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# DISSOCIATIVE IDENTITY DISORDER AND ITS EFFECTS ON KEVIN'S SPEECH IN THE MOVIE SPLIT: A PSYCHOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS

Dissertation submitted to the Department of English as a partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master in Language Sciences

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#### **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated special to our parents who have provided us with their encouragement, love and understanding.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all our friends who shared unforgettable moments with us

Our sincere gratitude goes out to all the teachers we studied under during our career.

In closing, we would like to thank all of our family members as well as all those who were there for us all the time.

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As the moment comes to a close, it is certain to be memorable because we had to face hard times and different obstacles, but we also learned from them for a better future.

#### **Abstract**

Psycholinguistics is a fascinating branch that combines two interesting disciplines, psychology and linguistics. The discipline is primarily concerned with the functions in which speech is performed and developed in the brain. As a result, various psychological conditions were involved in creating speech disorders. Dissociative identity disorder is one of these mental stages that contribute in the creation of language deficit and speech disorder. After several investigations, this work ended up discovering different sources and concepts that are related to psycholinguistics and dissociative identity disorder. Therefore, this work analyses the speech disorder of the main character Kevin who suffered from dissociative identity disorder (DID) in the suggested movie Split by Night Shyamalan. Accordingly, this study seeks to determine whether mental health conditions affect language boundaries and attitudes. Data were collected from various sources using the descriptive method. Using note-taking and the collection of media data, textual and conversational analysis were conducted of the movie Split according to the objective approach. This study proved that dissociative identity disorder can cause problems in speech, such as the linguistic process. The analysis reveals the existence of several postures that shows the speech disorder of each identity.

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## **Key to Abbreviations & Acronyms**

DID	Dissociative Identity Disorder

MPD Multiple Identity Disorder

ANP Apparently Normal Personality

OCD Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

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## **General Introduction**

Psycholinguistics is the study of the relationships between linguistic behavior and psychological processes such as the process of language acquisition and language learning.

Yet, linguistics is well-defined as a discipline of language science, generally regarded as the scientific study of language. A linguist examines language using certain scientific procedures, just like physicists and biologists examine things for weight, substance, and other characteristics. Furthermore, the psychology of language or psycholinguistics process is one of the important branches in linguistics that dive in knowing more about human behavior towards language. Many linguists and psychologists have long been interested in studying different language changes to discover several psychological cases which are involved in language behavior. Also, they were more focused on analyzing various mental developments, and attitudes of the individual towards language acquisition, language comprehension, and language production. Moreover, many psychological conditions were involved in speech disorders and language deficits. In addition, dissociative identity disorder affects approximately 1% of the general population's identity, thoughts, feelings, performance, and memories, among other things. In the same way, multiple personality disorder refers to the development of multiple identities, which control the act of the individual at any given moment as a result of trauma. Individuals with dissociative identity disorder (DID) have been known to show varied skills and talents as they may change from one dissociative state to another in a very short time.

This research is centered around a movie which is named *Split*. This film is a psychological horror film written, directed, and produced by M. Night Shyamalan. Three teenage girls were kidnapped by Kevin; a man with 23 personalities. Each personality differs from the other in several aspects: gender, age, beliefs, accent, dialect, tones, gestures, physical and mental changes. Though Kevin has only shown 5 of these alters, to his trusted psychiatrist, Dr, Fletcher, who was about to discover the hidden monster, Barry; the dominant personality. Different alters have been shown by people with dissociative identity disorder, as much as Kevin. Fictional alters, which can be personalities from movies or books, can be non-human alters; animals or aliens, or child alters who represent children of stable ages. Persecutor alters or the controllers who are

considered to be the action systems for the defense who are capable to silence other alters from over sharing personal information about their trauma. These alter are a serious threat to the system due to their chaotic violence against the host. The helper alter is the ANPs (a normal part of the personality) focused on helping the host to increase the action systems for daily life and survival of the species to maintain stability.

There were many types of studies that were represented in the film. In this case, the researchers set their focus on the psycholinguistic analysis that went around the dissociative identity disorder experienced by Kevin in Split movie by Night Shyamalan. Therefore, data were taken directly from the utterances stated by Kevin's identities as a matter of dissociation. Then, the researchers mentioned the appropriate tools of research methodology for such investigation and finally, ended with analyzing certain scenes.

After identifying the background of the problem above, the researchers managed to formulate the problem as follows:

- 1. How does the psyche respond to words and language?
- 2. How does dissociative identity disorder affect language?
- 3. What are the types causes, and consequences of DID that appear on Kevin's speech identities?

The questions above led to the following hypotheses:

- 1. Psycholinguistics is the best approach to explain how words are acquired, understood and produced by people.
- 2. Dissociative identity disorder can affect language in various ways, including speech disorders.
- 3. In Kevin's identity speech, different types, causes and consequences appeared due to the speech disorder caused by DID.

Therefore, the research was conducted qualitative and descriptive data by the use of analysis, visual observation, and scene images as data collecting tools. The research is composed of two chapters. Starting with the theoretical background, which focuses

on the literature review that is divided into two parts, the first one defines the psycholinguistic approach and its main application in language composition. On the other hand, the second part is devoted to dissociative identity disorder by defying it, and its role in speech disorder. The second chapter is dedicated to the adopted methodologies and data collection that helped to gather and present the result analysis of the movie.

