

Summary of doctoral dissertation: "Pragmatic aspects of linguistic behavior of a child with autism".

Doctoral dissertation written under the supervision of habilitated doctor Bożena Taras, professor on University of Rzeszów.

The topic of the dissertation is: "Pragmatic aspects of the linguistic behavior of a child with autism." The aim of the study is to present a specific way of communication between a child with autism and the society. The exemplification material collected in 2012–2018 comes from participant observation, it consists of notes, audio and video recordings of echolalic sentences and natural dialogues.

The dissertation is an interdisciplinary work, presenting autism from a medical, psychological, pedagogical and linguistic perspective. The proposed theories of pro-communication with the application of the linguistic conventions of the ostensive-inferential model with the full preservation of the theory of mind allow for the examination of the child's statements both in terms of acquiring linguistic competences, as well as in terms of the consituational determinants of discourse. Selected aspects of issues related to autism will be discussed in the paper. The excerpted material was subjected to pragmalinguistic analysis using such linguistic research tools as: speech act theory, relevance theory and educational discourse. Additionally, to obtain a more complete picture of the discursive language behavior of an autistic child, three research tools from other scientific disciplines were used: theory of mind, neurological foundations of speech and communication interaction.

The analysis of the collected material in the form of examples of echolalic utterances is preceded by theoretical considerations: presentation of the current state of research in the scope of the discussed topic, terminological findings of the autism (autistic) lexeme and the name of the person affected by autism (autic, autistic) and discussion of selected semantic aspects (conceptual and expressive field). the words autism, the linguistic image of autism, the marking of the conceptualized concept). The work will describe and analyze the linguistic and interactive-communicative behavior of an autistic child in face-to-face contacts. Verbal means (e.g. echolalia, interrogative utterances, interjections) and non-verbal means (e.g. proxemic, kinetic, paralinguistic behavior) will be analyzed, taking into account e.g.

emotionality, ritualization, situationality or intentionality of the statement, especially its functionality (with particular emphasis on the role of silence and shouting). In the further part of the work, the specificity of speech of a child with autism will be characterized in relation to the linguistic behavior of a healthy child. The considerations will close with a chapter devoted to the Krakow method and its impact on the development of speech in a child suffering from autism. In this part of the work, the diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of the Krakow method will be presented, as well as its effects based on didactic therapeutic work crowned with lesson plans.

The previous analyzes of fragments of the doctoral dissertation, referring to echolalic statements, received a positive editorial review and appeared in the scientific journal "Word. Linguistic Studies.

Jolanda Cempa-Nowak