

Toxic Relationship as Dating Violence: An Examination in the Sociology of Religion



Alda¹, Marisa Elsera²

*Correspondence:

Email: marisaelsera@umrah.ac.id

Authors Affiliation:

Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji,
Indonesia

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Abstract

Individuals need other individuals to realize their potential. One of them is the need to socialize with other individuals. However, in a dating relationship, there are many conflicts including forms of dating violence such as verbal violence. Verbal violence and economic violence, still happen a lot among students in Tanjungpinang. This study aims to determine how students perceive toxic relationships. To find out the social factors that cause dating violence and the social impact, this study uses a descriptive – qualitative method by examining the phenomenon of dating violence among university students by analyzing George Herbert Mead's Symbolic Interactionism theory. Qualitative data in this study was obtained through in – depth interviews. The results showed that Toxic Relationship is internal violence. Students who are victims of dating violence do not realize they are trapped in a toxic relationship.

Introduction

Basically humans are social creatures living intermingled and interdependent with each other who forever live with humans. The following interactions can make it easier to communicate with each other so that the intentions and objectives to be conveyed can be channeled properly and to socialize with others can start from our closest environment such as family or environment outside of the family (peers, work colleagues and even couples). The phenomenon of dating in society can be very easy to find and even familiar dating violence is part of the destructive and coercive actions that occur in dating relationships. The motive for this dating relationship is the process of personal interaction between two different genders, the trend of social status in society, as a place to share stories in pouring out the contents of each other's hearts, looking for a support system other than family, friends and choosing a life partner.

Over time, dating relationships that were originally considered sweet, protecting and loving each other have subsequently changed and developed into unhealthy relationships (toxic relationships). In fact, what happens is that various forms of violence obtained during dating relationships can even affect their psychological and social lives. According to Solferino and Tessitore in Adelwys, a toxic relationship is a relationship characterized by actions or behaviors carried out by individuals who are in a relationship and these behaviors can have a physical and emotional impact on their partners. (Solferino and Tessitore 2019). Toxic relationships in dating relationships are characterized by selfishness, excessive jealousy and difficulty being yourself because of being controlled by a partner which will then result in an act in the form of violence such as physical violence, verbal violence has an impact on a person's psychic and financial violence.

The main task of students is to follow and undergo academic activities during their studies at Higher Education and complete the lecture period on time. In the world of lectures, there is a social phenomenon, namely dating violence among active students at Tanjungpinang University, one of which occurs in various types of forms of violence experienced by them and it is unfortunate that dating violence is part of a social phenomenon that still occurs a lot but has not received more attention from the



community. During the research conducted by the researcher, it was found that there are three types of Dating Violence, namely Physical Violence, Verbal Violence, and Economic/Financial Violence, which can be explained as an act or action that can harm another individual (threatening, slapping, cursing, humiliating, degrading a person's social life and forcibly asking to finance the life of a partner). Many parents, adolescents, and education professionals do not fully understand dating violence, because they think that this kind of problem is not a big case and not something to be concerned about.

In dating relationships among students, they need affection, more attention, and sincere love, which is the reason that triggers each individual to establish a relationship with the opposite sex. Every dating relationship wants a relationship that runs happily, and lovingly, has good and healthy communication, envisions a future together towards a serious level, namely marriage, and has positive things. Healthy dating is characterized by the absence of mutual judgment with a sense of courage and mutual honesty to discuss anything with a partner, including discussing daily life such as work, health problems, social problems, and finances.

However, the reality is that there are still many couples who are trapped in toxic relationships dating among students who are vulnerable to violence whether they realize it or not. Courtship is a relationship between a man and a woman that is characterized by intimacy where each other is mutually involved in feelings of love and mutually recognizes their partner as a boyfriend or girlfriend. Whether we realize it or not, today's society is increasingly developing in adolescents who are in a dating relationship and it is possible that they often practice bad behaviors in these dating relationships, one of which is dating violence. According to Subagyo (2012: 40), violence starts with language and will continue to occur starting from intimate relationships or relationships between individuals, families, schools, organizations, institutions, between community groups, to between nations. This phenomenon is what makes researchers interested in examining how students' perceptions of toxic relationships: violence in dating and this violence occurs among students in Tanjungpinang City with an approach seen from the perceptions of the experiences of active students who give responses, victims who experience violence in dating and several informants who can help researchers in completing this research without judgment and blame.

This study aims to determine how the perceptions of students regarding violence in dating students in Tanjungpinang City, knowing what factors and what impacts are obtained by victims of dating violence among these students. Violence is an abusive act or action that stems from one of their violence against certain gender groups and roles. According to Martono (2012) the phenomenon of violence today has colored almost all aspects of our social life in the fields of politics, culture, and even education. Violence is a form of imbalance between the roles of women and men that causes differences in domination or the process of controlling power by the dominant party to the weak. According to the male point of view, women are weak, submissive, and passive creatures, which is the main reason for arbitrary treatment.

