

Exp. Design Worksheet

Name: _____

Dubbed the “monster study”, an experiment was conducted by speech expert Wendell Johnson, led in part by graduate student Mary Tudor Jacobs in 1939. Johnson believed that stuttering was a learned behavior, attributed to outside factors such as constant criticism from a parent to its child for even the slightest speech imperfections. 22 orphan children with no prior speech impediment were chosen for the experiment. Wendell’s goal was to induce the disorder in the orphans.



The 22 orphans were randomly assigned to one of two “**speech therapy**” groups. One group of orphans received praise for good speech, ‘**positive speech therapy**’, whereas the other group was belittled, badgered and told they were stutterers, ‘**negative speech therapy**’. By the end of the study, none of the test subjects in the negative therapy group became stutterers, but the experience caused them low self-esteem and irreparable damage.

Questions

1. Identify the experimental units in this study.
2. Identify the Factor.
3. What are the Treatments?
4. What Response did they record from each experimental unit at the end of the study? Is this Response Quantitative or Categorical?
5. Why is this an experiment and not an observational Study? Explain in one (1) sentence.
6. Is this study Ethical? Explain. *hint: What if the hypothesis about stuttering had been true?*