# **Chapter One:**

## Literature Review

#### 1.1 Introduction

Language is more than simple words. It is a reflection of thoughts and emotions. It is the process of how internal perceptions are shared with others. Language is based on knowledge of people's culture, mentality and personality. The psycholinguistics or psychology of language approach is primarily concerned with the study of mental developments and responsible factors that are involved in managing language. Psycholinguistics deals with the study of how the psych interacts with words and language. Thus, some individuals with mental problems carry several psychological factors due to their social interaction, which are involved in language disorders, such as multiple identity disorders. The research was conducted using the *Split* movie. The main character Kevin Wendell Crumb has a dissociative identity disorder that affects his speak ability.

The purpose of this chapter is to enhance the theoretical bases of the linguistic studies, mainly those associated with the psycholinguistic section. It is an introduction to the entire topic that revolves around the movie *Split* by Night Shyamalan. Here are some of the points that were explained; first, the theoretical part deals with knowing how psyche responds to words and language (psycholinguistics). The second aim was to explain the influence of dissociative identity disorder on the language production of the main character Kevin. Last but not least, it tackled the types of conflicts and consequences of dissociative identity disorder that appeared in Kevin's speech.

#### 1.2 Psycholinguistics

Psycholinguistics has shown numerous theories that illustrate how a person acquires a language, produces and comprehends both spoken and written skills. It is a mixture of two important disciplines; psychology and linguistics. Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and attitude. Longman Dictionary of Applied Linguistics, by J.C. Richards, John T. Platt and Heidi Weber defines the Psycholinguistics as the study of (a) mental process that a person uses in producing and understanding language, and (b) how humans learn language. Thus, psycholinguistics is a discipline that concerns the study of the cognitive process that supports the acquisition and use of language. The

scope of psycholinguistics includes language performance under normal circumstances and when it breaks down for example, following brain damage (Altmann T. M. Gerry (2001). While, language process can be done up to mental health and brain injury. In short, psycholinguistics is simply defined as the study of the relationship between human language and the human mind (Maftoon and Shakouri 2012). In other words, psycholinguistics is seen as a developmental course that examines the responsible activities of the brain in producing and comprehending human language.

In the late 50s, it was a period of the second phase of psycholinguistics. It was represented by the famous linguist Chomsky. He was seen as one of the most important linguists in the 20th century, known for his Chomskyan linguistics that changes different boundaries and beliefs. Noam has written various known books including Language and *Mind*, where he explained the relationship between language and mental activities, it tackles significant concepts including language in the brain, language disability, and how language is gained. For this reason, he expressed the function of the mind by dealing with the four skills namely listening, speaking, writing, and reading. Besides, the book is a helpful tool for learners to shape various results for their conclusions. Also, his second famous book Language and thought that aims to integrate Chomsky's linguistic theory into a broader view of the relationship between language and the human mind. Still, language is not a simple matter, it is a complex system of communication. However, understanding the complex elements of human behaviour will facilitate the operation of helping people with language disorders, and might change the way researchers think. The psycholinguistic approach views language and thought as related but completely independent phenomena (Claros 2008). Although both language and thought share some similarities, they still are considered as two distinct concepts, due to the diversity of their vision to language analysis. In the same line, many specialists today would confirm the affirmation stated by Garnham (1985) where was mentioned that are certain biases in psycholinguistic research. There is more emphasis on comprehension than production and on written rather than spoken language. Garnham (1985) was certain of the idea that understanding a language is an important activity before any other process, due to its ability to extract intended meanings from language.

Comprehending a language is considered to be the first activity to apply by any stable human mind.

Krashen (1981) explained his vision in his famous I+1 theory which indicates that language acquisition occurs when learners understand the messages that contain structures that are one step beyond the learner's current language ability. Particularly, linguistic input supports the concept that we acquire a language by first reaching the meaning and learning the structures (Krashen, 1981). That is to say, learners must experience the process of creating a significant idea before any other activity.

As Clark and Clark (1977: 4) stated in their book entitled *Psychology and Language*. An Introduction to Psycholinguistics states that the psychology of language is related to three main things, namely comprehension, production, and acquisition. Thus, language process is based on certain stages that build a prosperous linguistic structure. Moreover, psycholinguistics investigates and describes the psychological processes that make it possible for humans to master and use language Consequently, the responsible mental entities are devoted in various functions that help learners to develop a language.

#### 1.3 Main applications of Psycholinguistics

From the previous definitions and theories, psycholinguistics is a profound discipline. In brief, it is a divided science that uncovers universal processes that govern the development, use, and breakdown of language. Furthermore, linguists had the propensity to describe and analyze the capacity of knowledge of the language in the human mind meanwhile, psychologists had an interest in the performance of language use. Within the domain of psycholinguistics, there are multiple applications of specialty. Psycholinguistics focused on language acquisition, usage, comprehension, or the generation of speech output. Meanwhile, Marcussen Hatchin (1983: 01) expresses her concept as follows: "Psycholinguistics is defined traditionally as the study of human language, language comprehension, language production, and language acquisition". This idea can be shaped through Tony Buzan's (2005,211) main concepts as explained in his radiant thinking scheme:

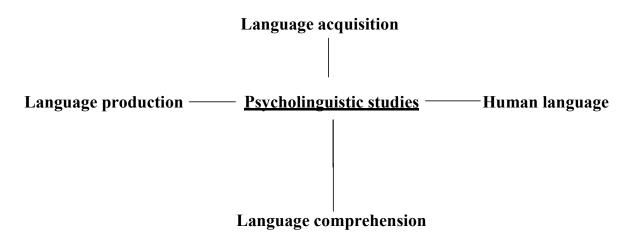


Figure 1: Radiant thinking scheme Tony Buza (1996)

The diagram above explains how thinking can reflect psychology on language activities. The radiant thinking or mind map is a very strong function to activate the important systems of the human brain. This function refers to a group of linked concepts procedures that associate from a central point that led to a successful language conversion.

