

Interpersonal Communication Patterns: Widow And Widower Couples' Experiences In Resolving Household Conflicts In Indonesia Culture

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Abstract

The married life of a widow and widower is more complex than that of a first marriage. Moreover, everyone brings different perspectives and previous marital experiences that are not well positioned and handled will cause problems in their current marriage. Therefore, this study aims to describe the communication patterns in widow and widower couples in resolving household conflicts. This research uses qualitative methods with descriptive data analysis techniques. The data collection technique of this research is interview. The results showed that two married couples who were widows and widowers had different communication patterns. The communication pattern that occurs in the first couple is a balance pattern, where one party can freely express opinions honestly and openly. The communication pattern used in the second couple's marriage relationship uses an unbalanced separation pattern, where one party dominates, controls the relationship and almost never asks for opinions. This makes the partner brave and allows him to win the decision. Therefore, it can be concluded that the interpersonal communication patterns of widow and widower couples who decide to marry are influenced by the personality factors of each party, previous marriage experience and trust factors in the partner.

Keywords: Interpersonal Communication, Household Conflict, Widow, Widower.

Introduction

Building a household through marriage is the main human activity that aims to obtain life in a family and give birth to offspring (Bennett, 2013). In Islamic law, a marriage is understood as a bond made to justify sexual relations between a man and a woman to achieve the happiness of living in a family full of peace and love through a process that is blessed by

Allah(Aini et al., 2019). Every married couple certainly hopes to live happily, but expectations do not always match reality. Married life is not always smooth, problems or conflicts in the family are common. If in the marriage there is no sense of togetherness and physical and spiritual relationship between the two, then marriage can cause various problems in building a harmonious family, and can even end in divorce. A divorce usually arises from a prolonged and unresolved conflict(Islam, 2013).

Conflict in the family is something that needs to be resolved because in every marriage conflict is unavoidable. In marriage, there is a union of two individuals who carry their own beliefs based on different cultural backgrounds and experiences. These differences must be adjusted to one another to form a new belief system for their family(Blanco-Mazagatos et al., 2016; Molina, 2021). The same applies to marriages between couples who are widows and widowers. Marriage between widows and widowers is not an easy matter, even though it can be said that they have experienced previous marriages. The married life of a widow and widower is more complicated than the first marriage one goes through. In addition, everyone brings a different point of view plus previous marriage experiences that are not positioned and handled properly, will cause problems in their current marriage(Compton & Pollak, 2021).

If single marriage unites two individuals into one, namely the two partners themselves, and unites two extended families, then marriages between couples who previously held the status of widows and widowers are more complex, namely the existence of children born from previous marriages, and how they create the purpose of their current marriage. This is despite her previous marriage experience. Problems with children can become a serious source of conflict for both. The role of communication is needed as a basis for the continuation of marriage in overcoming various problems. The most important strength in a marriage is how husband and wife can communicate well(Yoo et al., 2014). Communication is the biggest and most important power in a marriage. The requirement for a relationship is to maintain communication, so when communication is interrupted, it will greatly affect the process of the relationship(Mahmoudi et al., 2017). This is no exception for marriages carried out by people who previously held the status of a widow or widower.

When deciding and establishing a household relationship again, they must accept children from marriages with previous partners. Before going any further, it's a good idea to consider yourself. According to data from the child fulfillment sub-supervision, there were 419 reports in 2021 in a family and nurturing environment, such as victims of divorce and custody battles. It is estimated that around 900,000 children are affected

by divorce each year. About 70% of the 450,000 divorce cases each year are filed by the wife. Only 1% of divorce cases are accompanied by child support, while only 2% are accompanied by custody rights (Prasetya, 2022).

Then, some previous research that is relevant to this topic. Research from (Agrawal et al., 2021) explains about the health status of Hindu Widows in India. The research findings are that Explains that widows from Hindu households have a significantly lower body mass index and higher incidence of underweight compared to their married counterparts and also experience high levels of discrimination. Access to various government welfare schemes and increased autonomy, however, proved to offset the adverse health impacts of widowhood to a large extent. Meanwhile, research from (Upwards, 2021) Explains widow remarriage from a gender and historical perspective in India.

