

Children's Openness with Stepparents in Building Family Harmony: Case Study in Yogyakarta

Suciati, Alin Rizki Amita

Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta

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Abstract: This research is a research of openness between children and stepparents. The purpose of this study is to describe in detail the openness of children with stepparents in building family harmony in Yogyakarta. The importance of this research is that if there is no openness in a stepfamily, it will lead to conflicts that lead to death. The theory used as material for data analysis is the theory of social penetration. This research method uses descriptive qualitative data collection techniques through in-depth interviews. Informant retrieval technique using purposive sampling technique, and triangulation of sources as a test of data validity. The data analysis technique went through several stages, namely data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion. This study found that the pair of informants I, DS & NR, and the pair of informants II, AP & SM had reached the stage of stable exchange. In the stable exchange stage, the couple's relationship is very intimate and there is no awkwardness at all between the two. The topic of conversation at this stage has led to personal things. As for the informant pair III, DA & VM only reached the stage of exploring affective exchange because DA felt that he was not open to VM and told VM about daily activities and when there was a need. Several factors that influence the stages of the relationship include cultural differences, gender, and personality neuroticism. Increasing conversations and increasing compatibility is the solution to the problem of children's openness with their stepparents.

Keywords: Openness, stepchildren, stepparent, stable exchange stage, an affective exchange exploration stage

I. Introduction

A family is a place where children grow to live. Therefore, the family is the first place of socialization for a child. Socialization in the family that is accustomed since childhood will lead to an attitude of openness in a child so communication between parents and children is one form of socialization in the family. On the other hand, parents have a responsibility to educate their children. In achieving the success of balanced communication between parents and children, two-way communication must be carried out so that there is a common understanding between the two parties. Parents and children must have the same understanding that both have the right to express opinions, thoughts, information, or advice (Suciati, 2019).

Kriswanto (incite Nurulita & Setyaraharjo, 2014) stated that communication patterns that are carried out openly, always provide support between family members, and provide a sense of security and comfort will indirectly form a family that functions optimally. Open communication in the family is one of the keys to harmony. If there is no openness, then family members will continue to keep what they feel which will cause a physical conflict or inner conflict in the future. Conflicts in the family are of various types, ranging from minor conflicts to severe conflicts that lead to divorce.

Every family, in general, must long for a lasting marriage for a lifetime. But in reality, fostering a lasting and happy marriage is not as easy as imagined. In the middle of the road, a marriage will surely meet with a conflict caused by incompatibility between each others. Not a few couples who already have a child choose to divorce. The impact of divorce is the survival of a child. If the child victim of a divorced parent or often known as a broken home has entered adolescence, the impact that will be obtained by the child is a psychological impact that affects mental health. According to Hurlock (in Huda, 2016), a teenager is someone who has not been able to be given full responsibility for living independently but individually has left a weak and dependent childhood. Parents must be able to provide understanding efforts to children through positive communication so that children do not feel the burden alone because teenagers tend to be easily emotional and very unstable.

Not only divorce but a marriage can also be separated due to the death of one of the partners. The death of a spouse is certainly not easy for both women and men to accept. In addition, the death of a spouse will also cause problems in the community, such as the negative stigma of society regarding widow status, the economy, and so on (Zulfiana, 2003). Couples who are separated due to divorce or abandoned due to death will of course object to meeting their own needs, especially if they already have children. One way out or solution to ease the fulfillment of these needs is remarriage.

Remarriage is someone who has been married but failed either because of divorce or death, then at a certain time is pushed again to try to rebuild the household by remarrying (Suparman, 2017). Remarriage can help adjustment, not only to get a partner to live together again, but with remarriage, it will improve the family's economy, especially for a woman. Remarriage will direct the individual to positive things and adjustments to get a better meaning in life.

The motives that influence a person to remarry are to get a sense of love and affection, to fulfill biological needs, economic/financial factors, to prioritize ethics, morals, and social norms, children's education factors, and to obtain social status in social life (Maiaweng, 2017). The facts on the ground prove that the tendency of men to remarry is higher than that of women. The following expression is a description of the reality that occurs in society in general that men who have just been divorced or widowed are very open to the idea of remarrying. But women with the same condition, are less likely.

In realizing a harmonious and happy remarriage, it is necessary to make adjustments first. In this case, the adjustment between the child and the stepparent also needs to be considered. A child who has a new parent where position replaces the role of one of his biological parents will bring up different acceptance conditions for each individual who experiences it. Some are easy to accept, and some are difficult to accept (Yusuf & Agus, 2019).

