

Schizophrenic Language and Behaviour Analysis of the Main Character in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* Novel

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ABSTRAK

Manusia seharusnya dapat menyampaikan pikiran dan perasaan mereka satu sama lain dengan sedikit masalah. Namun, ketika otak seseorang dipengaruhi oleh suatu kondisi seperti skizofrenia, komunikasi yang efektif dapat menjadi tantangan karena kemampuan kognitif yang terganggu, yang mengarah pada apa yang dapat disebut sebagai gangguan bahasa. Konsep ini digambarkan melalui karakter John R. Isidore, seorang tokoh utama dalam novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* karya Philip K. Dick. Peneliti menganalisa bagaimana Isidore menunjukkan perilaku terkait dengan gejala skizofrenia dan mengidentifikasi gangguan bahasa yang dialaminya dalam konteks San Fransisco di era pasca-kiamat. Untuk mengeksplorasi hal ini, peneliti pertama-tama memeriksa pikiran dan tindakan Isidore seperti yang dijelaskan oleh penulis, dengan menggunakan kerangka teori psikopatologi skizofrenia yang ditulis oleh Lindenmayer & Khan (2012). Peneliti kemudian menganalisis gangguan bahasa yang ada pada karakter Isidore dengan menggunakan instrumen thought and language index (TLI). Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa Isidore menunjukkan berbagai gejala yang komprehensif di seluruh spektrum skizofrenia, dengan gejala positif yang paling menonjol. Selain itu, Isidore menunjukkan kedelapan gangguan bahasa yang terkait dengan skizofrenia, dengan gangguan yang paling sering muncul adalah perseverasi ide.

Kata kunci: skizofrenia, gejala, gangguan bahasa, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

ABSTRACT

Humans should be able to convey their thoughts and feelings to one another with minimal problems. However, when an individual's brain is affected by a condition such as schizophrenia, effective communication can become challenging due to disrupted cognition, leading to what could be considered a language disorder. This concept was portrayed through the character John R. Isidore, a main character in Philip K. Dick's novel *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* The researcher was intrigued to study how Isidore exhibited behaviours associated with schizophrenia and to identify the language disorders he experienced within the context of post-apocalyptic San Francisco. To explore this, the researcher first examined Isidore's thoughts and actions as described by the author, employing the psychopathology of schizophrenia framework established by Lindenmayer & Khan (2012). The researcher then analyzed the language disorders present in Isidore's character using the thought and language index (TLI) instrument. The analysis revealed that Isidore displayed a comprehensive range of symptoms across the schizophrenia spectrum, with a notable prominence of positive symptoms. Moreover, Isidore manifested all eight language disorders associated with schizophrenia, with the most pronounced of these disorders was the perseveration of ideas.

Keywords: schizophrenia, symptoms, language disorders, *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*

A. INTRODUCTION

Time and time again we are reminded whether by lecturers in school, pages of a book, or social media discourse that us—humans—are social beings. As such, we are citizens of a society that have a tendency to communicate and work together with others on a daily basis in order to accomplish shared objectives (Szekely, 2020). Supposedly, humans should be able to convey their thoughts and feelings to each other with minimal problems, provided that there is a mutual understanding upon the language and gesture that each produce. If an individual's brain suffers a disease, condition, or an injury, the individual will have a hard time to function well in society because he or she has disrupted cognition that makes communication harder: a thought and language disorder.

When a person has language disorders, it means that the individual has difficulty in production and comprehension of language (Caroll, 2004) and the thought that constructs sentence structure, meanings, and sounds is in disarray (Liddle et al., 2002). This results in speech abnormalities that occur with the person who suffers the condition. The condition itself can be brought on by neural trauma or even neurological diseases such as those that fall into Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders (SSD) or simply schizophrenia. The cause of schizophrenia itself can even be linked to effect of radiation exposure. Nowakowski and Hayes (2008) conducted a study that traces back the effect of Fukushima and Chernobyl nuclear fallouts upon the survivors.

Then it all comes down to the depiction of a person that suffered schizophrenia due to radioactive fallout. This depiction can be seen from a character named John R. Isidore, the second main character of *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* novel by Phillip K. Dick. Radioactive particles had rendered his brain function and distorted his genes, so the society called him a “chickenhead”. The reason why researcher chose Isidore for this research instead of Deckard (the first main character) is because he was also intriguing in the first place, in context of psychological condition and how his language disorders made him even harder to make connection with the others.