Furthermore, research from (Amoo et al., 2022) explain that The average age of young widows was 29 years. All participants, except one, had experienced exploitation of their husband's assets by their in-laws. All participants wanted to remarry to: have a father figure for their children, have children of their own, or have more children. There was no support from the government, but some of them had received support from religious organizations. Then, research from (Voloshyn, 2015) explain about widows and widowers of Poltava in the second half of the 18th century. According to the study's findings, the proportion of widows and widowers in the population's overall marital status composition was equal to the general European trend. The percentage of widows was significantly higher than that of widowers, and they tended to live in the city's center while widowers were typically elderly men. Widows typically belonged to the civic society, whereas widowers were Cossacks. The maids who lived in the yards of affluent citizens in the city area made constituted the greatest micro group of widows in Poltava. The two groups' financial situations were not comparable. There were both fairly wealthy and relatively poor people among them.

Based on the explanation, these previous studies only focused on health, economic conditions, problems with in-laws and the proportion of widows and widowers. However, there is no research that comprehensively discusses the households of couples who come from the status of widows and widowers from the point of view of their communication patterns when resolving conflicts. Thus, this study offers novelty to focus on the interpersonal communication patterns of widow and widower couples in resolving conflicts. Therefore, this study aims to describe the communication patterns in widow and widower couples in resolving household conflicts.

Theoretical Framework

Interpersonal Communication

Communication between two people or more with the characteristics of intimacy in it called communication interpersonal (Berger, 2014; Berger & Roloff, 2019). A person's self-concept can be influenced by various factors, including interpersonal communication. In life daily, type communication is going on relatively regularly. Communication interpersonal characterized by Genre message in two directions, informal environment, instant feedback, individual closeness, as well delivery And reception of the message. Participant relationships have strong relationships, mutually beneficial personal relationships, and the awareness of each individual to think positively about their relationship (Suciati, 2019). In this communication, the participants do not only focus on conveying the message but also pay attention to their relationship. In this context, the usual exchange of information can immediately know the message. The large number of people in communication can add to the complexity of the communication process. Forms of relationships with other people also become the meaning of interpersonal communication. Thus this communication is intimate between participants so it is considered the most effective in changing a person's attitude, opinion, or behavior because the process is dialogical and feedback is obtained directly so that participants know with certainty the impact.

The study of human social interaction is known as interpersonal communication. Interpersonal communication theory and research aims to shed light on how people utilize verbal discourse, nonverbal cues, and written discourse to accomplish a range of communication and instrumental goals, including informing, persuading, and offering emotional support to others. Traditionally, interpersonal communication has been seen as a process that happens when two people first meet in person. The usage of communication technology like computers and mobile phones for social contact is growing, which gives this field of communication research a new dimension (Hartley, 2002). However, social interaction that is mediated by technology is nothing new; it has been feasible since land-line telephone technology became widely used in the early 20th century (Berger, 2014; Berger & Roloff, 2019). This older form of mediated interpersonal communication has been examined by communication researchers (Hopper & Drummond, 1992).

Whether interpersonal communication takes place in face-to-face or mediated environments, a variety of fundamental processes, in addition to persuasion, are involved (Berger & Roloff, 2019; Floyd, 2011; Hartley, 2002). Ten essential interpersonal communication processes are

examined: social support, relationship development, deceit, bargaining and negotiation, managing conflict, managing conversations, managing impressions, managing privacy, and managing uncertainty(Bambacas & Patrickson, 2008; Petrovici & Dobrescu, 2014; Puscas et al., 2021).

The four goals in interpersonal communication. First, to be understood, for the communicant to receive the message we convey, our thoughts and feelings must be communicated verbally and non-verbally to the communicant or the recipient of the message. Second, In interpersonal communication, we cannot demand that other people understand the message we are conveying. But we also have to be able to understand what other people convey to us in the scope of communication that we carry out. Thirds, to be accepted, humans have social needs that must be met. It means feeling accepted by other individuals or groups. For these social needs to be met, a person must have relationships with other people and manage relationships through interpersonal communication. Fourth, to get something done, this goal explains how an individual and other individuals get something that can be completed together. This fourth goal is the most important in Interpersonal communication(Afrilia et al., 2020).

