

Romantic Belief and Quality of Marital Relationship Among Married People In Makassar

Nurfitriany Fakhri¹, Sahril Buchori², Haerani Nur³, Ria Andriany Fakhri⁴

Universitas Negeri Makassar^{1,2,3}

Educational Quality Assurance Agency, Sulawesi Barat⁴

Email: nurfitriany.fakhri@unm.ac.id

Abstract. This study aims to look at relationships of the romantic beliefs and the qualities of relationships in married couples. The population of this study were married people and lived in Makassar, with a total sample of 179 people. This study uses a correlative method of data collection carried out using a scale of the Couple Satisfaction Index (CSI) and Romantic Belief Scale (RBS). The data collected was then analyzed using Spearman Correlation analysis. The results showed that there was a very significant relationship between romantic beliefs and the quality of relationships in married people in Makassar.

Keywords: Romantic belief, quality of marriage

INTRODUCTION

Over the years, a number of studies have sought to explore the relationship between the quality of individual relationships, individual beliefs in relationships that are built, relationship stability and satisfaction in relationships that are romantic (Sprecher & Metts, 1999, Weaver & Ganong, 2004). There are several factors that influence a satisfaction in a romantic relationship so that it can last for a long time. These factors can be in the form of gender role orientation (Curun, 2012), as well as the contribution of parental and adolescent relationships to the capacity of closeness and commitment (Scharf & Mayselless, 2001). One of the factors that also influences the continuity of individual relationships is the belief held by the individual concerned about the relationship being undertaken. This belief can be called a form of romanticism (Lippman, Ward, & Seabrook, 2014).

Love is a universal phenomenon. Everyone in life experiences love, but attitudes and experiences towards love are very different between individuals. Love is a positive emotion from a form of attachment and affection. Every individual in life is trying to find love. Every individual tries to feel special and loved. When someone finds another person who can love him, is honest, sincere and gives happiness, then that person automatically feels bound to his partner. The feeling that someone is special and does not want that feeling to disappear can be the reason why someone

stays together in a relationship. Different theorists have stressed the importance of love, for example, intimacy versus isolation in early adulthood is the sixth stage of Erickson's psychosocial development theory, which shows the importance of intimate relationships in one's life. Likewise, Maslow has also highlighted love and belonging as one of the important human needs in expressing how love is important for survival after biological and security needs are met (Kokab & Ajmal 2012).

Romantic love, basically experienced universally by humans, is widespread throughout cultures around the world (Jankowiak and Fischer, 1992) and is considered to be experienced by most people. Romantic love serves as an evolutionary device that encourages couples to live together and care for their helpless babies (Gonzaga and Haselton, 2008). In addition, a higher level of commitment in romantic relationships is associated with alternatives in interpersonal attraction (Maner et al., 2009), thus, romantic love serves to maintain relationships and reduce the desire to search for alternative partners. In this sense, romantic love is an important aspect of well-being and positive experience in humans.

Romantic love can be considered as something deep and meaningful. Romantic love begins as passionate love, a state of total attraction between two individuals. As the concept of "you and me" transitioning to the concept of "us," romantic love has a positive impact on one's next existence. A person can become emotionally dependent on a partner for happiness in intimate relationships. Romantic relationships are accompanied by subjective happiness (Diener and Seligman, 2002), which leads to improvements in mental health. In this case, being in a romantic relationship is one of the positive experiences of humans in adulthood.

Romantic relationships including romantic beliefs are universally experienced by humans, not limited to religion, gender or culture owned by individuals. The problem that arises is, so far various studies on romantic beliefs have not reached couples in certain cultures, especially in eastern cultures. One study of romantic beliefs on African-American respondents was conducted (Weaver & Ganong, 2004), however, so far for respondents in Asia, it is still rarely heard. This is one of the problems caused, the Eastern cultural context shows the difference with Western culture.