Isidore had low intelligence, trouble in organizing his thought and speech, and often stuttered. At first, the researcher hypothesized that he might suffered an adult Asperger syndrome. Then upon closer inspection, these symptoms he had were most likely to be a direct effect of being schizophrenic instead. The state of novelty lies on how the talk of mental disorders in literary sphere has always been widely discussed, yet for the one that resulted from an apocalyptic catastrophe in science-fiction setting might invites a new intrigue, all the more when it also directly affected one of the main characters of the story.

Thus, the researcher is tantalized to study how does John R. Isidore's behaviour reflect a schizophrenic person and what are the language disorders that he has as a result of being schizophrenic in the *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* novel.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders

According to Lindenmayer & Kahn (2012), schizophrenia spectrum disorders (SSD) are mental disorders that affect almost every aspect of mental functioning, such as perception,

attention, memory, and emotion. Different environmental factors are hypothesized to impact the development of a genetically predisposed brain, including exposure to infectious agents, deficiency in vitamins, maternal responses to stress, and even radiation (Eysenck & Keane, 2006; Mackay-Sim et al., 2004; Nowakowski & Hayes, 2008). It is defined by a spectrum that categorized the disorder into 3 different types: positive, negative, and cognitive symptoms (Lindenmayer & Khan, 2012).

a. Positive Symptoms Schizophrenia

Positive symptoms schizophrenia includes alterations in perception, behavior, and thought processes that cause people to lose contact with reality as it is known and to see the world distortedly (National Institute of Mental Health, 2023). Lindenmayer & Khan (2012) outlined the positive symptoms into four items. They are delusion, hallucination, thought disorder, and bizarre behaviour.

- 1) Delusions are characterized by false beliefs that persist in the sufferer's mind. These beliefs are often firmly held and resistant to rational persuasion or logical argumentation (Lindenmayer & Khan, 2012).
- 2) Hallucination is sensory experiences that take place in the absence of any outside stimuli (Lindenmayer & Khan, 2012).
- 3) Thought disorder is defined as a chronic disturbance of cognitive processes, usually presenting as speech and writing difficulties (Lindenmayer & Khan, 2012).
- 4) Bizarre behavior describes actions that radically deviate from accepted social standards or norms. Schizophrenia patients can display a broad spectrum of odd and eccentric behaviors that might interfere with everyday life and social relationships (Lindenmayer & Khan, 2012).

b. Negative Symptoms Schizophrenia

A person's functionality and quality of life can be significantly impacted by a variety of deficiencies that are included in negative symptoms of schizophrenia. As proposed by Marder and Galderisi (2017), they are affective decreasing, social disengagement, depression, and avolition.

- 1) Affective decreasing is the difficulty in expressing emotions. This symptom involves a reduced ability to express emotions outwardly, even though the person may still experience emotions internally (Marder & Galderisi, 2017).
- 2) Social disengagement refers to the withdrawal from social interactions and the reduction in the desire to form or maintain relationships (Marder & Galderisi, 2017).
- 3) Depression is loss of interest or enjoyment in daily activities. Less enjoyment, less energy, less drive, lower desire, impaired social and personal interests, and motor sluggish are characteristics of depressive symptoms and negative symptoms that intersect (Eysenck & Keane, 2006).
- 4) Avolition is the difficulty starting and maintaining goal-directed activities. A clear lack of motivation, desire, or interest in starting new activities as well as a lack of tenacity in following them (Marder & Galderisi, 2017).

c. Cognitive Symptoms Schizophrenia

There is indication that cognitive functioning serves as a robust predictor of an individual's day-to-day functioning and overall quality of life (Mucci et al., 2023). Harvey et al. (2022) categorized the traits as deficits in attention, deficits in working memory, deficits in executive functioning, difficulty in independent living, difficulty in vocational rehabilitation, and

difficulty in social integration.

- 1) Deficits in attention according to Kahn and Keefe (2013) are closely linked to other cognitive impairments in schizophrenia, such as working memory and executive functioning.
- 2) Deficits in working memory refers to the inability to hold and store information for cognitive tasks like reasoning, learning, and comprehension (Barch & Ceaser, 2012).
- 3) Deficits in executive functioning are impairment cognitive processes that manage other cognitive abilities (Altmann & Shillcock, 2013).
- 4) Difficulty in independent living emphasizes that independent living skills are often compromised in schizophrenia (Barnes et al., 2022).
- 5) Difficulty in vocational rehabilitation experienced by schizophrenic people where they often face challenges in obtaining and maintaining employment after illnesses or impairments (Balota, 2015).
- 6) Difficulty in social integration is the cognitive deficit in schizophrenia that disrupt the ability to engage in successful social interactions (Couture et al., 2006).