Interpersonal Conflict

The conflict is a form of human interaction, both individually and in groups, who perceive themselves as involved in struggles about resources or social values. Conflict (conflict), etymologically, comes from the Latin *congere* which means hitting each other(Burrell et al., 2014). The conflict is dangerous because the conflict itself is dysfunctional, results in division and disrupts society(Wilmot & Hocker, 2017). Conflict is divided into two, namely intrapersonal conflict and interpersonal conflict. Intrapersonal conflict is a conflict that occurs from within the individual. Intrapersonal conflicts are psychological which, if not resolved, can cause a person's mental health problems. Meanwhile, interpersonal conflict is a conflict that occurs between individuals who develop interpersonal relationships or interpersonal relationships(Johnson et al., 2013). Then, interpersonal conflict is a conflict that arises when two or more people feel that their desires conflict with each other. Despite conflicting desires, conflicts can be caused by minor misunderstandings or as the result of dissimilar goals, values, attitudes, or beliefs. If the interpersonal conflict cannot be resolved it will cause a serious disturbance in the relationship between the two individuals. Therefore we need a skill that can be used to solve problems constructively or what is called interpersonal conflict resolution skills(DeVito, 2019; Spitzberg et al., 2013).

In a conflict, it is necessary to know the source of the cause of the conflict, to determine the steps to be taken to control the conflict. The sources of causes of conflict are, first objective, The goals to be achieved will arise competition and conflict between individuals. Each individual strives to be better known than the others. Second, human ego, the human ego that always wants to be more successful than other humans will cause conflict. Thirds, need, limited material and non-material needs will lead to competition or conflict. Fourth, dissent, differences of opinion will lead to competition or conflict because someone too maintains that their opinion is the most appropriate. If these differences of opinion are not resolved, it will cause tension or anxiety which will lead to division. Fifth, misunderstanding occurs when one party carries out an activity with good intentions, but for another party, the activity is considered detrimental. Misunderstandings often occur between people who work together. Sixth, One or both parties feel aggrieved, actions or actions carried out by one party that is considered detrimental to the other party can lead to conflict. Everyone cannot accept losses from other people's actions. Seventh, sensitive feelings, conflict arises because self-esteem is offended even though it is believed by others that there is no malicious intent. However, because of someone's sensitive feelings, it is considered insulting(Rahim, 2023).

Conflict management is a process of managing conflict by developing several strategies carried out by parties who have conflicts to get the desired resolution. Through conflict management, the conflict will be managed so that it can limit the negative aspects and increase the positive aspects of the conflicts that occur. Conflict management takes the following forms: first, wins-win strategies is a strategy that benefits both parties and solves problems by fulfilling the needs of both parties. Satisfaction will be obtained when the needs and desires of both parties are met and do not cause hatred that is often caused by a win-lose strategy. Second, Avoidance and active fighting strategies. The avoidance strategy is carried out by refusing to discuss and hear the other party's arguments or what is commonly known as non-negotiation. He also physically avoids the location of the conflict and refuses the conflict to occur. Thirds, force and talk strategies, that involves physically and emotionally coercing one's will and refusing to confront the problem. The coercion strategy can be replaced with the talk strategy, namely by discussing existing problems with a positive, empathetic, and open attitude. Fourth, blame and empathy, the strategy of blaming someone is ineffective. When blaming someone, it often brings out the nature of motives to that person and in the process what is meant by "mind reading". Fifth, face-Detracting and Face-Enhancing, A strategy that focuses on the unskilled, the unskilled, and untrustworthy. This strategy can also be in the form of forcing the opponent to do something they

order. While the face-enhancing strategy is to maintain a positive image and reputation of the opposing party as someone competent and trustworthy. Sixth, Aggressiveness and Argumentativeness, Strategies that attack the opponent's self-concept to win the conflict so as not to produce an effective conflict solution. Here are some suggestions for implementing argumentativeness strategies to avoid aggressiveness strategies: responding objectively to differences of opinion, focusing on the problem, not the personality of the opposing party, giving praise to the competence of the opposing party and appreciating it accordingly, listening to the opposing party's opinion until it is finished then giving a response, etc(DeVito, 2019).

