

Attachment of the Youngest Child with Working Mother: A Case Study of the Youngest Daughter

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Abstract: As a mother, having another job outside the home requires good skills in sharing time and attention between work and children. These skills will later affect the results of the attachment obtained between the mother and child. Especially for the youngest child who is basically more spoiled and always wants to be close to his mother. This study aims to find out the description of the attachment that exists between the youngest child and her working mother. The approach used is the qualitative case study. Participants were 2 daughters who were the youngest children and had working mothers. The research instrument uses non-participant observation and semi-structured interviews. Qualitative data analysis uses thematic data analysis techniques, and validation uses data triangulation techniques. The results of this study are that each participant belongs to the type of secure attachment, so that each participant has high self-esteem and high interpersonal trust. Although the intensity of the meeting between working mother and her daughter is smaller than other, but the quality of attention and love they get from the mother is very good.

Keywords: Attachment, youngest child, working mother

Introduction

In each individual's interpersonal relationships there is a degree of security experienced, it can be referred to as attachment. Attachment here can be related to the relationship between mother and baby (Baron & Byrne, 2005). Attachment can occur when individuals with other individuals have more intimate ties, such as affection and dependence. These relationships indirectly affect the life between these individuals (Santrock, 2002).

Attachment starts from infancy and occurs gradually so that it can affect the next stage of child development. According to Bowlby, babies develop internal work models of attachment. The working model is a simple mental model of caregivers, baby forms a relationship with caregivers, and the self who has the right to nutritional care. The internal work model of attachment of a baby with a caregiver according to Bretherton and Munholland influences infant responses and the relationship between children and others (Santrock, 2002).

Mothers have an important role in the process of child development, so the expected relationship is definitely the secure attachment. Secure attachment can help children achieve optimal development in their lives. Conversely, if the attachment that occurs is insecure attachment, the child is most likely to experience problems in the process of development (Ervika, 2005). Most mothers who have children with good development are proven to have secure attachments. Meanwhile, children who are far from their mothers or have an insecure type of attachment tend to have problems in their lives (Archer et al., 2015).

Everyone has a special position in the family, there is the oldest, the middle, the youngest, or the only child. This position has an influence psychologically on the personality between children. Different treatments from

parents indirectly occur in children with different positions, especially in the youngest child (Ervika, 2005). This statement is also supported by research which states that the order of birth or position of children in the family has a relationship with the child's psychological condition. These conditions are like the development of the child's personality, mental health, and even the state of the child's relationship with parents (Chandola, 2016).

The attachment between parents and the youngest children also tends to be better, especially with mother. But it is not known how to describe the attachment of the youngest child with his mother who has to work outside the home. For someone who have working mothers, they only have a little bit of time to interact with each other. And only have the opportunity to meet and interact when the mother returns home from work. Therefore, researchers are interested in conducting research related to the description of the attachment between the youngest child and mother. But in this paper the researchers specialize in research on the youngest daughter who have working mothers.

This research was conducted with the aim to find out what kind of attachment exists between the youngest child and the mother, even though his/her mother has a job and does not spend all day with her child. The formulation of the problem of this study is how is the description of the attachment of the youngest daughter with her working mother?

Literature Review

Attachment can be built from emotional ties and interpersonal relationships between two people. Through these relationships, the product is different behaviors depending on which type of attachment style is owned. The type of attachment style in question is secure attachment, fear of avoiding, preoccupied, and refusing. Attachment here can come between babies and their

caregivers (mothers), or between two other people who often interact (Santrock, 2002; Baron & Byrne, 2005).

The most influential attachment to personality is the attachment between children and parents (Archer et al., 2015). When children interact directly with their parents, children form cognitions that are centered on two very important attitudes. The first basic attitude is self-evaluation or self-esteem. This attitude is the behavior and emotional reaction of the caregiver who gives information to the baby that he is valued, considered important, the loved one or at the other extreme, relatively worthless, unimportant, or unloved. The second basic attitude obtained by babies is the social-self aspect which consists of belief and expectations about others or interpersonal beliefs (Baron & Byrne, 2005).

