

A Critical Discourse Analysis of “Discrimination Starts before and Lasts Our Entire Lives” Speech by Charlotte Helene Fien: Discrimination through Termination

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ABSTRACT

Down syndrome people are often underestimated by society. It is because of their disability to do difficult things and their physical appearances. This common opinion has been broken by Charlotte Helene Fien, a representative of Down Syndrome people at the United Nations. This issue results in a social wrong which is covered by the society's justification. This social wrong is indirectly depicted in Charlotte's speech. The aim of this research is to uncover the social wrong that evolves in our society. The method used in this research is four stages by Roy Bhaskar (1986). SFG is utilized in this research to give linguistic evidence in interpreting the speech. The results show that social wrong found in the speech is termination of Down Syndrome babies. It is hard to be found because society is a lack of awareness about life values and it is considered as normal and true. However, this social wrong is still needed in the society because it gives benefits for parents and improves society's standard of living. In order to stop this social wrong, society has to change their opinion, take real actions, and make policies to protect people with Down Syndrome

Keywords: Down Syndrome, social wrong, Systemic Functional Grammar, Charlotte

INTRODUCTION

Down Syndrome is a phenomenon when someone has a full or partial extra copy of chromosome 21 (Underwood, 2014). This additional chromosome causes different physical appearance compared to common people. Usually, people with Down Syndrome have low muscle tone, short body, flattened nose, obliquely placed eyes, wide short hands with short fingers, and single crease in the palm of the hand (Wajuihian, 2016). Sometimes it is hard for them to do some difficult tasks due to their physical features, so they can only do simple activities, such as watching TV, reading books, listening to the music, and playing video games. They are also slower at learning than common people. They have low immune systems so they can easily get sick. Children with Down Syndrome get more severe infections and have poorer outcomes (Huggard, Doherty & Molloy, 2020). Asim et al. (2015) also state that “some people of DS are affected by variant phenotypes including atrioventricular septal defects (AVSD) in heart, leukemia's (both acute megakaryoblastic leukemia (AMKL) and acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)), AD and HD” (p. 1). Because

of their disabilities and differences, they are often discriminated against by societies. Even when a woman knows her baby has Down Syndrome, she will terminate her baby. Due to the cruel discrimination through termination, there are some people with Down Syndrome who ask for justice. One of them is Charlotte Helene Fien. She has a chance to speak in The United Nations on March 15, 2018.

Charlotte's speech was delivered in an event organized by Jerome Lejeune Foundation, an organization committed to support Down Syndrome through care, advocacy, and research. In her speech, she spoke about injustice and discrimination towards people with Down Syndrome even before birth through abortion. Charlotte's speech is used to speak up what is in her mind and her opinion. She uses speech as a tool to give information about current issues of Down Syndrome problems. According to Sinaga (2018), the speech is used to promote the speaker's idea about many issues such as politics, economics, humanity and other formal occasions. Charlotte uses her speech to talk about the matter of humanities. She does not only describe that discrimination is real happened to Down Syndrome but also she uses her speech as campaign to open society's view about Down Syndrome. She hopes society respects Down Syndrome's life which is also worthy. Her speech is categorized as discourse in which it talks about what happens in her society. It reflects the society's condition when and where she lives.

This speech is suitable for Critical Discourse Analysis since it shows that there is something wrong in society, including the power relationship between the oppressor and the oppressed. This paper aims to analyze the power relationship between common people and people with Down Syndrome that depicts the discrimination through termination using four stages proposed by Roy Bhaskar. His theory is adapted by Fairclough in dialectical-relational approach. The purpose of 4 stages is addressing the social wrongs. The four stages are focusing upon social wrong, identifying obstacles to addressing the social wrong, considering whether the social order needs the social wrong, and identifying possible ways past the obstacle (Zotzmann and Regan, 2016). In the four stages, the linguistic features of texts become the cues. Thus, the linguistic analysis is also needed to complete the four stages. One of the linguistic analyses which supports the interpretation in this research is SFG.