When viewed from the values and norms that apply in society in Tanjungpinang City, in general, people in Tanjungpinang City are native Malay tribes who uphold customs that are used as a way of life, polite patterns for many people but are now starting to fade and shift not because they are not good but because of the outside culture that enters the community, unconsciously has formed a society choosing an outside culture that is considered good and in accordance with the needs of millennials at this time. So many changes and shifts in values and norms can be felt such as the way of dressing, shifts in social norms as changes that occur in the behavior that occurs in society,

especially in adolescents due to the influence of outside culture. With the occurrence of shifting values and norms in society where respect for respect begins to shift, committing acts of violence against others and behavioral deviations that are part of the norms of decency that apply in society.

Based on the social environment of adolescents in Tanjungpinang City, urban adolescents can also be a motive for triggering many behaviors that violate the rules of values and norms that apply in society. This can be supported by the characteristics of people who are easy to imitate what they see, which is obtained from a harsh family environment in educating children or a peer environment that commits social deviations, lack of parental control, and individualistic attitudes so that adolescents who commit an act of deviation feel that it is a common problem for each individual. One of the acts of deviation that applies to adolescents is violence committed during dating. Regarding dating violence that is rampant among students, dating will be faced with situations that demand to be able to adjust themselves to their partners, so it is not uncommon for this dating relationship to be colored by cases of violence, especially those committed by men against women. The opportunities that can occur in dating violence, some of whose victims are women, according to society, especially the opinion of men, assume that women are submissive and weak creatures so that is the main motive for arbitrary actions.

This study uses George Herbert Mead's symbolic interaction theory. This theory explains that organisms live sustainably, so they will engage in efforts to adapt to their environment so that the organism undergoes continuous change. Based on this thought, Mead argues that the process of change or the process of natural evolution. This evolutionary process allows humans to adapt naturally to the environment in which they live. Ritzer (2014: 264) explains Mead's view of the mind, the mind is a social phenomenon. Mind is not only a process of individual conversation with oneself, but the mind arises and develops in the human social process. Then Mead also has a view of the self (Self). Self is part of the ability to accept oneself as an object or from the other party as a subject. According to Mead's view, newborn babies and animals do not have a self because the self can be formed through activity and social relations, when the self has evolved it will remain even though one-day social contact does not occur at a later time. The self is dialectically related to the mind, on the one hand, Mead explains that the body is not the self and will become the self when the mind has developed.

Furthermore, self and reflexivity are an important part of the development of the mind. One way to develop oneself is through reflexivity or the ability to put oneself consciously into the part or place of another person and react like that other person. As a result, people will be able to do and examine themselves as others can examine themselves. George Herbert Mead's symbolic interactionism which has 4 stages based on social action: impulse, perception, manipulation, and consumption. Impulse is a form of encouragement or desire within oneself to be able to do something which then the feeling aims to find out from the second stage of action, namely perception.

Research Methods

This article is the result of field research that uses qualitative research methods, namely understanding phenomena and describing research in order to facilitate researchers in research (Moleong, 2007: 6). Then, it does not escape the involvement of informants who are considered by researchers to be competent in their fields. Based on the background previously described, the object of this research is students who have been victims of dating violence. The location chosen by the researcher to be used as research is Tanjungpinang City, Riau Islands Province. The data collection techniques

that researchers use in this study are Data collection in this study uses the observation method directly going to the field, interviews conducted in the field by means of question and answer sessions with informants, and documentation as evidence in this study. Then, after all the data relating to toxic relationship violence in student dating in Tanjungpinang City has been obtained, the researcher analyzes the data to facilitate understanding, the researcher then conducts several efforts in the study, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing.

Students' Knowledge and Understanding of Toxic Relationships

Knowledge and understanding of students about toxic relationships that occur among many are still not aware, because some people consider that oral arguments in a relationship in family relationships, friendships, and dating relationships are commonplace, even though this can trigger a conflict that is large enough and has an impact on all aspects of life. research informants who provide perceptions or responses to Knowledge and understanding of toxic relationships that they have seen in their social environment against victims of dating violence, it can be seen that extensive knowledge is needed about forms of dating violence and is supported by emotional intelligence in each individual.

The emotional intelligence that researchers mean is a sense of being able to control or hold emotions, so that when both parties are able to hold emotions can act to avoid such as acting decisively to ask for help and report to the authorities so that violence in dating will be overcome and stopped. Knowledge and understanding of toxic relationships in each individual is considered very important because this knowledge can help victims supervise themselves to know about the limits of acceptable behavior and unacceptable behavior.