One of the consequences of remarriage is the possibility of becoming a stepparent of the child's spouse. According to Shrifter (in Khalika, 2018), two factors influence children in accepting the presence of stepparents. Gender and character factors determine whether children can accept and adjust to the presence of stepparents. Shrifter explained that boys tend to easily accept stepparents, while girls find it more difficult because they feel threatened by the presence of stepparents.

The presence of stepparents in a family is not what a child wants. Moreover, there is a stigma about stepparents that is widely circulated in the community that stepparents are evil. The existence of this stigma comes from the film Cinderella which tells of a stepparent, especially a cruel mother. Efforts must be made to change the stigma of evil stepparents, there needs to be an approach between parents and stepchildren. One such approach is openness. Openness is one of the factors that affect the effectiveness of the interpersonal communication process (Suciati, 2019). Youniss & Smollar (in Arifin, 2018) stated that adolescent self-disclosure to parents is usually related to daily life such as school, future goals, and other social matters.

On the other hand, the impact of the lack of openness between children and stepparents will lead to interpersonal conflicts as presented in the following table:

Table 1. Cases of StepParents and Children Due to Lack of Disclosure

Number.	Case	Resource	Description
1.	Persecution Father to His Stepdaughter (2018)	kompas.com	The stepfather began to torture by hitting the head five times until the child was unconscious and fell into a coma.
2.	Daddy Kills His Stepdaughter (2019)	beritasatu.com	Father tortures his stepdaughter with an annoying motive and often provokes his emotions. The torture ends in death.
3.	Year-old boy kills his stepmother (2020)	tribunnews.com	Stepmother tortures her stepdaughter who was found dead in a state of bruising due to objects blunt that his stepmother had done.
4.	Father Abused Stepchildren in front of their biological mother until she pregnant (2021)	regionalkompas.com	The act of molesting the father to his stepdaughter was carried out several times until the peak led to the pregnancy of the stepdaughter.
5.	Mother's Cruelty Steps of Child Abuse in Sukabumi (2021)	newsdetik.com	Six-year-old boy abused by her stepmother ranging from strangulation to scalding hot water.

Resource: Researcher Documentation on July 25, 2021

The intimacy that has been established between the child and the stepparent will create a harmonious family. According to Nick (in Mawarni, 2017), a harmonious family is a place where it contains fun and positive things in life because family members have got various ways to treat each other well. They can get each other's support, family love, and unlimited loyalty, and can talk to each other with mutual respect and enjoyment among family members. The tips for forming a harmonious family are being honest with each other, being honest and open with family members, trying to create a pleasant atmosphere for each other, avoiding selfish and emotional attitudes, prioritizing togetherness in the family, being wise and firm in dealing with problems, and giving full attention to children (Cermaticcom, 2020).

Some of the results of research on openness conducted by several scholars include: Agyta (2018) found the results that in general, a young woman who is in a relationship with her stepmother will not have problems. However, it was only a minor conflict where the informant felt that his stepmother was too controlling, but so far this has been handled well. Yusuf & Agus (2019) found that in building trust, of course, every family has a different way. The experience of interpersonal communication that continues to be repeated between parents and stepchildren will be very influential in building interpersonal trust. Meanwhile, research conducted by Muhtar (2018) found the fact that the relationship between the father and stepdaughter that is established can be said to be fine. This is because the father considers his stepdaughter like his biological child so interpersonal communication is well established. In realizing a harmonious family between fathers and stepchildren, it can be started by changing the perspective of cruel stepparents. Thus the formulation of the problem can be described as follows: "How is a child's self-disclosure to his stepparents in building a harmonious relationship? The purpose of this study is to describe in detail the stages of self-disclosure of children to their stepparents along with what factors influence the level of relationship that occurs between them. This question will be answered by an analysis based on the theory of social penetration put forward by Altman and Taylor to find the level of relationship that was successfully built by the informant through self-disclosure.

II. Research Method

This research is included in the type of qualitative descriptive research. A qualitative approach is scientific research that aims to understand phenomena in a social context by involving a deep communication interaction process between researchers and the subject to be studied (Heradiansyah, 2014). Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the author conducted a study to find out in detail the status of symptoms in a family relationship. This study intends to describe and see how the openness that exists in interpersonal relationships between children and stepparents in building family harmony. This research was carried out in 2021 by taking research subjects, namely stepchildren and stepparents according to predetermined characteristics. The data collection technique in this study was in-depth interviews with 3 pairs of informants. They are a child-stepparent pair: DS-NR, AP-SM, and DA-VMT. The research location was carried out in Yogyakarta as a region in Indonesia with several unique cases of child-stepparent relationships. This study used a purposive sampling technique and the data validity test was conducted using the source triangulation method. Triangulation of sources is the use of two or more sources to get a comprehensive picture of a phenomenon to be studied to test the truth of the related information that has been given. The data analysis technique is done by interactive analysis. The uniqueness of this research compared to previous research can be seen from the periodization of the study. This research was conducted in 2021 by conducting in-depth interviews with three pairs of informants of varying gender (daughter & stepfather, daughter & stepmother, son & stepmother). The categorization of the discussion is viewed from the stage of relationship development, the factors that influence openness, and the impact of openness with an analytical knife from social penetration theory.

