

Research Article

Forgiveness in Young Adult Dating Relationships: A Comparative Study Between Javanese and Buginese

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Abstract.

Erikson stated that the intimacy vs isolation crisis is closely related to an individual's ability to establish a romantic relationship. Conflict resolution is needed so that the relationship continues to run well. One of the things that can be done is to forgive. This study aims to determine the level of forgiveness in early adult dating relationships between Javanese and Bugis tribes. The study uses quantitative methods with comparative studies. The subjects in this study were Javanese ($n = 20$) and Bugis ($n = 20$) people. Data collection in this study used the Heartland Forgiveness Scale which was translated into Indonesian by the researcher. The t -test hypothesis test shows that the results of this study show no difference in the level of forgiveness in dating relationships in young Javanese and Buginese adults. This happens because there are other factors that are more influential than the influence of culture itself such as commitment, closeness and satisfaction with the relationship, emotional control, personal factor, empathy, and religious commitment.

Keywords: Buginese, Javanese, forgiveness, dating relationships

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1. BACKGROUND

Maree mentioned in his writing, individuals aged 20-40 years enter the developmental stage of young adulthood or can be called young adulthood, establishing a romantic relationship is one of the important tasks of this stage [1]. Erikson stated that the intimacy vs isolation crisis is closely related to an individual's ability to establish a romantic relationship [1]. At this stage individuals are expected to gain intimacy, by establishing a commitment in a relationship with another person is one way, the relationship can be a dating relationship to marriage. Establishing a dating relationship does not deny that conflict occurs between the couple. Conflict resolution is needed so that the relationship continues to run well. One of the things that can be done is to forgive.

The benefits of forgiveness are that it can increase interpersonal attachment, human life satisfaction, and maintain the relationship [2]. Individuals can make peace with

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unpleasant events when the individual takes a forgiving attitude. Research conducted by Theofani & Herdiana revealed that individuals can deal with stressful situations in their lives and also try to improve them through coping strategies, forgiveness is one of these strategies [3]. Forgiveness is one of the motivations for individuals not to take revenge and reduce the desire to hate those who hurt them. If individuals can apologize to someone, it can reduce their desire for revenge, increase goodwill or kindness towards the perpetrator who hurt the individual.[4], [5]

Forgiveness is a response process related to things that hurt individuals so that negative responses from unpleasant treatment can turn into positive responses. The more individuals hate it, the more emotionally attached the individual is, the pain received is attached to individuals who will unwittingly have an impact on their mental and physical health [6], [7]. Mullet et.al suggested several factors that influence individuals in apologizing to others. First, situational factors, in the form of how much loss is obtained, repeated violence, the absence of apology, and or compensation of the perpetrator. Second, relational factors, in the form of the identity of the perpetrator and his closeness to the victim, the status hierarchy of the perpetrator, the attitude given by the perpetrator after hurting the victim. Third, personality factors, McCullough et al in their writing explain that individuals who have high agreeableness, are individuals who have a loving and friendly nature, individuals like this tend to forgive easily and have a fairly low level of anxiety and are not easily provoked by negative emotions. Fourth, cultural factors emphasize the differences in cultural values adhered to by these communities. Research conducted by Suwartono et al [6] found interesting results. The willingness to apologize was different between Indonesian and French student participants. Participants from Indonesia scored significantly higher than participants from French students. This can be attributed to the culture adopted in Indonesia which tends to be collective, in contrast to the French culture which tends to embrace a culture with individualist values. [6], [8]

Similarly, research conducted by McCullough et al involving the United States, Australia, Korea, Germany, and New Zealand, shows the results of cultures that tend to be individualistic tend to place forgiveness depending on the individual, in contrast to collectivist cultures that tend to forgive as an effort to maintain social relations [9]. Research conducted by Tam et al. involving ethnic groups in Northern Ireland, showed the results of cultural factors including ethnic identity and feelings of group unity, playing a role in influencing the level of individual trust and intergroup forgiveness. As is the case in Indonesia, it has a wide variety of cultures which is one of the archipelagic countries. [10]

