Social Perception of Adolescents with Ambivert Personality When Doing Activities Alone in Public Spaces

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ABSTRACT

Public spaces are currently widely used by the community, especially after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Adolescents are actively utilizing facilities in public spaces. Adolescents are in a phase where they have a lot to say in social interactions. This phase is a chance for them to find their identity and will also affect their personalities. Carl Jung identified three types of personalities: extroverts, introverts, and ambiverts. Ambivert is a personality type that has good adaptability. The social environment or culture can influence personality. The social culture that has developed in Indonesia is collectivist. Collectivism requires the community to be bound by each other. The manifestations of collectivism are neighborhood associations, community associations, and community service. Social perception is a person's ability to understand other people with their sense of sight. The phenomenon that can be found in this research is the activity of adolescents with ambivert personalities alone in public spaces. The method used in this research is qualitative with a phenomenological approach. The data collection used unstructured and semi-structured interview techniques. This activity certainly arises from social perceptions of the surrounding environment. Perceptions arise because the habit is still rare in our society. Perceptions that arise include that a person has no friends, has an introverted personality, wants to spend time alone, isn't good at socializing, or some consider it a normal thing to do. As a result of these perceptions, adolescents with ambivert personalities feel uncomfortable doing activities alone in public spaces.

1. Introduction

Currently, public space is a place for people to support their daily activities. Especially after the COVID-19 pandemic ended, when all the people began to actively return to doing some outdoor activities. Public space has a function as a physical layout in the environment and also as a place to support social interaction in the community. Public spaces are characterized by places that tend to be open and have a relaxed atmosphere (Tantri, 2020). Some examples of public spaces in Indonesia include city parks, mosques, restaurants, coffee shops, and cafes.

A good public space should be easily accessible, serve the right purpose, provide a sense of security and comfort, create a feeling of pleasure, and bring satisfaction to those who use it (Mehta, 2019). Public spaces are open to people of all ages and genders, but young individuals, including adolescents, often dominate these areas. In this phase, adolescents spend more time exploring and discovering their identity. Adolescence is strongly influenced by the social environment, which can impact an individual's behavior (Putro, 2019; Arniati et al., 2019; Junaid et al., 2023).

Not only their behavior, but adolescence is also a period where the formation of their personality in each individual. Individual personalities experience significant formation and development in the childhood to adolescence phase (Hana Hanifah, 2019). There are various types of personality, one of which is described by Carl Jung namely extrovert, introvert, and ambivert. Carl Jung explained that an extrovert personality is interested in things in the outside world, and an introvert is a type of personality that only focuses on the world.

At the same time, an ambivert is a type of personality that has both characteristics of extrovert and introvert (Jung, 1967). Individuals with an ambivert personality are adaptable to social or individual settings (Saucedo, 2024). The surrounding environment can influence the personality of individuals and also the culture in the place where the
individual is located. Indonesia itself has so many various types of cultures that develop both local culture and social culture. One of the social cultures that developed in Indonesia is the culture of collectivism.

Collectivism is a culture in which members of the community have strong bonds with each other and are bound to take care of each other (Geert Hofstede, 2004). Some of the collectivist cultures we can find in Indonesia are the formation of neighborhood associations, community associations, and cooperation activities such as community service (Irwansyah, 2021). The habit of living side by side with each other makes the people in society dependent on each other. These habits certainly make the community interact with each other more often.

The habit of direct contact can lead to social perceptions among the people in the community. Perception is an individual’s way of interpreting everything that appears through the senses of sight, hearing, touch, and sense of taste (Liem et al., 2019). Meanwhile, social perception is a person’s effort to understand other people in order to get an overview of the intentions, personalities, and motives of that person (Byrne, 2003). Social perception can be said to be the process of seeking information to understand about someone that we are seeing with our senses.

Based on the findings of a phenomenon, adolescents with ambivert personalities, when doing activities alone in public space, are able to cause social perceptions in the surrounding environment. This phenomenon is supported by the existence of a collectivist culture, where most people carry out activities in public together with their colleagues. Whether this social perception can cause discomfort to adolescents who do activities alone in public spaces, and what reactions are caused by the perceptions that arise.

1.1. Ambivert Personality

Ambivert's personality can be referred to as the 'Goldilocks' personality type because it has a balance characteristic between extroversion and introversion (Jung, 1967). Ambivert personality is a type of personality with characteristics of both extrovert and introvert personality, which can change according to their mood, specific context, and some purpose (Edwards, 2024). Individuals with ambivert personalities are able to feel comfortable in any social situation but also comfortable when they are spending time with themselves (Nickerson, 2024).