Students who are victims of toxic relationships must gain knowledge and understanding of self-control, understanding of dating relationships from the family environment, school, or agencies related to this. If students have good knowledge about dating violence, they can avoid dating violence. When students who are victims of dating violence have good knowledge and understanding of dating violence, as long as individuals in the process of recognizing each other's characters realize that there is a toxic relationship, individuals will immediately respond to avoid dating violence before it continues. Mead views action as the "most core unit". In analyzing actions, Mead is also very close to the action behaviorist approach. For Mead, action includes both overt and covert aspects of human action and focuses on stimulus and response. The same thing that happened to the victim can be seen from Mead's stage of Manipulation. For example, taking an action in relation to the object, where this manipulation has a phase that creates a temporary pause obtained from weighing the object allows humans to contemplate various responses. When the individual is thinking about whether or not to eat the mushroom, this has relevance to the phenomenon in the study. When they have thought before deciding to do or continue an action. They first try to think by testing some basic assumptions about what will happen.

Forms of Toxic Relationship

The phenomenon of violence is predominantly experienced by women. Violence against women does not only occur to women in marriage, but it also occurs to women while undergoing dating relationships with various forms of violence experienced by victims. The following researchers explain based on the description above as follows:

1. Physical violence, according to Mead, humans have a number of possible actions in their minds before they take actual action, thinking that Mead means is a process where individuals interact with themselves using meaningful symbols through the process of interaction with themselves. individuals choose which of the stimuli directed at them will be responded to.

As the results of the researcher's interview with DA, namely:

"I don't know how many months I have started to experience physical violence, starting from mengenggang if he violates he will hit continuously, threatening, I am afraid of him, my ex is getting violent. I was afraid of him, my ex was getting more violent. He was desperate to come to the rented room and enter through the window of the room and immediately stepped on my head hard, I was hit so hard at that time that my thighs were bruised, my lips were busted. He was desperate because it started with me often asking for a breakup, he would immediately become violent, desperate to approach me in any way at that time. Verbally and ended up with physical violence for 9 months. (Interview, 26 January 2022).

Based on the results of this interview, this study is a form of physical violence (hitting and kicking) on the grounds that if the victim does not comply with the wishes of the ex – boyfriend as the perpetrator in this case, then the victim will get physical violence as a punishment. In the phenomenon, it can be seen that there is a thought process in which the individual before he decides to end his relationship with the perpetrator. Humans have a number of possibilities in their minds before they take actual action. So the victim interacts with herself about the things she faces, at first the victim can still endure the treatment she received from her former partner. But over time the possibility of thinking about staying with a partner is no longer there because the victim feels that the treatment she has received is no longer tolerable.

2. Kekerasan Verbal

Verbal violence is violence committed by using words that can hurt the person's feelings. As the results of the researcher's interview with the informant, as follows:

"We fought because of the problem of one girl that we know and he prefers that girl over me, and until finally the conflict. we were as far as the beginning of our conflict he could still not be too rough, yes that was earlier sis, we dated my ex – boyfriend for 1 year and 2 months in the period of our relationship for about 1 year he was more verbal. It started with a fight that he swore at me". (Interview, 27 November 2021)

Just like what HS said as the first victim informant, informant KI also said the following:

"In the 11th or 12th month as I remember, we started to have a big fight because I didn't like his possessiveness, controlling my activities here and there, with whom and where. I was getting more and more uncomfortable, he started to berate me, even hit me on the head once. I didn't accept it, so I fought back and I think the violence I've experienced so far is more verbal. His behavior that doesn't want to admit to being wrong even though it's his fault, but it's still my fault, giving criticism that should build my spirit but this criticism instead makes me fall and insecure". (Interview, 4 December 2021)

The same information was also obtained as follows:

"Verbally, before I was finally beaten. He would definitely get angry first there, already emotional he started cursing, insulting, saying I was a stupid woman, a useless woman and ended up with physical violence for 9 months if I'm not mistaken". (Interview, 26 January 2022)

It can be concluded from the results of the interviews, that the four informants who experienced verbal violence committed by their former boyfriends, the perpetrators of verbal violence often did not realize that what they were doing was a verbal form such as threatening, scolding by berating with harsh and unconstructive words. Verbal violence that often occurs among students as victims of dating violence can also be said to be a mental crime which can potentially harm others.

3. Economic/Financial Violence

According to Christianti (2013) economic violence is extortion against victims such as taking or forcibly asking for the victim's money, organizing expenses from the smallest things with the intention of controlling the victim's actions against their daily needs. Economic/financial violence against the daily lives of victims of dating violence is another part of mental violence. Where, this material violence is more about asking the partner to fulfill all their daily needs, either asking nicely or by force.

