INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION PATTERNS AND INHIBITING FACTORS IN MARRIAGE BETWEEN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES NIKMATUL ROSIDAH

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Abstract	Article Information
This study aims to determine the pattern of intercultural communication and the inhibiting factors of the intercultural communication process in inter-ethnic marriages of Nikmatul Rasidah and her husband, Paul. The theory used is the theory of interpersonal communication. The method used in this study is qualitative with a descriptive approach, with data collection through interviews and direct observation. The research subject is Nikmatul Rasidah and Paul by using triangulation credibility test. Based on the results of research conducted, it is known: (a) the pattern of intercultural communication applied by this couple is tolerance, being open to each other, giving in to each other, telling each other, respecting, understanding, and learning the language of each other to maintain harmony in their household. (b) barriers to communication are influenced by differences in language, behavior and habits, cultural background, social prejudice or stereotypes. *Keywords: intercultural communication, mixed-marriage, nikmatul rosidah*	

INTRODUCTION

Schramm (1954) defines communication as a process by which a person changes or builds understanding with others through symbols that include words. This understanding can be realized through the exchange of messages using various forms of symbols, such as spoken language, writing, gestures, and other symbols. In his concept, Schramm emphasizes the importance of mutual understanding or understanding in the communication process. This process is not just about transmitting information but also involves interpretation and mutual understanding between the communicating parties. Therefore, the use of symbols is key in building and transmitting meaning.

In addition, Schramm highlights the relational aspect of communication. Schramm sees communication as a social interaction where messages not only contain information but also reflect the relationship between the parties involved. Thus, interpersonal relationships and social context play an important role in understanding the communication process. This is in line with the opinion of Joseph, A. DeVito.

Joseph A. DeVito (2016) understands communication as an interpersonal process in which one individual (sender) stimulates activities that can be interpreted by another individual (receiver). In DeVito's point of view, communication is not only about conveying information but also involves a stimulus that can create a response or action on the receiver's part. In addition, DeVito pays special attention to the process of message interpretation. In De-Vito's view, each individual has a unique understanding of the messages they receive, which is influenced by their personal background, experience, and context.

Differences in cultural backgrounds between individuals, especially in couples from different countries, in conveying and receiving information will certainly be different and sometimes cause conflict in the marriage. Therefore, Gudykunst (2008) says that intercultural and intercountry couples need to realize the importance of awareness of cultural differences and strategies for managing communication and cultural conflicts in marriage. Gudykunst (2008) also added that couples who are bound to marry in different countries need to understand four concepts in marriage including the concept of cross-cultural adaptation, the concept of cross-culture, the concept of communicative or language anxiety, and the concept of adaptation strategies.

One of the main theories explaining the relationship between language and culture is the theory of linguistic anthropology, developed by Edward Sapir and Benjamin Lee Whorf in the 1920s and 1930s. This theory emphasizes that language affects the way we understand the world, and that language and culture are intertwined and influence each other. In addition, Fishman (1972) points out that language can be used as a tool to reinforce cultural identity, as well as influence values and norms in society. He also emphasized that language changes can reflect changes in culture, such as changes in values, technology, and social relations.

One of the problems faced by multilingual societies is the loss of native language and culture. In an attempt to adapt to an increasingly homogenized and globalized environment, many young people abandon their language and traditions and switch to the dominant language and culture in society. In addition, the phenomenon of language and culture is also often a source of conflict and disagreement between different groups of people. Language and cultural differences can trigger negative stereotypes and prejudices, which in turn can exacerbate tensions and conflicts between groups.

The study of language and culture in mixed-culture couples, often referred to as intercultural or cross-cultural marriages, is quite complex and interesting. It involves the interaction of language and culture in the context of marriage between individuals with different backgrounds. In addition, the context of intercultural marriage can help understand how cultures interact and adapt in a multicultural marriage environment.

Mixed-culture couples are often faced with cultural challenges, such as differences in values, norms, beliefs, and cultural practices. A professor in the field of Sociology at Indiana University found that cultural conflict, stereotyping, and discrimination are common challenges faced by multicultural couples. The professor also emphasized the importance of understanding and effective communication in dealing with cultural differences in intercultural marriages (Okamoto, 2016). These challenges in intercultural marriages have been studied by several researchers before.