#### 1.3.1 Language acquisition

Language acquisition has experienced an overall revision and enlargement since the early days of psycholinguistics. This application is known as a process by which humans gain the ability to comprehend language, plus, to manage and then apply utterances for successful communication. Psychologists and linguists prefer to use the term acquisition rather than learning. The reason is simply that acquisition is neutral concerning some of the implications that have come to be associated with the term learning in psychology (Lyons,1981). In other meaning, the notion of language acquisition is better than the idea of the concept of learning due to its proficiency in appearing particular items and functions through developing language structure phase. In terms of psycholinguistics, there are three theories of language.

#### 1.3.1.1 Behaviorist theory

Behaviorism is a theory of the learning process. It is built on the idea that attitudes are acquired through conditioning which occurs through daily interactions. Skinner was one of the famous figures of American psychologists, who stated that the child comes into the world with a tabula rasa, a clean state bearing no preconceived notion about the world or language, and this child is then shaped by his environment slowly conditioned through various schedules of reinforcement (Brown, et.al.1980). Additionally, this suggested theory revealed that knowledge comes from experience and perception, while it disagrees with the idea of innatism, which believes that the mind is made knowing certain things.

#### 1.3.1.2 Mentalism theory

Mentalism is the idea that a mind is an important tool for defining human behavior. It is based on the mentalist approach. Wilkins (1972:168) assumes that everybody learns a language not because they are subjected to a similar conditioning process, but because they possess an inborn capacity that permits them to acquire a language as a normal maturational process. Thus, this approach believed that each individual was born with a gift, in other words, with a special device that allow people to achieve language easily. A device named Language Acquisition Device (LAD) is responsible for language acquisition. On these bases, Chomsky (1959) was against Skinner's (1957) belief and developed his theory as 'The Mentalist Theory' where learning is connected with cognition, innovation, and innate ability.

#### 1.3.1.3 Cognitive theory

The cognitive theory studies how the brain functions and creates ideas. Researchers are able to comprehend how individuals learn languages using this approach. It identifies the fact that people have to comprehend a concept before they can express it in language. Language learning is closely related to the maturation and development of the human brain, according to the cognitive theory of language acquisition developed by the psychologist Jean Piaget. Consequently, he said, exposure to the world facilitates the development of a child's mind, which in turn facilitates the

development of language (Piaget 1953;331). According to this theory, children are born with limited intelligence that grows through social interaction and other social factors over time.

#### 1.3.2 Language comprehension

Comprehending a language involves understanding its various elements, both spoken and written. The ability to comprehend what you read is one of the most important factors of reading comprehension. Comprehending a language means understanding it. A wide variety of information must be assimilated simultaneously despite its complexity. There are four major components to this skill: letter knowledge, sound knowledge, spelling, grammar, word meaning, and world information. Word meanings are not enough to make the decision. Councilmen are usually staunch advocates of law and order with little chance of becoming revolutionaries based on the information it has and reasoning power it possesses. In other sense, comprehending stage is quite significant, understanding the notion of words and concepts give a strong effect on language creation at any social interaction.

This application can be discussed in two main parts: (a) language perception and (b) language comprehension. In this section, since the meaning of these two are not very different. This concept was split into two (1) comprehension related to understanding the utterances we hear (perception), and (2) comprehension concerning the act that needs to be taken after the comprehension happened (comprehending), (Clark and Clark, 1977). In the same line, language comprehension would be easy if a certain mixture of words always meant the same thing, but expressions can carry more than one meaning.

#### 1.3.3 Language production

Language production is a reaction to a mental process in a written or spoken manner. This activity logically divided into three major steps: deciding what to express (conceptualization), determining how to express it (formulation), and expressing it (articulation), (Levelt, 1989;115). Simply put, language production is a process in psycholinguistics that describes different procedures of communicating through

language. It is likely the idea of having an image, feeling, or a concept to declare and turn them into a linguistic shape.

Generally speaking, in psycholinguistics, language production is a more difficult domain to search than comprehension, because although speech is noticeable, the steps that lead to production are more elusive. The utterances are processed through three stages: (a) conceptualization, (b) formulation, (c) articulation.

#### 1.3.3.1 Conceptualization

Conceptualization means that the speaker plans the conceptual structure to be uttered; this is also called the message stage. It is also the activity of creating a conclusion or a general idea. According to McNeil (1992; 232), Speaking begins with conception. Similarly, he proposed that syntactic and imagistic thinking are different types of notions. Moreover, it is also known as the message level where the speaker chooses what to produce. Thus, the message level is solely a concept not a word yet, and in this stage, the concept of the referent is activated, that is, whom and what to mention (Menn, 2017; 35). Yet, this term is a decision about how to structure an idea into language.