Systemic Functional Grammar theory (SFG) proposed by Michael Halliday gives linguistic evidence in this research. SFG focuses on the function of language. In SFG, there are three functions of language, namely ideational, interpersonal, and textual metafunctions. Ideational metafunction focuses on encoding experience and reality of the world, interpersonal metafunction focuses on building interaction between the speaker and hearer, and textual metafunction focuses on organizing the message into a coherent form (Butt, Fahey, Spinks, & Yallop, 1995). In ideational metafunction, the most important thing in experience is what's going on which is depicted in a clause (Halliday, 1994). This grammatical system is achieved by transitivity. It sees verbs as different types of processes. The processes are material (I kicked the ball), mental (I love you), verbal (I asked him a question), relational (She is beautiful), behavioral (She laughed), and existential (There is a new store). In interpersonal metafunction, the clause is used to exchange commodities, whether the speaker wants to give or demand information or goods and services. Modality analysis is used to analyze a speaker's commitment to what he/she said. Besides, modality tells the listener/audience how true or necessary something is and indicates part of the speaker's identity (Cheng, 2012).. As The example is a clause *I will help you*. This sentence tells that the speaker offers the services with high willingness. In textual metafunction, what comes first in a clause is considered as Theme. Theme is the speaker's concern or starting

point which later will be developed. The example is a clause *The dog bites the mouse*. The speaker focuses on telling the information about *The dog*.

Moreover, the discussion of Down Syndrome and CDA on speeches have previously been done by several researchers. There are two studies reviewed in this study. The first one was done by Emily Underwood. Her writing entitled *Can Down Syndrome Be Treated?* focuses on the discussions about scientists trying to find the best treatment for Down Syndrome. She begins with giving general information about Down Syndrome, which is related to the extra chromosome 21. The research then continues to discuss the effects of this extra chromosome, such as “unusually high levels of myo-inositol in their brains, particularly in the hippocampus, a region vital to memory and learning” (Underwood, 2014, p. 965). Focusing on this effect, Skotko's clinic and others around the world strive for running two major trials of drugs that may alleviate some of the intellectual impairments in people with Down syndrome. During the process, McDonough, Skotko's clinical trial coordinator, faces some difficulties and challenges in order to make sure that the trials will go well without threatening the Down Syndrome people. Besides, the scientists found out that the current clinical drug trials in adults with Down syndrome don't work. Underwood (2014) states that “once mature, the brains of people with Down syndrome are about 20% smaller than average and have fewer neurons, as well as abnormal connections between cells” (p. 966). Therefore, the probability for adults with Down Syndrome to succeed from these trials is small. However, it does not stop the team from trying other ways. Skotko's Massachusetts General Hospital Down Syndrome Program developed another way by using proteins that target specific DNA sequences to place XIST on one of the copies of chromosome, which eventually shut off the entire extra chromosome. This study then shows the advance of treatment and cure for Down Syndrome people.

The second research entitled *A Critical Discourse Analysis of Donald Trump's Inaugural Speech from the Perspective of Systemic Functional Grammar* was conducted by Wen Chen. In this research, Chen analyzes Donald Trump's inaugural speech mainly from the perspectives of transitivity, modality, personal pronoun and coherence using CDA based on Halliday's SFG. According to Chen (2018), the purpose of this research is “to reveal how the speaker persuades audiences to accept his opinions and support him” (p. 966). From the analysis of Trump's inaugural speech, this study finds material, relational, existential, and verbal processes existing in the speech, with material processes and relational processes being used more frequently in the speech. Besides, Chen (2018) argues that Trump uses many modality to express his view and feeling and also to show Trump's charisma and authority. Another aspect analyzed by Chen is the discourse's structure and content. The result shows that parallelism is the most evident feature from Trump's speech, which makes the content compact.

Those two studies are needed to be reviewed in this research. Since the figure who delivered the speech is a Down Syndrome person, the knowledge about DS gives deeper understanding and helps the researchers to analyze DS's lives, physical appearance, organs, and mentality. Moreover, the second research also gives the example of how to analyze speeches using CDA and SFG.