2. Schizophrenic Language Disorders and Thought and Language Index (TLI)

Meyer et al. (2021) has stated that many of the symptoms of schizophrenia linked to language may be caused by deficits in auditory processing. Furthermore, it is believed that poor speech perception and language comprehension are directly linked to main symptoms of schizophrenia, such as delusions and auditory hallucinations (Brown & Kuperberg, 2015).

One research instrument to analyze it is the thought and language index (TLI). Liddle et al. (2002) introduced TLI as a tool for evaluating thought and language disturbances in schizophrenia spectrum. It outlines the disorders into three main categories: impoverishment, disorganization, and dysregulation. From three of these, it draws eight more items of disorders: poverty of speech, weakening goal, looseness, peculiar words, peculiar sentences, peculiar logic, perseveration of ideas, and distractibility.

a. Poverty of speech

It signifies minimal or underdeveloped responses, often without elaboration. This symptom is frequently associated with alogia where verbal expression becomes significantly limited (Liddle et al., 2002).

b. Weakening of goal

It refers to the individual's inability to sustain a coherent train of thought, often failing to reach or elaborate on a clear goal in conversation (Liddle et al., 2002).

c. Perseveration of ideas

It involves the unwarranted repetition of thoughts, even in the absence of stimuli. The suffers are unable to transition away from specific thoughts or phrases, even when the conversation has moved on (Liddle et al., 2002).

d. Looseness

It manifests as a weak or absent connection between ideas that leads to derailment or tangentiality in speech (Liddle et al., 2002).

e. Peculiar words

It involves the use of unconventional or invented words. It often involves the creation of neologisms, which are the invented words that hold meaning only to the individual who uses them (Liddle et al., 2002).

f. Peculiar sentence

It refers to sentences that are difficult to understand. The formation of sentences that are structurally incorrect and even may be disorganized (Liddle et al., 2002).

g. Peculiar logic

It describes conclusions drawn from inadequate evidence or faulty reasoning. This can manifest as illogical deductions, where the reasoning appears disconnected from reality (Liddle et al., 2002).

h. Distractibility

It refers to the intrusion of external stimuli causing extraneous thoughts. It can also be defined as a vulnerability to unrelated stimuli or a tendency for mental intrusions (Liddle et al., 2002).

C. METHOD

Fromkin and Rodman (2019) defined psycholinguistics as the field of linguistics that studies how human minds utilize their language skills to produce and comprehend speech (or signs). Then, there is also a cognitive process where brain perceives speech or signs, and connects them with related knowledges that it stores until the meaning is acquired. Yet for those with unwell brains as a result from suffering a certain disorder, those language skills are dysfunctional. Since this study revolved around the relationship between language and mind, psycholinguistic approach was used.

Wiesma and Jurs (2009) also stated that descriptive qualitative method focuses more on the narratives and observations rather than statistical analysis, and concerns about description of a phenomena that occurs naturally without any tampering. Since the focus on the study was character speech and collective behaviour(s) in a novel, hence it became the main reason to use this method.

The researcher elucidated interrelated theories concerning language disorders and the schizophrenia spectrums, as well as the traits of speech exhibited by the character experiencing these conditions, as well as the behaviours reflecting their symptoms. Following this, a deductive reasoning process was employed to analyze the collected data that consisted of the character's utterances and behaviours through the lens of these theories. By applying deductive reasoning, the researcher systematically drew conclusions about the character, thereby addressing the research questions posed in this study.

The source of data for this study was the novel titled *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* by Phillip K. Dick that was published by Balantine Books in 2008, where it was originally written in 1968. To analyze the behaviour of schizophrenia symptoms depicted by John R. Isidore character, researcher collected the data from his speech and explanation of his thoughts and actions as written by the author throughout the story. The researcher also used his speech to other characters for the purpose analyzing pattern of his language disorders, that directly tied to his status as a schizophrenic person.

The research instruments of this study consisted of the researcher as main instrument and data sheets as secondary instrument. With this method, the researcher took the lead in gathering, interpreting, and analyzing data without external factors. Then, the purpose of these data sheets was to categorized two different kinds of observations related to the research questions. They

are data sheet about the character's behaviour associated schizophrenia spectrum symptoms, and data sheet that pointed out the schizophrenic language disorders. Researcher used items from thought and language index and psychopathology theory to analyze and classify the data.

According to Creswell (2014), choosing a source text and reading it carefully to get pertinent information are essential components of data collection. The following steps was done in order to gather and arrange data for analysis in this study.