#### 1.3.3.2 Formulation

It is known as grammatical encoding, and it is the second stage of speech production when the appropriate ideas are framed into utterances and clauses by the speaker. In the same line, this process includes translating the fictional representation into speech form. Briefly, this operation involves, grammatical encoding, morphological encoding, and phonetic encoding, for a successful transformation.

#### 1.3.3.3 Articulation

This is the last and very significant sub-field of language production. It is also called phonological encoding or the physical level of sound speech, where contents are transformed into terms of sounds and syllables of a linguistic form. Furthermore, this level of language production turns our conceptions are transmitted from the brain to the linguistic systems to perform the required procedures and caused the right sounds.

According to many psychologists, there are several issues during language production among others. First, we find pause and hesitation phenomena that are subject to individual variation, sometimes they act as a strategy to help the speaker in finding the solution or to take some time to think about other things to add to speech communication, as it can be for a total target of communication. Then we have speech errors, which may be used intentionally for humorous effect. Sturtevant. Edgar. H (1947:38) defines speech error (lapse) as an unintentional linguistic innovation. In the same line, after several studies, there were some levels of speech errors, such as slip of the tongue which is an involuntary deviation in performance from the speaker's current phonological, grammatical or lexical intention." (Bomer and Laver, 1968). It is a physical reaction to several mental forces. Also, aphasia, another type of error, is considered a speech disease, generally, because of a brain damage.

#### 1.4 Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID)

It is also known as Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD), is characterized by the presence of two or more distinct identities or personality states that recurrently take control of the individual's behavior, accompanied by an inability to recall important personal information that is too extensive to be explained by ordinary forgetfulness. It is a disorder characterized by identity fragmentation, rather than proliferation of separate personalities (APA, 2000, p. 519). In other words, dissociative identity disorder is the existence of many parts of trauma in a form of characters in one body and one soul but their presence dominates the real personality's mind, decisions, life, moods, and attitude. It is characterized by the appearance of separate identities with different perceptions. Many studies show the main source of DID is likely a psychological response to interpersonal and environmental stresses, specifically during childhood years when emotional trauma, usually sexual abuse may intervene with personality development (webmd, 1996). As a way to deal with the abuse, a kid's mind, which has yet to form one cohesive identity, can unconsciously produce barriers between various personalities and memories. Many individuals with DID are not conscious that they have been mistreated because another personality with a different story takes control of these memories (Sarah Domin, 2020).

There is a long history of research on DID, which makes it one of the most important mental illnesses. It was viewed as a possession issue starting in 1584. According to Fery's (1584) famous religious book *La possession de Jeanne Fery*, it was the first known case of DID. During current DID examinations, the reported behaviour is consistent with what is being observed.

People with dissociative identity disorder have shown different changes. There are, Fictional alters, that could be characters from movies or books. Next, we find a category called non-human alters; animals or aliens. Also, the child changes represent children of stable ages. Persecutor alters or the controllers who act as an effective defence system capable of silencing other adjustments from excessive information about the trauma. These changes present a serious threat to the mental system due to their chaotic violence against the host. Finally, there are the helper alter, which is the ANPs (a normal part of the personality) that focus on helping the host to increase the action system of daily life and the survival of other species to maintain stability.

#### 1.5 Types of DID

Dissociative identity disorder touches many sensitive areas in the human's identity, memory, emotion, perception, and attitude. Like any other mental disease, multiple personality disorder has three main types:

#### 1.5.1 Dissociative identity disorder

Dissociative identity disorder is a psychological disorder that is caused by severe childhood trauma. The primary driver to pathological dissociation is attachment disorganization in early life: when that is followed by severe and repeated trauma, then a major disorder of structural dissociation is created (Frank M. Corrigan, 2006). Whereas, child abuse is the beginning of many mental issues, DID is one of the rarest and hardest flaws that can touch any traumatized infant. In both animal and human studies, early stress has been shown to be associated with changes in the structure of the hippocampus, which plays a critical role in learning, memory, and stress regulation (Brunson. Chen. Avishai-Eliner. & Baram, 2003). While the hippocampus structure is considered to be a sensitive membranous structure that can be easily affected by any

kind of psychiatric disorders or other brain injuries which lead to several physical and mental changes and dangerous responses.

There is a category of people who go through some serious painful situations regularly, which may cause them the formation of other personas. Each personality has a distinct linguistic output and a physical reaction. Dissociative identity disorder has the following forms:

- Possession
- > Non possession

The possession form creates foreign entities, often supernatural creatures or spirits (but sometimes another person), which control the individual's behaviour, forcing them to behave and speak differently. The alternate identity of an individual with dissociative identity disorder is undesirable, and it occurs voluntarily. On the other hand, the non-possession form reveals a sudden change in identity or sense of self which may appear as if individuals with DID, are witnesses to their actions and utterances.

#### 1.5.2 Dissociative amnesia

When different identity states convey contradictory information and then have amnesia for what the other identity states said, the patient may be thought to be lying.

This can appear to be characterological mendacity when it is not (Howell. F.E 2011). Yet, dissociative amnesia occurs when a person loses unforgettable memories. It is possible to forget all or most of one's personal information in exceptional cases of dissociative fugue or even assume a whole new identity with different gender, region, or language. Amnesia can strike unexpectedly and last as little as a few minutes or as long as months or years. It is not certain when a period is to begin, and it may occur at any point in a person's lifetime.

