



THE DYNAMICS OF DISHONESTY IN INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION AGAINST THE TRUST OF STUDENT COUPLES IN THE AREA OF RT 02 RW 14 RAWAMANGUN

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the dynamics of dishonesty in interpersonal communication toward the trust of college student couples in RT 02 RW 14 Rawamangun. Dishonesty in relationships is not only related to the delivery of inaccurate information but also includes openness, communication patterns, and how couples deal with conflicts. This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method. Data collection was conducted through in-depth interviews with three college student couples who had experiences related to dishonesty in romantic relationships and one triangulator as supporting research data. The results show that dishonesty appears in various forms, such as hiding information, reducing openness, and communicating with other parties without the partner's knowledge. Such behavior affects the dynamics of interpersonal communication and causes changes in the level of trust within the relationship. Decreased trust can lead to conflicts, suspicion, and changes in communication patterns between partners. This study shows that openness and effective communication play an important role in maintaining the quality of romantic relationships.

Keywords: *Interpersonal Communication, Dishonesty, Trust, Romantic Relationship, College Students.*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui dinamika ketidakjujuran dalam komunikasi interpersonal terhadap kepercayaan pasangan mahasiswa di wilayah RT 02 RW 14 Rawamangun. Ketidakjujuran dalam hubungan tidak hanya berkaitan dengan penyampaian informasi yang tidak sesuai, tetapi juga mencakup keterbukaan, pola komunikasi, serta cara pasangan dalam menghadapi konflik. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui wawancara mendalam terhadap tiga pasangan mahasiswa yang memiliki pengalaman terkait ketidakjujuran dalam hubungan romantis serta satu triangulator sebagai penguat data penelitian. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ketidakjujuran muncul dalam berbagai bentuk, seperti menyembunyikan informasi, mengurangi keterbukaan, serta menjalin komunikasi dengan pihak lain tanpa sepengetahuan pasangan. Perilaku tersebut memengaruhi dinamika komunikasi interpersonal dan menyebabkan perubahan terhadap tingkat kepercayaan dalam hubungan. Penurunan kepercayaan dapat memunculkan konflik, rasa curiga, serta perubahan pola komunikasi antar pasangan. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa keterbukaan dan komunikasi efektif memiliki peran penting dalam menjaga kualitas hubungan romantis.

KataKunci: Komunikasi Interpersonal, Ketidakjujuran, Kepercayaan, Hubungan Romantis, Mahasiswa.

I. INTRODUCTION

Communication is an important aspect of social life because it allows individuals to exchange information, ideas, and feelings with others. In romantic relationships, this process plays a role in building emotional closeness, creating a sense of mutual understanding, and strengthening the bond between couples. Through interactions that take place on an ongoing basis, individuals can foster more harmonious relationships and are able to deal with various dynamics that arise during the relationship (Ngalimun, 2022). The development of digital technology has also changed the pattern of interaction among students. Various instant messaging and social media applications allow communication to be carried out without space and time limits. This convenience provides an opportunity for couples to stay connected intensively, but at the same time also presents new challenges. Not all information exchanged is conveyed openly, which has the potential to cause misunderstandings and misunderstandings between the two parties (Andi Asari et al., 2019).

One of the phenomena that often appears in romantic relationships is dishonest behavior. This phenomenon can be in the form of hiding information, conveying facts that are not completely in accordance with reality, or trying to form certain perceptions through the message conveyed. In the study of interpersonal deception, this action is understood as a form of communication that is deliberately carried out to influence other people's understanding of a situation. If it occurs repeatedly, this condition can reduce the quality of interaction and affect the relationship that has been established (Widyanita et al., 2023). The continuity of a couple's relationship is greatly influenced by trust. Trust develops through consistent interaction experiences, openness in conveying information, and willingness to be honest with your partner. Previous research has shown that the quality of communication has an important role in the formation and maintenance of trust in relationships, including in relationships lived through digital media (Dewi et al., n.d.). In line with that, Hardjana (2018) stated that openness is one of the main characteristics that support the creation of healthy interpersonal relationships. Various previous studies have examined the role of communication in building emotional closeness, developing trust, and managing conflict in couples. However, there is still not much discussion about the forms of dishonesty that arise in the daily lives of students who are in relationships. In addition, the factors that drive the emergence of these behaviors and the way couples interpret and respond to them have also not been explored much. Therefore, this study was conducted to identify forms of dishonesty,

reveal the factors behind it, and understand the response of student couples to these phenomena in their relationships.