The pattern of communication in the family environment plays an important role in the development of children's behavior. Within the household, there are different communication patterns. The basic pattern of communication between husband and wife namely: Balance Pattern, It is a pattern in which husband and wife establish equal communication in expressing opinions and no one is superior. Communication is very open, honest, direct, and free. Reverse Balance Pattern, The principle in the reverse balance pattern is that each family member has control in a different area or authority. Husband and wife are not seen as a threat to resolve conflicts that arise between them because both have the expertise to resolve existing conflicts. Unbalanced Splitting Pattern, The pattern in which one party dominates (husband or wife) and can control the relationship rarely even asks the opinion of the two parties. Meanwhile, those who are controlled allow them to win decisions or arguments. Monopoly Pattern, The monopoly pattern is a pattern that considers one party to feel like the ruler. When a conflict is going on, if one of the parties is not free to express his opinion then it will be difficult for them to find a solution(Burrell et al., 2014).

Research Method

This study uses a qualitative approach to explore and understand the meaning of individuals or groups related to social or individual dilemmas. This type of research is descriptive meaning a method used to describe or analyze a research result but is not used to make broader conclusions (Colorafi & Evans, 2016). Data sources in this study were widows and widowers in Yogyakarta, using in-depth interview data collection techniques. The definition of in-depth interviews is the process of obtaining facts by uncovering the psychological condition of informants through involvement in a relatively long social life(Dowling et al., 2016). The sampling technique in this study used purposive sampling with determining informant criteria. Researchers have research criteria for informants, namely: Married widower couple, The minimum age of marriage is 1 year, Husband and wife who live in Yogyakarta. The

informants in this study were two pairs of husband and wife with widowed backgrounds, namely informant I (NR and JY), and informant II (JM and TP). For the sake of convenience and to protect the privacy of the informants, this research will only include the initials that have been approved by the informants.

The object of this study is the pattern of conflict resolution between widows and widowers in Yogyakarta. Data analysis techniques are carried out qualitatively which is an effort by processing data organizing data, selecting and sorting into units that can be managed, synthesizing, drawing and finding patterns, placing what is important and what is learned, and deciding what data to convey into meaningful conclusions. on the research conducted. Data analysis in this study uses interactive analysis which has three elements, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion. The process is not a process that must be done sequentially but can be done simultaneously. This study uses the data source triangulation technique. This triangulation refers to researchers' efforts to access more varied sources to obtain data regarding the same issue. This means that the researcher intends to test the data obtained from one source to be compared with data from other testing sources (Jentoft & Olsen, 2019).

Results and Discussion

NR (♂) and JY (♀) couple

NR and JY's marriage has lasted for 7 years. They had a conflict that led to a verbal altercation. Sources of conflict regarding differences in how to take care of children are accompanied by sensitive feelings from both of them. This problem arose when JY's child wanted something, but JY did not comply with what his son wanted. According to JY, he also doesn't want to always spoil her. However, NR did not agree with JY's treatment because it could lead to prolonged conflicts, and also according to him, JY's children were used to being spoiled by JY, so it was too late to educate children when they were adults, especially since JY's children had already graduated from high school.

As stated Bao, Zhu, Hu, & Cui, (2016), there are several sources of conflict, one of which is a difference of opinion. Differences of opinion are competition or conflict because one family member maintains that his opinion is the most appropriate. If these differences of opinion are not resolved, it will cause tension or anxiety which will result in division. Widows and widowers quarrel a lot because of the problem of the children they brought from each marriage with the previous partner. It seems that they are not ready to form a blended family so disputes often occur (Taylor, 2018).

According to JY, as a mother, she also has to think about her child's wishes while she still supports them, but if she cannot fulfill her child's wishes, then the child must be given an understanding of family conditions. In addition to differences in opinion, NR and JY were also faced with conflicts stemming from misunderstandings. This is related to the problem of a wife's obligation to take care of the house and serve her husband. NR's dissatisfaction made him distrust his wife's sincerity in taking care of the household. Trust according to Givertz, Woszidlo, Segrin, & Knutson, (2013) is a form of caring and belief in a partner to provide strength in the relationship being lived. In addition to convincing your partner, trust also builds the desired behavior, one of which is not to be suspicious of your partner so that communication goals can be achieved. Meanwhile, misunderstanding according to (Shearer, 2013) occurs because both parties have different perceptions, causing conflict that must be found a way out.

