

AN ANALYSIS OF TARZAN' LANGUAGE ACQUISITION IN THE MOVIE *TARZAN OF THE APES* (1999)

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Abstract: *This study concerns to the analysis of language acquisition in the movie Tarzan of Apes (1999). The study focuses on the character of Tarzan, how his own language is and how he passes his process of language acquisition. The study is descriptive qualitative because this study describes the process of language acquisition in the movie of Tarzan of the Apes. The writer uses some theories about language acquisition from Noam Chomsky, B.F. Skinner and some other supporting theories to conduct this study. By this study, the writer finds that Tarzan has no language until he meets other humans because he does not have supporting environment to get language acquisition. He is able to communicate with animals and vocalizes some sounds. Tarzan begins his language acquisition after he meets other humans;*

Keywords: *language acquisition, Tarzan of the Apes.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Humans are created with special organ, it is brain. Brain is the central of all activities which are done by humans including speaking a language. Noam Chomsky believes that humans are genetically imprinted with knowledge about language which is often referred to as 'the innate hypothesis' (Aitchison, 2007, page 21). On the other hands, a Harvard psychologist B.F. Skinner claims that language is a set of habits gradually built up over the years. According to him, no complicated innate or metal mechanisms are needed (Aitchison, 2007, page 8). These two different arguments appear the nature-nurture controversy, the question whether language is partly due to nature or wholly due to learning or nurture comes up. Its controversy has been discussed for century, even now, it is still up to date.

The story of Tarzan of the Apes also reflects the language acquisition that must be passed by every human being. Here, Tarzan experiences the delays of language acquisition. He does not hear the sounds of human language until he meets Jane. Indeed, he seems to understand animal

language and has his own signal. The explanations above are the reasons why the writer decides to take this movie as the focus of the research. She will try to analyze the language acquisition of the character of Tarzan and the application of the nature-nurture controversy in this case.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study is a descriptive qualitative study. The writer applied the qualitative research in this study. The source of the data in this study was a movie entitle Tarzan of the Apes, and the data are taken from the scenes, transcripston and some notes. Not all scenes in the movie were used as the main data, there were criteria to make the scenes became the main data, such as: the scene should reflect the language acquisition process and could answer the research questions.

3. FINDINGS

This section reports the findings related to the stages experienced by Tarzan in acquiring language. The stages are crying and cooing, using animal sounds, meeting people for the first time, imitating other human's voices, start learning human language, making progress quickly, and further learning.

Crying and Cooing

Data 1: Scenes 03 (minutes 02.51 – 06.10)

Kala, a mother of gorilla, was listening to a strange voice when her fold wanted to move their nest; she came to the voice source. She found a tree house and a baby inside it.

(Baby Crying)

[A man voice, song] *A dream is gone | But where there's hope | Somewhere something is calling for you | Two worlds One family | Trust your heart | Let fate decide | To guide these lives we see*

[Baby Tarzan] (Crying)

(Gorilla Sniffing)

(Wind Howling)

(Gasping)

[Baby Tarzan] (Crying) | (Crying) | (Crying Continues) | (Crying)

[Kala] Huh? | Eh? | (Sniffing) | Achoo !

[Baby Tarzan] (Coughing) | (Cooing) | (Laughing) | (Cooing)

[Kala] (Sniffing)

[Kala] Agh ! | (Grunts)

[Baby Tarzan] (Cooing)
 [Kala] (Sniffing) | (Snarls, Growls) | (Snarling, Growling)
 [Baby Tarzan] (Cooing) | (Gasps)
 [Kala] (Snarls)
 [Baby Tarzan] (Cooing)
 [Kala] (Snarling)
 [Baby Tarzan] (Laughs)

In this scene, like other babies, Tarzan only does two things, crying and cooing. Coos are acoustically more varied than cries, as infants exercise some control over their articulatory organs to produce a greater variety of sounds (Carrol, 1998, page 259). Infants are able to coo at least in their end of the second months old. After cooing stage, by about six to seven months, the babbling stage begins. It means, Tarzan is at least two months old and not more than six months old when Kala finds him. It reflects that Tarzan's articulatory organs develop well since he is able to coo.

Data 2: Scene 05 (minutes 08.01 – 09.10)

After finding and saving Tarzan from a cheetah, Kala brought him to the gorillas fold. She decided to take care of Tarzan as her own son eventhough at first Kerchak, her couple, could not receive Tarzan.