II. THEORETICAL STUDIES

Interpersonal Communication

Interpersonal communication is the process of conveying messages between individuals that plays a role in building relationships and creating mutual understanding. The theory of interpersonal communication used in this study refers to the opinion of Joseph A. DeVito who explains that interpersonal communication is characterized by openness, empathy, support, positive attitudes, and equality between the parties involved (DwicaHYa & Syaifudin, 2024). This element shows that interpersonal communication not only serves as a means of exchanging information, but also becomes the basis for building harmonious relationships and mutual trust. In a couple relationship, interpersonal communication that does not run openly can cause obstacles, one of which is dishonesty in the delivery of messages.

Dishonesty in Interpersonal Communication

Dishonesty in interpersonal communication is a form of conveying information that is not in accordance with the actual situation, either through lies, hiding information, or manipulating messages. According to Ilmu et al. (2023), lying is an act of communication that is carried out to make a person believe something that does not match reality or draw wrong conclusions. Dishonesty can hinder openness in relationships and affect trust between couples. Fadhillah & Annura (n.d.) explain that communication based on honesty is able to build trust in personal relationships, while Sangaswari et al. (2024) state that open and honest communication is important to maintain harmonious relationships and reduce misunderstandings.

Trust in Interpersonal Relationships

Trust is an important aspect of interpersonal relationships because it is the basis for building a sense of security, openness, and trust in your partner. Selsatanzia et al. (2023) explain that trust is formed through good communication, mutual acceptance, respect, and understanding of each other. In romantic relationships, trust develops through effective and consistent communication, as a person depends on their level of trust in their partner (Edy Prihantoro, 2022). This is strengthened by research by Intan Ayu Imaniar (2024), Indriati Kusuma Dewi et al. (2025), and Briliani Putri Pijar Pratiwi (2025) which shows that interpersonal communication, openness, and honesty have a role in building and influencing trust in relationships

III. RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method to understand the dynamics of dishonesty in interpersonal communication and its relationship with the trust of student spouses. According to Sugiyono (2023), qualitative research is used to understand the meaning and experience of individuals towards a phenomenon in natural conditions. This research was carried out at RT 02 RW 14 Rawamangun, East Jakarta in April-June 2026 with the analysis unit of students who are or have been in romantic relationships. Informants were selected using purposive sampling techniques based on the suitability of experience with the focus of the research. Data collection was carried out through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The research informants consisted of six students and one triangulator who were selected to strengthen the validity of the data. The triangulation technique is carried out by comparing the results of observations, interviews, and documentation to obtain credible data. According to Sugiyono (2023), data collection techniques are an important stage so that research obtains information that is in accordance with the research objectives. Data analysis uses the Miles and Huberman model which includes data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. The analysis process was carried out interactively by selecting relevant data, compiling information, and drawing conclusions about the form of dishonesty, the causative factors, and its impact on the trust of the student pair (Analysis & Dan, 2022).

IV. RESEARCH RESULTS

Forms of Dishonesty in Interpersonal Communication of Student Spouses

Based on the results of the study, forms of dishonesty in interpersonal communication between student couples were found through several forms, namely the delivery of information that is not in accordance with the actual circumstances, the concealment of personal activities, and communication with other parties without the knowledge of the partner. This dishonesty occurs in daily communication, both directly and through digital communication media. This behavior shows that there are obstacles in the openness of communication between couples. In the first couple, dishonesty is seen when the informant provides different information about the activities being carried out. Akbar Fadilah explained that he had given inappropriate information to his partner through *WhatsApp communication*. "The most visible is from communication by *WhatsApp*. For example, when I say that there is a certain activity such as work, when in fact I am playing with friends." (Couple Informant 1). In addition, a form of dishonesty is also found in the second and third pairs through the

concealment of communication with others. Meisi Nurbaiti Fajri revealed that she was not open about the interactions she had with other parties because she was worried about causing problems in the relationship.