The theories of language influencing culture and culture influencing language are closely related concepts in the social sciences and humanities. This theory suggests that language and culture influence each other and that developments and changes in language and culture cannot be separated from each other.

In this study, the author focuses on the intercultural and intercountry couple Nikmatul Rosidah and her Canadian husband, Paul. Nikmatul Rosidah is a woman from Blitar who now lives in Canada. Mbak Nik, Nikmatul Rosidah's nickname, besides working as a housewife, she also works as a content creator and often shares her daily activities at home on her YouTube channel "Nikmatul Rosidah". In this video, we can see Mbak Nik's interaction with her children and husband. In her live-streaming content, researchers can see the communication patterns of Mbak Nik and Paul and the miscommunication that often occurs.

Based on the background of the research problem, the problems in this study are formulated into several research questions, namely: the pattern of intercultural communication in the mixed-culture marriage of Nikmatul Rosidah and Paul and the factors that are the obstacles in the intercultural communication process in the mixed-culture marriage of Nikmatul Rosidah and Paul.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Despite facing various challenges, patience, openness, and a desire to learn from each other help them build harmonious relationships. They learn to appreciate the diversity of each other's cultures, which ultimately enriches their life experiences and strengthens their marital bonds. This research shows that with strong commitment and thoughtful adaptation, cultural differences can be a source of strength in a marriage.

Second, Lubis et al. (2020) researched on the process of intercultural communication in intercountry intermarriage. The study used a qualitative method on 4 citizens. The research shows that the process of intercultural communication goes well and before marriage, these intercultural couples make agreements, such as religious agreements to be adhered to, language, and behavior in the household. To overcome barriers in terms of communication and culture, the couple learned to understand each other's backgrounds and communicate from heart to heart to minimize existing problems.

Third, research conducted by Angjaya (2022) which discusses cultural interaction in Indonesia-India mixed marriage. The results of his research show that cultural and family factors greatly influence social interaction in mixed-marriage families. To overcome the

problems that will arise, the participants in the study negotiated and appropriated their respective cultures.

The studies mentioned above have made a great contribution to this research, including contributions in overcoming misunderstandings in mixed marriages, and the existence of a joint commitment to maintain the harmony of couples of different cultures and backgrounds. What makes the difference between this research and this study is the difference in terms of theory, participants, and problem formulation.

Sociolinguistics

According to Trudgill (1974) and Labov (1972), Sociolinguistics is the study of language variations and their use in society that shows social variations in communicating in society, this is in line with Tannen (1994) who said that Sociolinguistics is the study of different ways of communicating in cultures and social groups. In addition, Hymes argues that sociolinguistics studies language as a social behavior, or it can be said that a person's use of language influences and is influenced by the social structure that exists in their environment. Overall, it is concluded that studying Sociolinguistics is the same as studying linguistic phenomena in social life.

Communication

The term communication or communication in the United Kingdom comes from the Latin communicatio, which comes from the word Communicatio which means the same. Sama here means "the same meaning". "Equal meaning" refers to the core purpose of good communication: the similarity of perception (point of view) and thought (understanding) is present in all interactions, and misunderstanding is present in all interactions. According to Carl I. Holland, "Communication is the process that allows a communicator to convey a stimulus (usually in the form of a symbol).

According to Harold Lasswell (1948), communication includes five parties involved in the communication process. The five parties include: who says what, through what channel, to whom, and with what effect. In this context, it can be emphasized that the communication process is not only about delivering the message but also about the expected or resulting effect or impact of the message on the recipient or audience. Although not directly expressed in the original model, this point is often considered an important aspect of understanding the communication process as a whole.

Intercultural Communication

According to Hall (1959), intercultural communication is the process of conveying messages or language that occurs between two people or between groups or communities from different cultural backgrounds. With different cultural and language backgrounds, these individuals or community groups are prone to misunderstandings, let alone those parties who have minimal knowledge of their interlocutors. Therefore, to avoid miscommunication conflicts, individuals or groups/communities need to try to understand, study, and find out the background of the language and culture of their interlocutors, in addition to mutual understanding and mutual understanding when interacting with each other (Hofstede, 1980).