METHOD

There are two parts in methodology, namely collecting the data and analyzing the data. Close reading is used to collect the data. According to Shanahan, close reading requires deeper understanding rather than quick reading to get the essence of the text (as cited in Saccomano, 2014). Thus, close reading is done by reading the text carefully to see the

meaning and intention behind the text. In this case, it is the meaning and intention delivered by the speaker who is Charlotte Helene Fien. Not all of the clauses are analyzed, but only clauses that support the idea of discrimination through termination are chosen as the data.

In analyzing the data, four stages proposed by Roy Bhaskar are used to explain as well as to reveal the discrimination of down syndrome through termination as a social wrong in society. The first stage is focusing upon a social wrong in its semiotic aspects. In this stage, the analysis will be supported by linguistic aspects using systemic functional grammar such as transitivity, mood and modality, and textual analysis. The second stage is identifying obstacles to address the social wrong. In this stage, the researchers explain the difficulties in finding the social wrong because it is considered as something normal in the society. The third stage is considering whether the social order 'needs' the social wrong. In this stage, the researchers discover the reason why termination of people with Down Syndrome is still needed even though people know that it is wrong. The fourth stage is identifying possible ways past the obstacles. In this stage, the researchers figure out the possible solutions to overcome the social wrong.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The discussion is divided into four parts based on the four stages proposed by Bhaskar. Linguistics analysis is included to support the four stages analysis.

Focusing upon a social wrong in its semiotic aspects

Social wrong can be understood as social practice that is wrong. Social practice itself refers to daily practice and performed habitually in society (Holtz, 2014). Wrong here means the things that are against human rights, such as the right for living, equality, justice, freedom, and so on. Thus, social wrong is the habitual activities that are against human rights. In this case, the social wrong found in the speech is the discrimination especially the termination of Down Syndrome fetus. This termination is actually intended not only by the parents but also institutions of state, including the government and even the health ministers. It is against the right for living since they are not allowed to be born. This discrimination toward down syndrome is shown by Charlotte's utterances in her speech, for example:

1. *Around the world, more than 90% of babies found to have Down Syndrome are aborted up to birth.*

This sentence can support the discrimination towards Down Syndrome. Charlotte uses the passive voice to show that Down Syndrome babies become the victim of the abortion. She also thematizes the phrase *around the world* to emphasize that the discrimination, especially the termination, has happened globally. She even mentions the percentage to prove the cruelty of the world toward down syndrome. Based on the sentence above, we can observe her intention to highlight the discrimination towards people with Down Syndrome that happens worldwide.

2. *Governments and health ministers are keen to get rid of us.*

This sentence can be analyzed using transitivity to show the meaning since the choice of words by Charlotte proves the discrimination. The sentence contains a relational process with the type intensive and material process. The carrier of this relational process are *governments and health ministers*. The relational process is *are*. The attribute is *keen*. Meanwhile, the material process is *to get rid of*. The goal is *us* referring to down syndrome people. The actor follows the first clause in the relational process which are the government and health

minister. Based on these two processes, it shows that governments and health ministers, as the actors, have intention and even hope to eradicate people with down syndrome.

3. *Some countries like the Netherlands have put a price tag on our heads.*

In this sentence, Charlotte uses the material process to support the fact that discrimination is real towards people with Down Syndrome. She uses the metaphor *put a price tag on our heads* to show that those countries, including the Netherlands, labelled people with Down Syndrome as “something” which has a price, not as “human beings” who should be treated fairly. The material process is in the words *have put* and the type is transformative, because the Actor is *some countries like the Netherlands* and the Goal is *a price tag*. *On our heads* is the circumstance of place. This sentence shows that people with down syndrome are seen as different compared to common people. They mark people with down syndrome so that they are able to see their differences.

The sentences above give the facts that Down Syndrome discrimination through abortion becomes the current issue that has to be concerned by the world. People with Down Syndrome as the one who is oppressed has to fight against big institutions such as governments who have control and authority over their state, people, and policies. If the desire of termination itself is justified by the government, it means that the government itself demands the cruel discrimination through abortion. Even the people who call themselves as human rights expert suggest the abortion if mother is indicated to have a down syndrome baby.