Indonesia stretches from Sabang to Marauke spread across many ethnic group, and forms the cultural values adopted by its people. Usually in the life of certain tribal communities, there is a thick and cultivated traditional value, the value of this tradition that forms the identity of the character of a particular tribal community. As revealed by Soekarto in the Buginese prioritizes culture, one of which is *siri 'na pace, siri'* which means: shame (self-esteem), and *pacce / passe* means a firm or hard and firm stance on certain issues. So that the establishment of this traditional value allows forming Bugis people to prioritize their self-esteem [11]. In a study conducted by Prayitno, it was found that many cultural values embraced by the Javanese community, in this study emphasizing the culture of mutual cooperation, politeness, kinship, and humility are very important in Javanese culture.[12]

In this case, the researcher assumes that Javanese ethnicity prioritizes apologizing to their partners compared to Bugis ethnicity. This assumption assessment comes from the cultural values of Javanese people who embrace the value of humility which can trigger a more forgiving attitude than the Bugis cultural values that prioritize self-esteem. Research conducted by McCullough et al. shows the results that forgiveness is positively correlated with levels of relationship satisfaction and commitment [9]. Research comparing the level of forgiveness of the two Tribes / Ethnicities has not been examined. So the purpose of this study is to see the difference in forgiveness levels between Javanese and Buginese in dating couples. The researcher's hypothesis is that there is a difference in the level of forgiveness between the two tribes.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

2.1. Variables or concepts studied

American Heritage Dictionary "forgive" is defined as "to forgive a wrong; pardon" and "to renounce anger or resentment". [7] Social science researchers mostly mention the rejection of anger and resentment to be the main principle in the concept of individual forgiveness. [13]–[15]. Some researchers also propose that individuals in forgiving also need to develop good feelings, or even unconditional love (egape) for the perpetrator. [13]. Other researchers propose the development of positive feelings or love. It should be noted that the process of forgiveness is intrapersonal. Thoughts, feelings, and motivations are what underlie individuals in determining whether they are forgiving or not. The components of the concept of forgiveness are the same as the definition

of forgiveness expressed by McCullough et al and also used by Thompson et al in developing the Heartland Forgiveness Scale (HFS) [7].

Thompson et al. explained that forgiveness has three aspects, namely forgiving oneself, forgiving others, and forgiving the situation. Forgiving oneself means that the individual can make peace over time with himself. When forgiving others, individuals will have good prejudices and stop negatively judging people who have done wrong to them. Individuals who make peace and forgive unpleasant conditions are a form of forgiving the situation. Even though these individuals are faced with difficult situations, they are still able to think positively and optimistically.[7] So that forgiveness is a concept that combines these three aspects, individuals who have forgiveness can forgive themselves, forgive others, and forgive the situation that occurs.

2.2. Sampling Method

The accidental sampling technique was used in obtaining research subjects, this technique is sampling by chance [16]. The subjects collected were 40 young adults who agreed to fill out this study, consisting of 20 subjects from the Javanese and 20 from the Buginese.

2.3. Research subject

The subjects in this study are early adults aged 20-30 years, Javanese, or Buginese ethnicity. Subjects who have a dating relationship status, a relationship without status, and who are not in a relationship but have dated before are the characteristics of the subjects in this study so that subjects who have never experienced a dating relationship before do not become research subjects for researchers. The subjects in this study were 40 subjects (male, n=11; female, n=29). 28 subjects were currently in a dating relationship, 9 subjects were not in a current relationship but had dated before, and the other 3 subjects were in a stateless relationship. The subjects in this study consisted of 20 people from the Javanese tribe and 20 from the Buginese.