[Terk] Mommy, look! Look over there
 [A gorilla] Kala, she´s back! | (Sighs)
 [A gorilla] Are you all right, dear?
 [Kala] I'm fine | No, really, honestly. | It's just that I got a little bit... sidetracked.
 (All Gasping)
 [Terk] Well, isn't that, uh-- | Well, so-- | Well, it's just so, so-- | That's freaky-lookin', okay? That's what it is.
 [Terk's Mother] Terkina!
 [Terk] Well, it is! | I mean, what the heck is it anyway?
 [Kala] He's a baby.
 [Terk] Ow ! I can't--
 [Baby Tarzan] (Cooing, Laughing)
 [Terk] So, where's his mama?
 [Kala] Well, I'm going to be his mother now.
 (Baby Cooing)
 [Terk] You know, he´s not so bad | Once you get used to him. | Kala's gonna be its mother now.

In this scene, the writer point to the case of Tarzan is raised by Kala, a mother gorilla. This case does not only happen in the movie, but also in the

real life. Over the past centuries there have been a number of reported cases of children raised by wolves, pigs, sheep, and other animals.

Data 3: Scene 08 (minutes 12.31 – 14.10)

Tarzan was growing up under Kala's nursing. By the visualization of Tarzan in this scene, the writer estimated that Tarzan was five years old. In this scene, he had some conversation with Kala and Terk, a young gorilla that was being his best friend.

[Kala] Mmm | (Gasps) | Tarzan ? | Tarzan ?
[Tarzan] (Trumpets Like An Elephant) I sure scared you, Mom. Whoa.
[Kala] You sure did! Can't you imitate any quieter animals?
[Tarzan] Oh, Mom, they're no fun. Wanna see me be a leopard? | (Snarling)
[Kala] Why don't you just come up with your own sound? | (Screeching)
[Tarzan] Mmm. (Yelling Sounds)
[Baby gorillas] (Imitating Yelling Sounds)
[Mother gorillas] Kala !
[Tarzan] (Yelling) | Oops.
[Kerchack] (Quiet Growls)
[Tarzan] Hee-hee.
[Terk] Tarzan, thank goodness, you're all right! Kala and I have been so worried! | Thank you. Thank you so much for finding him, Kerchak. You are such a wise and caring leader. | Run.
[Tarzan] Ooh! | Um--
[Terk] Hello! Are you thick in the head?
[Tarzan] What?
[Terk] How many times do I have to tell ya? If you want Kerchak to like you, stay away from him!
[Another young gorilla] Come on, Terk! Step on it! | Last one there's a dung beetle!
[Terk] Yeah ! And the first ones gotta eat it!
[Tarzan] Terk, can I come?
[Terk] Well, yeah, you could if you could keep up, but... you can't really keep up. | Wait up, guys. |Wait up! Right behind ya.

There are two points which are pointed in this scene. First, Tarzan has some conversations with the gorillas, Kala and Terk. Second, Tarzan imitates

the sounds of some animals and he has his own sound, the sound hears 'auoo.uooo.auoo.uooo'. In this scene, the writer estimates that Tarzan is five years old. He does not speak language at all. It normal to Tarzan that he does not speak language.

On the other hand, Tarzan looks like talking to the gorillas and other animals. The question is that whether animals do speak language or not. While language in the strict sense may be uniquely human, numerous other species have their own means of communication, many of which appear to share at least some, if not all, of the properties of language.

Data 4: Scene 16 (minutes 24.01 – 25.20)

Tarzan was bent on being a best ape, and then he learned anything in the jungle where he lived. He trained hanging on a tree, avoiding some wild animals such as snake and crocodile, using a sharp stone for the head of spear and etc. The way he walked was similar to the ape; his feet and hands touch the ground. This scene shows the development of Tarzan, since he was a child until he was being an adult. In this scene, there was not conversation between the characters, there was only visualisation of Tarzan's struggling to be the best ape as he wanted and background song which reflected the scenes.

Here, the writer thinks that Tarzan has the high intelligence. He can adapt to the environment which actually does not belong to him. It is shown by the part when Tarzan makes a weapon which is made by sharp stone which animals will not do that. But his intelligence does not make him being able to speak instantly. It reflects the fact that, even though the nature of language capacity commons to all humans, without learning supporting environment, the process of language acquisition will not run well, even it can stop at all.