4. *People like Human Rights “expert” Ben-Achour says women should be made or forced to abort if the baby has Down Syndrome.*

The sentence above gives proof about the cruelty of people toward Down Syndrome babies. There are two processes found which are verbal process, which is the statement delivered by the people who call themselves human right experts, and material process, which is the action done by the mother under control of the human right expert itself. Here, Charlotte criticizes the attitude of people who call themselves as human rights experts. The question is whether it is proper to call them as human rights experts compared to their acts which are against human rights itself. Their acts do not reflect their appellation as human rights defenders. Here the material process shows that the actor is a woman with down syndrome fetus. There is an initiator here who is a human rights expert. This clause means that women are suggested and even forced to kill their baby. The human rights expert is the one who initiated this cruel act. Despite having intention from mother, there is insistence as well as pressure from other groups. Here we can see that some people use this appellation as justification. The utterance above is dangerous since there will be many people who believe what experts said. They are considered as true because of their appellation. Through this sentence, Charlotte wants to emphasize the cruelty of people by showing their commands to the world to eradicate Down Syndrome people.

Furthermore, this kind of termination is considered as an eugenics movement. Dyck (2014) states that this movement has a purpose to “exert power and surveillance over those families and individuals who did not suit the national or regional plan.” The Eugenics movement itself is controversial. Eugenics is about controlling the future, the ideology and practice of controlling of reproduction in the society (Garland-Thomson, 2017). The aim of Eugenics is to select breeding by thwarting reproduction containing genetic defects in order to improve, cure, and create a race that would be free from various diseases and disabilities (Güvercin & Arda, 2008). Thus the perfect breed will be kept alive and the down syndrome

babies will be eliminated. Unfortunately, for people with Down Syndrome, this eugenics movement is supported by their parents. Therefore, in her speech, Charlotte criticizes the mothers who terminate their babies when they know that their babies have Down Syndrome, as stated below:

5. *You can try to kill off everyone with Down Syndrome by using abortion but you won't be any closer to a perfect society.*
6. *You will just be closer to a cruel, heartless one in my opinion.*

Based on these sentences, Charlotte uses the subject *you*. It can be referred to the mothers who terminate the babies with Down Syndrome. The choice of *you* as the subject here can show her concern towards those, especially the parents, who believe that eugenics movement can make the society become better or perfect, as stated in the sentence number (5). Parents can choose whether they want to terminate their babies or not, but if they choose termination, then she believes that actually what they do will not bring them to what they want, which is a perfect society. She uses modality *will* to express her high certainty that for people with Down Syndrome, those who implement this movement actually will be cruel and heartless people in the future, as stated in the sentence number (6).

In addition, the termination actually has several steps. At first, parents, especially mothers, will be offered to have prenatal screening, particularly screening tests. Agnieszka et al. (2007) state that prenatal screening or diagnosis “enables early diagnosis of congenital anomalies and genetic disorders in utero” (p. 11). In this case, this is used to mark a woman who is positive for down syndrome and then prepare them for further tests (Anantakul, 2017). Unfortunately, prenatal screening often coaxes the couples by explaining the “advantages”, such as less medical complications, reduced economical costs to the health system, and minor emotional impact of the couple (Dominic-Gabriel & Roxana-Cristina, 2018). Then, if the baby has a high tendency to be a down syndrome baby, the next decision will be based on the mother and even the father, whether they want to continue the pregnancy and prepare for the birth or they do not want to continue and have termination. Sadly, looking at the situation in many countries such as the United States, Iceland, Denmark, United Kingdom, and Netherlands, the women will choose to terminate their down syndrome fetus after knowing the prenatal test result. This massive termination leads to the increasing number of babies who are aborted because of Down Syndrome. The data from de Graaf et al. (2014) shows that approximately, 3,500 Down syndrome-related elective pregnancy terminations were performed as of 2014 in the U.S. It is also stated there was a 33% reduction in the numbers of babies with Down syndrome born in 2014 (de Graaf et al., 2014). Compared to other research, a study by Lou et al. (2018) shows that in Denmark, if Down Syndrome is diagnosed, then the termination rates are high (>95%). Moreover, official figures shows that 2,879 Irish residents had an abortion in England and Wales in 2018. This happened because there is a new regulation for abortion to be legalized.