According to NR, women sometimes like to have the urge to do something suddenly. JY's actions can sometimes be detrimental to him because some of NR's activities are hampered. For example, when JY left the house, JY suddenly asked NR to take him to a tailor. At the same time, NR was not feeling well, but NR decided to still accompany JY because JY forced him. When they arrived at the tailor, it was closed, which made NR even angrier. NR often misunderstands JY. In the household, there are various kinds of differences, husband and wife must unite the differences they have. If these differences cannot be understood then it disturbs the harmony. According to Finchman (in Kosanke, 2019), domestic conflict is a situation where a husband and wife are facing a problem and this makes their behavior seem less harmonious.

In the NR and JY pair, they chose to remain silent when a conflict was going on. However, sometimes they express the feelings they are feeling at the right time. This proves the statement of Budyatna & Mona (2011) that expressed conflict is an opinion that is expressed and can be considered psychologically disturbing, such as emotions, complaining, and feelings of anxiety. When JY was angry with NR, he often just gave in. According to him, giving in can make the atmosphere not get hotter. Unlike NR, he feels compelled to express what he feels, so that the feelings he feels are better. Wheaton in Budyatna & Mona (2011) states that the conflict between JY and NR is included in the communal conflict, which is related to similarities in terms of principles but the actions they take are different.

The JY and NR couples are limited to expressing the conflicts experienced by their household to their internal families. They never take out the problems they are experiencing on their family or other people. JY also confirmed what NR had said that they had never told anyone

about it. This is called a realistic form of conflict where conflict arises from feelings of frustration experienced by one of the parties in a relationship where they are not reached but they do not vent their anger on others (Budyatna & Mona, 2011).

When he was experiencing a conflict, JY admitted that he would tease NR when his patience limit was exhausted and he was not sensitive to what was happening. When a woman is emotional, all she wants is a man who is with her to know and realize what she feels when she is emotional (Sabrina, 2020). In contrast to NR, when his patience runs out he immediately reprimands his wife directly.

In a marriage, good communication is very important in a relationship. In every marriage, conflicts in the household cannot be avoided, therefore these conflicts must be resolved with proper handling so that they can be resolved properly. The NR and JY couple talked about the problems they were experiencing in a friendly and open way with each other. This is a way for both of them to understand the feelings they feel when a conflict occurs so that misunderstandings do not occur which can lead to ongoing conflict. NR resolves the conflict by remaining silent when the conflict is ongoing. He did this so that NR's emotions could be controlled and also so that the conflicts that occurred between them could be quickly resolved properly and not prolonged. When NR became annoyed he could only be silent because he didn't want when he was emotional he would vent his frustration with violence. Their pattern of conflict resolution is included in the pattern of balance.

They can resolve the conflict well. Both are free to express the feelings they experience when there is a conflict. These conflicts could be resolved properly because both of them did not want the problem to become prolonged. The pattern of balance is a pattern in which husband and wife establish equal communication in expressing opinions and no one is superior. Communication is very open, honest, direct, and free (DeVito, 2007).

The factor that influenced the couple NR and JY to have a pattern of balance, was their first marriage experience where both of them were both divorced and dead. Dissolution of a marriage due to death does not cause many problems, because the breakup of the marriage relationship is due to God's will so that the marriage does not result in many problems (Tarmizi, 2007). The reason for the widower or widow choosing to remarry the widower or widow is because they are aware of their situation as a widower or widow, have the maturity of heart and readiness to endure problems; Second, the effort to form a *sakinah* family for the marriage of a widower with a widow is to make the first marriage a valuable lesson, make it a means of worshipping God, spend time with

the family, maintain communication, and address every problem with a cool head and mutual loyalty(Marris, 2013). Table 1 show Communication patterns of widow and widower couples in resolving household conflicts.

Table 1. Communication patterns of widow and widower couples in resolving household conflicts.

Informant	Source of conflict	Form of Conflict	Communication patterns in resolving conflict
Informant partner 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare • Dissent • Misunderstanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosed conflict • Communal conflict • Realistic conflict 	Balance Pattern

Pair JM (♂) and TP (♀)

In a husband and wife relationship, there is an atmosphere of harmony and conflict. Conflict is something that always exists and cannot be avoided. Several sources of conflict occur in the household of the JM and TP couples, such as differences of opinion regarding children's education. This difference in desire began when they wanted to send their children to high school. JM wanted his son to get maximum religious knowledge, but TP disagreed. According to him, public schools are cheaper, and easier to get to the university level. The difference of opinion experienced by the pair JM and TP caused debate. In interpersonal relationships, differences in goals can also lead to conflict(Suciati, 2019).