The second basic attitude is the social-self aspect which consists of belief and expectations about others or interpersonal beliefs. The idea in this attitude is that the baby has experience that the caregiver can be trusted, or cannot be expected, or is unreliable. Attitudes like this are also taken by the baby when interacting with someone other than his caregivers. This is because the baby generalizes the caregiver's attitude toward other individuals (Baron & Byrne, 2005).

The youngest child in several studies has a cheerful personality, sociability, good listener, and extrovert type. The other side from the youngest children is bored quickly and very afraid not to be accepted in the environment because they tend to want attention always focused on her (Christya, 2007; Chandola, 2016). Other studies explain that the type of personality that the youngest children have is due to different experiences and responses received than his siblings (Bleske-rechek & Kelley, 2014).

When with parents, the youngest children are more likely to be spoiled and not given a lot of responsibility at home, thus making their youngest child more loved by their parents, especially to the mother (Christya, 2007). According to Siregar's explanation, mothers who work outside the home are mothers who carry out productive activities outside the home to make money and increase family income. So, the time spent on children and families tends to be shorter, and children only play or interact with their mothers after work (Siregar, 2007).

Methods

The research approach taken is qualitative research. According to Hanurawan (2016), a qualitative research approach is a systematic procedure agreed upon by a scientific community to reveal a subjective meaning of research participants about a phenomenon that is the object of study in the field of science. The research model conducted for this study is a case study. Hanurawan (2016) explained that case study research is a type of qualitative research that uses various methods and various data sources to explain in detail and in depth about an analysis unit. Participants of the study were 2 young women who were the youngest children and had working mothers.

Data collection tools used were non-participant observation and semi-structured interviews. This study uses thematic data analysis techniques. According to Hanurawan thematic analytic technique is an analysis of meaning based on themes that stand out and relate to the categories in the research objectives (such as themes related to aspects of what is being studied). Furthermore, in conducting qualitative research, general procedures are needed. (1) Transcription of data, (2) reviewing, (3) Segmentation, (4) Coding, (5) Developing a system category, (6) Making a master list (Hanurawan, 2016). The validation technique that can be done in this research is data triangulation. Triangulation according Hanurawan (2016) is cross-checking information and conclusions through variations of procedures or sources.

Results

1st Participant

About Participant: The participant is 1st-semester students in a university. The participant with the initials WA at the time of the interview was 20 years old and is a female. The participant is the youngest child in her family and her mother worked as a religion teacher, and the participant has 1 older brother.

Types of Attachment: (1) A view of self: Participant is proud of herself and has a spoiled and selfish nature. (2) A view of life at this time: The participant feels that her life is not yet perfect because she has not yet achieved his wishes. (3) Life Purpose: The participant has determined exactly what her purpose is in life even though she feels that she has not been able to fulfill her purpose in life. (4) Opinion about mothers: Participant was of the opinion that her mother was amazing. But she complained about her mother being less patient. (5) Feelings for the mother: Participant confirmed that she loved her mother very much. (6) The attitude of the mother towards the participant: The participant said that her mother would love her even though there were many characteristics of hers that her mother complained about. (7) Expectations from the mother: especially in terms of health, and the nature of mother who is less patient as stated in the previous point. (8) Daily life with the mother: Everyday, spending time with mother when cooking together, talking, and telling everything about the daily life of the participant. Every day also the participant must take and pick up the mother from work.

Factors Affecting Attachment: (1) The behavior of the mother when the participant wants something: Mother is a little difficult to give when participant asks for something. Unlike the participant's father. (2) What is done to get the mother's attention and response: Participant is an individual who rarely seeks attention from the mother. (3) How often participant meets her mother: Participant admitted that the frequency of their meetings was quite rare since the participants' grandmother was sick. Because after work, the participant's mother must take care of her grandmother. But before that, the frequency of their meetings was quite often and also every day they would do joint activities such as cooking and just talking.

Attachment functions: (1) The mother's attitude when the participant is under pressure or sadness: The participant never tells her sad feelings to her mother, because she feels uncomfortable and she didn't want to her mother to think and worry about her problems (2) Sharing experiences and stories with mothers: Participant usually talks about her daily life, her friends, and how her lecturers went that day. (3) The role of mother in managing the environment: Participant said that they tend to be free in terms of finding relationships and choosing the environment that participant must follow.

