

## Relational Dialectics of Female K-Pop Boyband Fans with Parents and Friends in Medan City

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### ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the relational dialectical process of K-Pop Boyband fans with their parents, analyze the relational dialectic process of K-Pop Boyband fans with friends and analyze the relational dialectical obstacles of female K-Pop Boyband fans with their parents and friends. The research methodology that researchers use is a qualitative research method with a constructivist paradigm. The research results obtained are that the relational dialectical process of female K-Pop Boyband fans with their parents and friends includes four basic elements and four assumptions that exist in the dialectical perspective. The contradictions present in this relationship are shown by different views towards K-Pop and organized by the four research informants through three categories in the dialectic of interaction.

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## INTRODUCTION

Taking part in and knowing all forms of developments in the world of K-Pop for its fans has become a hobby that cannot be avoided. For them, opening, following, reading, copying and buying all kinds of things related to K-Pop is a normal thing that everyone does when they like something. The problem is when the hobby that K-Pop fans are interested in becomes an obstacle for them to communicate and carry out their relationships with the people around them. The first obstacle they face is how they communicate with their families who don't like their children being too fond of the K-Pop world (Manik, 20221).

In some cases, K-Pop fans will try to show their liking by spending excessively, and this causes the people around them to feel disturbed by this behavior, especially their families. This action has the opportunity to invite conflict between K-Pop fans and the people around them. This conflict is characterized by a form of communication that leads to contradictions where differences in understanding will be visible. There are many factors that result in differences in a person's understanding and in the problem discussed in this research, the context or discourse that K-Pop fans are fanatical and financially wasteful fans is at the core of the emergence of contradictions in the relationships that exist (Fachrosi, 2020).

Friends around K-Pop fans are the next closest people who can feel uncomfortable with their attitude which is considered too following the world of K-Pop. This is the second obstacle where Nori admitted that he received bad treatment from his school friends when he was discovered buying albums and going to concerts to see his idol perform. Nori received many negative sentences, ranging from fanatic, stupid because he wasted too much money, irresponsible as the student council secretary at school because of permission to go to his idol's concert, and being considered a plastic worshiper by his friends, because Korean artists are very synonymous with surgery. plastic. Nori even admitted that he broke up with his girlfriend because he preferred to prioritize his idol over his own girlfriend. Some community members may feel that they know their idols better than other members. This results in hidden competition between members. A woman with the initials AR who is a member of a community admitted in an interview that her community friend RL was too acting like he knew everything about BTS, both of their favorite boy bands. AR thinks that RL is a new member who has recently joined the community and does not know much about BTS (Ghazwani, 2019).

All the behavior that K-Pop fans show for the sake of their idols' success becomes an obstacle for them in communicating, whether with their parents, friends around them or even friends in their community. Their behavior of spending too much money on watching concerts, buying albums and all kinds of knick-knacks related to their idols, to the attitude of those who feel they know more about their idols, affects their communication with their community friends. This case resulted in the emergence of stereotypes or negative views in society about K-Pop fans, the majority of whom are people who are excessively fond of their idols, thus affecting the way they dialogue with others (Sugiharti, 2017).

The author sees that there are several phenomena that can give rise to negative views for K-Pop fans. This phenomenon is supported by the rapid

development of technology, especially in the field of communication, where K-Pop fans can freely express their love for K-Pop through various social media, such as one of the accounts that researchers found on Instagram social media. The owner of this account deliberately edited his personal photo with a photo of his idol as if they were in the same place (Sagita & Kadewardana, 2017). Technological advances are the reason why this phenomenon can occur. The virtual world becomes a support for fans to realize things that cannot be done in the real world (Riona and Krisdinanto, 2021; Syam, 2015).