Romantic belief can be a gate for someone's happiness towards marriage. Marriage becomes one of the final goals of couples who have fostered love. This can happen to any pair of various tribes, including the Bugis tribe in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. The Bugis tribe is one of the largest and most widespread tribes in Indonesia. The Bugis tribe has a cultural value called *Siri* 'which is a way of life as a philosophy from the ancestors of the Bugis (Buchori & Fakhri, 2018). Married to a couple in the Bugis tribe is still well preserved in connection with the culture that binds it. Often marriages in the Bugis tribe produce phenomena caused by the strong cultural ties that are still believed by families of Bugis tribal couples. Quoted from the Most Recent Makassar Online page (2016), shows that in the Bugis tradition, *Panai'* or delivery money is the main requirement in the application. The

prospective bridegroom must give some money to the bride. This money is intended as the cost of the bride's needs to hold a wedding and the delivery money will usually be accompanied by a request from the bride in the form of sompa (immovable property such as land, houses, rice fields, gardens) and groans, namely wedding reception accessories. The amount of Panai' money is usually very much influenced by the social status of the bride-to-be, also with the groom-to-be. This delivery money is increasingly phenomenal because a number of men are willing to provide very high money to more than Rp 1 billion (DetikNews, 2018).

Firestone and Catlett (1999) describe love as "behavior that increases emotional well-being, self-esteem, and autonomy". Romantic love is a bond or relationship between two people that produces trust, intimacy, and interdependence. Romantic love consists of three elements; attachment, care and intimacy. Attachment includes care and approval for others. Attention is the hope of others to be happy, and intimacy including sharing thoughts, desires, and feelings. Romantic love occurs when someone with their partner feels emotionally high, excited, and full of passion. Love is also seen as a passion for others to the extent that a person cannot live without his partner. According to Gottschall and Marcus (2006), is the desire to unite with someone. Departing from this phenomenon, researchers conducted research aimed at looking at romantic beliefs and the quality of relationships in married people in Makassar. The hypotheses in this study are:

H0: There is no relationship between romantic beliefs and the quality of marital relationships among married people in Makassar.

H1: There is a relationship between romantic beliefs and the quality of marital relationships among married people in Makassar.

Review of Literature

Quality of Marriage Relations

In general, relationship quality, often called marriage quality in the research literature, refers to one's happiness or satisfaction in himself and his relationships. This is a frequently studied aspect of interest in relationships, but there are some differences regarding the definition of relationship quality or the underlying theory (Fincham & Beach, 2010). This causes, "relationship quality" is often used interchangeably with terms such as "relationship happiness", "relationship satisfaction", and "relationship adjustment". There are two main approaches to understanding the quality of relationships, namely the interpersonal relationship approach. This approach focuses on patterns of interaction between partners and see areas such as how couples communicate, their conflict behavior, and how they spend time with each other.

Another perspective is the intrapersonal approach which analyzes that the quality of the relationship is not about behavior and interaction in the relationship but refers to how the partner's level of happiness or satisfaction with the relationship. This involves subjective evaluation of partner relationships (Fincham & Rogge, 2010).

The quality of relationships is an important thing, which must be considered in building everyday family life. The quality of relationships has a wide influence on one's life and can even spread to various areas such as relationships with work partners, children, and the wider community.

Recent evidence shows that children with parents who have poor relationship quality, show more behavioral problems such as hyperactivity-inattention, than children whose parents have better relationship quality (Garriga & Kiernan, 2013). Research shows that the influence of the quality of partner relationships on children produces the same behavior for children. research shows that parents who have high quality in their relationships can be a protective factor for the welfare of children even when there is a high conflict in parent-child relationships. There are also broader implications for society, including economic and social relations (Coleman & Glenn, 2009).

There is more recent research on the importance of good quality relationships between partners, regardless of marital status, to the health, life satisfaction, and well-being of partners (Coleman & Glenn, 2009; Robles et al., 2013) and their children (Cummings & Davies, 2010). In other words, the quality of the relationship is one of the important keys in maintaining interpersonal relationships. In some cases, as stated by Holt-Lunstad and colleagues (2008) concluded from their research on blood pressure and the quality of relationships, "it is better to remain single than to feel unhappy in marriage".

