

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

During a conversation, communication skills are necessary for individuals to exchange ideas, messages, thoughts, and feelings (Rabanyyah et al., 2023). However, not everyone has great communication skills due to variances in linguistic ability, particularly in terms of responding. Both the speaker and the interlocutor normally responded to one another using verbal and nonverbal cues. The brain function works to determine whether the responses are related or unrelated (Fitrianingsih, 2018). If the brain processes information well, the response will be coherent; but, if there is insufficient connectivity between brain regions and dysfunctional brain regions, the responses will be incoherent (Kiswandari, 2014).

Certain people with mental disorders, particularly those with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), find it challenging to respond during a conversation. The American Psychological Association describes autism as a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by deficiencies in communication, repetitive activities, interests, behavior patterns, and social interactions (Štánerová & Jakubek, 2023; Danoso et al., 2022). People with ASD will struggle to control their responses and have difficulty building good conversations (McArthur et al., 2022; Kiswandari, 2014).

Autism affects individuals differently throughout their lives, whether teenagers or adults. Frith (1991, as cited in Kiswandari 2014), states that an autistic person's developmental disorder begins in infancy but can cause the greatest impairment in adolescence and adulthood. Teenagers find it challenging to read body language, comprehend social cues, and engage naturally. The implications can be worse as they grow older, as communication skills are required in the workplace. Navigating job interviews, finding social dynamics, and striking up conversations in the workplace can be challenging for them.

The researcher has a cousin with ASD; thus, she has seen how he handles conversations differently from those of typical individuals. He finds it difficult to express his thoughts and sentiments clearly and to stay on topic. His parents also

mentioned how challenging it was to interact with him due to his unusual responses. In this situation, it's important to identify the cognitive responses the autistic person produces to ensure the interlocutor can initiate effective communication.