III. Results and Discussion

1. Level of Relationship Development

Altman and Taylor (in Suherman, 2020) say that every interpersonal relationship always experiences gradual relationship development. Relationships that were initially shallow, awkward, not intimate with intense communication gradually developed into a more intimate relationships. This social penetration theorist argues that self-disclosure or openness is one of the relationships that are not intimate to intimate.

The development of relationships according to Kramer (in Novianti, 2019) occurs in two stages. The first stage is the formation stage which in this stage is usually called the introduction stage. After two or more individuals are acquainted with each other, of course, they will undergo a communication process such as asking for identity or small talk. According to Adolf and Rodman (in Angelia, 2014) a relationship is still said to be not intimate because it is in the early stages of a communication relationship, which is like pleasantries.

The second stage is the confirmation stage. In the confirmation stage, two or more individuals already know each other. Relationship development in the affirmation stage has begun to be intimate which is characterized by patience, agreement,

promptness of response, and the right emotional tone. This is in line with the findings of the three pairs of informants in the approach to the relationship between children and stepparents which begins with small talk and self-identity disclosure first. In social penetration theory, the existence of pleasantries and self-identity disclosure is the initial stage in a relationship or is called the orientation stage. At the orientation stage, children and stepparents reveal little about themselves. They tend to be awkward and still very careful in speaking and acting (West & Lynn, 2008).

In the pair of informants 1, DS & NR (stepfather), DS made a self-disclosure at the beginning of the meeting by making small talk. The pleasantries carried out by DS are by telling stories. DS told about things that happened at school such as difficulties in doing assignments, DS would ask NR for help to help him. In addition, DS revealed himself to NR by telling him that he was a stubborn child, likes to snack, and when he is sick his medicine is to eat goat satay. AP informant in revealing himself to SM (stepmother) with pleasantries about general things. As for the general things, SM asked about AP's brother and SM asked what AP's favorite food was. In addition to small talk, AP revealed by saying that he did not like being yelled at and scolded. The DA informant in revealing himself to VM (stepmother) also spoke pleasantly about his daily activities and needs. When DA was in junior high school and was about to take part in camping activities, DA asked VM to prepare the luggage he would bring. DA reveals himself to VM also by saying that he has an egg allergy and a dust allergy.

The second stage in the social penetration theory is the exchange stage of affective exploration. At this stage, a person's self-disclosure has begun to emerge. At this stage, the stepchildren have begun to feel comfortable telling stories about themselves to their stepparents (West & Lynn, 2008). According to research conducted by Naibaho (2020), at this stage stepchildren begin to show their personality to stepparents and use more personal languages. The sense of caution in this stage begins to decrease so that individuals will be more spontaneous in establishing communication. According to Jack R. Gibb (in Zuhria, 2013) spontaneity is a person who is open about what he is thinking.

At the affective exchange stage, DS has started to tell stories not only about school, but more than that, namely friendship problems, work problems, and telling about their daily activities. Even DS has trusted NR as a place for him to complain when he is tired of working. DS's spontaneity to NR was in the form of pleasantries by asking NR if he brought gifts for him after work. At the affective exchange stage, the AP informant began to tell things that he thought were personal. The story revolves around friendship problems to love problems. Spontaneity between AP and SM occurred when they were out for a walk and AP saw something good, he immediately asked SM to buy it. In this stage, DA begins to tell about activities at school to romance problems. When DA's necessities are exhausted, such as shampoo, soap, or even damaged clotheslines, DA does not hesitate to ask VM. Spontaneity between the DA and the VM by asking questions such as where the VM is neat, where to go, today's car is used or not, and so on.

The third stage in the theory of social penetration is the stage of affective exchange. The stage of affective exchange is intimate. Communication efforts at this stage are already very intimate, open, and ongoing (West & Lynn, 2008). The findings in a study conducted by Naibaho (2020) said that at this stage the individual already felt very comfortable. One of the characteristics in this stage is a sense of comfort. They understand each other and understand each other. Even at this stage, there are already pros and cons, if there are individual attitudes that are not pleasing, then they dare to express each other.