Troubled couples often become problematic parents (Cummings & Davies, 2010). Parents in happy relationships interact more positively with children and show care that is sensitive, warm, and accepting. Conversely, poor partner relationships are associated with permissive parenting and more negative parent-child relationships (Carlson & McLanahan, 2005). Conflicts between parenting partners can specifically produce negative consequences for children. Children who are exposed to poor marital conflict management are very at risk for physical and mental health which is also bad, have a low tendency to reach full potential in school, experience sleep disorders, and show problems with friends, including peers (Coleman & Glenn, 2009; Barrett et al., 2011).

Poor relationship quality is associated with negative results, whereas good relationship quality is associated with life welfare and positive outcomes for individuals, children and families of the spouse concerned (Vaillant, 2012). Research shows that parents who have good relationship quality, tend to have children with good adjustment, which in turn will have a good relationship quality in the future too. The association between the quality of relationships and children's self-adjustment is consistent in a variety of economic, racial, ethnic and family structure contexts (Moore, Kinghorn & Bandy, 2011).

Romantic Belief

During the socialization process, children to adults develop internalization of the ideal concept of romantic love. In line with this, expectations about romantic relationships also develop and are considered a natural and common part of the case. The ideal concept can take the form of the belief that love can overcome everything, love at first sight can happen, love is the main foundation of a marriage and true love will last forever. This concept is what ultimately builds an ideology of romanticism (Holland & Eisenhart, 1990). This ideal concept is often found in various media such as songs and films, and not only in Western culture (Hatfield & Rapson, 1987).

Romantic belief departs from the ideal concept of romanticism that is in a culture. This concerns assumptions about the form of love, how a relationship should be built, and the expectations that accompany love and the relationship. Romantic belief refers to beliefs that compose an ideology about romanticism and specifically concerns the idealization of partners and romantic relationships, the ideal concept that love can face all challenges and obstacles, the understanding that there is only one true love, and thoughts about love at first sight (Sprecher & Metts, 1989; 1999). These beliefs are organized in a romantic context which can be described as a mental representation of the sequence of events related to romance (Abelson, 1981). Standards are associated with these beliefs and then incorporated into romantic texts that are used to compile and evaluate self-behavior, and to predict and interpret the behavior of potential partners and romantic partners they have (Sprecher & Metts, 1989). Romantic beliefs can be an important influence at the beginning of interest, and become an important resource in directing the development of a relationship at an early stage (Sprecher & Metts, 1999).

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a correlative method to analyze the relationship of romantic beliefs and the quality of the relationship in married couples. The number of respondents in this study were 179 married people, men and women, and domiciled in Makassar.

The instrument used in this study is a scale. The scale is divided into 2 forms, namely:

1. The Couple Satisfaction Index (CSI) scale, which is a scale compiled to measure the satisfaction a partner has in a relationship (Funk & Rogge, 2007). This CSI was adapted by researchers, and has 32 initial items. For the needs of this study, the items used on that scale only amount to 16 items. This scale has a variety of items with response responses that have different forms. The higher the score obtained by respondents in filling CSI, shows the higher satisfaction felt by the individual towards his partner in a marriage relationship. The Cronbach Alpha value which shows the reliability coefficient for this scale is 0.847. The correlation coefficient is included in a very high criterion.

2. *Romantic Belief Scale* (RBS), which is a scale that measures individual beliefs about the ideal concept of romance with a partner and the relationships that are built. The scale adapted by this researcher has been composed of 5 beliefs about love, namely: (1) Love at first sight; (2) First and only; (3) Love conquers all; (4) Idealization; and (5) Following conscience (Sprecher & Metts, 1989). This scale consists of 15 items, with each item having 5 forms of response ranging from strongly disagree to strongly agree. The higher the score obtained by the respondent, the higher the individual's beliefs about love in the concept of a romantic ideal for couples and relationships that are built. The Cronbach Alpha value from the initial study which showed the reliability coefficient for this scale was 0.81. The correlation coefficient is included in a very high criterion (Sprecher & Metts, 1989). In this study the Cronbach Alpha value is 0.807, indicating a very high level of reliability coefficient.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research hypothesis was tested using a statistical test, namely Spearman Correlation analysis through the SPSS program. The results of the test must meet the conditions of the correlation significance value of $p \leq 0.01$.

