

Audio Essay Script

Chooses an abstraction: **speech fluency (stuttering)**

Speech, communication, simply talking is a human trait used to express ourselves. This trait comes in two forms, being fluent and being disfluent and today I wanna focus on the abstraction of disfluency... but more specifically the lively phenomenon that is stuttering.

If one possesses a 'stutter' they will be diagnosed as having a speech disorder, also, known as a disfluency. It is said that around 5% of people worldwide have a stutter. There are various forms of stuttering but our focus is social science, the science of behavioral... the science of developmental stuttering. Now let's get the basic 'medical' facts of stuttering down; the causes of developmental stuttering is unknown there are claims that genetics may be involved, or any psychological trauma can also be a contributor. Developmental stuttering usually begins during childhood around the ages 2-4 and either can progress or decrease throughout your life time.

Scientific practices of the abstractions: "Science has some interesting opinions on the effects and so called 'treatment' that is needed."

- The American speech language hearing association says that a stutter is something that can be simply identified and diagnosed because it is so easy to spot in one's communication. Thought in some cases it can be more difficult and a pathologist is used for diagnosis in those cases
- Some basic tools used to analyze the stutter during a diagnosis would be identifying; a family history of stuttering, how long his stutter has developed for, is any other disorders are in play, and any fears the parents have about the stutter. → ALSO, they state that there is no tool which can identify if a child's stutter will continue.
- Oral communication therapy is used to IMPROVE communication but it is not a cure. there is no cure. → activities within treatment are learning to control your speech, how fast how slow you speak, monitor your rates, analyze any psychological attributes to the stutter and reduce them such as tenseness. Also, follow-ups and maintenance sessions are used to prevent a 'relapse.'

Joshua St. Pierre: Research

Once conducting my research, I came across some amazing articles done by Joshua St. Pierre department of philosophy at University of Alberta, Edmonton Canada, that highlight the disabled speaking body. In his 1st article titled "Crippling Communication Speech, Disability, and Exclusion in Liberal Humanist and Posthumanist Discourse" I came across some points that struck me. He starts off by addressing the "universal speaker" – which he feels is a term that puts boundaries around the human species → one I completely agree with, there is a fence that guards the specific traits it's that "we" believe creates the "normal" human, speech is a huge part of that.

He then goes on to discuss points on stuttering, our phenomenon being discussed. He states that a stuttering voice is not outright rejected compared to an intellectually disabled being but still is categorized. We then go deeper into research and begin learning terms such as "universal citizen" and the "right voice" and Joshua then touches on how the feeling of one

having speak in the RIGHT way and feels the burden to belong to the tradition of the universal citizen, the norm. he points out that many other researchers argue that having the right voice is a necessary sign of membership to fit in a group or people.

I wanna dig deeper into the concept of how there is a universal speaker we the burden of fitting in. Society, science, humanity places stuttering outside the norm, and it goes as deep as being considered an outsider, unintelligent, even as far as “useless”. Then the emotions that ‘the world’ believes are linked to people that have a disfluency begins, these emotions consist: shy, embarrassed, depressed and nervous. Because of this ‘norm’ the world tells the disabled speaking body that it will not live a life with a career or fulfilment because the ‘normal’ level of speech is not meet. -> there shows to be a fear of the disabled or anything different of that matter today, we’ve been told and raised o believe in the universal normal human when humanity comes in variation... Joshua address and emphasizes variation, variation of humanity, and how the disabled body is no less normal the ‘norm human’ that we have created. → he then points out how many believe that speech must have control to be the norm’ but that even the regular person has an occurrence of a stutter or any vocal disruption when speaking → meaning that communication is unstable not something that can be fenced and bounded.”

Drama – “The stigma that revolves around stuttering is astonishing, society believes that if you possess a stutter you experience emotions such as; shyness, anxiety, embarrassment, lack of self-confidence, and even as extreme as depression. Also, stuttering is not an issue that restricts you from living but it is known by science that it can ‘complicate communication’. It goes as far as people are being diagnosed for stuttering by a certified speech language pathologist.

How does the world kick back?

- Actors: Nicole Kidman, Julia Roberts, Emily Blunt,
- Singers: Ed Sheeran – therapy didn’t work for me, I decided to just embrace my weirdness my quirks, rap music helped me deal with my stutter, signing helped me, I just started to relax and realize it isn’t a big deal if I stutter → NOW well known artist.
- Nina G “the comedian who also stutters” → she is known to be a fearless stand-up comedian who does stutter on stage with NO hesitation. She uses the phrase “it’s not a bug, it’ a feature” → relating it back to how Steve jobs argues that the lack of one feature in the iPhone wasn’t a bug but intact a feature to create a longer lasting battery, she uses this to explain her stutter, it isn’t a bug, it isn’t a restriction but more of a feature. She completely owned it and built her career thru it. →the history of Nina G also discussed how she was bullied throughout her life as a child for this disfluently, just like how many others are too this day, but her family was super supportive and loving they stood up for her and cheered her on never trying to change her, she stated that her parents didn’t believe there was anything wrong with her nothing needed to be ‘fixed’. She continued her journey as a stutterer but still felt this film of control over her, as she grew older she wouldn’t speak out as much because she knew what people would think but it all change when she attended a National stuttering association seminar and that changed her life, she decided that the stutter didn’t define her that she could pursue her career as a comedian that she would persevere because her stutter wasn’t a bug, it was a feature and that she did, Nina G is now a well-known successful comedian stuttering on.

In Conclusion:

Strength comes with variation, something humanity, and science have yet to learn. Stuttering is just one form of variety we have, embrace it. Thank you.