Using Animal Sounds

Data 5: Scene 17 (minutes 25.21 – 26.25)

In this scene, Tarzan has been an adult. He had some conversation with Kala as his mother. Tarzan played with Terk, a gorilla, and Tantor, an elephant, as his best friends. Until this scene, he did not realize that he was a human, not a kind of animal.

[Kala]	Don't even think about it.
[Tarzan]	How'd you know it was me ?
[Kala]	I'm your mother. I know everything. Where have you been ?
[Tarzan]	I thought you knew everything.
[Terk]	Hey, Auntie "K." You're looking remarkably groomed today.
[Kala]	Hello, Terk.

[Terk] Not the neck. Not the neck there, "T."
 [Tarzan] **(Grunting)**
 [Tantor] Whoa ! Okay. It's all fun and games till someone loses an eye. Please stop. Somebody's gonna get hurt.

[Terk] And it's always me. Please.
 [Terk] Cramp in the calf ! |Okay, you win ! Ow, ow ! Okay ! You win. Hello ? Yo, yo, let go !

[Tarzan] Oh, sorry, Terk.
 [Terk] What kind of animal are you ?
 [Tantor] I've been thinking lately that maybe Tarzan could be some subspecies of elephant.

[Terk] What, are you crazy ?An elephant ?
 [Tantor] Listen to me. Think about it. He enjoys a peanut.
 | I enjoy a peanut.
 [Terk] He looks nothing like you !

In this scene, the writer takes focus on the sound which is vocalized by Tarzan. The writer finds one kind of sounds, it is grunting. The sound of grunting is audibly “eergh.. eergh..”. Tarzan uses this sound for having conversation with his friend, in this scene, he talks to Terk. If we see from the perspective that animal do not speak, but they do signalling and it signal refers to predator alarm call or food call. The writer thinks that it sound does not refer to one of signal purpose, but it only refers to animal interactions.

Data 6: Scene 18 (minutes 26.26 – 29.10)

Sabor, a cheetah, hide behind a tree, fortunetaly Tarzan saw it. Tarzan and Kerchak were getting fight with Sabor. Kerchack was almost lost, but Tarzan helped him. After that, Tarzan got fight with Sabor only by himself.

[Tarzan] **(Growling)**
 [Sabor] (Roars)
 [Tarzan] (Snarling)
 [Sabor] (Roaring) (Roaring)
 [Kerchak] (Growling)
 [Sabor] (Quiet Growling)
 [Kerchak] (Sighs) | (Growling)
 [Tarzan] **(Yells)**
 [Sabor] (Shrieking)
 [Tarzan] **(Growling)**
 [Sabor] (Growls)
 [Other Gorillas] (Cheering)

[Tarzan]	(Growls)
[Sabor]	(Growls)
[Tarzan]	(Growling) (Growling Continues)
[Sabor]	(Rustling)
[Other Gorillas]	(Chittering Nervously)
[Tarzan]	(Grunts) (Panting)
[Other Gorillas]	(Cheering)
[Tarzan]	(Yells)
[Other Gorillas]	(Cheering)
[Tantor]	(Trumpets)

There are two kinds of sounds which are vocalized by Tarzan in this scene. The first sound is growling, it is audibly “aarrgghh.. aarrgghh..”. The writer considers that it sound is close to the sound of roar which is vocalized by some kinds of wild animals, like lion, tiger, panther and cheetah. Based on the movie, the purpose of this sound is such a predator alarm call. Tarzan vocalizes this sound to give a signal for his gorillas fold as warning and also for the predator to go away.

The second sound is yelling, it is audibly “auooo..uoooo..uooo”. Its sound becomes Tarzan’s own signal. He vocalizes his sound many times in many scenes. From the movie, yelling becomes Tarzan’s own signal which other animals do not vocalize it. The writer considers that the sound has two purposes. The first purpose is to be a signal that Tarzan comes to an area. And the second purpose is to show up his presence to the environment of the jungle especially to the gorillas fold like what happens in the last part of this scene, when he is successful to beat down Sabor.

Meeting People for the First Time

Data 7: Scene 25 (minutes 37.01 – 39-10)

Tarzan realized that there were other creatures like him. He met Jane and helped her from a baboon troops. For the first time, he was very close to human, a same creature like him, Jane. Tarzan looked like analyzing Jane, he touched some parts of Jane body and compared with his.