The ambivert personality has some characteristics such as being able to adjust in certain situations, being good in communication both as a listener or speaker, easily communicating with a large or small social community, being able to work individually or in groups, having strong self-awareness, have good self-balance in various social situations, and being able to regulate their response or behavior of that person (Petric, 2022). Therefore, individuals with ambivert personalities have good adaptability in any social conditions.

1.2. Social Perceptions

Perception is a process of receiving stimuli through the human sensory organ that is forwarded to the brain nerves and then processed, and then perceptions are formed (Waligto, 2003). Social perception is an individual’s effort to understand the other people around them in order to get a comprehensive picture of the intentions, personality, and motives contained in that person (Byrne, 2003). Social perception can be said to be a form of understanding the other people around them that are observed.

Social perception can be formed through with four aspects revealed by (Baron & Byrne, 2003), including non-verbal communication, attribution, impression management, and accuracy of social perception. Non-verbal communication can be shown through facial expressions, eye contact, body language, or by touching. Impression management is the emergence of thoughts after seeing something that is interesting. Accuracy is the extent to which the perception can be correct (Byrne, 2003; Prihandoko et al., 2021; Rahman & Weda, 2018).

2. Methodology

The method in this research uses a qualitative with a phenomenological approach. The qualitative method is a method that focuses on understanding a social phenomenon and learning about conditions or situations from the participants' perspective (Sugiyono, 2008). The phenomenological approach observes a phenomenon either individually or society group with interesting events (Creswell, 2014). This research uses a technique approach with interviews, observation, and documentation.

The data collection techniques used in this study are interview techniques. Interviews are data collection techniques used to find out all things in depth from respondents (Sugiyono, 2008). The types of interviews used in this
study are unstructured interviews and semi-structured interviews. An unstructured interview is a free type of interview where the researcher does not need to need a systematic interview guide in collecting the data (Sugiyono, 2018).

While the semi-structured interview is a free type of interview, the researcher is required to use a structured interview guide. Still, the questions asked can develop according to the existing topic (Sugiyono, 2018). Besides that, observation and documentation are also used as supporting instruments for the data to be obtained. Observation in this study by observing social activities either directly or through the subject's social media platform. Then, the embedded documentation is in the form of screenshots of the subject's social media activities.

3. Result

3.1. Preliminary Research

Process of the preliminary research, researchers used ten subjects in data collection. These subjects are visitors to one of the coffee shops located in Jebres, Surakarta. The subjects have a range of ages between 20-24 years old with gender classification male and female. These subjects were chosen because they are mostly active in public spaces. The public spaces selected in this research are coffee shops. The following are the results of research that has been found below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Bagaimana pendapat saudara tentang orang yang sedang beraktivitas seoran di ruang publik tersebut?</td>
<td>“mereka orang yang percaya diri dan dapat melakukan beberapa hal tanpa melibatkan orang lain”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.I.</td>
<td>di ruang publik tersebut?</td>
<td>“membuat saya iri, karena tidak menggantungkan diri pada orang lain”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td></td>
<td>“tidak asalah, karena dapat lebih fokus pada kegiatannya”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.B.</td>
<td></td>
<td>“introvert, kasihan sepertinya tidak memiliki teman dan tidak butuh orang lain”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.K.</td>
<td></td>
<td>“wajar dilakukan, karena setiap orang punya kesibukan masing-masing”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.F.</td>
<td></td>
<td>“dapat fokus dan tidak terpengaruh pada orang lain”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.K.</td>
<td></td>
<td>“mungkin lagi banyak pikiran atau masalah jadi butuh waktu sendiri”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I.S.</td>
<td></td>
<td>“temen deketnya sedikit paling”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.A.</td>
<td></td>
<td>“bagus sih, karena setiap orang butuh waktu sendiri dan istirahat dari ramainya isi pikiran”.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the table above, it can be obtained that various perceptions exist. Of the ten subjects, six of them explained that doing an activity alone in a public space is a normal thing to do, but there are four different perceptions. These perceptions include, thinking that it is enviable because they can do activities without depending on other people, the person has an introverted personality and feels sorry for not having friends, also they thinking this person not needing other people.

Another perception is that they might be thinking the person has a lot of thoughts or problems, so they need to spend more time only with themselves. There is another perception that maybe their closest circle of friends is small.

Based on the results of the preliminary research, doing some activities in public spaces can lead to perceptions between
individuals. This perception arises due to the response process of the sense of sight, which produces a perception between one person to another.

