Key Terms – Communication Disorders

Foundational Concepts

1. **Communication** – Exchange of information through verbal, nonverbal, or graphic symbols.
2. **Speech** – Oral, verbal expression of thoughts using spoken words.
3. **Language** – Rule-governed system of symbols used for thinking and communication across multiple modalities.

Disorders

4. **Communication Disorder** – Impairment in receiving, sending, processing, or understanding verbal, nonverbal, or graphic messages.
5. **Speech Disorder** – Difficulty with oral communication, including articulation, fluency, or voice problems.
6. **Language Disorder** – Impaired comprehension and/or use of spoken, written, or symbolic systems; may affect form, content, or function of language.
7. **Articulation Disorder** – Difficulty producing specific speech sounds correctly using lips, tongue, or jaw.
8. **Fluency Disorder** – Disruptions in the smooth flow or rhythm of speech, such as stuttering.
9. **Voice Disorder** – Abnormalities in pitch, loudness, or quality of the voice affecting communication.

Language Components

10. **Phonology** – Study of speech sound organization and patterns in a language.
11. **Morphology** – Rules governing the structure and formation of words.
12. **Syntax** – Rules for combining words into sentences.
13. **Semantics** – Meaning of words and phrases; vocabulary knowledge.
14. **Pragmatics** – Social use of language in different contexts; conversational rules.

Causes & Types

15. **Congenital Disorder** – Present at birth (e.g., cerebral palsy, cleft palate).
16. **Acquired Disorder** – Developed after birth due to injury, illness, or trauma (e.g., traumatic brain injury).
17. **Organic Disorder** – Caused by structural or physiological abnormalities.
18. **Functional Disorder** – Occurs without a physical cause; linked to learning, psychological, or environmental factors.
19. **Specific Language Impairment (SLI)** – Developmental language disorder with no other obvious disability or cause.
20. **Secondary Communication Disorder** – Resulting from another primary condition, such as autism or intellectual disability.