Dr. Alo Liliweri, a communication expert from Indonesia, gave his views on communication patterns. In his book "Communication Thinking" (1997), Liliweri coined the term "Cultural Communication Model." Liliweri said that the pattern of cultural communication involves three main dimensions, namely the Expression Dimension, the Context Dimension, and the Structure Dimension.

Interpersonal communication is communication with a person in an informal and unstructured manner, which occurs between two or three people. Interpersonal communication is communication that takes place in a face-to-face situation between two or more people, either in an organized manner or in a crowd of people. The process of interpersonal communication carried out by two or three people is influenced by personal and group factors.

Personal factors that affect interpersonal communication include cognitive factors such as self-concept, perception, attitude, self-orientation, and self-esteem. Intercultural context also includes interpersonal communication between two or three people with different cultural backgrounds. Therefore, in general, the definition of intercultural communication describes the process of interpersonal communication between participants from different sources of communication.

Interpersonal communication refers to the process of exchanging messages and interactions that occur directly between two people or in a small group. It involves verbal and nonverbal exchanges between individuals, as well as the understanding and interpretation of shared meanings. Interpersonal communication is often intense, full of interaction, and can involve personal relationships.

The model of interpersonal communication is presented by Rakhmat (2013) and consists of:

1. **Trust**

   Trust is the most important aspect of communication for opening dialogue, clarifying the sending and receiving of information, expanding the opportunities for the communicant, and achieving communication goals. Giffin defines trust as relying on people's behavior in dangerous situations to achieve desired goals. (dalam Rakhmat, 2013). It means that someone is fully responsible for the person appointed as an intermediary to achieve what is considered capable of being done.

2. **Supportive Attitude**

   If both parties and all involved support this attitude, communication can proceed smoothly. Support encourages in a communication atmosphere so that interpersonal communication can remain ongoing.

3. **Open Attitude**

   Brooks and Emmert (in Rakhmat, 2013:136) explain the characteristics of individuals with an open attitude as follows: (a) they assess messages objectively, (b) they can easily distinguish between good and bad, (c) they are content-oriented, (d) they seek information from various sources, (e) they are more professional and willing to change their beliefs. The communicators here have a dual role, meaning that at one moment they

act as the message sender, while at another time they take on the role of the message receiver. Feedback in communication between partners of different ethnicities is very important, as it allows us to see whether the communication has succeeded or failed.

Barriers to Intercultural Communication Lewis and Slade (Rahardjo, 2005: 54) outline three areas that are most problematic in intercultural interactions. The three are:

a. Language Differences

One of the main barriers to intercultural communication, especially among couples from different countries, is language differences. This barrier can include differences in language structure, vocabulary, communication styles, and the meanings of words or sentences that can lead to misunderstandings. Here are some key points that provide a detailed explanation of the challenges faced by couples from different countries regarding language differences: language structure, vocabulary, communication style, pronunciation and accent, and understanding of meaning and culture.

b. Differences in Values

Intercultural marriage can face significant challenges due to differences in values and behaviors. Beliefs, principles, and norms that shape a person's worldview are called values. On the other hand, behavior refers to how a person acts and responds to specific situations. Open communication and a deep understanding of each other's cultures are essential for overcoming the barriers of differing values and behaviors. Couples should openly discuss their values, hopes, and expectations. They should also be willing to respect each other and incorporate their differences into their married life. Education and the ability to embrace cultural differences can help build a strong and peaceful relationship.

c. Differences in Cultural Behaviour

According to Efendi (in Liliweri, 2009:200), prejudice is one of the major communication barriers. Prejudice is a negative view or behavior of one person towards another that has a significant potential to cause misunderstandings in communication. As a result, the objective society began to doubt and oppose the communicators delivering the message. According to Johnson (1986) (in Liliweri, 201:176), prejudice is caused by several factors: (1) differences between groups, (2) the dominance of the cultural values of the majority group over minority groups, (3) stereotypes between ethnicities, and (4) the feeling of superiority of certain ethnic or racial groups that consider other ethnicities or races to be inferior. (Liliweri, 2009:205). This situation is experienced by couples who are married between the Batak Toba and Nias ethnic groups in the city of Dolok Sanggul. The relationship they built did not receive approval from their parents. When building a relationship and deciding to get married, negative prejudices arise from each family, especially the parents, who harbor negative assumptions about the prospective in-laws from a different ethnicity.