3.2. Main Research

To support the accuracy of data in finding gap research, the researcher also conducted research on adolescents with ambivert personalities which acts as an object in this research. The selection of ambivert subjects was randomly selected, and the main target is adolescents who actively do their activities alone in public spaces. The other criteria for the selection of ambivert subjects is having an age between 20-23 years old, male or female, and also domiciled in the surrounding Solo area.

In addition, these ambivert subjects will be asked to take one of the tests to determine the accuracy of whether they are classified as individuals with an ambivert personality or not. The test has been used to support the accuracy in this data is Drawing a Person (DAP). DAP test can be used to reveal several things related to the subject specifically, including age, school, ambitions, personality characteristics, life, and behavior in the family life of the subject who drew the picture (Groth-Marnat & Roberts, 1998)

Data acquisition is done through an unstructured interview and only focuses on the main problem. Interviews are conducted by adjusting the time of the ambivert subjects and the place that has been determined according to mutual agreement. An unstructured interview is a free interview and does not require a systematically organized interview guideline for data collection (Sugiyono, 2018). The following findings are listed in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Demonstrated Behavior</th>
<th>Feeling That Arise</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AL</td>
<td>Melihat dan menunjuk</td>
<td>Tidak nyaman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT</td>
<td>Melihat dan menunjuk</td>
<td>Tidak nyaman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BK</td>
<td>Melihat</td>
<td>Tidak peduli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Melihat</td>
<td>Tidak nyaman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the result of the data above, adolescents with ambivert personality experience the impact that arises when doing activities alone in public spaces. Some of the behaviors shown by the surrounding environment are expressed by looking and showing off body gestures. As a result of this behavior, ambivert subjects revealed that it made them feel uncomfortable while doing their activities. However, one of the subjects revealed that she didn't even care about it as long as her activities while in a public space did not disturb the others.

To support the statement of the ambivert subject above, the researcher also conducted further research with the other four subjects of coffee shop visitors who have different perceptions. This was done to examine the process of forming perceptions, the extent to which perceptions arise, whether perceptions lead to certain kinds of behavior, and whether there are driving factors for the emergence of these perceptions. This research was conducted by using a semi-structured interview technique.

Semi-structured interviews are interviews that are flexible and only refer to the focus issue to be discussed (Rachmawati, 2007). This type of interview aims to explore various aspects of social perception. According to Baron & Byrne (2003), there are four key elements influencing social perceptions: non-verbal communication, attribution, impression management, and the clarity of the perception itself. (Byrne, 2003). From these aspects, the researcher created interview guideline and some of these questions are listed in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Question</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Verbal Communication</td>
<td>Apa reaksi pertama yang saudara tunjukkan saat melihat orag tersebut?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adakah reaksi lain yang muncul saat melihat orang tersebut?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The following are the verbatim results of the interviews that have been conducted with visitor subjects, which are listed in the figure below.

**Figure 1. Interview with subject (MI)**

1. "Biasanya sih melihat orang itu aja, refleks aja gitu kok sendirian."
2. "Kalo sama temen sih biasanya kadang nunjuk ke orangnya, kalo enggak ya pake gesture mata atau kepala aja sih."
3. "Kok bisa ya berani gitu keluar sendirian, kalo aku sendiri mirip ya pasti ngajak temen. Ir ija itu sama dia bisa apa-apa sendiri."
4. "Ya gimana ya iri sih sebenernya sama orang yang bisa apa-apa sendiri gitu, keluar sendiri, apalagi nongkrong kan ya atau nugas di tempat rame kaya kafe gini. Tapi ya bisa aja orang itu mandiri kan ya sama gak mau terlalu bergantung sama orang lain."
5. "Ya udah cuma kaya ngeliatin aja sih, tapi ya kadang gitu pas ngeliatin orang itu sering beberapa ngertas liatin balik jadinya ya gak enak aja sama orangnya. Paling kalo sama temen ya ngobrol sedikit bahas orangnya sambil bilang itu loh masnya atau gak mbaknya sendirian deketin gih, sambil bercanda, kalo pas ada temen sih itu."

**Figure 2. Interview with subject (AB)**

1. "Otomatis aja gitu negliat orangnya, kadang emang suka aja nongkrong sambil liat-liat sekitar sih."
2. "Biasanya kalo sama temen sih nunjuk orang itu sambil make kepala kaya gitu lah."
3. "Paling ya mikir anaknya introvert kali ya, apa gak punay temen gitu."
4. "Ya kan bisa jadi itu kan, kaya mikir aja gitu, paling lagi gak butuh orang lain kayaknya sih. Tapi biasanya langsung otomatis mikir oh anaknya introvert kan ya, soalnya introvert kan suka sendirian kan."
5. "Ya ngeliatin aja sih paling ya, cuma biasanya kalo ada teen ya sambil bahas orangnya, kaya pake bajunya bagus atau misal orangnya cakep ya sambil mujj aja orangnya cakep gitu sama temen."

