Monster Study
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Elizabeth Gartman

Soprano 1
Soprano 2
Viola
Violoncello

Texts compiled by Susan Bywaters and Elizabeth Gartman from Mary Tudor’s graduate thesis in 1939, later made public by the University of Iowa and a public domain article by San Jose Mercury News. Additional text written by composer. Sources below:


In 1939, Dr. Wendell Johnson of the University of Iowa performed an experiment on orphan children to test the origins of stuttering. Johnson struggled with stuttering throughout childhood and spent his entire adult life attempting to “cure” the impediment. Johnson enlisted graduate student Mary Tudor to conduct his study. Under Johnson’s supervision, Mary spent six months verbally interacting with twenty-two children ages five through fifteen at a Davenport orphanage. The experiment was unsuccessful, however, as there were no trends to be found among the children’s patterns of speech other than those brought on by newly found self-consciousness. The experiment was kept hidden to protect Dr. Johnson’s reputation in the wake of experiments conducted by the Communist community during World War II. In 2001, the San Jose Mercury News led an investigation ultimately exposing the “Monster Study” and resulting in a million-dollar settlement paid to the six remaining orphans from Mary’s study.

The musical work Monster Study calls attention to the effect of labeling other people. In this horrific study, it was not the speech exercises but rather the label “stutterer” that caused the victims to struggle to speak at all. For 22-year-old female student Mary it was the label of “monster” that shunned her from the scientific community, regardless of the fact her much older, male professor orchestrated the entire experiment. Both the orphans and Mary were “silenced,” and unable to live out the rest of their lives as planned. In 2003, Gretchen Reynolds of the New York Times reported: “Only now, at a remove of decades, can we begin to digest and appreciate what the Tudor study tells us about the origins of speech defects, as well as the ethics of science, the brittleness of children, and the egos of driven men.” This is Monster Study from Mary’s perspective.
Here's freely and warm —

Text collected by Susan Bywaters and Elizabeth Gartman from public domain articles and Mary Tudor's graduate thesis, published by the University of Iowa. Additional text written by Elizabeth Gartman.

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fa-der bear, here's ma-der bear, here's ba-by bear. Fa-der bear is look-in' at the pa-per, an' ma-der bear is

knit-tin', ba-by bear is play-in' blocks. The three bears come home an'

"Stut-ter-er" we labelled them
who had been labelled stutterer stutterer the st
who had been who'd been labelled stutterer by in
based on pointed and fricative
based on based on
Monster Study

S 1

\text{nion. the or-phan-age\_} \text{child-ren child-ren A A B B}

S 2

\text{tu-the or-phan-age. There were twenty-two twenty-two groups one two one two}

Vla.

Vc.

\text{stut-ter-ers stut-ter-ers normal normal fifteen fifteen}

S 2

\text{group one group one group two group two age five to five to}

Vla.

Vc.
all or - phan children
twen - ty two
twen - ty two

all or - phans
There were
twen - ty two, I was
twen - ty two, I was

with vib., suddenly warmer
(lift)

20 twen - ty two

with vib., suddenly warmer
(lift)

when Pro - fessor Wen - dell John son asked me to do the
It was a small price to pay for science.

study under his supervision

Group one - A consisted of five "stutterers"

An attempt was made to re-
sul to, alt.
pressure on bridge
illustrated:

ord.
Many children have the problems you're having. In a short while you'll be speaking well. In the case of Group B, the judges endorsed the label.

sul tasto, alt. pressure on bridge illustrated: sul A

sul tasto, alt. pressure on bridge illustrated: sul D
How long, how long have you stuttered? What happened that caused you to stutter?

Group two - consisted of six normal speakers complemented on their speaking ability

sul tasto, alt.
pressure on bridge
illustrated:
You speak very well.

In Group two-A judges attached the label "stuttering" to six normal speakers.

The staff has come to the conclusion that you are beginning to stutter. Don't speak un-
Don't speak unless you can do it right.

Don't speak. Don't speak. Don't.

After six months of study the results were clear:

Almost robotic, straight tone when possible.
They appeared shy and embarrassed, shy and embarrassed.

Almost robotic, straight tone when possible

They spoke more slowly. Some hung their heads, others covered their mouths, their mouths. Battuto fade to ord.

Shy appeared a... But there was no change in pattern

Spoke slowly... Spoke slowly... mah oh-ah... But there was no change in pattern

With vib. beginning to realize...
of speech for a-ny group.

Pro-fes-sor John-son's theo-ry was wrong.

What they won't (t)tell you is

What they won't (t)tell you is my Pro-fes-sor Wen-dell John-son ne-ver pub-lished

thin and straight

full sound, with despair

full sound, with despair
the experiment like he did for his other students.

What they won't tell you is that I went back three times after the experiment to provide psychological help to the

highest pitch

thin and straight

full

slap pizz.
try
- ing to for - try - to - get. for-get for-get mon-ster, mon-ster...

try - ing to for-get, ing - for - try - ing, try-mon-ster, mon-ster....
It seemed like a small price to pay for science.

二十 two. I was only twenty-two.

a tempo

whisper:

like a small price to pay for science.