A MALAY AGRAMMATIC SPEAKER**

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This preliminary study aims to obtain a description of the language grammatical pattern of a Malay speaking agrammatic aphasia in conversational context. Language samples of subject's spontaneous speech were elicited through free conversation covering different conversational settings such as with different conversation partner, different topic and a narrative task. The recording was carried out in the home of the subject, across 4 sessions using audio recording equipment. Language samples were then transcribed and analysed according to the *Language Assessment Remediation and Screening Procedures (LARSP)*. Findings revealed that at a single-element utterance, the major sentence types were mainly nouns. At more than one element level, results shows a restricted syntactic profile, with an unbalanced distribution concentrating at 2-element utterances at stage II, and complex sentences were few. Noun phrase constitute 69.2% of the entire phrase constructed, negative clause (NegX) had the highest frequency, followed by the SV (subject+verb) and VO (verb+object) clause structures. Subject's language difficulties were clearly seen during narration where there was a high frequency of incomplete sentences. Analysis of sample also revealed that a few strategic constructions were adopted to cope with the demands of conversation. Moreover, the effects of conversation topic and conversation context were also found to have an effect on the complexity of the language used. Overall, even though the study finds that the LARSP profile indicated a limited 2 stage language use, the subject was able to cope with the heavy demands of conversation due to the fact that colloquial Malay has the idiosyncratic characteristics of having a simple grammatical system. However, we noticed that the subject's language impairment lies mainly on the morpho-semantic level in terms of word finding difficulty and usage of appropriate words in context.

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