Interpersonal Communication

Interpersonal communication is the process of exchanging information, feelings, and meanings between two or more people through verbal and non-verbal messages. It involves deep and personal interactions, where participants share their thoughts and feelings to achieve a mutual understanding. According to DeVito (2013), interpersonal communication includes aspects such as verbal communication, non-verbal communication, and active listening. This process requires openness and trust among participants to build healthy and meaningful relationships. The quality of interpersonal communication is greatly influenced by an individual's ability to understand and interpret the messages conveyed, as well as the context in which the communication takes place.

The effectiveness of interpersonal communication is also influenced by cultural factors, perceptions, and the emotions of the individuals involved. Effective communication requires awareness of cultural differences and appreciation for others' perspectives. According to Adler and Proctor (2014), good interpersonal communication can strengthen interpersonal relationships and reduce conflict by facilitating understanding and empathy. In addition, the ability to communicate effectively in interpersonal situations also contributes to success in various aspects of life, including in the workplace and personal relationships. Through effective communication practices, individuals can build stronger relationships and achieve shared goals more effectively.

Mixed-Marriage

A mixed marriage or international marriage is a form of marriage where the partners come from different countries or nationalities. In this context, intercultural marriages often involve the exchange of unique cultures, customs, and values from each individual. In Indonesia, the term "mixed marriage" refers to the marriage between Indonesian citizens and foreign nationals. (WNA). This process not only unites two individuals but also brings together two different cultures, which requires adjustment and adaptation from both sides.

According to several experts, intercultural marriages have challenges and dynamics. For example, Liliweri (2009) states that one of the main challenges in intercultural marriages is the prejudices and stereotypes that each party may hold against their partner's culture. This can lead to misunderstandings and conflicts that must be managed with effective communication and a deep understanding. In addition, Berry (1997) proposed the concept of acculturation, where couples must integrate elements from both of their cultures into their daily lives to create harmony and balance in their marriage. In addition to challenges, intercultural marriages also offer various benefits. According to Ting-Toomey (1999), intercultural couples have the opportunity to develop a broader perspective and tolerance towards cultural differences. This experience can enrich their personal lives and help them become more flexible and adaptive. In addition, research by Falicov (2001) shows that intercultural marriages can create an environment rich in diverse values and enhance their children's ability to interact with various cultures. Thus, intermarriage not only overcomes obstacles but also opens up opportunities for personal growth and deeper relationships.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research method is descriptive-qualitative research that uses a qualitative-phenomenological approach (Gudykunst, 2003 and Baird, 2011). The phenomenological approach is an approach that focuses on the subjective experiences of individuals. With direct observation and in-depth interviews with the object of research, the researcher explored the perceptions and personal experiences of Nikmatul Rosidah and Paul in overcoming cultural differences and communicating politely.

In a study that focuses on Nikmatul Rosidah and Paul as the object of research, the main data sources will include in-depth interviews with both individuals to explore their experiences, perceptions, and communication strategies in the context of cross-cultural marriage. Participatory observation may also be conducted to directly observe their daily interactions through their live YouTube broadcasts, noting how they communicate and cope with cultural differences. Secondary data used in this research are articles and publications about the couple to complement and enrich the researcher's understanding of the couple's experience in managing intercultural communication.

The data collection method for the research focuses on Nikmatul Rosidah and Paul in the context of intercultural communication patterns and will utilize several comprehensive qualitative approaches. The thematic analysis method is a systematic approach in qualitative research that aims to identify, analyze, and report patterns of themes or motifs that emerge from qualitative data. In research that focuses on Nikmatul Rosidah and Paul in the context of cross-cultural communication, thematic analysis is used to understand the main themes that emerge from interviews, observations, and document analysis. By using this thematic analysis method, this research yields an in-depth understanding of the dynamics of intercultural communication in the marital relationship of Nikmatul Rosidah and Paul.

FINDINGS

This study aims to explore patterns of intercultural communication in marriages between Indonesian and foreign nationals. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with Nimatul Rosidah (commonly called Mbak Nik) and Paul who currently lives in Canada. Thematic analysis was used to identify key themes that emerged from their interactions.