DS informant said that when there was a trait of NR that he didn't like, DS conveyed it directly to NR. Like when NR was nosy to DS by throwing paper while DS was watching TV, DS immediately told NR that he didn't like to be disturbed. Likewise, NR, when there is a DS trait that NR doesn't like, NR conveys it directly. As DS has a rude attitude, NR immediately rebukes DS that the woman should be gentle and should not be rude. In expressing the cognitive aspect, SM reprimanded AP directly if there was an inappropriate attitude. Like when AP always wakes up at noon, SM does not hesitate to reprimand AP that the girl is not good at getting up during the day.

The DA informant revealed that he rarely revealed the cognitive aspect to the VM. Meanwhile, VM expresses the cognitive aspect by reprimanding DA when there is an inappropriate attitude, for example when DA is littering, at that moment VM does not hesitate to immediately reprimand DA that boys must maintain cleanliness by throwing garbage in its place.

The fourth or final stage in the theory of social penetration is the stage of the stable exchange. In the stable exchange stage, the communication that exists between stepchildren and stepparents is very open without any boundaries and feelings of awkwardness, so that at this stage we have reached the level of synchronous intimacy (West & Lynn, 2008). Based on research conducted by Naibaho (2020), at this stage the individual will issue very private issues and he does not share them with just anyone.

DS informant with NR's stepfather has reached a stable exchange stage which is proven by DS no longer feeling awkward with NR. DS has been open to NR to the point of revealing privacy/individual issues, namely about romance. AP's

informant with SM's stepmother has also reached a stable exchange stage because AP has fully trusted SM to reveal privacy issues, namely romance without any shame or awkwardness. Meanwhile, the DA informant with VM's stepmother did not reach the stable exchange stage. DA himself revealed that he was less open with the VM. DA also still doesn't fully trust to open with VM because there is still a sense of awkwardness from within DA.

2. Factors Affecting Self-Disclosure

According to DeVito (in Naibaho, 2020) self-disclosure or self-disclosure is a form of communication that is shared with other people or interlocutors about self-quality, espoused values, and behavior. The longer and more intimate the relationship with someone, of course, the more open they will be with each other. Openness also adheres to the principle of willingness to listen to others. They also give each other honest reactions or feedback to partners which is one of the willingness in self-disclosure (Ascharisa & Anisa, 2020). The factors that influence self-disclosure are aspects of disturbance/noise, aspects of expression, feedback, nonverbal communication, and aspects of spontaneity.

1) Aspects of disturbance/ Noise

In interpersonal communication, everything that hinders the communication process is often called interference or noise. According to Shannon and Weaver (in Wiryanto, 2004) interference or noise in communication can occur if one of the communication elements there are interventions or obstacles so that the communication process does not take place effectively. Interpersonal communication disorders can be sourced from the sender or sender (differences in culture, knowledge, communication skills), message or message (the use of confusing words and sentences, unclear words and sentences conveyed), channel (not exactly the channel used either from the sender or the sender). as well as receivers, receivers or receivers (differences in culture, knowledge, communication skills), external disturbances such as motor sounds, distance, the sound of birds chattering, no signal, and so on (Liliweri, 2015).

According to Liliweri, disturbances in communication are classified into two, namely internal disturbances and external disturbances. Internal disturbances come from within the sender and receiver, for example, fatigue, lack of skill in speaking, differences in mindset, differences in cultural backgrounds, differences in knowledge, lack of interest in the message, problems at home, and past experiences. While external interference comes from outside the sender and receiver, for example distance, noise, environmental disturbances, poor signal.

In establishing interpersonal communication with her stepfather, DS has a problem. The disturbance comes from within DS. When DS was exhausted from a long day at work, he felt that he could not focus on communicating with NR. As for the AP experiencing external interference with SM. The external disturbance is caused by distance. In a full week, AP and SM do not live in the same house. While the internal disturbances of DA to VM are caused by differences in culture and gender.

Disturbances in the process of interpersonal communication can be balanced with adjustment. DS and NR informants must adapt to the internal characteristics of the DS. AP and SM informants have to adjust to the distance that hinders their communication. Meanwhile, DA and VM informants have to adapt to the existing cultural differences. Self-adjustment is a process so that interpersonal relationships can achieve balance where the balance will gradually become intimate when they understand each other (Yudha, 2019). In the otherhand, a husband and wife who remarry must be able to adjust to their spouse, children, family from both sides, and there needs to be mutual respect and acceptance of the conditions that are owned by the couple. Problem solving should be done by way of deliberation, maintaining emotions, and self-introspection. The implications of remarrying for family happiness will be felt by the couple, if the marriage is supported by the children of both parties (Anshori Syaf, Lutfi and Mulyadi, 2016).