Since there are many women have made decision to terminate their down syndrome babies, it can be categorized as genocide. According to The United Nations (1951), genocide is acts such as killing members of the group, causing serious mental or body harm to members of the group, deliberately inflicting group condition causing physical destruction, imposing measures intended to prevent births within group, forcibly transferring a child from a group to another group, with the intention to destroy in whole or part national, ethnic, race, and so on. Since there are many down syndrome babies are killed, the population of Down Syndrome babies receive the genocide. The parents as well as the government who accept the

Down Syndrome abortion are called the perpetrator of genocide crime. They commit crimes against humanity. They systematically attack a group of people with down syndrome. They murder specific group and try to erase a specific group from world. This act is inhuman since they do not respect how valuable a life of a person is. The act of genocide is criticized by Charlotte in her speech by stating these sentences.

7. *But we must not close our eyes to the genocide that Down Syndrome face today.*

The mood of the clause is a declarative mood. There are two speech acts shown in the speech which are giving information and warning. She gives the facts that our world still does not care about the life of Down Syndrome. They still do not value someone's life. What they think is their own lives. When their own lives is normal as it is, they will stop thinking, and close their eyes and ears about others who are considered abnormal. They do not put this matter as a serious world problem that has to be discussed. Charlotte in this clause shows her attitude towards this matter. She uses modal "must" in the clause above. It shows an obligation for the world to do what she asks. The use of modal "must" has a high degree of obligation in which it has to be obeyed by the hearer. Thus, Charlotte shows high concern about what she said until the hearer has to obey it.

In her speech, Charlotte also uses some interrogative sentences such as:

8. *How is that not Eugenics?*

9. *How is that acceptable to target a group of human beings for extinction?*

10. *Is that not what genocide is*

These sentences contain interrogative mood which actually do not really mean that she does not understand the concept of Eugenics. Instead, she knows what Eugenics is, so by asking those questions, her actual purpose or intention is to bring people around to the concept that terminating babies with Down Syndrome is also considered as Eugenics. Moreover, it leads to the genocide. These questions are meant to lead the hearers to realize that people with Down Syndrome also deserve love, care, and respect, just like the other people. Moreover, she uses relational process to describe the attribute or quality that is carried by Eugenics and Genocide. Meaning to say, what acts that are considered and what acts that become Eugenics and Genocide. She also implies that people with Down Syndrome has become the victim of the social wrong for years in several countries, so by asking those questions and using relational process, she wants people to have the same way of thinking about the Eugenics towards people with Down Syndrome.

11. *Discrimination starts before birth and lasts our entire lives*

This sentence uses relational process with the type circumstantial to relate the term discrimination with the circumstances in which it happens. The circumstances here are before birth and also the Down Syndrome people's entire lives. It shows that termination is seen as a discrimination because it intentionally selects the "type" of human who will be born. However, even though some babies with Down Syndrome are born, they still have to face another discrimination in their lives.

Identifying Obstacles to Address The Social Wrong

This stage is done by explaining difficulties in finding the social wrong. There are three difficulties found. First, termination is considered as normal. Second, termination is considered as true. Third, society is a lack of awareness about the value of life.