[Jane]	I'm in a tree with a man who talks to monkeys. Ooh, I can't do this! I can't-- Oh ! This is good. This is... very good. (Gasps) Wait. One, two-- (Gasps) Ohh! It can't get any worse, can it? (Thunderclaps) obviously, it can. (Sighs) (Gasps) (Screams) Ah... no! Oh! (Grunts)
[Tarzan]	(Tarzan comes closer to Jane)
[Jane]	Stay back. No, don't. Don't come any closer. Please, don't. What are-- What are you doing? (Laughing)
[Tarzan]	(Touch Jane’s foot)

[Jane] Please don't. That tickles. No, get off, get off-- Get off! It serves you right. | Stay away from me like a very good wild man. You, stay. | I'm warning you. | My father won't take kindly to you— | No. That's—

[Tarzan] (Came closer to listen to Jane's heartbeat)

[Jane] Now, that's close enough. | How dare you?

[Tarzan] (Pulled Jane's head asking her to listen his heartbeat)

[Jane] (Gasps) Wha-- | Ohh !

Humans are special creatures which always have curiosity, moreover for something that they see for the first time. It also happens to Tarzan, along he lives in jungle, and he saw a human, a species like him for the first time. Based on the movie, Tarzan does not respect personal boundaries. He meets Jane for the first time, and of course, they do not know each other. Tarzan comes too close to Jane, indeed, he touches some part of her body. He does it because Tarzan is very curious to Jane. Between humans and animals really have different world, moreover wild animals. And for many years, Tarzan lives in the jungle; he is isolated from human life.

The explanation above belongs to the theory of B.F. Skinner, the learning theory. Parents teach their children by reinforcement in each verbal behaviour. By their parents or people around their environment, children learn to give the name of objects, so they know and understand the meaning of the words that they hear everyday and are saved in their memory, and then they do observation in their environment. From this theory, children acquire language by the learning process and the experience that they get from the environment. Tarzan does not pass this process; he does not have parents or caregiver and environment that are able to teach him language. Therefore, he does not speak and has no language at all until he meets other humans. Tarzan begins his language acquisition after he meets Jane, the one who teaches him language and humans' habit.

Imitating Other Human's Voice

Data 8: Scene 26 (minutes 39.11 – 40.50)

Jane realized that he was with a wild man. Tarzan and Jane introduced themselves each other. Tarzan imitated every word that Jane spoke to him. For the first, Jane thought that Jane could speak, but she understood that Tarzan could not speak human language then.

[Jane] (Gasps) | Um-- | (Heartbeats) | Oh, oh. | Oh, dear. | Oh, dear, oh, dear. Oh, dear! | Yes, thank you. It's a lovely heartbeat.

[Jane] **It's very nice.**

[Tarzan] **It's very nice.**

[Tarzan] Oh, thank you. I can't do a thing with it in this humidity though. It's-- | You-- You do speak. | And all this time I thought you were just a big, wild, quiet, silent person-thing. | Why didn't you tell me? I must say I'm rather curious as to who you are. I'd love--

[Tarzan] (Grunts) | Tarzan. | (Grunting) | Tarzan. | Tarzan. | (Grunting)

[Jane] **Oh, I see !**

[Tarzan] **Oh, I see !**

[Tarzan] Tarzan (pointed to himself) | Oh, I see (pointed to Jane)

[Jane] **No, no, no. | No. | (Clears Throat) | I'm Jane.**

[Tarzan] **No, no, no. | No. | (Clears Throat) | I'm Jane.**

[Jane] No, no.

[Jane] Jane (pointed to herself) | Tarzan (pointed to Tarzan) | Jane (pointed to herself)

[Tarzan] Jane.

[Jane] Exactly | (voice of Rifle Shot)

[Jane] Clayton! | (voice of Rifle Shot)

[Tarzan] Clayton!

[Jane] Extraordinary! Um, please, can you take me to my camp?

[Tarzan] (Makes Rifle Shot Sound)

[Jane] Yes! Clayton! | Wonderful! | Um, could we-- Um, can't we walk?

[Tarzan] Can't we walk?