Female K-Pop fans are more involved in their emotions and feelings in interpreting the K-Pop idols or artists they like and this is inversely proportional to what male K-Pop fans feel. Female K-Pop fans who involve their emotions and feelings become more impulsive and have their own interest in establishing a relationship that is more than just a fan with their idol. These results make the topic of women related to K-Pop fans interesting to discuss (Jeanetta & Paramitha, 2018). The rapid development of K-Pop (Korean Pop) from 2010 to 2021 cannot be separated from the greatness and loyalty of its fans. Various kinds of actions that can support their idols will be carried out by them as fans.

The existence of expert opinions and negative stigma from society regarding the behavior of K-Pop fans has given rise to disputes. For K-Pop fans, K-Pop is a place for them to seek entertainment and encouragement, but this excessive liking makes the people around them feel uncomfortable and judge them badly. Activities commonly carried out by K-Pop fans such as screaming hysterically and crying when watching their idols either on television or live, buying K-Pop knick-knacks, fighting on social media make them less liked by the local community (Littlejohn et al., 2017). This will certainly affect how they as K-Pop fans communicate.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### *Relational Dialectics*

Relational Dialectical Theory (RDT) states that relational life is characterized by ongoing tension between conflicting drives. Researchers state that a dialectic in this theory accurately describes the way humans live. Seen as something that continues to change and process without end. This relational change comes from contradictions that are related and opposite, or in dialectical terms, namely the unity of opposites. The vitality of this ongoing change is in the communication process of its members. (Littejohn & Foss, 2009)

Teori yang dikembangkan pada pertengahan tahun 1990-an oleh Baxter dan Montgomery ini bertumpu pada premis utama bahwa hubungan dibangun secara sosial melalui interaksi dinamis dari berbagai tendensi yang saling berlawanan dan terus muncul dalam interaksi para partisipan. Hubungan dilihat sebagai sesuatu yang terus berubah dan berproses tanpa ada akhir. Perubahan relasional ini berasal dari kontradiksi yang berkaitan dan bertolak belakang, atau dalam istilah dialektika yaitu kesatuan dari pertentangan. Daya hidup dari perubahan yang terus berlangsung ini berada dalam proses komunikasi para anggotanya. (Littejohn & Foss, 2009)

Humans are not always able to resolve conflicting elements in their beliefs. As we go about our daily lives, we often experience situations that are equally strong and influence our decision making, for example, we may want to achieve material success, but human and environmental values make us question this goal (West & Turner, 2010). This contradiction becomes serious because we recognize that to achieve humanitarian and environmental goals, we must achieve material success to provide the resources that enable us to have an impact (Littlejohn, Foss & Oetzel, 2017). These cases related to the attitudes and behavior of K-Pop fans who are considered too excessive in their fans of their idols have given rise to various contradictions in their relationships with the people around them. This contradiction is overcome by K-pop fans in various ways, such as lying to their parents, staying away from people who hate them or trying to communicate and straighten out existing problems and trying to hide their true identity. The author will see this relationship through the theories that the author has explained in the theoretical description section. The framework for thinking in this research has the following explanation.

In this research, relational dialectical theory is the main theory that researchers use to analyze the communication process between female K-Pop boyband fans and their parents and friends. The first elements that researchers use to analyze this process are the 4 elements of relational dialectics. These elements consist of elements of totality, contradiction, movement and praxis. Totality is an element that in this research will show the relationship or attachment that exists between female K-Pop boyband fans and their parents and friends. The contradictions in this research explain the conflicting principles, views or opinions between female K-Pop boyband fans and their parents and friends.

The movement in the element of relational dialectics shows how the relationship between female K-Pop boyband fans and their parents and friends progresses from time to time. According to researchers, relationships have periods where at one time they can be intimate and at other times they become more distant. The movement element will show the results of relationships that have been exposed to previous elements of contradiction, where this relates to the contradiction between female K-Pop boyband fans and their parents and friends. Praxis, which is the final element, places female K-Pop boyband fans as individuals who are free to determine their actions and actions. These actions or actions are of course influenced by the environment and experiences of female K-Pop boyband fans in this research.