The first difficulty is that many people have the same opinion about terminating babies with Down Syndrome, so it is considered as something usual in society. This opinion or way of thinking makes termination become something that is not taboo anymore. As a result, the number of cases related to the termination of babies with Down Syndrome is big. It can be seen in Charlotte's speech. Her speech, which was delivered in the United Nations, indicates that this opinion about terminating babies with Down Syndrome actually exists worldwide, as seen below:

12. *Around the world, more than 90% of babies found to have Down Syndrome are aborted up to birth.*

In this sentence, she mentions the percentage of babies who are aborted because their parents found them having Down Syndrome. This is the total number collected around the world. In the United States only, the number has been high as well, as proven by Ruth Marcus. She wrote her opinion in the Washington Post in 2018. She stated that:

13. *And I am not alone. More than two-thirds of American women choose abortion in such circumstances.*

From this sentence, Ruth Marcus validates her opinion that aborting babies with Down Syndrome is something usual among American women. Her statement implies that we should not be surprised if the number of termination is high due to Down Syndrome. For them, terminating babies with Down Syndrome is actually a common "activity" once they notice that their babies have Down Syndrome.

The second difficulty is that termination is considered as true. The high number of women as depicted by the percentage above shows that nothing is wrong with their acts. Even because it is considered as something right, they adore this act. This idea is shown in Charlotte's speech.

14. *Because, Eugenics is becoming a thing to admire.*

If something is considered wrong, it will not be praised by many people around the world. The high number of women who have done termination speaks that what they did is actually right. Even the government allows them to do it because normally, the government will ban something that is wrong in society and even punish them. This difficulty makes it hard to find the social wrong because many people believe that it is true. It is hard to change society's belief.

Moreover, many women believe that the point of prenatal testing is knowing the condition of her fetus before birth and the result will be the confirmation for them to terminate their down syndrome babies. Their opinion is actually wrong because they use the result of the prenatal test to justify their acts. It is proved by Ruth Marcus's articles in which her statements support this idea.

15. *Isn't that the point — or at least inherent in the point — of prenatal testing in the first place?*

The sentence above shows deep assumptions in women's mind about the function and purpose of prenatal tests. This is wrong because for them prenatal tests are used only to indicate whether their babies are down syndrome or not and then make a decision about their future fetus if it is indicated as down syndrome. Actually, the essential function of the prenatal test is used for monitoring the fetus not to make any cruel decision. Thus, the difficulty here means that there is a misconception about the purpose of prenatal tests.

The third difficulty is lack of society's awareness about the value of life. Many people think that babies with Down Syndrome are a burden to their families. They argue that people with Down Syndrome cannot work to make money on their own due to their limited intellectual capacity, so the families have to support the finance. It can be seen from Marcus's utterance:

16. *Most children with Down syndrome have mild to moderate cognitive impairment, meaning an IQ between 55 and 70 (mild) or between 35 and 55 (moderate). This means limited capacity for independent living and financial security; Down syndrome is life-altering for the entire family.*

From her utterance above, we can conclude that for the families who have people with Down Syndrome as one of their members, people with Down Syndrome can change their life, from the "ordinary" one to the challenging one. It is because they have to guarantee the things that people with Down Syndrome cannot do. Therefore, some people think that people with Down Syndrome will just be a duty that is hard to bear, so these people often want to "avoid" having children with Down Syndrome by aborting the babies even when they are still fetuses, because they do not want to be burdened by the responsibility in the future.

Society does not respect the value of individuals. Tragically, many parents only accept babies as what they wish and want. They reject babies with defects. Parents think that they are the one who have the full authority to make decisions about what they will have in the future. They do not see their babies as God-given who have to be received as they are. From this point of view, the parents will think that they are the oppressors and their babies are the oppressed ones. It is shown in Ruth Marcus' article when she said these sentences.

17. *I'm going to be blunt here: That was not the child I wanted. That was not the choice I would have made. You can call me selfish, or worse, but I am in good company.*

From Marcus' sentences, she shows her full power on deciding her future baby. The down syndrome baby has no value for them. Even Marcus admits herself as selfish since she does not appreciate their babies as grace in which actually they will give parents happiness also. This wrong assumption makes this social wrong hard to be found since they close their eyes toward down syndrome babies' value of life. If they respect life's value, they will respect any kind of living thing particularly human even though he or she has disabilities on learning like down syndrome people.