2) Feedback

According to Cangara (in Oktarina & Yudi, 2017) feedback is a response from the recipient of the message to the sender of the message in the form of the results of the communication that has been built. Feedback can be in the form of positive feedback or negative feedback depending on the communicant interpreting the message. The researcher found that the three informants received feedback from their stepparents, namely supportive feedback. After talking to NR, DS got advice in the form of advice so that DS always took care of himself. AP informants received feedback from SM in the form of better advice and direction, such as when AP told about his girlfriend, SM advised him to be a loyal woman and not to change partners. Meanwhile, the DA informants received feedback from VM in the form of advice related to religion, such as having to always pray for and prioritize parents.

Supportive feedback means supporting what has been said by the sender of the message, such as giving advice (Torana, 2016). Meanwhile, according to DeVito (in Torana, 2016) supportive feedback is a form of support for what the speaker is telling.

The results of research conducted by Novianti et al., (2017) say that mutual support is one of the keys in interpersonal relationships where this role will lead to openness. By the findings in this study, the three informants used supportive feedback so that there was openness between them.

3) Expression Aspect

Expression is a form of nonverbal communication to express emotions both positively and negatively. Generally, the emotions that occur are happy, sad emotions, angry emotions, and fear emotions (Prawitasllri, 2016). One form of expression is the ability to listen when a partner speaks because one of the human skills is the ability to listen. Based on the results of research conducted by Rankin & Buner (in Ratnasari, 2007) 53% of human activity from waking up to sleeping again is to listen. According to DeVito (in Ratnasari, 2007) listening is an active process in receiving stimulation from partners or interlocutors. One listening technique is to express concern and feelings to a partner objectively.

The expression of the informant NR and informant SM after their stepdaughter tells the story is to listen and understand. If the story is a story that makes you happy, then the expressions of these two parents are also happy, and vice versa. The AP informant said that SM was very thorough and enthusiastic in listening to the story. According to AP, SM's expression is very supportive. When the story is annoying, then SM's expression is also annoyed. By actively listening to the stepchildren's story, it means that the stepparent understands, listens, and pays attention to the intonation so that the parent can capture the stepchild's heart well.

According to Gordon, clinical psychology of children (in Ratnasari, 2007), expressions of parental rejection of children will make children closed and do not want to share their stories with others. Examples of expressions of rejection are ignoring, criticizing too much, and getting reproach. Based on the results of the study, this happened to DA informants. DA revealed that when he talks with the VM, the VM's expression tends to be flat or less concerned. DA said that the story he shared with the VM was ordinary. An example is when DA tells about romance, according to VM, it is a natural and normal thing. In a relationship between children and parents, it is proper for children to want to be heard by their parents. DS and AP informants when telling stories, the expressions of their stepparents, namely NR and SM, always listen. While the DA informant when telling stories, the expression of his stepmother, VM, tends to be indifferent. As a child, of course, you need a parent who can listen to their story without judging them. Open communication always provides space for children to tell what they are experiencing (Rowen, Wilsher Dennis, et al., 2005 in Fensi, 2017).

4) Non Verbal Aspect

According to Larry and Richard (in Mulyana, 2016) nonverbal communication is a stimulus in the form of a signal in a communication message that has a potential message value to express feelings and without realizing that the message is a meaningful thing. The aspects of nonverbal communication are eye gaze, facial expressions, hand signals, voice intonation, speech style, color, and gestures (Pearson, 2003 in Purba, 2020:41).

These findings are in line with the three informants. DS and NR informants in communicating nonverbally by shaking hands, *proud*, nodding their heads, and voice intonation are both high. DS and NR are included in the types of nonverbal communication for illustrators, haptic, and volume vocalists. AP's nonverbal communication with SM is kissing, hugging, and holding hands. AP and SM informants belong to the familiar and haptic types of prosemic nonverbal communication. Meanwhile, non-verbal communication by DA and VM informants is included in the haptic, illustrator, and vocal volume types because the nonverbal communication carried out is by shaking hands, *proud*, high intonation, nodding, and rubbing the head.

This shows that the interpersonal relationship between parents and stepchildren of the three informants is meaningful because the three pairs of informants always use nonverbal communication in their daily activities. The pair of informants AP and SM have the highest intimacy compared to other couples. Nonverbal communication between AP and SM informants has reached the level of physical touches such as hugging and kissing. This is because the gender factor also influences building nonverbal communication. The results of research conducted by Sangadah (2014) say that women use nonverbal communication more because women's emotional levels are higher than men so women tend to be more expressive. The results of this study are in line with the pair of AP and SM informants who are both women so that they use nonverbal communication more in their daily lives.