Jane realized that Tarzan did not speak, he had no language. He only imitates what Jane talks to him, without understanding what Jane's purpose. The writer thinks that it normally happens to Tarzan. In this scene, Tarzan speaks in English for the first time though he does not understand what it means. It indicates that Tarzan's articulatory organs are in normal function, even though its organs are not used for speaking at all before.

Humans have some articulatory organs which support their ability to speech, some organs which differentiate them with other creatures. That is, the human brain and vocal tract have a number of slightly unusual features. By themselves, these features are not sufficient to indicate that people can talk. But if we first assume that all humans speak a language, then a number of puzzling biological facts fall into place. They can be viewed as *partial* adaptations of the body to the production of language (Aitchison, 2007, page 50). Every human's vocal tracts have special features that support their speaking capability. For example, human teeth are unusual compared with those of other animals. Another important difference between humans and monkeys concerns the larynx, which contains the 'voice box' or 'vocal cords'. Strangely, it is simpler in structure than that of other primates. But

this is an advantage. Air can move freely past and then out through the nose and mouth without being hindered by other appendages (Aitchison, 2007, page 51). The explanation above indicates that language is nature to humans; the capability to speak is biologically triggered behaviour. This fact supports the theory of Chomsky's innateness hypothesis, humans are predestined to speak. Humans have given by God the perfect organs structure to support the capability to speak.

Data 9: Scene 31 (minutes 47.21 – 48.50)

Jane told her father, Mr. Porter, about Tarzan. About Tarzan's personal characteristic, how he walked, how he acted and others. They were very interested in Tarzan.

[Jane] Well, he didn't stand up right, he sort of crouched, like that.

[Porter] Really?

[Jane] Supported his weight on his knuckles.

[Porter] On the knuckles!

[Jane] See? | Exactly like a gorilla!

[Porter] Extraordinary!

[Jane] Ah, it was amazing! | And he bends his elbows out like this, | And then he walks like this.

[Porter] Oh, I see ! | Like Aunt Isabel !

[Porter] Bup-bup-bup, oh-oh | This is capital! | Mmm. | Oh, Janey, Jane! | What a discovery! | A man with no language, no human behaviour.

[Jane] And no respect for personal boundaries.

[Porter] How do you mean?

[Jane] He was this close, Daddy! | Staring at me. He seemed confused at first, as if he's never seen another human before. | His eyes were intense and focused and-- I've never seen such eyes.

[Porter] Oh, shall I, ahem, I leave you and the blackboard alone for a moment

[Jane] Daddy, stop it. The point is, think of what we could learn from him. | We must find him.

[Clayton] Ooh! | Professor, you are here to find gorillas, not indulge some girlish fantasy.

[Jane] Fantasy? I didn't imagine him! | Tarzan is... | (Gasps) | real.

In this scene, Jane figures out about Tarzan to his father. She tells his father about how the way Tarzan walks by his both feet and hands. Jane tells his father the impression of her first meeting with Tarzan; she concludes that

Tarzan does not speak because he has no language. Tarzan is really being a big discovery for Jane and his father. In this scene, the character of Mr. Porter mentions the name “Aunt Isabel”, perhaps it refers to Isabelle, one of famous cases of isolated and feral children.

Tarzan does not meet another human until he meets Jane and her father; therefore his experiences only belong to the jungle and what inside it. He only makes interaction with his gorillas and other animals. Tarzan uses his both feet and hands for walking like the way a gorilla walks and has no language. What happened to Tarzan is normal since he does not have other humans as his caregiver and role model. Human’s growth is influenced by their environment, that’s why what happens to Tarzan is normal.

Start Learning Human Language

Data 10: Scene 33 (minutes 50.01 – 52.45)

There was nothing conversation between the characters in this scene, there was only the back song which was perhaps a reflection of Tarzan’s heart. In this scene, Tarzan began learning language, human habits and many things correlated with human life. He was taught by Jane and Mr. Porter. They taught Tarzan alphabet and how to read, they showed some pictures and some words. Tarzan was really learning about so many things that he never knew before he met Jane.