Then TP also revealed that differences of opinion like this did not need to be extended so he decided to give in because according to him, the husband was the head of the household and was responsible for decisions in the household. As stated by Drajat (Sholihah & Satih, 2020) households that have mutual respect, respect, accept each other, trust each other, and accept each other will create a harmonious and happy family.

Not only was the debate about children's education, but in the case of household conflict experienced by JM and TP, this was also due to financial conflict where there were differences in the desire to buy a vehicle. One of the family problems that can cause conflict and even divorce is financial problems that are not managed properly. If financial

problems get worse and there are unclear expenses, it will cause hurt feelings in the family which can lead to fights (Siregar, 2020). This is also to (Hu & To, 2018) that in remarriage, adjustments that need to be made before and after marriage are related to relationships with partners and families, especially children from both. The success of the pattern of adjustment in older people who remarry is influenced by several factors, the level of adjustment of the husband or wife before marriage, attitudes toward marriage, motivation to marry, the process of choosing a partner, the demographic characteristics of the partner, and adjustments in finances.

The conflict started when JM had a hobby of collecting antiques, as well as antique vehicles. Some of the reasons JM said about his hobby, is that owning an antique car is not as expensive as owning a new car in paying taxes. In contrast to TP, he prefers a new vehicle because according to him using a new vehicle is more comfortable to use in everyday life and also minimizes many expenses for the long term. Economic factors are also factors that can make relationships in the household disharmonious because husbands and wives cannot meet household needs (Kususiyanah, 2019).

Then regarding the way of communication between JM and TP, they do have differences based on differences in their habits and cultural differences. JM was born and raised in the city of Surabaya, which incidentally is used to a tough attitude and way of speaking, which sometimes makes the conflict they are experiencing escalate. The conflict arose when every month TP was given monthly money by JM to meet their household needs. However, sometimes the monthly money was not sufficient to meet the household's daily needs, so this prompted TP to discuss it with JM. However, JM responded that TP must arrange the monthly money so that it is enough to meet daily needs.

In the household financial problems are the main issues that are often and very sensitive to be discussed. As the opinion expressed by Handayani in Siregar (2020) in the family, various kinds of problems can cause conflict, one of which is regarding financial problems. Disharmony in the household can be triggered by an imbalance in the relationship between husband and wife as stated by Devito (Anang Kabalmay, 2015) in equity theory, that each partner needs a balance that is used so that a relationship can last longer. The balance in question is that it can be in the form of showing affection such as attention, fighting for relationships, and carrying out tasks in the household according to what is determined. If the balance is not carried out, then this will become a conflict in household relations.

Not only conflicts in terms of finances, JM and TP admit that there are conflicts that come from outside of themselves. The conflict arose because of the unfavorable attitude of one of the TP families in their household life. TP's sister behaved impolitely to JM and TP. This behavior annoyed JM and he wanted to immediately reprimand his sister-in-law. TP also admitted that his younger brother was not polite with him and JM, but TP felt that the action JM wanted to take was inappropriate because it could make matters worse.

Some forms of conflict in the JM and TP households include never venting their emotions on other people but venting their emotions on things around them such as drinking coffee he puts the glass down loudly, when he is cleaning his house he puts things around him loudly to be heard by his wife. He did this to vent the annoyance he felt. TP admitted that JM never took out his anger on other people but instead took out his anger on objects around JM.

TP can only hold back what he feels because he doesn't dare to go against his husband. This hidden behavior is a form of conflict which is also called unstated conflict. Unstated conflict or unexpressed conflict is someone who thinks that if they say a complaint then the relationship can end and that they are better off hiding the complaints they feel (Budyatna, 2011). TP could only cry silently because he found it difficult to express what he felt. A person can be said to be open if he wants and can be open to other people about his personality with various things regarding various topics, emotions, behavior, wishes, goals, and other information that someone wants to express. In a relationship, it is important to communicate between 2 parties by mutually disclosing information and feelings and others, without openness for disclosure then a relationship will not take place well (Guerrero et al., 2017).