### ***Dramaturgy***

Dramaturgy as its name suggests conceptualizes life as a drama, placing the focus of criticism on the actions carried out by the various players. Actions in life are central to revealing human motives, as is the case in a drama (West & Turner, 2010). This theory was introduced by writer Kenneth Burke in the early 1950s, and dramatization has penetrated various scientific disciplines, including political science, sociology, literary criticism, rhetoric, organizational communication, and interpersonal communication. Burke argues that words are the most important symbolic action in an interaction. Drama is something that cannot be separated from action (Littlejohn & Foss, 2009). Burke rejected the

common assumption that communication is essentially a process of transmitting messages. The transmission approach treats communication as just one part of the world of movement, where everything moves according to the laws of cause and effect. Dramatism proposed by Burke describes the technique of analyzing language and thought as a way of acting, not just as a way of conveying information. Life for Burke is a drama and subsequently Dramatism continues to develop as a tool to understand the complexity of human use of symbols (Griffin, Ledbetter & Sparks, 2019: 288).

## **METHODOLOGY**

Research carried out using scientific data collection methods to achieve certain results or goals is the definition of research methods. This definition is the reason there are 4 important elements to consider. First, namely, the scientific method which is defined as all research actions that are based on a systematic, rational and empirical nature when conducting research. The second element is rational, where the research is carried out rationally and can be achieved with the reader's thinking. The third element is empirical, which is defined as the use of methods that can be captured, observed and understood by the reader. Lastly, it is systematic, where every step or procedure followed when conducting research is logical. (Sugiyono, 2013). This research refers to the Relational Dialectic aspect of Women K-Pop Boyband Fans with Their Parents and Friends in the City of Medan. This research was prepared using qualitative research methods and the approach used a case study approach. Researchers will later analyze the relational dialectical process of female K-Pop boy band fans with their parents and friends in the city of Medan. The phenomena discussed in this research can be narrated in depth through several data collection techniques used. The cases studied in this research are natural cases. Sugiyono (2013) in his book entitled " Quantitative, Qualitative and RD Research Methods" explains that the nature referred to in this case is something that grows by itself without intervention from researchers, and the presence of researchers in this case has no effect on the case. (Sugiyono, 2013). Researchers in qualitative research methods are instruments that must have a lot of theory and understanding. This theory and understanding allows us to ask questions, carry out analysis, capture and construct the phenomenon under study to be more meaningful and better understood.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### ***Relational Dialectical Process of Female K-Pop Boyband Fans with Their Parents***

The role of parents in the lives of research informants greatly influences their attitudes and behavior as female fans of K-Pop boy bands, therefore the researcher began the discussion by linking the four basic elements of dialectical perspective with the existing findings.

#### **1. Totality**

The totality element is an element that explains that each member in interpersonal communication is dependent on other members. This characteristic will later influence how tension or contradiction is created in

the interpersonal communication relationship. Research that has been carried out through observations and interviews shows that each research informant has the nature of dependence on their parents. Parents as members of an interpersonal communication relationship certainly have an obligation to guide their children to be better and wiser in making decisions in life. This role is played by each parent informant in different ways. This method determines the informant's attitude as a female K-Pop boy band fan.

2. Contradiction

In the totality element, it is explained that each informant is dependent on their parents, because parents are actually a home and role model for their children in dealing with life's problems. All the decisions a child makes in his life will definitely influence what his parents feel. This statement was the beginning of the emergence of contradictions between the parents and the four research informants. In general, contradictions arise due to the parents' desire for research informants to save more on expenses and know better which needs must be met and which cannot. This desire is in contrast to the research informant's need to collect K-Pop knick-knacks.

3. Movement

The next element is called the movement element. Changes in the nature of an interpersonal relationship can occur over time. The movement element is an element that explains the change. We can see how each member of the interpersonal relationship responds to the contradiction that is present and what changes occur in the relationship after the contradiction appears. This statement can simply be explained that contradiction affects the elements of movement. We can see the movements that occur from the relationships that are established, whether the relationship becomes more intimate or vice versa. Researchers saw that two of the four research informants had a good relationship with their father and mother.