Viewpoints From Students about Toxic Relationships

It is certainly important for us to know about the perceptions of students towards toxic relationships of dating violence among students in the city of Tanjungpinang which is based on the direction of social explanations that are more focused on the situation in the field for the assessment of student perceptions of toxic relationships of dating violence in the city of Tanjungpinang. Student perceptions of toxic relationships are as follows:

1. Toxic Relationship is a natural thing

Students' perceptions of toxic relationships according to them toxic relationships are a natural thing in dating relationships because they assume that the violence that occurs as a form of expression and proof of attention and affection from their partners. research informants who are victims of dating violence, responded that there are some things that can be said to be natural in the process of undergoing dating relationships such as scolding by reprimanding each other, prohibiting, limiting activities and limiting relationships are commonplace in dating relationships. The victim who responds acts as the subject of the problem.

The perspective of Herbet Mead's symbolic interaction theory seeks to understand and understand human or individual behavior from the subject's point of view. This is also explained by Mead, Mead explained that the mind (mind) has the ability as a tool to stimulate, bring up in itself not only one response but as a whole. However, if the individual has the response in him, that is what is called the mind. Mead also has a point of view other than the mind, namely about the self, which is an ability to be able to accept oneself as an object and on the other hand as a subject. In social life, the self often occupies the role of object and subject.

2. Toxic Relationship is a detrimental thing

Student perceptions of toxic relationships according to informants in this study, in addition to toxic relationships as a natural relationship, but there are also those who think that toxic relationships are a harmful relationship. student informants who are respondents to this toxic relationship case explain that a dating relationship in which there is already an element of excessive violence is a detrimental thing. as victims of toxic relationship violence in dating, they realize and agree that in the end the dating relationship they have been living in is part of a detrimental thing because of the physical and verbal treatment they have received that injures their bodies and damages their personalities.

Dating violence in a dating relationship is a reality in social life and each individual has a certain perception. Which can be understood by Mead's symbolic interactionism theory regarding the concept of I & Me. I is an aspect of the self that is non – reflective

while Me (I) views the self as an object which means that the individual obtains meanings that are interpreted by others around him. In a dating relationship between two partners, dating violence is something that is normal by the individuals concerned. However, there are also those who consider toxic relationships dating violence can be detrimental to individuals outside of the relationship. So the behavior of violence in relative dating is considered wrong for others is not necessarily wrong for them. Because it is their meaning that underlies the behavior they show. For those in toxic relationships, prohibition is not violence but is considered a form of expression of affection and attention.

So for the perpetrators of violence or those concerned in the I dimension who interpret violence is a natural thing. Meanwhile, for individuals outside the I or in the Me dimension, violence in dating is unnatural and can harm someone. Because it is not in accordance with the expectations of the individual group. Based on the results of the interviews above, for students who provide responses or perceptions of toxic relationships. One of the goals and meanings of dating is to get a sense of being loved, an loved by getting to know more about their partner, the same thing that happened in the interviews of informants who were part of the actors. Informants provide perceptions of toxic relationships in which there are forms of dating violence, individuals have the desire or impulse to date, and the first thing individuals do before choosing a relationship with dating status is to go through the process. If the individual has previously experienced, then if the actor starts dating again, the first thing that will be done is to consider, the individual will think about the past experience. Manipulation through the introduction process becomes a kind of experimental method where the actor will try to think by testing some hypotheses about what will happen if they return to the same relationship.

Conclusion

Based on research conducted on student perceptions of toxic relationships: Violence in Student Dating in Tanjungpinang City based on information data obtained from several informants that toxic relationships are relationships in dating that are characterized by the behavior of one individual who can harm his partner excessively with factors that cause violence. Dating violence is a social phenomenon where the majority of victims are women, but findings in the field can occur in men. The perception of students towards toxic relationships is that there are still many who do not realize that dating relationships before marriage are very prone to violence and consider this part of the consequences in the relationship, so that even though there is violence in dating, the victims still maintain their relationship.

The reasons for dating violence found in this study are: jealousy, disobedience, possessiveness, financial needs. Based on the findings in this study, there are three forms of violence, namely: physical violence in the form of hitting, kicking, verbal violence in the form of cursing, swearing and economic violence in the form of extorting money. Toxic relationships will occur due to a lack of knowledge and understanding of toxic relationships between couples. Good knowledge and understanding when undergoing a dating relationship will minimize the occurrence of violence in dating.

Some of the factors that cause toxic relationships to occur are internal factors such as victims choosing to survive because they think that partners can change, fear that no one can accept them besides their partners, no other choice, the partner is too good, feeling embarrassed because everyone closest to them already knows their dating relationship. While external factors, namely parenting patterns that allow and free their children to date, limited information, lack of knowledge and education of parents are one of the motives for having difficulty in applying good parenting at home. Then, Informants

have peers or daily playmates who make them a place to exchange stories and experiences, one of which is about romantic relationships.

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