Language Deprivation: Hearing People

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Estimates have varied in studies of individuals who are Deaf and have language deprivation. In mental health inpatient settings, the numbers have been cited as high as **75%** (Black & Glickman, 2006).

Sanjay Gulati listed **five known cases** of **severe** language deprivation (alingual) **among the hearing population** (Genie, Kasper Hauser, Anna, Isabelle, Victor) over the last three centuries. When these occur, they receive a lot of attention from the scientific community.

One such case is the story of Genie Wiley. She was isolated, abused, and not spoken to for most of her childhood. She was finally rescued in 1970 at the age of 13. Researchers and psychologists set out to see if they could teach her language. Over time, she could speak limitedly, but was **never able to develop grammar or abstract concepts**. After being placed in foster homes who were unprepared for dealing with a **linguistically deprived child**, she lost most of the language she had acquired.

An example of her language, **at its best**, follows:


Researchers believe that it is extremely difficult to learn a complete language after certain development stages.

These challenges severe language deprivation may be a rarity within the hearing population, but are **much more common within the deaf population**, when the person has been denied the opportunity to acquire language. Gulati indicated that he saw deaf people with significant language deprivation **daily**. Due to the rarity of the experience within the hearing population, hearing professionals, working with deaf clients who have experienced significant language deprivation, are often unprepared for the implications of this and have a difficult time even understanding the concept.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yy_K6VtHJw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yy_K6VtHJw) and [https://www.ranker.com/list/facts-about-genie-wiley/laura-allan](https://www.ranker.com/list/facts-about-genie-wiley/laura-allan)

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