Considering whether the social order 'needs' the social wrong

The social order needs the social wrong because termination gives benefits for parents of down syndrome babies. Termination is seen as something positive. It improves human living

in that society. For them, by selecting the perfect breed, the quality of society will be better. For example, there will be many people who are able to work productively, so that they can earn money for their own living and financial security. Another example is that they are able to make achievements, since they can learn something normally.

However, these benefits take on one side. Actually they are manipulated to give benefits only for the parents. On the other hand, babies with Down Syndrome will be harmed because it can lead to death. This social wrong is made up for parents' purpose and importance. Parents' decision on termination is based on their selfishness. They want to be free from their responsibility of taking care of babies with Down Syndrome. For them, down syndrome babies are seen as a family burden. Therefore, they consider termination as the best and proper way to have a better life that will bring them to a perfect society.

Identifying possible ways past the obstacles

In order to overcome this social wrong, there are three possible ways that we can do in order to stop the extension of termination. First step starts from ourselves. Then, it goes to the action contributed by ourselves and society. Third step done by the external group that produces the policy about termination.

First step is changing our point of view about people with down syndrome. If today we have a bad point of view about down syndrome, it has to be changed into a better one. The basic one is seeing them as part of our society in which we are similar and have the same position in the society. After seeing them as the same people with us, we will accept them naturally as part of our society. They are just the same as common people. There is no difference between them. This solution is also offered by John Franklin Stephen, a representative of Down Syndrome people in The United Nations, when he delivered his empowering speech in The United Nations. His speech begins with these sentences:

18. *It begins with "I am a man." See me as a human being, not a birth defect, not a syndrome.*

In this sentence, Stephen wants society to see down syndrome people as common people. Even Stephen changes society's opinion, that actually by the existence of down syndrome people, they will give benefits to society such as what he mentioned below.

19. *First, we are a medical gift to society. Our extra chromosome makes us a blueprint for medical research in areas that include soft tissue cancer, heart disease, immune system disorders, and Alzheimer's disease.*

20. *Second, we are an unusually powerful source of happiness. A Harvard-based study has discovered that people with Down syndrome, their parents, their siblings, and people close to them are all happier than society at large.*

21. *Third, we are the canary in the eugenics coal mine. Genomic research is not going to stop at screening for Down syndrome.*

From his utterances, he mentions that down syndrome gives advantages to the medical research in which its genetics can be analyzed and contributed to improve human health and well-being. Moreover, the genetics model of down syndrome is used to protect people from tumors. Thus, by studying their causes of down syndrome, it does not mean that they have to be terminated, but gives prevention for the future condition. Therefore, the budget for down syndrome research in the medical area is suggested to be improved. Stephen also proves that

down syndrome people give happiness to their parents because usually they are humorists. Last, Stephen actually mentioned that down syndrome gives advantage in termination because they are seen as a sign or warning to evaluate the doctor's action in which their actions are considered as right or not.

Beyond their limitations, they are also human beings who want to be treated as others. Stephen adds:

22. *I don't need to be eradicated. I don't need to be cured. I need to be loved, valued, educated and, sometimes, helped.*

As part of our society, we are expected to care for them. We cannot be ignorant to our own society. We have to pay attention also to the problems that are faced by our society. Charlotte warns us through her utterances in her speech:

23. *But we must not close our eyes to the genocide that Down Syndrome face today.*
24. *We must not pretend it isn't happening*

What down syndrome faces today is not a problem only for down syndrome people but also as the world's concern. Thus, the first step is actually a basic step that starts from our own selves but it will give big impacts to the life of down syndrome people.

Secondly, the contributions of overcoming the social wrong can be from the cooperation between us and society. The contributions are in the form of real actions done by many elements, especially the parents. Therefore, the parents are the key figures to make these solutions come true.