[A man voice, song] Whatever you do | I’ll do it too | Show me
everything | Tell me how | it all means something | And
yet nothing to me | I can see there’s so much to learn | It’s
all so close and yet so far | I see myself as people see me |
Oh, I just know there’s something bigger out there | I
wanna know | Can you show me | I wanna know about
these strangers like me | Tell me more | Please show me |
Something’s familiar about these strangers like me | Every
gesture | Every move that she makes makes me feel like
never before | Why do I have This growing need to be
beside her | Ooo, these emotions | I never knew | Of some
other world far beyond this place | Beyond the trees above
the cloud | I see before me a new horizon | I wanna know |
Can you show me | I wanna know about | These strangers
like me | Tell me more | Please show me | Something’s
familiar about | These strangers like me | Come with me
now to see my world | Where there’s beauty beyond your
dreams | Can you feel the things | I feel | Right now with
you | Take my hand | There’s a world | I need to know.

In this movie, Tarzan meets Jane and Mr. Porter when he has been an adult. However, Tarzan can be included into wild, isolated and feral children.

Even though the case of Tarzan only appears in the movie, the writer thinks that the case can be compared to some famous cases of isolated children such as Victor, Genie, Isabelle and Chelsea.

If we see from the age when Tarzan is found by Jane, the writer thinks that Tarzan's case is close to the case of Chelsea. Both Tarzan and Chelsea are found when they have been adult. The writer estimates that Tarzan meeting with Jane when he is about 20th-25th years old and Chelsea begins her language acquisition when she was 32th years old.

The case which is the closest to Tarzan's case may be the case of wild man, Victor. The boy appeared to be 11 or 12 years old, was naked except for what was left of a tattered shirt, and he made no sounds other than guttural animal-like noises (Steinberg, 2001, page 126). His general appearance and behaviour were typical of the wild men of popular legend and he seemed to have survived on his own for years in the wild. The age when Tarzan and Victor were found by other humans are the same, their story was almost the same too.

Making Progress Quickly

Data 11: Scene 34 (minutes 52.46 – 53.55)

By only about a week, Tarzan had been able to speak in language even though in the simple way. In this scene, Tarzan could answer Jane's question and understand what Jane's purpose.

[Clayton] We've wasted all this time on what he wants. | The boat could arrive any day. | Now ask him straight out.

[Jane] **Tarzan? Will you take us to the gorillas? Do you understand?**

[Tarzan] **I understand.**

[Porter] Ooh! Good work, Jane.

[Clayton] **Well?**

[Tarzan] **I can't.**

[Clayton] What?

[Porter] What?

[Jane] Why not, Tarzan?

[Tarzan] Kerchak.

[Jane] Wh-wh-- | (Sighs)

[A man voice, song] I wanna know | Can you show me | wanna know about these strangers like me | Tell me more | Please show me | Something's familiar about these strangers like me | I wanna know.

There are two things which are pointed in this scene. First, Tarzan does not need a long time to have big progress in his late language acquisition.

Second, the influence of Tarzan's age to the development of his late language acquisition.

In the story of the movie of *Tarzan of the Apes*, Tarzan looks like only need a short time to have a big progression in his language acquisition process. After a week passed since Jane and her father taught Tarzan human language (English), Tarzan had given a good response for the question that were given by Jane.

Here, the writer thinks that a week is too short to have a good and big progress in language acquisition for someone who is late to get it. Victor at least needs 5 years in learning language to have a better development and he fails in some aspects. Indeed, at the end Victor is mute until his death in 1828 at the age of about 38. Genie's language acquisition was studied for about eight years, after which time she made little progress. While Isabelle needs 20 months to have complete sentence in speaking language. Chelsea, after 18 years she is raised, she has been able to communicate with other, to do reading and writing. All those famous cases became the reason why the writer thinks that a week is not enough to have a good response for a question that was tended to a human without language before. Moreover in this scene, Jane's question to Tarzan is complex enough.

In this movie, Tarzan looked easy to learn language. Of course, he did not have a normal stage of language acquisition before, because he was isolated in the jungle until he met Jane. When we analyse this case by using the theory of Chomsky, it is possible to happen. Even though Tarzan was raised by gorilla and lived with them for a long time, however, the character of Tarzan is a human being. Abstracting from possible individual differences, there is some innate mental state common to the species that provides the basis for acquisition of knowledge of grammar, a characteristic that distinguishes humans from birds or apes (Chomsky, 1981, page 3). That could be a reason why Tarzan was easy to get his language acquisition even it was very late.