2.4. Research Instruments

The scale used in this study is the Heartland Forgiveness Scale (HFS) from Thompson et al. [7]. This HFS is a Likert scale totaling 18 items, consisting of aspects put forward by Thompson et al., namely forgiveness of self, forgiveness of others, and forgiveness

of situations. In addition to being totaled to produce a final score of forgiveness. This scale can also be a multidimensional measurement tool where each aspect/dimension can produce its own score. The HFS scale has good reliability as seen from Cronbach's Alpha of .72 for forgiveness of self, .77 for forgiveness of situation, .73 for forgiveness of others, and .83 for total forgiveness.[7]. After being translated into Indonesian and modified according to the research subject, Cronbach's Alpha was obtained at .68, so this scale is still good to use. An example of an item used in this study is "I hate myself for the bad things I have done to my partner", this item is unfavorable in the forgiveness of self dimension. Another sample item "I kept punishing my partner for doing something I thought was wrong." unfavorable on the forgiveness of others dimension.

2.5. Research design

In this study, researchers used a quantitative approach which is a form of research with an emphasis on data in the form of numbers that are processed using statistical methods. [17]. The research design used is a comparative design, this study compares the level of forgiveness of 2 tribes Javanese and Buginese.

2.6. Data Collection Procedures

The procedure that will be carried out in this study has 3 stages, preparation, implementation, and analysis. The preparation stage will begin with the researcher preparing the research instrument, in this study it will use the Heartland Forgiveness Scale previously translated into Indonesian and modified by the researcher adapted to the research subject. The next stage is implementation, the researcher will distribute a Google Form link containing a questionnaire to research subjects via social media (Instagram and Whatsapp) on June 23-30, 2023, the questionnaire contains the subject's willingness to fill in this study before filling out the scale, after that filling in demographics such as name / initials, age, gender, Javanese / Buginese ethnicity, and the relationship status they are currently in, because researchers only include dating relationship status, stateless relationships, and those who are not currently dating but have been in a romantic relationship. In the third stage, the researcher will analyze the data using t-score to determine the differences in forgiveness levels of each tribe.

2.7. Data analysis technique

In this analysis process, researchers used a t-test to see the difference in the value of forgiveness levels in each ethnic, namely Javanese and Buginese ethnic. This research uses SPSS 24 statistical calculations.

3. RESULT

This study was conducted to see the differences in forgiveness between two tribes in Indonesia, namely the Javanese and Bugis tribes. Forgiveness is an individual's attitude toward making peace with himself, mistakes made by others, and unpleasant situations that occur.

TABLE 1: Mean and Standard Deviation.

Group Statistics					
	Suku	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error
Forgiveness	Suku Jawa	20	83.70	8.880	1.986
	Suku Bugis	20	83.10	14.175	3.170

Table 1 shows that there are 40 subjects (20 are Javanese and 20 are Bugis). Then the average forgiveness of the Javanese tribe (M = 83.70; SD = 8.880), while the average of the Bugis tribe (M = 83.10; SD = 14.175) Based on this value, it can be concluded that there is no difference in the level of forgiveness between the two tribes.

TABLE 2: Normality Test.

Tests of Normality				
	Suku	Shapiro-Wilk		
		Statistic	df	Sig.
Forgiveness	Suku Jawa	.941	20	.256
	Suku Bugis	.946	20	.307

Based on the statistical test results in Table 2, the Javanese tribe is normally distributed in the Shapiro-Wilk method, as indicated by a sig value of (p =.256). as well as the Bugis tribe, with a sig value of (p =.307), so that it is normally distributed. Thus, the statistical test results show that both tribal groups are normally distributed with respect to the level of forgiveness because both tribes have a conventional significance level (p> 0.05).

TABLE 3: Hypothesis Table.