Based on the interviews, Mbak Nik is a popular YouTuber from Indonesia who is widely recognized for her cooking and daily life content. Born in Blitar, East Java in 1981, Mbak Nik began her career as a female laborer (TKW) in Hong Kong after working in Singapore and the Netherlands. The experience of working abroad and her determination to be independent shaped the background of her life.

While in Hong Kong, Mbak Nik met Paul, Paul Dobson, a Canadian teacher. They are married and have three children. Nik's popularity grew through her YouTube channel, which she started in 2014. Her cooking and daily life-focused content attracts a large audience, and her channel currently has more than 1.4 million subscribers.

In addition to cooking content, Mbak Nik also often shares videos about her family activities, such as vacations and other important moments. Her family currently lives in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Rosidah emphasizes that the key to the success of her YouTube channel is authentic content and a homey feel that is familiar to many viewers.

Nikmatul Rosidah's communication patterns with Paul, Paul Dobson, reflect strong cultural adaptation and integration. In their daily interactions, some of the identifiable communication patterns are:

Communication Patterns Based on Trust

Nikmatul Rosidah, an Indonesian YouTuber living in Canada, often displays communication patterns with Paul that are based on trust and mutual understanding. Their communication patterns seem very open and honest, reflecting a healthy relationship where both parties feel comfortable talking about their feelings and thoughts without fear or hesitation. In many of her videos, Nikmatul often shows how the two of them discuss various topics ranging from daily problems to plans with transparency.

In one of the videos, Nikmatul and Paul had the following conversation:

> Ms. Nik: "Honey, I'm feeling a little worried about our vacation plans. What do you say we postpone it until it's safer?"

> Paul: "I understand your concern, maybe it's better for us to wait a bit. Thank you for letting me know how you feel."

This conversation shows respect for each other's feelings and the decisions made together. The above communication shows that trust-based communication involves openness, honesty, and empathy. Openness means both parties are willing to share their thoughts and feelings without hiding anything. Honesty is necessary for the information shared to be true, while empathy ensures that each party understands and respects the feelings of the other. According to communication psychologists, this kind of communication pattern helps strengthen emotional bonds and creates a supportive environment for both parties.

Nikmatul and Paul's communication pattern based on trust is also reinforced by the consistency in their behavior and actions that support each other. They not only speak honestly but also show support through their daily actions, which strengthens the mutual trust and love in their relationship.

At the beginning of their marriage, Ms. Nik had to learn to master the language and linguistic adaptation, Ms. Nik and Paul Dobson used English as the main language in their daily communication. This was important as English became the lingua franca that allowed them to communicate clearly and effectively despite coming from different cultural backgrounds. Nikmatul also tries to learn English more deeply to ensure smooth communication and reduce the possibility of misunderstanding.

To understand the interaction of Rosidah's communication patterns in terms of language and linguistic adaptation, the author considers several aspects that may be involved. Rosidah has a distinctive language communication pattern, which is influenced by her cultural and environmental background from Blitar. In addition, Rosidah tends to use certain

words or language styles that reflect her culture or region of origin. For example, she uses typical expressions or phrases from her region. The accuracy in pronunciation of the words in the language Rosidah uses also varies, depending on how long she has lived in a different environment from her origin. Mbak Nik Rosidah also has a wealth of different vocabulary in everyday language and particularly in family contexts.

Communication Patterns Based on Supportive Attitudes

Mbak Nik's communication pattern interaction in terms of support can be seen in how she and Paul support each other in appreciating and celebrating their respective cultures. Supportive in this context means providing moral, emotional, and practical support to ensure that their cultural traditions and values are maintained and valued. Here are some aspects relevant to supportive communication: First, Mbak Nik supports Paul to participate in his cultural traditions, even if they are different from hers. Conversely, Paul also supports Mbak Nik's participation in his traditions. Second, Mbak Nik demonstrated emotional support by showing pride and respect for Paul's culture, and Paul did the same for Mbak Nik's culture. Third, Mbak Nik assists Paul in preparing for cultural celebrations or ceremonies that are important to her, and vice versa. Fourth, this couple appreciates the uniqueness and beauty of each other's cultures, which can be seen in how they talk about them and how they engage in cultural activities together.