5) Aspects of previous experience

According to Walgito (in Pratiwi, 2016) social interaction is a relationship between one individual and another dependent individual to achieve an effective communication relationship. Social relations, both as co-workers or neighbors, that take place in harmony and well, will create a sense of security and comfort to create an intimate relationship. According to

Nitisemito (in UMA, 2013) a coworker is someone who has the same or equal position in which they work together and support each other for the work given. Meanwhile, according to Hayati et al., (2019) neighbors are small residents from house to house where there are social exchange activities.

Based on the data that has been found by the informant couple I, namely DS and NR, before NR and DS's biological mother got married, they were neighbors who knew each other well. Therefore, in adjusting after marriage, the acceptance process between DS and NR does not take a long time. While the data that has been obtained from informant II, namely AP and SM, before SM and AP's father married, they were co-workers. This affects the AP does not take a long time to accept the presence of SM. This is different from the third informant, who has been married for nine years, they are still in the adaptation stage because they did not know each other before. This is in line with the results of research conducted by Mufidatu Z & Sholichatun (2016) which says that in accepting the presence of stepparents, several factors must be met. The factors are self-understanding, social support and relationships, positive thinking, social insight, and self-concept. Informant pair I and informant II are included in the social support and relationship factors, while the informant partner III has not fulfilled.

6) Gender

According to Nurhayati (2012) women are always described as physically weak, easily emotional, easily give up, and easily influenced. Meanwhile, men are described as strong, rational, logical, and active. Based on the data that has been obtained, the informant III partner admitted that he was less open with his stepmother because of the gender difference. VM as DA's stepmother said that the pattern of communication between men and women was different. Incidentally, DA's sister is a girl, so the pattern of closeness is different. Communication with fellow women is faster than with men. Men usually take time to communicate verbally and sometimes are reluctant to open up, unlike women.

This is in line with research conducted by Halpern (in Nurhayati, 2012) which found that in general, women from childhood always produced better verbal skills than men. Girls tend to speak faster than boys and girls tend to have more vocabulary. Other findings by Jourard (in Sari et al., 2006) say that women have been accustomed to revealing themselves since childhood. Women talk more because they like to open conversations with other people where the conversation contains the delivery of feelings, desires, and opinions. The results of this study match this study because the second informant pair, AP and SM, are very open because they are both of the same genders. While the pair of informants I, namely DS and NR, although they are of different sexes, are open to each other because of their previous social experiences and relationships.

7) Personality Aspect

According to Larsen and Buss (in Kinanti and Hendrati, 2013) personality is a set of basic psychological elements and mechanisms within an organized, relatively enduring individual that affect individual interactions and adaptations in the environment (including the metaphysical, physical, and social environment). Personality factors in the Big Five according to Costa and McCrae (in Kinanti and Hendrati, 2013) include 1). Agreeableness is someone who has warmth, kindness, cooperation, sympathy, helpful and polite. 2). Extraversion is a person who is talkative, friendly, high-spirited, assertive, courageous, and dominant (as opposed to introverts, who are shyer, and quiet). 3). Neuroticism is a person who is easily nervous, moody, emotional, uncomfortable, and jealous. 4). Emotional Stability is a person who can control emotions well 5). Openness to experience is an open person who always wants to know new things, is imaginative, creative, and gentle.

DS informants have characters who talk a lot and are open to new things so that DS is categorized into extraversion and openness to experience personality. The AP informant has a gentle character and can control his emotions well. Thus, AP is included in the personality of emotional stability and openness to experience. The DA informant has an uncomfortable character with new things and needs to adapt first, including the neuroticism personality.

Personality is one of the factors that influence self-adjustment. If a person has adapted to an environment that is classified as foreign, then he will easily open himself up compared to people who have difficulty adjusting. According to Rogers (in Suciati, 2018), individuals assess every experience in their life that is always related to their self-concept. The more experiences a person denies because they are inconsistent with his self-concept, the greater the difficulty in making adjustments. This is in line with the results of research on DA informants. DA has been married for nine years and is still in the process of adapting to her stepmother (VM) because she has a neurotic personality who is uncomfortable with new things and needs a long adaptation process.