Every household has a way of managing conflict. some of these ways are the result of experience. The JM and TP pair did not have many ways to resolve these conflicts. TP admitted that when conflicts were going on in his marriage with JM he often gave in and didn't talk about what he felt to JM. Usually, this happens when they debate financial issues, where financial issues are very sensitive issues to discuss. TP chose to give in and remain silent so as not to want the conflict to escalate so the problems that were happening could be resolved quickly.

However, not infrequently TP is not willing to solve it openly. Even though JM likes to get carried away with emotions, JM also tries to solve their problems by talking about them in a good and open way. According to him, children's education must also be considered in terms of finances and religion. The way of thinking and the level of education that will be given to children is influenced by the level of education of

their parents. If the level of education that parents have is high, it will affect their mindset in educating children (Sulastri & Ahmad Tarmizi, 2017).

Even though in the end the conflict was ended by forcing JM's opinion as the head of the household. This made TP feel that the opinion he gave was not heard by JM. One of the patterns used in JM and TP households is the unbalanced dividing pattern. Of the various conflicts they experienced, TP often succumbed to JM because the conflicts they experienced were difficult to give their opinion so it made TP give in so that the conflicts they experienced could be resolved quickly. An unbalanced separator pattern is a pattern in which one party dominates (husband or wife) and can control the relationship and rarely asks for opinions between the two parties. Meanwhile, the controlled party allows them to win decisions or arguments (Kusnarto & Zuhri, 2012).

The factors that influence the JM and TP couples have an unbalanced separation pattern, the researchers argue, seen from their previous marriage experiences, where they both experienced a divorce. Divorce can have a psychological impact on a wife or husband because the problems they face cannot be resolved properly, and they end up having a bad experience that can affect their next marriage (Tarmizi, 2007). Experience can be a cause for the behavior of a widower towards his wife or vice versa. For example, having experienced verbal violence, authoritarian parenting and injustice in parenting from a partner, trauma due to a partner's infidelity, as well as emotional wounds in his childhood. They can behave easily angry and easily explode when they argue with their partner (Avloniti et al., 2014). Table 1 show Communication patterns of widow and widower couples in resolving household conflicts.

Table 2. Communication patterns of widow and widower couples in resolving household conflicts.

Informant	Source of conflict	Form of Conflict	Communication patterns in resolving conflict
Informant pair 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare • Financial • Brother-in-law's behavior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflict not declared • Communal conflict • Realistic conflict 	Unbalanced Splitting Pattern

Conclusion

The two couples have different marriage backgrounds where NR and JY are divorced from a previous marriage, and JM and TP are divorced from a previous marriage. These couples have different sources and forms of conflict. In the first pair of informants, NR and JY were known to experience sources of conflict in the form of differences in how to educate their children, not serving their husbands when they came home from work, and having sensitive feelings of not being understood. This couple is involved in verbal and non-verbal conflicts, namely silence as a form of relieving emotions, not venting emotions on others, giving in to avoid being brave with their husbands, and being sarcastic because they are insensitive. The communication pattern that occurs in this first pair of informants is a pattern of balance, where one party is free to express opinions honestly and openly. Family meetings are held in terms of conflict resolution. Meanwhile, withdrawal for a rather closed family pattern can be avoided so that the conflict does not drag on and each family member becomes more withdrawn.

In the second pair of informants, JM and TP, it was discovered that there were sources of conflict in their household, namely financial limitations, ways of educating children, and the presence of factors from TP's family which caused differences in principles, causing conflict between JM and TP. The pattern of communication in conflict resolution for this second pair uses an unbalanced separator pattern, where one party dominates and can control the relationship and rarely asks for an opinion so that the controlled party does not dare and allows the other party to win decisions or opinions.

The sources of conflict for the two couples are almost the same, namely on parenting and financial issues, but for the second couple, the extended family still intervenes. In the form of conflict, the two partners are involved in verbal and non-verbal quarrels, while the widow seems to succumb to the aggressiveness of their husband. In pair 1, because the form of conflict is stated, it influences a balanced pattern of conflict resolution, while in the second pair, with unstated conflict, one dominates (the pattern of separation is unbalanced). Patterns of communication in conflict interactions between married couples, widows, and widowers, are also influenced by individual personality factors. -each party with differences and distinctive characteristics between men and women, previous marriage experience, and trust factors in partners.

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