"Apa yang terlintas di pikira saudara saat melihat orang tersebut beraktivitas seorang diri?"

"Apa yang membuat saudara berpikir seperti itu tentang orang tersebut dan aktivitas yang dilakukannya?"

"Hal apa saja yang anda tunjukkan terkait melihat aktivitas orang tersebut?"
Based on the findings above, data can be obtained relating to social perceptions involving adolescents with ambivert personalities when doing activities alone in public spaces. Perception is an understanding of an object by the senses, which is processed to form a stimulus into an emotion that gives rise to behavior due to the stimulus (Wasisto, 2020). Of the four subjects, the perceptions that arise between one subject and another are different, as well as the behavior that occurs as a result of that perception.

Social perception in this research was triggered by the activities of adolescents with ambivert personalities who do activities alone in public spaces. Where this activity for some visitor or the environment in the coffee shop is enough to give their attention. Social perception can arise when individuals carry out social activities or when they are in public places (Claudia Mandy et al., 2019). From the results of this research, the process of forming social perceptions can be described based on the conclusion of several opinions from the experts.
Based on the results and discussions in this research, it can be concluded that the activities of adolescents with ambivert personalities alone in public spaces can cause social perceptions from the surrounding environment. The perception arises due to the simulation of their sense of sight. This perception is also supported by the collectivism culture that existed in Indonesia. Where some people consider the habit of carrying out in public space alone to be something that rarely happens.

It is explained that the activities of adolescents with ambivert personality alone in public space reap the response to the emergence of social perception. Where according to the explanation people with ambivert personality have good adaptation to the surrounding environment. Individuals with ambivert personalities are able to socialize well in their environment but also can enjoy time for themselves (Petric, 2022). In the case discussed here, adolescents with ambivert personalities how their introvert characteristics in their activities.

Because the surrounding environment considers that to be something unusual, they are often to be the center of attention in this case. This factor is also supported by the culture of collectivism that developed in Indonesia. Indonesia is one of the countries to be studied by applying the cultural system of collectivism (Hariyadi, 2022). This reason can be proven by the habit of people doing activities in public spaces in groups or not doing them alone, only with themselves.

As a result, these social activities indirectly trigger social perception. Social perception, according to Baron & Byrne (2003), is an individual way of understanding and knowing the other people around them (Byrne, 2003). The activities of ambivert adolescents evidence this perception, making the surrounding environment try to understand their condition. Of course, the perceptions that arise between one person to another are different according to the capture of their senses.

Social perception arises from the following aspects, namely non-verbal communication, attribution, impression management, and the extent to which the perception appears (Byrne, 2003). In the finding of the data collected, these aspects are realized in several ways, namely, seeing and using body language as a form of non-verbal communication. Attributions that materialize, such as the opinion that the person has an introverted personality, the scope of close friends is small, having their problem, make others think why they are able to do that.

The impression found is also like thinking that the person is very independent, does not need other people, shows certain expressions that make others feel they're having a problem, and considers the person cannot easily socialize or only certain people who can get to know them better. Meanwhile, as far as the findings are concerned, social perception arises only to the extent of observing this individual and no other behavior that appeared. But it indirectly made the observed individual feel uncomfortable.

Based on these findings, it can be concluded that all the activities in public spaces can lead to social perception. Especially for individuals with fairly rare habits, so that will make them being center of attention object. Social perception also can create a behavior as their responses when they see the object. However, it is better if there are ambivert adolescents doing activities alone in public spaces to try to regulate their behavior so it does not make them uncomfortable.
4. Conclusion

Based on the results and discussions in this research, it can be concluded that the activities of adolescents with ambivert personalities alone in public spaces can cause social perceptions from the surrounding environment. The perception arises due to the simulation of their sense of sight. This perception is also supported by the collectivist culture that exists in Indonesia, where some people consider the habit of carrying out in public spaces alone to be something that rarely happens.

Therefore, some perceptions arise, including that a person has an introverted personality, has no friends, wants to spend time alone with themselves, or the person is unable to socialize well. However, some others think that it is normal to do some activities alone in public spaces. However, these perceptions have an impact, namely the emergence of a sense of discomfort for adolescents with ambivert personalities when doing activities alone in public spaces.

References