- 1) The researcher selected *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* as the primary text for analysis and thoroughly read the entire novel to gather data with taking notes of the exhibited schizophrenic traits.
- 2) Subsequently, the collected data were organized and categorized based on their relevance to the research questions.
- 3) Next, a coding process was employed to categorize the data, focusing on two main categories: language disorders and the behaviours associated with symptoms of a schizophrenic character.
- 4) Finally, the organized data were transferred onto data sheets as appendices to facilitate further analysis.

Two separate data sheets were utilized for this purpose: the first aimed to classify the observable schizophrenic behaviours portrayed by the character throughout the narrative, and the second categorized the types of language disorders exhibited by the character John R. Isidore in the novel. Last, the data analysis process in this study involved several steps to examine the materials and draw a conclusion. Based on Miles and Huberman's (2020) data analysis techniques, the researcher analyzed the data as follows:

- 1) **Data Reduction:** By categorizing and identifying patterns in the data, researchers reduced the information to aspects related to answering the research questions.
- 2) **Data Display:** Once the data had been reduced, researchers used visual aids such as data sheets in the form of tables to represent helpful findings identified in the analysis.
- 3) **Drawing Conclusion:** Based on the analyzed and displayed data, researchers drew conclusions regarding the research questions or objectives. This involved synthesizing the findings, identifying implications, and making interpretations based on the observed findings.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. The Behaviour of Schizophrenic Person Portrayed by John R. Isidore Character in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* Novel

a. Positive Symptoms

Positive symptoms schizophrenia includes alterations in perception, behavior, and thought processes that cause people to lose contact with reality as it is known and to see the world distortedly (National Institute of Mental Health, 2023). Isidore experienced all characteristics of this type which can be seen as below.

1) Hallucination

Isidore had profound evidence of having this notable characteristic of schizophrenia. In below datum, Isidore experienced a momentary visual hallucination.

Isidore, then, had a momentary, strange hallucination; he saw briefly a frame of metal, a platform of pulleys and circuits and batteries and turrets and gears—and then the slovenly shape of Roy

Baty faded back into view. Isidore felt a laugh rise up inside him; he nervously choked it off. And felt bewildered.

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 146)

In the example, Isidore experienced a momentary visual hallucination. The androids were arguing furiously about how they ought to react to Rick Deckard's arrival when this happened to him. Isidore's mental anguish and uncertainty were represented in the visual imagery of mechanical components, which might represent his fractured sense of perception toward the androids he helped. This response showed how difficult it was for him to balance the absurdity of his circumstances with the android in a reality he was living in. The hallucination did not only bring Isidore's mental anguish to light, but also revealed how he saw the androids as they were: complex machines.

2) Delusion

Isidore's delusion came from his low self-worth combined with external forces that significantly affected to him: the messiah Mercer and the news anchor Buster Friendly.

"No one can win against kipple," he said, "except temporarily and maybe in one spot, like in my apartment I've sort of created a stasis between the pressure of kipple and nonkipple, for the time being. But eventually I'll die or go away, and then the kipple will again take over. It's a universal principle operating throughout the universe; the entire universe is moving toward a final state of total, absolute kippleization."

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 63 - 64)

Grandiose delusion means that the sufferer believes they wield extraordinary capabilities beyond realistic expectations (Lindenmayer and Khan, 2012). Above, Isidore explained that the state of "kippleization" was the principle that operated his universe, but he nonchalantly claimed he could halt this universal force. He said to Pris that he had created a stasis between the pressure of kipple and nonkipple. His delusion came from his depression of an uncertain future, so he created this divine power where he could at least gain a sense of control in his life.

3) Thought Disorder

Isidore had troubles with them all except for echolalia, since he never repeated what other characters said to him. **Thought blocking** was the one that occurred the most in Isidore's speech. This abrupt halt can be disorienting for both the speaker and the listener.

"Your place, here," he said, "this apartment you've picked—it's too kipple-ized to live in. We can roll the kipple-factor back; we can do like I said, raid the other apts. But—" He broke off.

"But what?"

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 63)

4) Bizarre Behaviour

Isidore exhibited **stuttering** the most in bizarre behaviour category, where it is a combination of involuntary motions of the speech organ that is linked to cognitive disorders, particularly when it is brought on by emotional distress (Bloodstein et al., 2021). Occurrences where he stuttered can be seen from below.

"D-Doesn't y-y-your insurance c-c-cover this?" Isidore asked Mr. Sloat. Under him his legs wavered and he felt the room begin to turn dark maroon cast over with specks of green.

