



Interpersonal Communication between Parents and Children Due to Divorce in Gorontalo City

Faddhelul Rahman¹, Tuti Bahfiarti², Kahar Kahar³

^{1,2,3}Department of Communication Studies, Hasanuddin University, Makassar, Indonesia
rfadlul6@gmail.com

Abstract. This research aims to study the impact of divorce on the interpersonal communication between parents and children. The method employed in this study is qualitative, and the research type is descriptive. Information was gathered through observations, interviews, and documentation of divorced families in the Gorontalo City area. Data analysis commenced with in-depth interviews with the sources and transcribing the interview results. The findings of this research indicate that Interpersonal Communication is maintained between the first informant and the second informant. According to the first informant, there were no fundamental changes due to the divorce. The responsibilities as a parent to provide love, education, and a sense of security for their child were fulfilled. The second informant demonstrated openness to the first informant. In the interpersonal relationship within that family, the second informant felt consistently allowed to speak and contribute to communicating with the first informant.

Keywords: Interpersonal Communication, Parents and Children, Divorce.

1 Introduction

Communication is a crucial part of a social interaction process. It is the exchange of information, thoughts, ideas, and feelings between individuals and groups. In human interaction, communication's main purpose is to convey messages clearly and effectively so that the receiver can understand the message the speaker or communicator conveys correctly. Communication encompasses various elements including the message sender, message receiver, communication channel, and symbols used to transmit the message. The message sender can be a person, organization, or group intending to convey a message, while the message receiver is the person or organization receiving and processing the message.

Effective interpersonal communication can be achieved through good communication skills. Interpersonal communication skills are the ability to communicate effectively with others [1]. According to Sjarkawi [2], divorce is a very frightening epidemic for all children in the world. However, suppose both divorced parents continue to fulfill their roles as mother and father as they should. In that case, these children will not feel inferior because they know that even though their parents do not live together, the relationship between their parents still exists and remains unchanged.

The family's dysfunction also serves as one of the factors contributing to its breakdown [3]. During adolescence, parents have new responsibilities and roles in line with the changing needs of their children [4].

Divorce is a legal process where a legally married couple terminates their marital bond by dissolving their marriage. In this case, divorce necessitates a legal and judicial separation between the husband and wife, implying the division of property, legal responsibilities, and all rights associated with the children. Divorce occurs due to disparities in perception between the spouses or the emergence of issues within the relationship that both parties cannot resolve over time. In this regard, divorce can be caused by factors such as incompatibility, differences in values, infidelity, financial problems, or the absence of rights that should be fulfilled within the household.

The divorce cases have become a significant record in the divorce case presentations in the city of Gorontalo. According to the Central Statistics Agency of Gorontalo Province, in 2019, the divorce rate in the city of Gorontalo reached 683 cases. Therefore, this research aims to understand how the interpersonal communication between parents and children is affected by divorce.

A deeper understanding of parent-child interactions is hoped to be achieved, including the aspects that influence the quality of communication within the family context.

2 Research Method

This type of research employs a qualitative approach. The data collection involves gathering information through interviews, direct field observations, and other documents. The data analysis used in this study is qualitative descriptive, achieved through in-depth interviews with informants to support the researcher's completeness of the required data. The next step is to develop a more straightforward research tool to complement and compare the information obtained through observation and interviews [5].

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Results

Communication plays a pivotal role within the family dynamic, as exemplified by the case of Ms. Yanti's family and her former husband. In Ms. Yanti's family, the information conveyed to her child (Fadly) regarding the changes in family status could not be fully comprehended at the time, as Fadly was still in elementary school. The information was fully understood when Fadly entered adulthood, and he comprehended that there was a change in his parents' status. This is due to the fact that at that time, children are in a developmental stage and actively learning. One of the reasons why children at that age may not fully grasp information is due to language limitations; they are still in the process of learning language. Their ability to understand and use language is limited compared to adults. Therefore, they may struggle to comprehend instructions or information in complex or foreign languages.

In the case of Ms. Yanti's family, the interpersonal relationship between the parent and child continues to this day, and Ms. Yanti always ensures that interpersonal communication with her child remains fulfilled. As stated by Ms. Yanti, fundamentally, nothing has changed since her divorce from her husband. The only thing that changed is that she and her ex-husband no longer live in the same house. Ms. Yanti's attention, responsibilities, and duties in raising their child remain the same. The only alteration is that the parents are now apart and not residing together with the children.