2nd Participant

About Participant: Participant is a 1st-semester student in a university. Participant with the initials MI, at the time of interview was 19 years old and is a female. Participant is the youngest children of her mother who worked as religion teacher, and participants had 1 older brother.

Types of Attachment. (1) Views of self: Participant considers herself moody, and is quick to make decisions, and easily trusts others. (2) A view of life: Participant feels happy with her current life. (3) Purpose of life: Participant says that her main purpose is to please her parents. (3) Opinions about mother: Participant considers her mother to be friendly, warm, nurturing her children, and not stingy in material matters. (4) Feelings on the mother: Participant feels happy to have a mother like her mother. (5) The attitude of the mother towards the participant: The participant feels that her mother is the best because her mother never restrains, and participant tends to be free in making decisions. (6) Expectations for mothers: Participant wants food cooked by her mother because her mother is rarely able to cook due to fatigue after working all day. (7) Daily life with the mother: Always meet after sunset, then watch TV together until evening.

Factors that influence attachment:(1) The attitude of the mother when the participant wants something: Her mother has a mindset that is not necessary to give all that the participant wants. (2) What is done to get the mother's attention and response: Participant feels that her mother's attention is mostly devoted to the material, so the participant never does anything. (3) How often do you see your mother: After her mother goes home from work, in the afternoon or at night, and on weekends.

Attachment Function. (1) The mother's attitude when the participant is under pressure or sadness: The participant feels that her mother is a very sensitive person when she is in a problem and sadness. Furthermore, the participant's mother also used to provide motivation that relaxed the participant so she would no longer be sad. (2) Sharing experiences and stories with mother: Participant felt that it was a little difficult to tell her mother because she was afraid that mother would be exhausted when she came home from work. But sometimes the participant comes to her mother slowly just to tell about her daily life. (3) The role of the mother in managing the environment: Participant and mother both say that the mother never limits the interaction of participants.

Discussion

Based on the results of the research conducted, the two participants showed the characteristics of a type of attachment that is secure. As is known, the secure attachment is when an individual believes that he or she is loved, valued, and get attention (Collins & Feeney, 2004). This can be seen from several answers from the two participants which showed that their mothers were very loving, responsive, attentive, and trustworthy.

Several factors that influence the occurrence of secure attachment are also seen from the results of this study. These factors are the satisfaction of the children from their mothers, the reaction or response that shows concern, and the intensity of the meeting with the mother which is a little bit but meaningful (Baradja, 2005). These factors were not directly conveyed by the two participants. For example, related to satisfaction with the mother. In both participants, they considered his mother rarely giving what she wanted. But they realize that their mother is right because knowing the best for her child is not always obeying the child's wishes.

The attachment function felt by both participants was also clearly illustrated in the results of the study. According to them, the mother could provide a sense of security, regulate the state of feeling, as a channel of expression and communication, and as a basis for exploring the surrounding environment (Davies, 2010). Mother according to both participants is a person who always understands the feelings of their children, and as a place to pour out all complaints. Although most of the mother's time is spent outside the home because of work, the two participants still feel that their mother can be relied on in establishing a good emotional bond.

This research is in line with other studies conducted on mothers with employee status. The results of the study revealed that the dual role of an employee and a mother had no impact on the attachment between mother and child. Mother still gives the best for her child (Kassamali & Rattani, 2014). The other research also says that most mothers and children must have a type of attachment that is secure because it is very influential on children's behavior. So that parents apply the best emotional bond so that the child has a good personality (Archer et al., 2015).

Conclusion

Based on the results of this study, the researchers concluded several things: The description of the attachment between the youngest child and their working mothers is a secure attachment type. Factors that influence it are having a feeling of satisfaction with the mother, feeling the mother as an individual who is responsive, caring, and the quality of the meeting between the two is good. Furthermore, the viscosity function that is seen is the feeling of warmth and comfort that participants get when they are with their mothers. Then the mother also gives a sense of security, and communication is very good. And lastly, in terms of environmental and social arrangements, both participants

were given the freedom to choose their environment as long as it was the best for themselves. This makes participants have higher self-confidence.

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