LESSON ONE : COMMUNICATION DISORDER

Communication can be broadly divided into **speech and language**. **Speech** is the expression of thoughts in spoken words; it is oral, verbal communication. On the other hand, **language** is a complex, dynamic, and rule-based system of conventional symbols that is used in diverse modalities for thought and communication. According to the 1993 guidelines of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), a **communication disorder** is the impairment in the ability to receive, send, process, and comprehend concepts including verbal, nonverbal, and graphic symbol systems. In addition to hearing disorders, communication disorders are categorized into speech and language disorders.

On the other hand, a **language disorder** is impaired comprehension and/or use of spoken, written, and/or other symbol systems. A language disorder may involve one or more of the following areas: phonology, morphology, syntax,semantics, and pragmatics.

According to this classification, an impairment of the articulation of speech sounds is one example of a speech disorder. To understand this definition, it would be important to examine the terms *articulation* and *speech sounds*. In clinical practice, important distinctions are made between articulation and speech sounds versus phonology and phonemes.

IDEA 04 and ASHA Definitions of Communication Disorders

IDEA 2004 defines a speech or language impairment as a communication disorder, such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment, or a voice impairment, which adversely affects a child's educational performance. A more specific and more often used definition of communication disorder is that of the American Speech Language-Hearing Association.

A **speech disorder** is used to indicate oral, verbal communication that is so deviant from the norm that it is noticeable or interferes with communication. **Speech disorders** are divided into **articulation, fluency, and voice disorders**. ASHA defines a speech disorder as an impairment of the articulation of speech

sound, fluency, and/or voice. On the other hand, a **language disorder** is impaired comprehension and/or use of spoken, written, and/or other symbol systems. A language disorder may involve one or more of the following areas: phonology, morphology, syntax,semantics, and pragmatics.

ASHA defines a **language disorder** as the impairment or deviant development of comprehension and/or use of spoken, written, and/or other symbol system. The disorder may involve (1) the form of language (phonology, morphology, and syntax),(2) the content of language (semantics), and/or (3) the function of language in communication (pragmatics) in any combination.