In the case of Ms. Yanti's family, due to the divorce, she involves her child in decision-making. Ms. Yanti and her child always maintain a persuasive relationship. When Fadly completed his duties as a high school student, Ms. Yanti involved him in the decision-making process regarding his further education at the university. Also, in Ms. Yanti's family, she always engages several family members in the interaction process with her child as a means of comparison for making subsequent decisions.

In responding to the situation resulting from the divorce, psychologically, Fadly, as the child of Ms. Yanti, chooses to remain more silent in addressing this change in status. However, in terms of his needs, he strives to seek suitable employment to meet his requirements. He mentions that the difference in his parents' status is not a reason not to meet his needs. This sentiment has never been directly conveyed to Ms. Yanti as his parent. On the one hand, Ms. Yanti's role as a parent in fulfilling her child's needs has been met in terms of education, affection, and providing a sense of security.

According to Fadly, there has been no change in the communication style in the parent-child interpersonal relationship due to the divorce. He believes that throughout this interpersonal relationship, he is always allowed to speak and contribute to the communication with his parents as a result of the divorce. However, when it comes to differences of opinion in the interpersonal relationship with his parents due to the divorce, Fadly believes that there should be openness between parents and children to minimize miscommunication in the interaction process. There has been no change in trust and transparency in the Interpersonal Relationship in Ms. Yanti's family.

Parents have the responsibility for the care, upbringing, and education of their children. They play a crucial role in their children's lives, providing love, attention, guidance, and support in all aspects of their development. As parents, they have a broad and complex role in shaping their children's lives. In this regard, Ms. Yanti always creates space for her children to exchange information and consistently emphasizes the importance of openness toward their parents. In Ms. Yanti's family, there has been no change in communication between parents and their children before and after the divorce; communication continues to thrive. Regarding the needs of parent-child interpersonal relationships resulting from the divorce, Ms. Yanti imparts understanding education and fulfills her child's needs, both biologically and psychologically.

In the case of Ms. Yanti's family, there were barriers to communication between the parent and child. As Fadly entered adolescence, he constantly questioned his parents' status. Ms. Yanti couldn't provide a complete verbal response because she was mindful of her child's emotional state when explaining the factors behind the change in their status. However, as time passed, Ms. Yanti mentioned that when her child reached adulthood, she observed a significant difference in his personality. This indicates that Fadly, as a child, had emotionally accepted the information about the difference in his

parents' status. This emotional need relates to aesthetic requirements or information that Fadly acquired about the difference in his parents' status from emotional experiences.

4 Conclusion

In this study, the researcher successfully observed that Interpersonal Communication within Ms. Yanti's family has been established to its fullest extent. There are factors that support Interpersonal Communication in Ms. Yanti's family, such as mutual trust given to Fadly as her child. Through effective communication, Fadly, as Ms. Yanti's child, can trust his parents' decisions. Furthermore, Ms. Yanti, in her role as Fadly's parent, has provided love, understanding, and a sense of security, as is the responsibility of a parent. The researcher also found in the cases examined how interactions between parents and children can flourish through mutual understanding. From this research, the researcher hopes for the following the foremost hope for post-divorce communication is openness and honesty. Parents should create an environment where children feel comfortable sharing their feelings, concerns, and experiences after the divorce. Honesty is the key to building trust and understanding each other's perspectives, and every parent should strive to understand their child's feelings and comprehend their situation. This enables parents to react better and provide the support their children need, even though both parents are divorced, it's important to remain consistent with the rules, discipline, and values that Ms. Yanti instills in her child. Consistency provides children with a sense of stability amidst the changes they are going through.

References

1. Devito, Joseph A.: *The Interpersonal Communication Book* Ed.13th. Pearson, New York (2013).
2. Sjarkawi.: *Pembentukan Kepribadian Anak*, PT. Bumi Aksara, Jakarta (2008).
3. Pratiwi, S., Sukma, D.: *Komunikasi interpersonal antar siswa di sekolah dan implikasinya terhadap pelayanan bimbingan dan konseling*, *Jurnal ilmiah konseling*, 324, (2013).
4. Aulia, Farhan.: *Komunikasi Interpersonal Orang Tua Dengan Anak Broken Home*. *Jurnal Mukadimah*, 226, (2022).
5. Badan Pusat Statistika Provinsi Gorontalo, <https://gorontalo.bps.go.id/>, last accessed 2023/9/9.

Open Access This chapter is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits any noncommercial use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made.

The images or other third party material in this chapter are included in the chapter's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the chapter's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder.