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 73)

He mishandled an organic cat because he thought it was an artificial one. When Mr. Sloat angrily pointed out his failure to differentiate the real one, Isidore became panicked and stuttered.

b. Negative Symptoms

A person's functionality and quality of life can be significantly impacted by a variety of deficiencies that are included in negative symptoms of schizophrenia. For Isidore, his behaviour only displayed social disengagement, depression, and avolition.

1) Social Disengagement

This behaviour can manifest through a variety of characteristics, including avoidance of social situations, a sense of inadequacy or low self-esteem, and an overall reluctance to connect with others. Such case can be seen from Isidore's interaction below.

"I c-c-can't use the vidphone," Isidore protested, his heart laboring. "Because I'm hairy, ugly, dirty, stooped, snaggle-toothed, and gray. And also I feel sick from the radiation; I think I'm going to die."

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 75)

This was when Isidore's self-deprecating remarks showed how deeply ashamed he was of his looks and felt inadequate, both of which lead to his social disengagement. Because he felt unworthy of such social connection to the owner of the cat he mishandled, and because of his boss' demand, his reluctance to utilize the videophone was a reflection of a larger retreat from a social interaction that brought him discomfort. Furthermore, Isidore's urge to withdraw was made worse by his chickenhead-related sentiments.

2) Depression

Depression may worsen the symptoms of schizophrenia, causing quality of life even more compromised. It has shown that anxiety frequently acts as an early warning sign for a relapse into psychosis as well, the condition which Isidore often suffered.

Nothing depressed him more than the moments in which he contrasted his current mental powers with what he had formerly possessed. Every day he declined in sagacity and vigor. He and the thousands of other specials throughout Terra, all of them moving toward the ash heap. Turning into living kipple.

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 69–70)

Isidore reflected on the deterioration of his mental abilities, which he compared to the state they once were before the dust gradually rendered his brain. The reference to "the ash heap" and "living kipple" strengthened his recurring metaphor of uselessness and entropy that permeates his worldview. He saw both himself and the other "specials" as being in a state of inevitable decay that slowly losing their value in society.

3) Avolition

Avolition and apathy are characterized by an apparent absence of drive, desire, or interest in initiating new activities as well as a lack of persistence in pursuing them as well as social interactions. Isidore showed this characteristic especially after extreme distress.

"He's really upset," Irmgard said nervously. "Don't look like that, J. R. And why don't you say anything?" To Pris and to her husband she said, "It makes me terribly upset, him just standing there by the sink and not speaking; he hasn't said anything since we turned on the TV."

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 193)

From Irmgard's remark, Isidore's mental and emotional collapsed. It was the moment where Isidore withdrew into himself after he could not comprehend seeing upsetting act of mutilating the spider. He did not desire any social interaction at that time as he did not reply Irmgard's question and only being silent.

c. Cognitive Symptoms

In the novel, Isidore had deficits in attention, working memory, executive functioning, independent living, and social integration. He did not display affective decreasing since some of the behaviour tied with avolition instead. He also did not trait difficulty in vocational rehabilitation since he still could maintain his job even when he mistaken an organic cat with artificial cat once.

1) Deficits in Attention

Some of Isidore case of such trait that tied into schizophrenia was proven by several occurrences where he kept distracted during important conversation.

Datum 25:

"The androids," she said, "are lonely, too."

"Do you like the wine?"

She set down her glass. "It's fine."

"It's the only bottle I've seen in three years."

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 138–139)

Isidore and Pris had a dinner together in her room. Pris explained about the situation in Mars colony and how lonely it was for her and everybody. Isidore then proclaimed that there must be androids who could accompany her. But as Pris replied to his remark, his focus shifted elsewhere to the wine between them. His behavior not only disrupted the flow of the conversation but also diminished his ability to form a deeper connection with her—something he desperately wanted to.

2) Deficits in Working Memory

A person's capacity to temporarily retain and modify information is greatly impacted by working memory deficits. Complex cognitive functions like learning, thinking, and understanding require working memory—things that Isidore lacked of.

Mors certa, vita incerta, as Mr. Sloat occasionally declared. Isidore, although he had heard the expression a number of times, retained only a dim notion as to its meaning.

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 24)

The term that Mr. Sloat used a lot in Isidore's case denoted a situation in which his working memory failed. This incapacity to completely understand the meaning of the Latin phrase demonstrated Isidore's difficulties remembering knowledge and exemplified the signs of cognitive dysfunction related to schizophrenia. He has a little information about the meaning, but did not fully grasp it either even though it was said repeatedly to him.