Mbak Nik and Paul were discussing preparations for an important cultural event from Paul's culture:

> Mbak Nik: "Honey, I heard that next week there is a traditional event in your village. What can I do to help you prepare?"
>
> Paul: "Thank you, dear. I need help preparing some special foods. Maybe you can help make ketupat? I know you're good at that."
>
> Mbak Nik: "Of course, I'm happy to help. Besides, maybe we can get the kids to learn about this tradition too. I think it's important for them."

The communication pattern above shows that Mbak Nik and Paul support each other in maintaining and celebrating their respective cultures. They show attention and concern for their partner's cultural traditions, both through concrete actions such as helping with event preparations and through emotional support by appreciating the importance of the culture.

This kind of supportive communication is important in building a harmonious and respectful relationship, where each partner feels supported and valued in their cultural identity. This creates a positive environment where cultural differences are not only accepted but also celebrated together.

Another supportive communication pattern is one characterized by emotional support, positive encouragement, and appreciation of each other's efforts and feelings. They seem to always support each other in various situations, both in facing daily challenges and in achieving common goals.

In one of the videos, their conversation goes like this:

> Ms. Nik: "I enjoy your food first, clean it later."

> Paul: "Never"

The context of the conversation above is Paul making breakfast bread for Mba Nik who is unwell. After giving her the bread, Paul started washing the utensils he used to make the breakfast. While washing the dishes, Paul said that he was going to the market to buy kitchen supplies and because she appreciated the breakfast cooked by Paul, Mbak Nik said the above sentence and asked Paul to do the washing later. However, because Paul knew that Mbak Nik was a clean person, he refused because he did not want his wife to feel uncomfortable with a dirty kitchen.

The supportive communication pattern involves several key elements such as empathy, encouragement, and appreciation. According to interpersonal communication theory, empathy allows a person to understand and feel what their partner is feeling, so they can respond in a supportive way. Positive encouragement helps boost confidence and motivation, while appreciation shows that each other's efforts and contributions are recognized and valued.

In the context of Mbak Nik and Paul's communication, this support is not only shown through words but also tdaily actions. They are often seen helping each other with household tasks, giving praise for each other's achievements, and discussing plans and aspirations with understanding. This creates a safe and positive environment, where both parties feel valued and supported, which in turn strengthens the emotional bond and sense of community in their relationship.

The supportive communication pattern as practiced by Mbak Nik and Paul provides a good example of how healthy relationships can be built through mutual support and respect. Consistent emotional support and positive encouragement help them overcome challenges and achieve common goals, creating a harmonious and loving relationship.

Mbak Nik and Paul show a deep appreciation for each other's culture. Nikmatul often shares about Indonesian culture, including food and traditions, with Paul. Conversely, Paul also shares about Canadian culture with Nikmatul. They often talk about these cultural differences and find ways to integrate them into their daily lives, creating an inclusive and understanding environment.

Communication Patterns Based on Open Attitudes

Mba Nik shows a very open communication pattern with Paul in many of the videos they upload. This openness-based communication pattern is characterized by transparency, honesty, and mutual trust, where both parties feel comfortable sharing their thoughts, feelings, and experiences without fear or hesitation.

In one of their videos, their conversation goes like this:

> Nikmatul Rosidah: "Honey, I feel like we need to spend more time together because lately, we've been busy with each other's business."

> Paul Dobson: "I agree, I feel the same way. How about we schedule a special time every week to do something together?"

This conversation shows that they both honestly shared their feelings and needs, and worked out a solution together.

The above conversation shows that open communication involves several important aspects, such as emotional openness, transparency, and honesty. According to interpersonal communication theory, emotional openness allows partners to share their deepest feelings without worrying about being judged. Transparency ensures that the information conveyed is honest and clear, while honesty builds a strong foundation of trust in the relationship.

The openness in Nikmatul Rosidah and Paul's communication is also reflected in the way they handle conflict and make decisions together. They tend to discuss issues directly and seek win-win solutions, demonstrating mutual respect and high trust. In their videos, Nikmatul often talks about the importance of honesty and openness in maintaining a harmonious and strong relationship.