Table 1. Hypothesis Test Results

			Correlations	
			Kepuasan pernikahan	Romantic Belief
Spearman's rho	Kepuasan pernikahan	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.254**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.001
		N	179	179
	Romantic Belief	Correlation Coefficient	.254**	1.000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	.
		N	179	179

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 1 shows that the significance value of the correlation or $p = 0.001$, in other words, $p \leq 0.01$. This means that there is a very significant relationship between romantic beliefs and the quality of marital relations in married couples of the Bugis.

Based on the results of hypothesis analysis shows that there is a very significant relationship between romantic beliefs and the quality of marital relationships in married couples of the Bugis. In accordance with this, several other studies have shown the same results, that romantic belief can predict the quality of a relationship that is built. Specifically, emphasizing that these beliefs predict the level of quality of a relationship, both high and low (METIS & Cupach, 1990). The quality of relationships has a close relationship with marital satisfaction and is one form of social desire. Thus, marital satisfaction has an important role in various aspects of the marriage itself (Aron & Henkemeyer, 1995).

The ideal concept of romantic beliefs can positively influence one's feelings about the relationship being lived. Sprecher and Metts (1999) found that individuals who support the romantic ideal concept, feel stronger the feelings of love in the relationship being lived and are more committed to the relationship than individuals who are less supportive of the romantic ideal concept. Other studies suggest that individuals who score high on romantic beliefs tend to love and like their partner more strongly, and more often feel passionate love (Sprecher & Metts, 1989). From the research that researchers do and from several other studies show that support for the concept of romantic belief has important consequences for real relationships.

In western culture, the ideal concept of romanticism tends to be characteristic in an intimate relationship. Some researchers claim that the experience of romantic love is a universal concept experienced by all people, although the ideal concept that is more specific about the types of love itself is strongly influenced by the culture in which the individual is located (Anderson, 2005). Although the experience of romantic love is common, romanticism that considers love as an ideology, is a belief system that centers on subjective concepts about the ways in which a person takes in forming, maintaining and maintaining an intimate relationship, including the function of the relationship itself, and this belief system is different for everyone.

The implications of this study indicate that, the results of this study have important implications regarding romantic relationships that occur in the real world. Especially in the Bugis culture, the Bugis are known to have cultural values that are respectful, dignified and peaceful. These noble cultural values become values that are embedded in and applied in the form of behavior by every Buginese community. These values become local wisdom which is upheld by the inheritance of ancestors which signifies the distinctiveness of a culture. Bugis people have love and affection for others shown by a saying that describes the way of life of the Bugis tribe. The saying goes that when another person is swept away, helped, someone else falls, is helped to rise, others break from the norms, are reminded /convicted (Buchori & Fakhri, 2018). It is this form of culture that builds a romantic belief system in forming and maintaining and maintaining the relationships that are lived. Culture is one of the construction of social desires which ultimately affects the running of a relationship.

The weakness of this study is the number of samples, which are still lacking so that the variation of the sample is still very limited. It is expected that further research that aims to examine with the same theme, in order to increase the number of samples so that other variables can be further investigated, such as length of marriage, number of children, educational background and employment, as well as several other variables.

CONCLUSION

Based on the Spearman correlation hypothesis analysis results show that there is a very significant relationship between romantic beliefs and the quality of marital

relationships in Bugis married couples. Based on the results of research conducted, the researchers submit suggestions, namely:

1. *Romantic belief* has a very significant relationship to the quality of marital relationships, where the ideal concept of belief in romantic love, is inseparable from a culture in which individuals are located. Understanding the importance of romantic beliefs can help a person build and live a close or intimate relationship, especially in achieving marital satisfaction. This can be the basis for individuals who want to build a household to start learning that in a marriage requires a concept called romantic belief.
2. It is expected that further research that aims to examine with the same theme, in order to increase the number of samples so that other variables can be further investigated, such as length of marriage, number of children, educational background and employment, as well as several other variables.

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