In dissociative amnesia, memories persist, but they are deeply buried in the mind and cannot be retrieved. Memories can emerge spontaneously or as a result of something in a person's environment that triggers them. It can be classified into three types that are:

- ➤ Localized: There is no memory of the traumatic event for the individual, as he may not recall an event or how he spoke or react.
- ➤ **Generalized:** A complete loss of identity, such as not recognizing his name, job, family, friends, and even language.
- ➤ **Fugue:** dissociative fugue may lead a person to develop generalized amnesia, allowing him to take on a new identity with different characteristics, from language to attitudes.

#### 1.5.3 Depersonalization/derealization disorder

Dissociative parts of the personality are not separate identities or personalities in one body, but rather parts of a single individual that are not yet functioning together in a smooth, coordinated, flexible way (Suzette Boon, 2016: P14). That is to say, individuals with DID are not considered as individuals with several alters but rather are lost pieces of the individual's information. Depersonalization symptoms are communicated verbally by using metaphorical language to describe the detachment from one's body or mind, a form of dissociative disorder characterized by persistent or recurring feelings. When people experience a panic attack, they often feel depersonalized, which is generally considered to be the most anxiety-inducing state.

#### 1.6 Causes of DID

According to researchers, dissociative disorders are rooted in chronic childhood trauma. Trauma can be experienced through repeated physical or sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or neglect. During times of stress, children often 'disconnect' from reality because of unpredictable or frightening family environments. This was demonstrated in the image below when the main character of the *Split* movie was reliving his memories of his traumatic incident. As a consequence of childhood trauma, adult dissociative illness is highly likely to intensify as Kevin had 23 personalities besides his main one.



Picture 1:

#### Kevin's abusive mother from the movie Split.

Furthermore, the image above, describes the maltreatment of a mother to her son (the main character) Kevin in the suggested movie *Split*, that were discussed in this thesis.

#### 1.7 Consequences of DID in language

Multiple personality disorder is a harmful gap in self-identity, which may end with a long-term effect that leads to various changes, such as speech disorder. Additionally, there were several linguistic consequences of this mental condition, such as:

#### 1.7.1 Lisp

Lisp or sigmatism is speaking in a way that is faulty in articulation, or speaking words incorrectly or indistinguishably in which misarticulate the /s/ into / $\theta$ /. Lisp is usually developed during childhood. While there are no specific causes of this speech impediment, some specialists think that using pacifiers after a given period may cause such conditions. Thus, there are four kinds of lips:

#### Frontal lisp

A frontal lisp is caused by the tip of the tongue protruding between the front teeth and blocking the movement of air in the mouth. The tongue's tip protrudes between the front teeth, obstructing airflow. Due to this, the "s" and "z" sounds in words sound like a "th" sound. For instance, the word Slim is pronounced as thlim.

#### Palatal lisp

There is an association between this lisp and the soft palate, which is the roof of the mouth. Palatal lisping occurs when someone rolls their tongue too far back and touches it against the roof of their mouth. Palatal lisps are caused by the middle of the tongue touching the palate during the 's' and 'z' sounds.

#### Dental lisp

There is a great deal of similarity between this and a frontal lisp. Frontal and dental lisps differ in the tongue pressure, where frontal lisp involves the tongue sticking out between teeth, whereas dental lisp involves the tongue pushing up against teeth. Speaking may occasionally sound muffled as a result of this.

#### Lateral lisp

Whenever air escapes from the sides of the tongue, it produces a lateral lisp. The result is that saliva and speech are both audible, resulting in a moist sound. Instead of hissing, the sound is more like a slushy sound coming from the sides of the mouth.

#### 1.7.2 Slurred speech

Slurred speech or speech disorders are symptoms characterized by the poor pronunciation of words, mumbling, and change in speed or rhythm during a conversation. The medical term for speech disorders is dysarthria. In other meaning, slurred speech can occur when words are sluggish or garbled, or sentences run together, as a result of the difficulty in speaking. As a person speaks, multiple parts of the nervous system work together to produce the words they say. Slurred speech results from failing to perform these sections (Midicover Hospitals, 2021).

That is to say, slurred speech is presented as a paralyzed language movement. Various illnesses cause such injury, most of them are physical interactions that were sourced from a brain damage. It is not a permanent condition as it can be treated after several therapeutic sessions.

#### 1.7.3 Code switching

Switching among languages may occur between the turns of different speakers in the same conversation, sometimes between utterances within a single turn, and sometimes even within a single utterance (Miltroy & Muysken 1995, p.7). This means speakers may change their language at any period of time during a conversation. While people who code-switch can speak their minds in different ways, in a comfortable manner. Generally speaking, code-switching is the transformation of languages during a conversation, it can't be applied by everyone but only by learners who are able to speak more than one language and familiar with managing more than a language at any moment during communication. There are several types of code-switching, according to Blom and Gumperz (1972), situational code-switching where language variations depend on the social situation, and metaphorical code-switching where a change in the code is made to discuss the topic that normally falls into a different conversational area. This language switch occurs often due to dissociative identity disorder when there is one alter or more between personalities resulting in different languages or dialect changes.