4. Praxis

Through this element of praxis, we can see that some research informants lie as a way to minimize the contradictions they experience. This contradiction could of course have been predicted by the informants through previous events they had experienced. This statement is in line with what David Buller and Judee Burgoon said in their theory of Interpersonal Deception that an individual can consciously provide statements that are not true or deviate from the truth to avoid conflict. Interpersonal Deception Theory introduced by Buller and Burgoon (1996) has a strategy that is divided into 3 parts. Each of these parts is falsification, concealment and equivocation. This research saw the relational dialectic that occurred between their parents and the four research informants, three of whom applied two lying strategies. Three research informants who carried out the strategy of lying to their parents had a specific goal. Generally, they carry out this strategy only to avoid conflicts that could occur according to their predictions, but this can develop into something that can manipulate the way their parents view their children.

The interpersonal relationships that the researcher saw between the four research informants and their parents proved the truth of the first assumption

of the relational dialectic theory. This assumption says that a relationship never runs on a straight line (Griffin, Ledbetter & Sparks, 2019).

This statement means that the relationship established by the members in it must experience fluctuations in opposing or contradictory desires. In the element of contradiction that underlies the dialectical perspective, we can see the opposing desires of each research informant and their parents. The contradictions that occur will later affect the quality of the relationship that is established and this is what researchers refer to as fluctuations, how these contradictions reduce the quality of communication between them or vice versa.

The above process leads us to enter the second assumption of relational dialectical theory. This assumption states that life in relationships is marked by the presence of change. This change is shown through communication that occurs after contradictions emerge in the relationship. Bintang and Naya as fans of K-Pop boybands experienced several contradictions with their parents. Naya even lied to her mother about the albums in her cupboard, but the two of them experienced an improvement in their relationship through the contradictions that existed in getting to know each other and wanting to know each other's desires in their interpersonal relationship.

Four research informants indicated the presence of autonomy and attachment in how they behaved in their relationships with their parents. As adult children, they have autonomous rights to act and behave according to their wishes, but this cannot be separated from the monitoring of their parents because of the sense of responsibility that they must fulfill as parents while they are not married. Parental attitudes are a form of attachment that exists in a dialectic of interaction. This interrelated relationship then creates space and limits communication with their parents. This situation is caused by differences in views on matters related to Korea between them and their parents.

### *Relational Dialectical Process of Female K-Pop Boyband Fans with Friends*

#### 1. Totality

Totality element is an element that explains that each member in interpersonal communication is dependent on other members. This characteristic will later influence how tension or contradiction is created in the interpersonal communication relationship. Research that has been carried out through observations and interviews shows that each research informant has the nature of dependence on their parents. Parents as members of an interpersonal communication relationship certainly have an obligation to guide their children to be better and wiser in making decisions in life. This role is played by each parent informant in different ways. This method determines the informant's attitude as a female K-Pop boy band fan.

#### 2. Contradiction

The contradiction that exists in the relational dialectical process of the four research informants and their friends is that there are differences in their views or perceptions about K-Pop boy bands. We know that contradiction is something that is the opposite and from the four informants

above, we can see this contradiction in how the informants and their friends describe a K-Pop Boyband. Friendship relationships that are established through the totality element have the potential to cause contradictions, because if one member of an interpersonal relationship does something, the others will be affected. Dependency that exists as an element of the totality will generally present an unavoidable contradiction. In general, research informants not only view their favorite K-Pop boy band as idols, but also as motivation and encouragement for them in carrying out all existing activities. Naya, Fani and Erika even said that watching the K-Pop boy band they idolized could overcome feelings of sadness that arose due to internal and external problems. There were many positive influences felt by research informants while being female fans of K-Pop boy bands. Each of them has their own way of showing their love for K-Pop boy bands and this automatically influences their relational dialectic with their friends who are bound by all situations and conditions.