		Independent Samples Test					
		t-test for Equality of Means				95% Interval of the Difference	Confidence of the Upper
		df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference		
Forgiveness	Equal variances assumed	38	.873	.600	3.740	-6.972	8.172
	Equal variances not assumed	31.922	.874	.600	3.740	-7.019	8.219

The level of forgiveness of young adults who are in romantic relationships from the Javanese and Bugis tribes was analyzed using an independent sample test. From table 3, it is known that with a sig. (2-tailed) of $.873 > .05$, it can be concluded that there is no difference in the level of forgiveness between Javanese and Bugis tribes in young adults who are in romantic relationships, with this hypothesis rejected.

TABLE 4: Hypothesis Test Results HFS by Dimension.

Dimensi HFS	Tribes	Mean	SD	Sig.
Forgiveness Of Self	Jawa	27.90	3.740	0.601
	Bugis	27.05	6.168	
Forgiveness Of Others	Jawa	28.20	4.674	0.925
	Bugis	28.05	5.276	
Forgiveness Of Situation	Jawa	27.60	4.222	0.881
	Bugis	28	7.867	

Based on the table above, although there is a difference in the mean of the two tribes for all three dimensions, the difference shown is not significant. The dimensions of forgiveness of self (.601), forgiveness of others (.925), and forgiveness of situation (.881) all show significance results > 0.05 . So it can be concluded that there is no significant average difference between the Javanese and Bugis tribes in young adults who are in romantic relationships in terms of the value of forgiveness in multidimensional and unidimensional terms, with this hypothesis rejected.

4. DISCUSSION

So it can be concluded that there is no significant average difference between Javanese and Bugis tribes in young adults who are in a romantic relationship in terms of multi-dimensional and unidimensional forgiveness values. In previous studies, it has been explained that culture is one of the factors determining the value or level of forgiveness

of a person. [4], [8], [18]. However, there may be other factors that can affect the level of forgiveness in a dating relationship besides ethnicity itself, such as the level of commitment, closeness, and satisfaction in the relationship [19]-[23], empathy [24], controlling emotions [22], religious commitment [23], and personal factors such as having a temper or having anxiety [21]. In a study conducted by Cristina et al. (2022), it was found that Italian and Turkish respondents did not differ in their level of self-esteem or level of self-forgiveness.

The values of forgiveness have been embedded in the cultures of both tribes. The Javanese have cultural values that are oriented towards the principles of harmony and respect and ultimately support forgiveness. According to [26], [27], individuals who apply Javanese culture have the cultural value of *nrimo*, which will help individuals forgive unfair and unpleasant treatment from others. [27], [28]. In Bugis ethnicity, principles of morality have been taught, one of which is the principle of *lempu*, or straight (vs. crooked). This morality teaches about honest attitudes and behaviors, one of which is forgiving someone who makes a mistake. [29]. In addition, this research was conducted in one country that has the same meaning of forgiveness, so it could be that this same meaning of forgiveness is what causes there to be no significant difference between the two tribes (the Javanese and Bugis tribes).

This study has some limitations because it only involves two tribes, namely the Bugis tribe and the Javanese tribe, so drawing general conclusions requires caution. For other researchers who want to conduct similar research, it is recommended to conduct research with married subjects. This study uses a quantitative approach, so it cannot explain other factors that are more complex in the involvement of ethnicity in the value of forgiveness.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis, it can be concluded that there is no difference in the level of forgiveness in dating relationships between Bugis and Javanese tribes. In general, cultural values regarding forgiveness are taught in both tribes. The value of *nrimo* in the Javanese tribe and the value of *lempu* in the Bugis tribe. Although in some previous studies mentioned the influence of culture in forgiveness, it could be proven by exploring each tribe. The limitations of this study which uses quantitative research methods so that it cannot ensure that each respondent is truly Javanese or Buginese who adheres to the culture of each tribe. So, it is suggested to future researchers to explore factors with qualitative methods or make comparisons with other ethnic groups.

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Ethics Policy

All respondents were informed of the purpose of the study and informed that the information they provided was for research use only. All respondents provided informed consent prior to completing the questionnaire.

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