#### 1.7.4 Accents

An accent refers to the language in the matter of pronunciation, intonation, stress rhythm, and other features. It is one of the components of a dialect, but never vice versa. They are believed to provide additional means to identify identity. Some researchers, such as Podesva (2011) have found that accents can be used to project a certain personality. In the same line, an accent is considered as a variety that shows how people pronounce words, and how to distinguish between genders. Thus, accent in dissociation is quite important due to its capability to reveal all kinds of identities that differ in language production. Furthermore, In the suggested movie Split, there are a particular identity of Patricia or the mother of the group, this alter is in form of a British lady with a British prestigious accent that differ from other alters who have American accents (Kevin, Dennis, Barry, and Hedwig).

#### 1.8 Ways to solve speech disorder in DID

Most cases of disorders are frequently caused by a long history of trauma, such as dissociative identity disorder (DID), which is associated with many sensitive events. This section aims to mention some treatments that may help individuals with DID to manage their speech disorders.

#### 1.8.1 Getting speech and psychotherapy

People with dissociative identity disorder want to be heard by someone who understands them and listen to their daily events, as helpings them to find a way out from this rare mental condition. Psychotherapy sessions are well recommended for individuals with DID, as they may last for five to seven years. Isa Marrs, a nationally recognized speech-language pathologist, supported that the main purpose is to "unite" some intact personalities, or in other statement, is to gather all the lost pieces between alters in order to create a well reconciled personality. Psychotherapy also helps sufferers to deal with the responsible trauma that triggers the emergence of other personalities. Consequently, psychotherapy is one of the important tools that help individuals with DID to stick to their real identities and return to reality.

#### 1.8.2 Getting much speech

Getting much speech may support people with dissociation. During this rare condition, individuals may experience various speech disorders, as they may face many difficulties in speaking, spelling, and pronunciation. Thus, getting much speech by interacting with society, friends and family, may enhance their progress in spelling and speaking. Also, twice a week of speech/language therapy is well recommended for a successful linguistic treatment.

#### 1.8.3 Family involvement

Family involvement is one of the most significant procedures in linguistic therapy because it carries several activities such as participation and motivation. The amount of interest, devotion, and exciting energy they share with people with DID, the better their attitude will turn. Thus, motivation is one of the important keys that a person with DID

may receive, due to its capability to enhance their self-confidence and to be more open and stronger enough to accept the such condition, which may help their real identity to appear more and control their speech.

#### 1.9 Conclusion

In a nutshell, this chapter reviews the effect of dissociative identity disorder on language production in psycholinguistics, of the main character Kevin in the suggested movie Split. It was started by showing the importance of psycholinguistics in revealing the strong effect of the mind on the main applications in the psychology of language which are; language acquisition, language comprehension, and language production. The second part, spoke about dissociative identity disorder which is represented as a case study in our thesis, explaining its huge process in speech disorder by representing DID's main types, causes, and consequences. In the last part, the researchers mentioned some effective solutions for people with DID in order to solve their speech disorders.

# Chapter Two:

# Research methodology and movie analysis

#### 2.1 Introduction

Many poets and linguists assumed that a movie is a language. Movies are often described as having the power to influence individual beliefs and values (Cape 2003). In other words, films are becoming more and more prevalent in language research, as audio-visual resources become more widely available in educational studies. They are a form of communication that enables the learner to see each body's rhythm and speech rhythm in forming and managing language, through observing the use of authentic speech and intonation in various specific situations. Thus, films and audiovisual tools are very effective in studying language, due to their ability to analyze several contents and numerous studies in a clear, understandable manner and in a very short period of time.

The purpose of this work is to demonstrate how to use movie analysis to help academics answer research questions on language acquisition, comprehension, and production. Psycholinguistic normative data are based purely on language usage and give a measure of many emotional and psychological characteristics of the main character which are computed entirely from language usage.

The first part of the second chapter provided an overview of the survey methods used in the observation with details of the research method. The work explained the reason behind adopting the study design used in this analysis. It showed the data acquisition and analysis methods applied and the procedures used to carry out this study. The methods used to examine the data were discussed by using psycholinguistic and linguistic analysis. The second part of this chapter analyzed how the main character's gender, age, behavior, and other characteristics portrayed in the film can influence language acquisition, language comprehension, and language production. Different results were discovered concerning language changes that were shaped by dissociative identity disorder, which made the research results contain different forms of DID that appeared in certain scenes in the movie such as the main personality, the dominant personality, and the protagonist's severe distress experience.

#### 2.2 Research design

This study used a psycholinguistic approach. This approach is the most appropriate in this field, which studied the form of multiple personality disorder of the main character contained in linguistic works. The researchers used qualitative, descriptive, and analyzing methods that are suitable for the aim of this research which has opened up a new approach in doing research in linguistic studies that in fact allow it to focus on a better knowledge of human behavior in language usage when the linguistic phenomenon occurs. As a result, this strategy is thought to be appropriate for this linguistic analysis since it allows the researchers to have a rich answer and allows them to understand the quantitative structure of their data via visualization of data which showed that it can play a key role in Split Film by Night Shyamalan.

#### 2.3 Source of data

Researchers require a variety of data sources to be utilized as the foundation for induction or to test theorems that have been derived. The data obtained in this study were the story units found in the Split movie which was directed by Night Shyamalan in 2007. The researchers used the script, and dialogues, that occurred in different scenes. The data which supported this research were some linguists' theories, internet information, books, dictionaries, newspapers, and other sources that correlate with the research.