Communication psychology sources show that openness in relationships helps reduce miscommunication and misunderstanding, and increases mutual trust and togetherness. This communication pattern allows couples to better understand and support each other, thus strengthening their emotional bond.

Through open communication, Nikmatul and Paul create an environment where they feel safe to share everything, from concerns to aspirations. This not only improves the quality of their daily interactions but also builds a strong foundation for a long-term relationship full of love and understanding.

DISCUSSION

Marriages between two individuals from different cultural backgrounds often present a variety of communication dynamics that are interesting to study. One relevant example is the marriage between Nikmatul Rosidah, an Indonesian woman, and her foreign husband. In this study, the various communication patterns that exist between the two are explored, as well as the barriers they encounter in intercultural communication.

This study reveals that the communication patterns in intercultural marriage between Nikmatul Rosidah and Paul are strongly influenced by the cultural background of each party. One of the communication patterns that often arise is the use of different languages in certain situations. Nikmatul and Paul often use English as the language of instruction, although they also learn each other's language to get closer to each other. This pattern reflects their efforts to bridge language and cultural differences.

Besides language, cultural adaptation is also an important pattern in their communication. Nikmatul and Paul had to understand their different cultural values, such as how to behave towards family, the concept of time, and expectations in daily life. They have to adapt and respect each other's values, which ultimately strengthens their marriage bond.

Humor is an important element in their communication. Nikmatul and Paul use humor as a way to ease tensions and misunderstandings that may arise due to cultural differences. With humor, they can be more relaxed and less serious in dealing with differences, which often helps in resolving minor conflicts.

Although both of them use English, there are times when language barriers still arise. For example, certain idioms or expressions in English that neither Nikmatul nor Paul understand can lead to misunderstandings. This language barrier often requires both of them to be more patient and open in explaining their intentions.

The study also found that different expectations in the division of husband and wife roles can be a source of conflict. Nikmatul, who may have been raised with traditional values, has a different view of gender roles compared to Paul who comes from a more egalitarian culture. Open discussion and willingness to compromise are key to resolving these differences.

Support from each other's extended families also plays an important role in the success of their communication. A supportive family can be a source of strength and stability, while a lack of support can add stress to the marriage. Nikmatul and Paul worked hard to establish good relationships with their respective families, despite the challenges of cultural differences.

Technology, such as the use of video calls and social media, has been very helpful in facilitating communication between Nikmatul and her family in Indonesia. These technologies allow them to stay connected despite the distance. However, there are times when time zone differences pose a challenge in organizing effective communication.

Differences in nonverbal communication, such as body language and facial expressions, also become obstacles. For example, a gesture or eye contact that has a positive meaning in one culture may be interpreted differently in another. Nikmatul and Paul had to learn to understand the meaning of these gestures to avoid misunderstandings.

Patience and openness are key to overcoming this intercultural communication barrier. Both need to be patient in dealing with differences and not jump to conclusions. Being open to learning about each other's culture also helps in building a better understanding.

Despite the challenges, this intercultural marriage also provides many benefits. Nikmatul and Paul can learn from each other's cultural diversity, which enriches their life experiences. By appreciating and respecting each other's differences, they can create a stronger and more harmonious marriage bond.

This research shows that although there are various barriers to communication between cultures, with effort and commitment, these differences can be overcome. Through adaptation, patience, and openness, Nikmatul Rosidah and Paul managed to create a harmonious relationship despite coming from different cultural backgrounds.

CONCLUSION

Research on intercultural marriage between Nikmatul Rosidah and Paul shows that their communication patterns are greatly influenced by cultural and language differences. They use the United Kingdom as their primary language of instruction, but still learn each other's language to get closer to each other. Their communication patterns also include the

use of humor to defuse tension and misunderstandings. In addition, differences in cultural values, gender role expectations, and differences in nonverbal communication are challenges that they must face. Support from family, technology, and openness in discussions play an important role in overcoming these barriers.Despite facing various challenges, patience, openness, and a desire to learn from each other help them build harmonious relationships. They learn to appreciate the diversity of each other's cultures, which ultimately enriches their life experiences and strengthens their marital bonds. This research shows that with strong commitment and thoughtful adaptation, cultural differences can be a source of strength in a marriage.

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