"The most visible is from communication by *WhatsApp*. For example, when I say that there is a certain activity such as work, when in fact I am playing with friends." (Couple Informant 2). This form of dishonesty shows that information that should be part of a couple's communication is actually hidden. This is reinforced by the triangulator Nandha Fajar Muhammad, S.Psi., who explains that dishonesty needs to be understood based on the reasons and conditions of the relationship." You can't immediately judge that someone is lying without understanding the context. We need to understand the reasons and motives for someone to be dishonest." (Expert Triangulator). These findings show that dishonesty in the relationship between student spouses can arise through various forms of communication that are not completely open, both in the delivery of information and interaction with other parties. The impact of dishonesty on a partner's trust. The results of the study show that dishonesty has an impact on a partner's trust. After learning of dishonesty, the informant experiences changes in the relationship such as the appearance of disappointment, difficulty in trusting again, and doubts about the partner. This shows that trust is an affected aspect when openness in the relationship does not go well. Anindita Pratiwi explained that after finding out the dishonesty committed by her partner, she experienced a change in giving trust. "To be honest, I find it difficult to trust Mas Akbar anymore and feel disappointed in his attitude from the previous one." (Couple Informant 1) The same thing was also felt by Muhammad Naufal Wira Permana who had difficulty returning to faith after learning about his partner's actions." Yes, after that incident I found it difficult to trust him anymore. Until now, sometimes I still think about it." (Couple Informant 2) Based on the experience of informants, dishonesty causes changes in the way couples communicate. Relationships that previously ran with trust become more cautious because of negative experiences that affect the outlook on their partner.

The triangulator explains that trust is an important part of interpersonal relationships. "Honesty and trust are the foundation of a relationship. If the foundation is not strong, the relationship will become fragile." (Expert Triangulator). This condition suggests that the experience of receiving dishonesty can affect the way couples give trust and conduct communication in the relationship. The Dynamics of Interpersonal Communication After Dishonesty. After dishonesty occurs, the couple's interpersonal communication undergoes a

change. Based on the results of the interview, couples become more careful in communicating because there is suspicion and reduced comfort in the relationship. This condition makes communication that was previously open more limited. Akbar Fadilah explained that after the problem occurred, the relationship with the couple changed. "After that, the relationship became tense. We keep our distance from each other and communication is not like before." (Couple Informant 1). The change in communication was also felt by Meisi after the problems in the relationship were known by the couple. This condition makes communication easier for conflicts. "After that incident, our communication became very different. So it's often tense and easy to make a fuss just because of small things." (Couple Informant 2) Based on these findings, dishonesty affects the interaction patterns of couples due to changes in attitudes in communication. Couples become more attentive to the information provided because previous experiences make them more alert. This is reinforced by the triangulator who explains that relationships after dishonesty require more open communication in order to improve relationship conditions. "When trust has been disturbed, usually communication also changes because one party becomes more careful." (Expert Triangulator).

This change illustrates that dishonesty affects the couple's communication patterns, especially in rebuilding a sense of comfort and openness after problems occur. Efforts to Restore Trust in Couples' Relationships. Based on the results of the study, couples who experience problems due to dishonesty make several efforts to improve their relationship. These efforts are carried out through increasing openness, more intense communication, and behavior changes so that the couple's trust can be re-formed. Meisi explained that she tries to improve relationships by increasing openness to her partner. "Now I try to be more open, talk more often, and stop communicating with the people who make the problem arise." (Couple Informant 2) In addition, Aisyah also made changes as a form of effort to improve relationships after problems. "I'm trying to prove that I want to change by deleting dating apps and being more open about mobile phones." (Couple Informant 3) These efforts show that restoring trust requires a change in attitude from the dishonest couple. Trust cannot return directly, but requires a process through more open and consistent communication. Triangulator explained that improving relationships can be done if both parties have a desire to improve communication patterns. "Change in relationships requires a process, not only through an apology but also through actions that show change." (Expert Triangulator). The efforts made by couples show that there is a process of improving relationships through

behavior change and increased openness in interpersonal communication. The results of the study illustrate that the issue of openness is an important part of the dynamics of student couple relationships. The experience that occurred in each couple showed a change in the way they interacted, responded, and maintained the relationship after problems arose.

V.CONCLUSION

Berdasarkan hasil penelitian mengenai dinamika ketidakjujuran dalam komunikasi interpersonal terhadap kepercayaan pasangan mahasiswa di wilayah RT 02 RW 14 Rawamangun, dapat disimpulkan bahwa ketidakjujuran dalam hubungan romantis muncul dalam bentuk menyembunyian informasi, berkurangnya keterbukaan, serta komunikasi dengan pihak lain tanpa sepengetahuan pasangan. Faktor penyebab ketidakjujuran meliputi keinginan menghindari konflik, rasa takut terhadap respons pasangan, serta upaya mempertahankan hubungan. Perilaku tersebut memberikan dampak terhadap kepercayaan pasangan yang ditandai dengan munculnya rasa curiga, konflik, dan perubahan pola komunikasi. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa keterbukaan dan komunikasi yang efektif menjadi unsur penting dalam menjaga kualitas hubungan interpersonal.

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