

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

This study discovered the types of cognitive responses produced by an autistic adult and an autistic teenager in two documentaries. This study also discovered few differences between the cognitive types produced by the subjects and their relation to social contexts. Using Rothwell's (2000) theory of Central Coherence Deficit, this study discovered all 6 types of cognitive responses, which are 1) *Cognitively Irrelevant Responses* (CI); 2) *Cognitively Relevant Responses* (CR), and 3) *Cognitively Disruptive and Socially Inappropriate Responses* (CDI): *Odd Responses* (OD), *More Relevant but Not Too Polite Responses* (RNP), and *Marginally Relevant Responses* (MR). This study found that both subjects produce CR the most, and CI the least. However, there was a significant difference in CDI as the autistic adult produces CDI more than the autistic teenager. Despite this, the adult with autism appears to have greater emotional regulation than the teenager since he produces RNP as the least type of CDI.

This study discovered both subjects produce CR and CDI when they feel comfortable, are surrounded by their loved ones who are already familiar with them, and communicate in similar ways. For the autistic adult, it's his friends or mother. For the autistic teenager, it's his teaching assistant. They produce CR because they feel comfortable with them. Thus, they also produced CDI because they were not afraid of being 'judged' by them. However, they hardly ever produce CI because it was difficult to label an answer as "incoherent" from a cognitive and a statement-wise. The autistic adult only produces CI when he does unfamiliar tasks, like trading, or business, or when he has to socialize with strangers. Conversely, when the autistic teenager must greet people, such as his teacher and friends, he usually produces CI. It's most likely because he is still developing and doesn't know how to answer a greeting appropriately.

This study shows the responses produced by actual autistic individuals and those shown in the movie differ significantly. In the movie, the autistic character is portrayed as someone who frequently makes mistakes when speaking. Previous study shows that CDI is the most frequent types, followed by CI. However, it was proven in the actual case documentary that as long as autistic individuals continue

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COGNITIVE RESPONSE TYPES PRODUCED BY AN AUTISTIC TEENAGER AND ADULT IN DOCUMENTARIES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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participating in encouraging and engaging conversations with someone they feel comfortable with, they have no difficulty in responding relevantly.