#### 2.4 The technique of data collection

Taking the contrast between production and comprehension as a starting point, linguists saw that data gathering strategies differ. In descriptive linguistics, this has been a long-standing practice in the development of language. There is a direct relationship between data collection and language description. The more data, the more information researchers would have about the variability of language. Data collecting is the act of obtaining, measuring, and analyzing the correct data from several relevant sources. Its purpose is to make data analysis easier so that insight and comprehension of the problems examined, particularly namely dissociative identity disorder with the linguistic and psycholinguistic changes that occur in language with the types of conflicts and causes of DID that are responsible for this change in the Split movie. The steps in data

collecting are as follows. Firstly, watching it repeatedly so that researchers can find and understand the contents of the movie about the main character, the psycholinguistics disorder experienced by the main character, the causes of psychological disorder and utterance change. Secondly, identification of the psycholinguistics disorders with explaining the screenplay to extract predetermined relevant information to output utterances, attitude, and actions of the main character. After locating and identifying all of the data, the researchers processed the information to examine it. As the last step in the data collecting process, the researchers developed a solid arrangement for the thesis itself to overcome the complexity of language change in Kevin's different personalities.

#### 2.5 The technique of data analysis

Data analysis is the systematic application of statistical and/or logical tools to describe and display, summarize and assess data. The researchers employed content analysis in this study since there are many explanations for events, behaviors, and language changes. It was in this manner that the researchers described and examined the facts contained in Night Shyamalan's script in the movie to determine the solution to the challenges that had been posed. Analysis of qualitative data involves interpretation and an attempt in understanding the subjects.

This process goes through several steps;

- ➤ Step 1: The definition of goals: This step entails formulating a hypothesis and determining how to test it by identifying and selecting research data in the form of quotations in Split's film.
- ➤ Step 2: Data presentation: The gathering and organization of information from the Split movie that has been reduced to specific forms in the data grid from a linguistic view.
- ➤ Step 3: Analyzing and results from interpretation: Analyzing and verifying the data about the main character's characteristics and its relation to dissociative identity disorder in light of linguistic and psycholinguistics features in Split Film

by Night Shyamalan after that the researchers conclude the research and its relation to language and utterance change.

#### 2.6 Data collecting

Research projects in linguistics face unique challenges in eliciting and collecting reliable and valid information. Based on various facts and results, Kevin was diagnosed with dissociative identity disorder, which primarily affected his mind. His 24 personalities, including himself, have been suffering from severe mental illness since childhood. Specifically, the traumatic feeling that came as a result of his mother's violent punishment and treatment. As Kevin's personality develops, it becomes clear that some of these identities emerged as a result of a variety of situations that carried the relation between words and language including language alternation with each personality change.

#### 2.7 Data analysis

Language research has shown a distinct perspective in the context of data analysis. Language, as a mechanism for information exchange, is intimately linked to numerous fields. In addition, the analysis of data has reduced the distance between different areas has made language research no longer an isolated field. It benefits researchers by allowing them to understand the quantitative structure of their data. It is intended to provide linguists with a basic understanding of the research methods and principles in linguistics.

The systematic method employed in this chapter to analyze the entire movie with its main character was to observe the conflicts between personalities to display Kevin with completely different language output and features to explain their categorization. It also gives the cause of their multiple personality disorder, including its types to examine how it affects language change and learning, in order to draw conclusions.

#### 2.8 The main characters of Kevin's identities

This work recognized different main personalities of Kevin's identities that took the center of attention. It can be seen below:

> The main personality:



Picture 2: The main personality Kevin Wendell Crumb

This movie features Kevin as the main character. Psychologically speaking, Kevin was a mysterious and silent person, who rarely talked to anyone; he was kind, funny, and always smiling when he felt safe around certain people. He always wanted to live a happy normal life no matter what, but the bitter fact was his painful past was rooted in his history of childhood abuse, and neglect. Linguistically speaking, Kevin used fewer words which illustrated his form of speech that was very coherent, with a friendly tone of voice. For instance, the way he spoke to Casey, one of the girls who was kidnapped, when he returned to his true calm personality, asking her if he hurt her.

# ➤ The dominant personality:



Picture 3:

#### The dominant personality, Dennis

Dennis is considered the dominant personality among the other 23 personalities. Although his language output is considered generally normal and well structured, he suffered from obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), which is defined as a pattern of unwanted thoughts and obsessions that made him repeat his actions and his speech. This personality got figured out by Dr. Fletcher in the above scene when he adjusted the chocolate dish twice when he visited her. He believed to be a firm man who behaved in a way that demonstrated control in his gestures and utterance for instance when he was trying to choose between the girls he kidnapped, Dennis said "I choose you first". He used firmer and stressed utterances which demonstrate his control mania.

# The dissociative identity:



Picture 4: the dissociative identity disorder, Hedwig.

According to the passage above, Dennis's transformation into Hedwig reflected that he was a grown-up who looked out for others and spoke in a regular manner. Hedwig however was the youngest alter who acted in a childlike manner with a lisp problem where he couldn't produce language effectively.

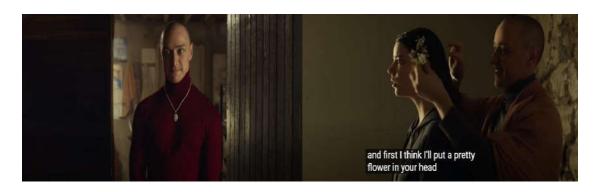


**Picture 5: Hedwig Lisp problem** 

When Hedwig said: She is not mad at me she sings to me sometimes.