3) Deficits in Executive Functioning

Isidore frequently found it difficult to control his thoughts and behaviors, which affected his capacity to connect with others and react accordingly in social circumstances.

"And Horst got me interested in precolonial fiction."

"You mean old books?" "Stories written before space travel but about space travel." "How could there have been stories about space travel before—"

"The writers," Pris said, "made it up."

"Based on what?"

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 139)

Pris mentioned her interest in "precolonial fiction," specifically stories written about space travel that were written before it even existed, and Isidore struggles to grasp the concept. His

mind seeks a concrete basis for the fictional stories rather than accepting the concept of speculative imagination. This reflected Isidore's difficulties in cognitive flexibility.

4) Difficulty in Independent Living

Isidore had no problem for isolation even though he craved for connection and cursed the state he was living in. He could handle loneliness at first, but having the androids around had changed how he felt about being alone.

You have to be with other people, he thought. In order to live at all. I mean, before they came here I could stand it, being alone in the building. But now it's changed. You can't go back, he thought. You can't go from people to nonpeople. In panic he thought, I'm dependent on them. Thank god they stayed.

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 187)

Isidore could handle loneliness at first, but having the androids around had changed how he felt about being alone. This fear of losing them was a symptom of a more serious problem with autonomy and his self-worth. Isidore got dependent on other in the dilapidated apartment for emotional support and affirmation once he met them. He could not afford to live alone again, so he complied with their requests and put up with their opinions. The difficulties that people with schizophrenia encounter are exacerbated by this reliance, as their desire for social interaction frequently gets in the way of their capacity to manage relationships healthily.

5) Difficulty in Social Integration

Difficulty in social integration refers to challenges individuals face in forming and maintaining relationships, often resulting in feelings of isolation and misunderstanding. This case often happened with Isidore because of his thoughts and actions made people to be less desirable spending time with him.

"Hey," he called. "I live upstairs. I heard your TV. Let's meet; okay?" He waited, listening. No sound and no motion; his words had not pried the person loose. "I brought you a cube of margarine," he said, standing close to the door in an effort to speak through its thickness.

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 60)

Isolation and social rejection are common for individuals with schizophrenia. Despite Isidore's effort to initiate contact by offering a seemingly thoughtful gift—a cube of margarine—his actions were met with silence by Pris. This reflected how his attempts at social interaction were often awkward, misjudged, or unreciprocated. His behaviour showed a lack of understanding of social cues and boundaries, as he called out to a stranger and waited outside her door, which might make the other person, Pris, felt uncomfortable.

2. The Schizophrenic Language Disorder Experienced by John R. Isidore Character in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* Novel

a. Poverty of Speech

Poverty of speech is a language disorder commonly associated with schizophrenia, characterized by a marked reduction in the amount and spontaneity of speech (Liddle et al., 2002).

Datum 15:

Regarding Isidore with easy amusement, Roy Baty said, "It's all over now, Iz. For Mercerism, I mean." With his nails he managed to lift the corpse of the spider from the sink. "Maybe this was the last spider," he said. "The last living spider on Earth." He reflected. "In that case it's all over for spiders, too."

“I—don’t feel well,” Isidore said. From the kitchen cupboard he got a cup; he stood holding it for an interval—he did not know exactly how long.

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 193)

Roy Baty, one of the main androids Isidore harboured, engaged him in a conversation after the revelation of Mercer as a false messiah. In this example, Isidore's response, “I—don’t feel well,” illustrated the poverty of speech as he offered an incomplete and minimal reply to Baty’s upsetting remarks. Rather than engaging with Baty's thoughts about the last spider on Earth, his response was vague and noncommittal to even reply. His actions of standing silently after that while also holding a cup showed his disconnection from the conversation and his internal struggle to respond meaningfully. This moment was his cognitive disorientation and emotional withdrawal.

b. Weakening of Goal

Sentences may start with a particular focus but soon deviate into unrelated topics or simply trail off, with so many sentences yet little information contained. Isidore done this many times when he spoke mainly to the androids, and accompanied by his weakening of goal.

Regarding Isidore with easy amusement, Roy Baty said, “It’s all over now, Iz. For Mercerism, I mean.” With his nails he managed to lift the corpse of the spider from the sink. “Maybe this was the last spider,” he said. “The last living spider on Earth.” He reflected. “In that case it’s all over for spiders, too.