Further Learning

Data 12: Scene 47 (minutes 01.18.51 – 01.21.45)

Tarzan could not go to England with Jane, he had to keep the gorillas fold. Jane decided to stay in the jungle since she considered that she was falling in love with Tarzan. Mr. Porter also decided to stay in jungle and let the ship go back to England without him and his daughter.

[Jane]	London will seem so small compared to all this.
[Tarzan]	I will miss you, Jane.
[Captain]	Miss Porter!
[Jane]	I, I know. I'm coming. (Sighs) Well, I suppose we should say goodbye.

[Tarzan] Goodbye.
 [Jane] (Sighs, Crying) | Goodbye, Tarzan !
 [Tarzan] Goodbye.
 [Porter] Oh, I'm going to miss that boy. | Jane, dear, I can't help feeling that you should stay.
 [Jane] Daddy, please don't. We've been through all of this. I couldn't possibly st-- | I, I belong in England with you, with people, and-- Aah !
 [Porter] But you love him. | Go on.
 [Jane] (Chuckles) | Oh.
 [Tarzan] Oh !
 [Jane] (Laughing) | (Chuckles)
 [Tarzan] Uh--
 [Jane] Thankyou. | Thanks for getting my glove.
 [Tarzan] Thankyou.
 [Porter] (Clears Throat) | Well--| (Laughing) | But, what-- | What am I doing ? Captain ? | Tell them that you never found us. Eh ? | After all, people get los in the jungle every day. Right ? | Tootle-pip ! | (Clears Throat) | Ooo-ooo-ee-ah-ooo. | (Cheering)

Lenneberg argues that children clearly start talking at about the age of 2, and it seemed plausible that language ability ceased at around 13. Normally, at the age of puberty, the humans' language development is essentially complete, apart from vocabulary. Humans will continue to accumulate lexical items throughout her life. But Tarzan was not the same; he just began his language acquisition when he was meeting with other humans for the first time in his life.

The writer thinks, if Jane decides to come back to England and leaves Tarzan in the jungle, Tarzan's language acquisition will stop. Tarzan needs his entire life to acquire humans' language, and he cannot do it only by himself. Even though humans have language acquisition device which make speaking comes naturally, humans still need good environment that support the process of language learning. However, it would be wrong to think of language as something which is governed only by internal mechanisms. These mechanisms require external stimulation in order to work properly (Aitchison, 2007, page 95). Humans need a rich verbal environment during acquisition period, including the character of Tarzan.

4. CONCLUSION

The movie of *Tarzan of the Apes* reflects the process of language acquisition which is passed by an isolated human being. This study takes focus on Tarzan as the main character, how his own language and how he

passes his late language acquisition. Tarzan is found by a mother of gorilla when he is still a baby, he is only able crying and cooing. It indicates that when Tarzan is about more than two months and less than six months old. It also reflects that Tarzan's articulatory organs develop well since he is able cooing. His language acquisition stops since the day he is leaved by his parents, because he does not meet other humans in his entire life until he meets Jane.

Based on the movie, Tarzan does not speak at all until he meets Jane and her father. He does not speak, but he does signalling. There are about three sounds that are vocalized by Tarzan through the movie. The first sound is grunting, it is audibly "eergh.eergh. He vocalizes this sound by the low voice. The purpose of it sound is only to have interaction with the gorillas fold and other animals. The second sound is growling, it is audibly "aarrgghh.. aarrgghh". The writer considers that the purpose of this sound is such a predator alarm call, to give a signal for his gorillas fold and for the predator to go away. The third sound is yelling which becomes Tarzan's own signal, it is audibly "auoo..uooo..uooo.". It sound appears many times in the movie and has two purposes, the first purpose is to be a signal if Tarzan comes to an area and the second purpose is to show up his existence.

Tarzan language acquisition begins when he meet other humans for the first time, Jane and her father. When Tarzan meets Jane for the first time, he has no language at all but he is able to imitate what Jane's talking. It indicates that Tarzan's articulatory organs develop well even though its organs are not used before. Tarzan gets his language acquisition by learning process, he is taught by Jane and her father.

In the story of the movie of *Tarzan of the Apes*, Tarzan looks like only need a short time to have a big progress in his language acquisition process. However, a week is too short to have a good and big progress in language acquisition for someone who is late to get it. Tarzan will continue to acquire language throughout for the rest of his life because Jane decides to stay in jungle with him and he cannot do it only by himself.

5. REFERENCES

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