There is a clear frontal lisp in this passage where he misarticulated the /s/ sound and turned it into /th/ sound.

# > the mother of the group:



Picture 6: the mother of the group, Patricia Picture 7: Patricia trying to assure

Casey

In the above scenes, Kevin's personality has changed to Patricia, who is a sophisticated, proper, and orderly woman, demonstrating a different gender and accent shifted to a female version. Patricia is characterized by proud high-British manners. As an example, when she pronounced the word "flower" it was a pure British pronunciation transcribed as ['flavə(r)]. Her speech is very pure, polite, and standard.

> Split's portrayal of dissociative identity disorder in Kevin:



Picture 8: Kevin's abusive mother

In the above scene, Kevin remembered his painful past when his real name was called. Kevin recalled the time when he was a child and hid under the bed with a hanger to save his own life from his abusive mother. This includes the bad memories and traumatic experiences that he had back when he was a little kid, which made him feel

under confident and worthless. This traumatic event was one of the main causes of multiple identity disorder and language disorder.

## 2.9 Kevin solution to DID in Split movie



Picture 9: Barry/Dennis in psychotherapy session with Dr. Flecher



Picture 10: Barry one of the controllers enjoying his session with Dr. Fletcher

According to researchers, psychotherapy is the key to understanding people who suffer from DID. At that point in the film, the main character turns to Dr. Fletcher, a psychiatrist, who took under her sleeve the mission of understanding these kinds of patients and finding a solution for their disorders. She showed her knowledge of Kevin's different personalities. This type of act was considered a significant factor in overcoming the disorder that hampered their ability to control their language behaviour and speaking difficulties.

#### 2.10 Conclusion

Language reflects the factual experiences of a person and can be seen as a reflection of these experiences through various linguistic styles. In chapter two, a framework for the current dissertation was presented. Several key concerns and factors were identified and analyzed that are associated with language change in dissociative identity disorder to formulate the outcome of this study. The work also demonstrated how to use audio-visual data analysis as a part of a linguistic research project in which it gives a detailed description of people's thoughts, lives, and behaviors and their major influence on the language.

Throughout this chapter, this study discussed the current language phenomenon by implementing reliable data sources to provide information on the major and important techniques for both collecting and analyzing data by using specific scenes that carried different speech disorders of specific alters. Each of Kevin's psychological situations was discussed in terms of linguistical and psychological analysis.

# General conclusion

The main aim of the psycholinguistic field is to study the psychological procedures that control the use of language, as well as language acquisition, language comprehension, and language production. As a result, each application of psycholinguistics has its functions and targets in the language process. In addition, the psychology of language is the unification of two main disciplines; psychology, which is the study of mind and attitude, and linguistics which is the scientific study of language. A number of psychological disorders, including dissociative identity disorder, may impact the individual's ability to speak. As a result, the researchers chose to analyze the thesis centered on Kevin Wendell Crumb, a character suffering from speech disorders due to dissociative identity disorder.

The proposed work got divided into two chapters. The first chapter was a descriptive section that presented various concepts. In the first part, it was a detailed identification of the psycholinguistic approach with its main applications that contributed to linguistic analysis. The second part went around the basic theme, which was dissociative identity disorder and its main types, causes, and consequences that evolved speech disorder.

The second chapter debated data collection and movie scene analysis.

Additionally, this part discussed various techniques and methods that participated in analyzing certain parts of the movie.

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### ملخص

لطالما اهتم العديد من اللغويين و علماء النفس بدر اسة التغيرات اللغوية المختلفة لاكتشاف العديد من الحالات النفسية المتضمنة في السلوك اللغوي. يرتبط عجز اللغة واضطراب الكلام باضطراب الهوية الانفصامي. توفر هذه الدراسة للمتعلمين القدرة على التعلم بشكل فعال ودقيق لتغييرات اللغة ، باستخدام تحليل الأفلام كأداة للتعرف على خصائص اللغة المختلفة

الكلمات المفتاحية: علماء النفس- التغيرات اللغوية -السلوك اللغوي-اضطراب الهوية الانفصامي-تغيرات اللغة - خصائص اللغة.

#### Résume

De nombreux linguistes et psychologues s'intéressent depuis longtemps à l'étude des différents changements de langage pour découvrir plusieurs cas psychologiques impliqués dans le comportement langagier. Le déficit du langage et le trouble de la parole sont associés au trouble dissociatif de l'identité. Cette étude offre aux apprenants la possibilité d'apprendre efficacement et avec précision les altérations de la langue, en utilisant l'analyse de films comme outil pour en savoir plus sur les différentes caractéristiques de la langue.

**Mots-clés :** linguistes – psychologies- changements de langage- le comportement langagier- le déficit du langage- trouble dissociatif de l'identité- les altérations de la langue caractéristiques de la langue.

#### **Summary**

Many linguists and psychologists have long been interested in studying different language changes to discover several psychological cases involved in language behaviour. Language deficit and speech disorder are associated with dissociative identity disorder. This study provides learners with the ability to learn effectively and accurately the language alters, by using movie analysis as a tool.

**Keywords:** linguists –psychologists- language changes- language behavior- Language deficit- speech disorder- dissociative identity disorder- language alters.