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Children's Aggressive Behavior Tendency in Central Java Coastal Region: The Role of Parent-Child Interaction, Father's Affection and Media Exposure

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Abstract

This study was done to analyze the role of parent-child interaction, father's affection, and media exposure in aggressive behavior tendency among children. All participant ($n = 293$, aged 9-10) were included from children who live in coastal region ($n = 105$) and non-coastal region ($n = 188$) in Central Java. In addition, this study also aimed to determine the differences of aggressive behavior tendency level among children in both regions. Discriminant analysis was applied to distinguish groups of children who have aggressive behavior tendency from another group of children who have non-aggressive behavior tendency. And difference analysis was applied to determine the difference of aggressive behavior tendency level in children by their regions and gender. Parent-child interaction, father's affection, and media exposure have a discriminant function ($p < .05$) to distinguish groups of children who tend to be either aggressive or non-aggressive tendency. Children who live in coastal region have more aggressive behavior tendency ($M = 48.77$) compared to those of children who live in non-coastal region ($M = 46.40$, $t = 2.02$, $p < .05$). Father's affection (discriminant function = .221) was more strong influence in emerging children's aggressive behavior tendency compare to those of parent-children interaction ((discriminant function = .007), $X^2 = 61.18$).

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1. Introduction

Aggressiveness in Indonesia as a communal violent conflict cases increased since 1998, with 11.160 death victims. The violent cases always involve youth, students, and also witnessed by people, including young children. Saputra et al. [1] also explains that adolescent and students aggression in the form of mass clashes occurred on one and a half day throughout Indonesia, and youth is the second-largest group caused communal violence since 2008. The major reason for treatment referral in childhood is a children aggression, which is as a reflection of psychological under control [2]. Aggression is defined by Breakwell [3] as behavior intended to hurt or harm others. Many studies explained the reason why aggressive behavior arises from children. Viemero's longitudinal study in 1996 [4] explained that vandalism behavior in adolescents actually can be observed since childhood. When entering adolescence, aggressive child tend to easily involve in vandalism and mass clashes than their age group. Furthermore, Gentile's study from Iowa State University in 2007 [1], involving 430 children aged 7-11 years in the United States reveals there are five causes of children aggression. These factors are the poor parent-child communication, gender, bias towards hostility, the experience of being a victim of violence, and the media's violence exposure.

According to Bandura [5], children learn the habitual pattern by modeling on their parents. Modeling is the process of individual mastering a particular habit by imitating the others behavior, observing the situation and consequences that accompany such behavior. In modeling, children adapting the parent's thinking and their problem solving. Children who are accustomed to be introduced with aggressive behavior in daily life, especially through the media and parental modeling tend to develop aggressive behavior in their lives. There is a growing evidence that the quality of children's relationship with parents and the gender of child were highlight as important to be potential links between parenting behaviors and predict aggression in school-age children [6]. Several previous studies, explained that the received media exposure affects cognition and affective aggressive component of children [7]. Besides that, the parental perception about television programs watched by their children will affect the types of program that children watch and their effects on children's aggressive behavior [8]. Aggressive behavior in adolescents evolved since they were children. While the greatest influence on the behavior of children is their interaction with parents, their gender, and also media exposure.

More specifically, Awde [9] explains that the pattern of parent-child interaction is strongly influenced by the cultural background of the family adopted. Parent-child interaction patterns as a caretaker's interactive and communicative behaviors [10]. Through parent-child interaction, culture can influence every aspect of human development and is reflected in child bearing belief and practices to promote healthy adaptation [11]. Awde [9] recommends that when we want to do a study on children behavior and their interaction with parents we need to understand the cultural differences that the family adopted, specifically as well as individual differences. In the particular context of Indonesia, people are divided into various cultures. However, it is generally understood that the Indonesian adapting the Asian culture, as majority of patriarchal. While in demography, Indonesia consists of two regions, the coastal region and non-coastal region.

In Indonesia, it is still rare that a study linking between the aggressive behavior of children with the role of media exposure, their interactions with parents, especially their father's affection, and culture in the area they live. Past studies

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