3. Impact of Self-Disclosure

1) The aspect of Influence/ Effect

Research conducted by Noor (in Rhosyidah, 2015), states that people who always tell stories whether pleasant or sad problems will feel relieved and relaxed in facing life. In addition, the effect of openness will increase closeness and create intimacy between one another. Koerner and Anne (in Larasati, 2023) state that conversation orientation in the family is defined as the extent to which the family fosters a climate in which all family members, especially siblings, are encouraged to be involved in interactions with various topics. These families spend a great deal of time connecting, and family members share their activities, opinions, and feelings. Family meetings also need to be held in terms of conflict resolution, for conflicts involving more than two members of the conflicting stepfamily. Meanwhile, withdrawal for a rather closed family pattern should be avoided so that the conflict does not drag on and each family member becomes more withdrawn (Sagala, 2017).

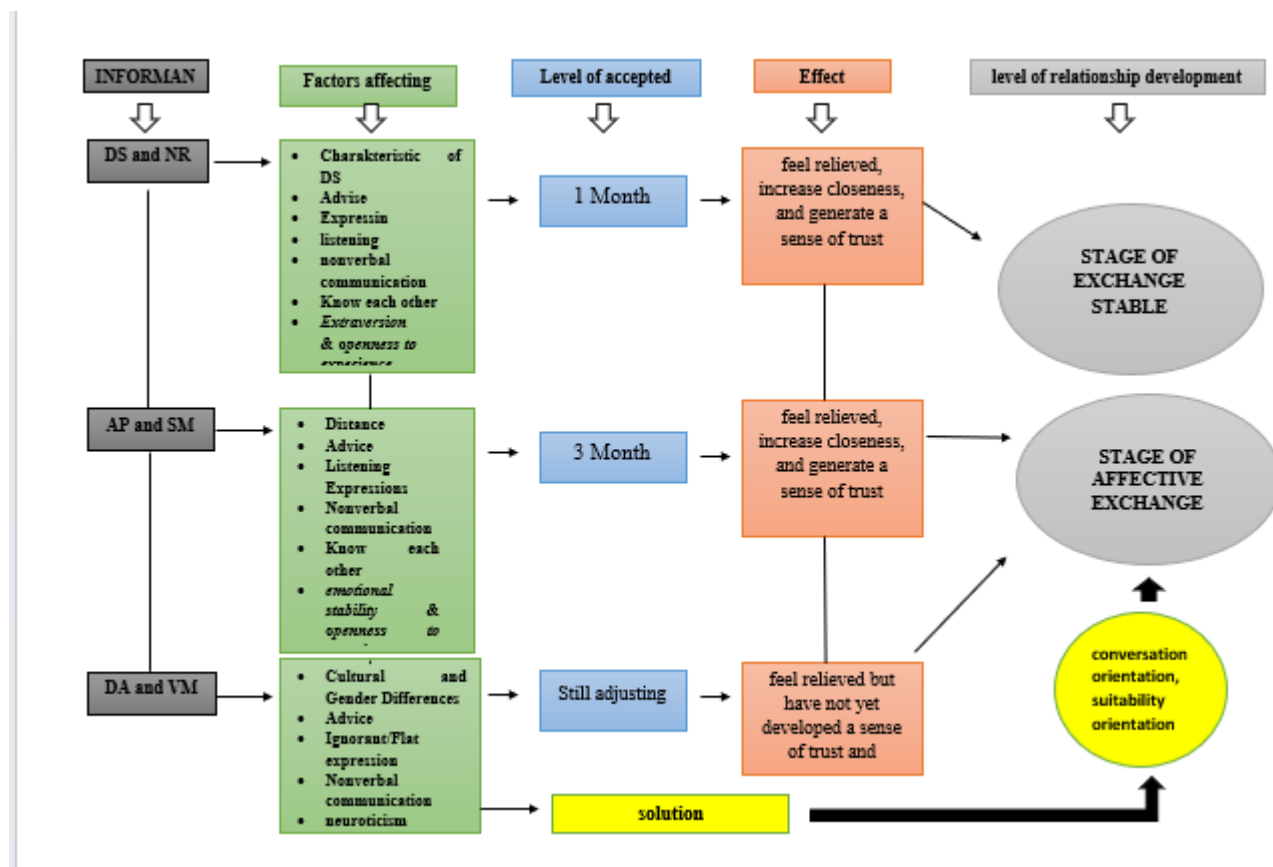
The results of this study are in line with the findings of the three informants (DS, AP, and DA) after telling open stories with their stepparents (NR, SM, and VM) they feel relieved and familiar because the responses they get are in line with expectations and the openness will also increase their closeness to their parents. Their Relationship. James Pennebaker (in Eliza, 2015) shows that people who are always open to others will avoid psychological diseases such as stress.