“I—don’t feel well,” Isidore said. From the kitchen cupboard he got a cup; he stood holding it for an interval—he did not know exactly how long. *(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 193)*

When Roy Baty made a statement about the fate of Mercerism and the last spider, Isidore's response was minimal. His short reply signalled his emotional state, and also reflected his unwillingness to defend the faith he once followed so deeply. Instead of engaging with Roy's snarky comments, Isidore remained preoccupied with his distress as he simply trailed off into silence.

c. Looseness

The listener often struggles to follow the person's reasoning as their thoughts shift unpredictably from one topic to another. In the examples provided, Isidore’s speech exemplified many cases of looseness.

“No one can win against kipple,” he said, “except temporarily and maybe in one spot, like in my apartment I’ve sort of created a stasis between the pressure of kipple and nonkipple, for the time being. But eventually I’ll die or go away, and then the kipple will again take over. It’s a universal principle operating throughout the universe; the entire universe is moving toward a final state of total, absolute kippleization.” He added, “Except of course for the upward climb of Wilbur Mercer.”

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 63-64)

Isidore was explaining the concept behind “kipple” to Pris. But his utterances shifted its focus from the idea of individual agency against kipple to a more existential reflection on death and inevitability. His depression urged him to connect the kipple concept to its relevance in his universe.

d. Peculiar Words

Invented words, also known as neologisms, are unique to the individual and hold meaning

only within their personal context. In the example from *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*, Isidore introduced the term "**kipple-ized**" to Pris of which he later used numerous times.

*Isidore said, "I've tried it. Once. After that I just come home and go in my own place and I don't think about the rest. The apartments in which no one lives—hundreds of them and all full of the possessions people had, like family photographs and clothes. Those that died couldn't take anything and those who emigrated didn't want to. This building, except for my apartment, is completely **kipple-ized**."*

"Kipple-ized?" She did not comprehend.

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 60)

Isidore coined the term "kipple" as the noun and "kipple-ized" as the verb from the root "kipple." He used it to describe clutter or useless objects that accumulate over time. By adding the suffix "-ized," he transformed "kipple" into a verb-like form to imply that the entire building was being overtaken by the overlapping junk. The term was entirely Isidore's creation, and Pris, the listener, was unable to understand it without his explanation. Researcher saw this use of peculiar words in his speech to see how Isidore associated his worldview and the life that he went through.

e. Peculiar Sentences

Individuals with schizophrenia may struggle with sentence structure as the utterances they produced may deviate from typical syntactic rules. This might come from the cognitive impairment sufferers usually have, and Isidore was no different.

*"Your place, here," he said, "this apartment you've picked—it's too **kipple-ized** to live in. We can **roll the kipple-factor back**; we can do like I said, raid the other apts. But—" He broke off.*

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 63)

The combination of unconventional vocabulary, ambiguous purpose, and abrupt interruptions showed a sense of disorganization in Isidore's thought process. He included the foreign terms of kipple and used it to explained an action of cleaning Pris' room.

f. Peculiar Logic

Peculiar logic is the term for thinking that is faulty, nonsensical, or unconnected to reality; it is frequently defined by conclusions made based on inadequate knowledge. This kind of thinking may be seen in people with schizophrenia; it represents cognitive disruptions that impair their capacity for reasoned conversation.

*"No one can win against kipple," he said, "except temporarily and maybe in one spot, **like in my apartment I've sort of created a stasis between the pressure of kipple and nonkipple**, for the time being. But eventually I'll die or go away, and then the kipple will again take over. It's a universal principle operating throughout the universe; the entire universe is moving toward a final state of total, absolute kippleization." He added, "Except of course for the upward climb of Wilbur Mercer."*

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 63–64)

This claim might come from Isidore's grandiose delusion when he explained it to Pris, but the nature of its logic was still at fault. He claimed that the junks or the kipple in his room can be halted by stasis he claimed abled to create. Then he explained that the ascension of Mercer can halt the kipple from taking over the universe.

g. Perseveration of Ideas

For Isidore's case, the repetition was more than just a pattern of speech; it was a sign of

psychological turmoil and uncertainty, where his mind became stuck in a loop and made it difficult for him to adjust to new information.

“I thought,” Isidore managed to say, “it was a really good job. So good it fooled me; I mean, it seemed alive, and a job that good—”

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 74)

Isidore tried defending himself from his boss Mr. Sloat when he mistook an organic cat to an artificial one. He focused on the how the quality made the cat so real and organic, which in fact it was. But because he panicked, rather than giving a clear answer, he repeatedly saying how “good” it was instead. Schizophrenic brain may sometimes fail to generate coherent thoughts and even the speech when triggered by emotional distress.

h. Distractibility

Isidore’s distractibility was frequently linked to disjointed thinking and trouble maintaining cohesive speech in people with schizophrenia. It may cause unrelated ideas or stimuli to intrude, making it difficult for the person to follow a rational cognitive process or participate in meaningful interactions.