Due to health and employment problems, Charlotte and Stephen mention some needs that facilitate Down Syndrome people. For employment issue, they mentioned:

25. *Send us to school with everyone else.*
26. *Provide job training and coaches until we learn to work on our own.*
27. *We need to be employed. We need to receive training so we can work.*

The first thing needed by people with Down Syndrome is education. They wish for an equal chance to get a good education with the other children. Besides, by getting the same level of education, they believe that people with Down Syndrome can develop their skills and potential. The second need mentioned is about giving them the facilitations such as job training and courses that can help them develop themselves, so that at the end, they can work on themselves too, without depending on other people, especially their families. For example, they can get a coach that will teach them about writing, so that they can learn how to produce texts such as short stories or articles. Later on, when they have developed their potential in certain skills, they are ready to be employed, for example in a newspaper company, either as a freelancer or a permanent employee.

For health issue, Stephen's mentioned:

28. *Provide training to parents and babies as soon as possible.*
29. *Provide medical care, eye exams and glasses.*

The health issue cannot be separated from down syndrome people. They might not be as healthy as others. They are suspected to have heart and gastrointestinal disorders. They also have

low life expectancy in which the range is only between 50-60 years old. Another information from Hill et al. (2003) shows that testicular, liver and stomach cancers are more common as causes of death of Down Syndrome people (as cited in Bittles, Bower, Hussain, & Glasson, 2006). Thus, as soon as the baby is born, the training has to be given to the parents as well as the babies so that parents will be able to take care of their babies and be wise to take medical action about their babies. Parents are expected to be taught to give the suitable treatment to their babies. For example, if their babies give signs of having a particular illness, such as poorer muscle tone, their parents have to bring them to the doctor to have an electrocardiogram check. Moreover, down syndrome people's health has to be monitored. Thus, they need medical care continually. They have to be brought to the doctor continually. Thus, their development about health is seen. Some facilities such as glasses and eye exams have to be provided so that they will be easier to do their work and activities.

The last step is about making the policies to manage the law about termination. It is related to the governors, because they are the ones who can regulate the rules. In this case, Charlotte asks the governors to protect people with Down Syndrome, as stated below:

30. *We need laws that protect us from eugenic abortions.*

31. *We need laws like those passed in Ohio and other American states than ban abortions for Down's syndrome.*

From these two sentences, she begs the governors to do the same thing as in the United States. She wants the governors to ban termination for babies with Down Syndrome, because she realizes the importance of their lives. She believes that by the help from the government, it will be more possible to give equal chances for babies with Down Syndrome to be born and enjoy their lives.

Moreover, she also states that the United Nations also have important roles in this case. She mentions some actions that can be done by the United Nations in order to stop the termination around the world, as stated below:

32. *If the United Nations is really serious about human rights then they will start to act and condemn eugenics against my community.*

33. *If the United Nations is to be taken seriously then they will create sanctions against countries practicing eugenics.*

34. *They need to start with Iceland, Denmark, Netherlands and the United Kingdom.*

35. *They need to put an end to the genocide against people with Down Syndrome.*

The first two statements show that she provides some solutions for the United Nations. The solutions are about rebuking the abortion and give sanctions to those who abort the babies with Down Syndrome. The penalty has to be severe so that the mother will rethink their decision. Moreover, the last two utterances show her requests for the United Nations to take action, starting from the countries where termination is mostly done. Interestingly, she mentions Iceland as the first country because she knows that the number of terminations, especially related to Down Syndrome, is very high. This is supported by Carr (2019) who states that "according to the Down Pride advocacy group, almost every Icelandic fetus diagnosed with Down syndrome has been aborted since 2008" (as cited in Kara, 2020, p. 174). She also emphasizes her idea that the United Nations has to stop the Eugenics towards people with Down Syndrome, because she believes that if the United Nations can be firm in

regulating the policies about termination, many lives can be saved and genocide can be stopped.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, from Charlotte's speech, the social wrong found in society is termination towards Down Syndrome babies. This social wrong is quite difficult to be identified since it is considered as something normal and true. Moreover, society's lack of awareness about the value of life contributes to making this social wrong hard to be spotted. However, the social order needs the social wrong because it gives benefits only for one side, so it is manipulated for their concern. To prevent the expansion of social wrong in society, some possible ways can be addressed such as changing our opinion to be better, taking real actions in the matters of health and employment, and making policies that protect people with Down syndrome.

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