2) Aspect of trust

According to Johnson (in Gainau, 2009) openness can create trust where trust is the key in interpersonal relationships so that individuals can tell about what they are experiencing with feelings of trust. When someone has gained trust, he will feel closer because he thinks that person can listen and respond wisely. According to Solomon (in Batoebara, 2018) interpersonal relationships do not only contain habitual things. But interpersonal relationships must be more than that, namely the feeling of giving and receiving each other's presence. As explained by Gainau (2009) in his research that individuals who voluntarily open up mean have a sense of trust in others.

Informants DS and AP have been very receptive to the presence of their stepparents NR and SM. Meanwhile, DA informants have not fully accepted the presence of VM. DS in receiving NR takes 1 month while AP takes 3 months in receiving SM. Until now, DA informants have not been able to fully accept VM (9 years still in the adaptation period). Soloman (in Yusuf & Agus, 2019) said that trust begins with a process of individual acceptance. Acceptance can be done by often involving concurrent activities. Good acceptance from children towards stepparents makes it easier for stepparents to communicate with children. A smooth communication process between children and stepparents fosters a close relationship between the two parties to minimize discomfort (Rossnanda, Titis, 2011). Building trust means building a commitment in the relationship. Interpersonal relationships must begin with adaptation first. According to research conducted by A. Sari & Mulyana (2015) says that adaptation or adjustment is a human effort in social life to balance it with its new environment. The adaptation process requires help from others because the success of the adaptation process can be measured by the individual's ability to deal with his new environment. The adaptation process always involves oneself, the people around, and the environment. The family conformity orientation believes that their families share the same way of life, behaviors, ideas, and values. In this view, the family is cohesive and hierarchical. This means that their family members will always walk side by side with their half-siblings. Families with a high conformity orientation feel that individual schedules must be coordinated among half-siblings to optimize time together, and they expect to prioritize personal interests over family interests. While the orientation of conformity is low, each of them will tend to have high individuality. If the family has a high conversational orientation, they are included in the group of family members who like to communicate. Whereas families with a high compatibility orientation, these family members are members who often spend time with the family (Larasati and Sutarso, 2023). The relationship development of the three pairs of informants can be depicted in Figure 1 below:

Picture 1. Relationship Development Level Chart



Source: Data processed on September 22, 2021

The figure above concludes that the level of relationship development between informants I and II has reached the level of a stable exchange stage. Research conducted by Irawan et al., (2018) found that in the stable exchange stage the conversation between the two parties was more intense and more meaningful. Individuals have predicted each other's responses and actions because the level of the relationship is already very intimate. In this stage, the information and conversations discussed are deep, such as privacy, self-concept, and deepest emotional feelings. If there are words that are not pleasant, individuals already understand each other. Meanwhile, according to Miller (in Rizal, 2018) found results that at the stable exchange stage individuals have opened up to each other which is marked by intense interaction even with nonverbal communication even though the partner can understand it. The level of development of informant relations III only reached the stage of exchange of affective assessments. Based on the results of research conducted by Irawan et al., (2018) it was found that at the exchange stage of affective assessment it is the determinant of the relationship will reach the next stage or not. But for 9 years of marriage, both of them are still in the process of adapting to be able to accept each other.

IV. Summary

Based on the data and results obtained from the three informants of this study, it can be concluded that the pair of informants I the level of relationship development has reached the level of the stable exchange stage. At this stage, the relationship is very intimate and there is no awkwardness at all between the two. The topics discussed at this stage have already led to personal things. The factors that influence the openness of the informant partner are the nature and attitude, advice, listening expression, nonverbal communication, getting to know each other, and having extraversion & openness to experience personality. The level of acceptance of the first couple of informants only takes one month. The impact felt after revealing oneself is to feel relieved, increase closeness, and create a sense of trust. In the second pair of informants, their openness is influenced by distance, supportive advice, listening expressions, nonverbal communication, getting to know each other, and having emotional stability and openness to experience personalities. It took them only three months to accept each other's presence.

The stage of development of the relationship of the informant pair III only reached the level of the assessment stage of affective exchange. The exchange stage of affective exploration is the development of relationships from the introductory stage as there is already a chat about fun and hobbies. The informant partner III only reached this stage because DA felt that he was not open to the VM and told the VM about daily activities and only when there was a need. The factors that influence the openness of the third informant pair are cultural and gender differences, supportive advice, expressions of lack of care, nonverbal communication, not knowing before, and having a neurotic personality. Even though it has been nine years of marriage, the informant III couple is still in the process of adapting to accept each other's presence. The impact generated by DA after opening with the VM is relieved but has not yet developed a sense of trust and closeness. The solution to the problem of children's openness with their stepparents, among others, is by increasing conversations and increasing compatibility.

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