“Including about the whisky?”

Mercer smiled. “It was true. They did a good job and from their standpoint Buster Friendly’s disclosure was convincing. They will have trouble understanding why nothing has changed. Because you’re still here and I’m still here.” Mercer indicated with a sweep of his hand the barren, rising hillside, the familiar place. “I lifted you from the tomb world just now and I will continue to lift you until you lose interest and want to quit. But you will have to stop searching for me because I will never stop searching for you.”

“I didn’t like that about the whisky,” Isidore said. “That’s lowering.”

(Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, p. 196)

Isidore's distractibility is evident in his fixation on the mention of whisky, even amidst his encounter with Mercer. Isidore became preoccupied with the detail of Mercer's alcoholism, which he found distasteful.

3. Discussion

From reading the novel, making hypothesis, and analyzing the data, the researcher has deducted that John R. Isidore was indeed a schizophrenic person based on his collective behaviour that reflected almost every trait of symptoms from three different types of schizophrenia spectrum (positive, negative, and cognitive). Drawing mainly from Lindenmayer and Khan theory of psychopathology in 2012, researcher found that Isidore exhibited all three traits from positive symptom (hallucination, delusion, thought disorders, and bizarre behaviour), three out of four traits from negative symptoms (avolition, social disengagement, depression, and excluding effective decreasing), and five out of six traits of cognitive symptoms (deficit in attention, deficit in working memory, deficit in effecting functioning, difficulty in independent living, difficulty in social integration, and excluding difficulty in vocational rehabilitation).

Loganovsky and Loganovskaja (2000) hypothesis of ionizing radiation supported the notion that this radioactive dust affected Isidore’s brain that made him not only a “chickenhead” but schizophrenic as well. Then, Isidore’s behaviour consisted of phenomenon called “feedback loops”, supported by Boorboom theory (2017) that there is a network of symptoms in schizophrenia. Thus, since Isidore was proven by the findings that he was indeed schizophrenic,

the result was that there were many utterances from Isidore that correlated with his status of being schizophrenic and they matched with the eight items from TLI where he exhibited all of it. From most to least, the language disorders in his speech were perseveration of idea, looseness, distractibility, peculiar words, peculiar logics, peculiar sentences, poverty of speech, then weakening of goal.

The findings also show that his language disorders mostly came from his traits on positive symptom schizophrenia. For example, between the most prominent case of Isidore's peculiar words, perseveration of idea, and thought disorder in neologism: the concept of kipple. He invented the word to explain about the concept of discarded things that were no use anymore and how it represented his worldview of decay around his apartment and his condition. Then, being an odd word it was, he repeatedly explained this concept mainly to Pris. Which then again, tied to his illogical thinking, delusion, and hallucination. From this, there also existed another feedback loop that tied his language disorders to being a schizophrenic. Thus, the research questions of schizophrenic language and behaviour analysis of the main character in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* were answered by hypothesis that supported by findings, relevant theories, and also previous studies that researcher have referred.

D. CONCLUSION

First, Isidore's behavior exhibited a comprehensive range of symptoms across the schizophrenia spectrum, including positive, negative, and cognitive traits. Isidore demonstrated all four traits of positive symptoms (hallucinations, delusions, thought disorders, and bizarre behavior), three out of four negative symptoms (avolition, social disengagement, and depression), and four out of six cognitive symptoms (deficits in attention, working memory, functioning, and social integration). Second, connection between Isidore's schizophrenia and various language disorders was analyzed by utilizing the thought and language index (TLI) items. It was evident that Isidore exhibited all eight language disorders associated with schizophrenia. The most prominent disorders include perseveration of ideas, where Isidore often fixated on specific concepts, particularly the idea of "kipple". Each of his language disorder traits also resulted in a feedback loop with the schizophrenia symptom, mainly the positive one that proved connection between his mental disorder and the language production and comprehension.

Based on the results and limitations of this study, several suggestions can be made for future researchers and relevant parties. It is important to acknowledge that this study, given its limitations, is not a medical diagnosis but an analysis of a fictional character based on the author's depiction of thoughts and behaviors, which may include unreliable narration. Therefore, future research should explore schizophrenia in greater depth, ideally with a more clinical focus, using multiple approaches and real-life data. Interdisciplinary studies that integrate psycholinguistics, cognitive science, and medical research could provide a more robust understanding of the neurological and linguistic impacts of schizophrenia.

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