### 3. Movement

Elements of movement will occur as a process in relationships because of the differences that become contradictions in the relationship. The identities of the four research informants as female fans of K-Pop boy bands influenced the behavior and responses of the people around them, so that this caused movements marked by setbacks or progress in the relationships they were having. This statement can be seen from the experiences of several research informants. Erika, Fani and Naya have close friendships with those who don't like things about K-Pop and this condition causes some of the research informants to distance themselves from their friends. Research informants experienced many difficulties while being female fans of K-Pop boy bands. Previous researchers have described the experiences experienced by Erika Fani and Naya as fans of K-Pop boybands. They are always looked down on by their friends because they like K-Pop boy bands. Many of the friends of the research informants conveyed bad stereotypes and perceptions, so this created an element of movement which was indicated by the decline in the quality of each research informant's friendships. The research informants seemed distant and looking for other friends who had similar interests. This action automatically causes their friendships with their other friends to slowly weaken.

### 4. Praxis

Lastly, there is the practical element where the informants in this research are people who make decisions to act in accordance with all the experiences they have experienced. In the previous sub-chapter, researchers explained how informants as female K-Pop boyband fans communicate with their parents. The lies and openness they commit towards their parents are actions that are influenced by events that have previously occurred. This incident became a lesson for the informants to behave with the people around them, therefore the praxis element is an element that explains that humans as decision makers are limited and measured by the things around them. The friendship relationships established by research informants through the totality elements above also require an element of praxis as a way to fight existing contradictions. In general, four research



informants named Bintang, Erika, Fani and Naya showed practical elements of the lies they committed against each of their friends, but the acts of lying they carried out had different strategies. Researchers saw that although the lying strategies used by each informant were different, these actions had the same goal, namely to avoid conflict and highlight their best identity in accordance with what their friends expected.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The relational dialectical process of female K-Pop boy band fans with their parents includes four basic elements in a dialectical perspective. These elements are totality, contradiction, movement and praxis. The four research informants in their totality elements are equally tied to their parents in an interpersonal relationship. Contradictions are shown in the presence of different views and understandings regarding K-Pop between the four research informants and their parents, so that an element of movement emerges which is characterized by a decrease or increase in the quality of the relationship. Lastly, there is the practical element where the informants are humans who are free to determine all their behavior according to the experiences they have experienced. This behavior includes interpersonal deception theory with three lying strategies and dramaturgy in it. The results of the interviews and discussions that the researcher described above show that the four informants displayed the dialectic of autonomy and attachment as well as the dialectic of openness and protection differently. The dialectic of new and predictable things was only demonstrated by one of the research informants named Naya. The relational dialectical process of female K-Pop boyband fans with their friends shows four different elements of relational dialectics. The totality shown by the four informants to the researchers had various attachments. The contradictions that arise in this bond also vary, thus requiring the movement that researchers generally see, namely moving away from the friendship. This action to stay away is a form of practical element from the four research informants. Researchers also use interpersonal deception and dramaturgical theories to explain the lying strategies used by several informants in their communication practices. The researchers focused on the relational dialectical process of the informants' friendship ties again through four existing basic assumptions. This assumption is the same as what the informants experienced with their parents. Relational dialectics in friendship ties are woven by communication that does not always go well. Changes in situations and conditions demanded the friendship ties of the four research informants because of the contradictions that emerged between these ties. The actions used by the informants to deal with these contradictions include three categories in the dialectic of interaction. Three informants indirectly practiced the dialectic of autonomy and attraction as well as the dialectic of openness and protection in their relationships, but only one informant experienced the dialectic of newness and predictability.

## **ADVANCED RESEARCH**

Researchers in this case suggest academics to develop this research with other theories such as communication psychology to analyze how K-Pop

Boyband fans communicate, marketing communications to analyze the marketing process used to attract K-Pop Boyband fans or semiotics to obtain a different point of view. different regarding K-Pop Boyband fans.

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