Attachment of Late Adolescent to Mother, Father, and Peer, with Family Structure as Moderating Variable and their Relationships with Self-esteem

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Self-esteem has been identified as crucial psychological parameter in adolescents’ development (McKaig, 1989). Researchers’ findings during the last three decades show that self-esteem indeed plays important roles in psychological problems that have been the root of social problems. Low self-esteem is associated with depression and anxiety (Orth, Robins, & Meier, 2009; Ohannessian, Leruer, Lerner, & von Eye, 1994), social phobia and interpersonal difficulties such as loneliness (Izgic, Akyuz, Dogan, & Kugu, 2004;
Amrnerman, Kazdin & van Hasselt, 1993), various risky health-related behaviors such as substance abuse (Schroeder, Laflin, & Weis, 1993; Dooley Prause, Ham-Rowbottom, & Emptage, 2005), become member of gang (Wang, 1994), and early pregnancy during adolescence (Crockenberg & Soby, 1989).

On the other side, high self-esteem is associated with positive mood and happiness (Rosenberg, 1965; Baumeister, Campbell, Krueger, & Vohs, 2003), life satisfaction (Huebner, 1991), physical health and good health-related behavior (Doan & Scherman, 1987; Yarcheski & Mahon, 1989), able to adopt in classroom (Lerner et. al., 1991), academic achievement (Hattie, 1992), good endurance towards stress and anxiety, positive team work (Baumeister et. al., 2003), initiative and persistent (Baumeister et. al., 2003; Dubois & Flay, 2004), autonomy and prosocial behavior (Leary & MacDonald, 2003), authenticity (Kernis, 2003b), and resilience (Boden, Ferguson, & Horwood, 2008). In shorts, psychological problems during adolescence arose due to low self-esteem can become risks towards social functions both interpersonally and financially (Kazdin & Weisz, 2003).

Stanley Coopersmith and Morris Rosenberg had been two earliest researchers in developing theory of self-esteem as significant personality foundation based on empirical methods. Rosenberg (1965) stated that self-esteem is a positive or negative attitude towards oneself in which one feel that oneself is worthy. Good feedback either real or perceptively, especially from important people in one’s life, is the main key to the development of one’s self-esteem. Coopersmith (1967) defined self-esteem as an evaluation of oneself that become the main foundation for the development of maintained behaviors of how ones percept oneself. Self-esteem expresses attitudes of acceptance or rejection that indicate how far an individual has confidence on his/her power, significance, virtue, and competence. In shorts, self-esteem is self-appreciation of one to oneself based on one’s relationship with others that demonstrate how one evaluate oneself of having power, significance, virtue, and competence expressed in one’s maintained behaviors.

Based on researches, Mruk (2006) listed various factors that affect self-esteem development: genetic, birth order, gender, parental related factor such as acceptance, expectation, consistency, parenting style, modeling, social factors, race, and economic factor. Bowlby (in Cassidy & Shaver, 2008) suggests that secure attachment impacting a child view and value him/her. Some studies also show that secure attachment is related to higher self-esteem. Thus, attachment should be considered as one of factors impacting self-esteem.

Attachment (Bowlby, 1982) is the center of enduring affectionate bond between an individual with important figures in one’s life. Such figures are address as figures of attachment by Bowlby. Attachment concept as secure base exists in all developmental stages (Armsden & Greenberg, 1987; Caffery & Erdman, 2000). Attachment impacts children’s psychological well-being. Unfortunately, not all attachment provide secure base. Security in relationship develop through how parents and children response to each other, especially through time of distress. Attachment theory suggests that secure attached parent will provide consistent and sensitive response to their children (Ainsworth, Blehar, Waters, & Wall, 1978). Open and flexible communication between parent and children on emotional signals will
result balance in positive and negative emotions, and create trust. Communication and trust are two important aspects in establishing secure attachment between parents and children. When communication is not healthy, children will develop the sense of being alienated by parent, thus exacerbate their security, and gradually eliminate their trust to parent.

Communication, trust, and feeling of not being alienated are aspects of secure attachment. Harmonious communications help to create emotional bond between parent and children. The ability of parent and children to communicate in healthy ways will help children to develop secure attachment. Trust is the product of strong relationship with figures of attachment, especially when partners feel that they can rely on each other (Collins & Repinsky, 1994). Trust will develop upon parents availability whenever their children in needs of their support. Alienation is strongly related to rejection and avoidance, two important constructs in the development of insecure attachment. Children develop feeling of alienation upon the unavailability of their parents whenever they need them. Thus, communication, trust, and alienation are important aspects to be considered in the development of attachment construct.

Attachment is also strongly affected by family structure. Nowadays, single parent families have increased significantly. Divorce rate has been rocketing. Census Biro of America (2012) conducted surveys in 10 countries and found percentage of single parent has increased significantly from 1980 to 2008: 34% (America), 48% (Canada), 52% (Japan), 38% (Denmark), 48% (France), 30% (Germany), 68% (Ireland), 40% (Netherland), 40% (Sweden), and 44% (England). In Indonesia itself, based on data from the Director-ate General of Religious Judicature Body showed that there were 285.184 cases ended up with divorce around Indonesia on year 2010. This is the highest number during the last 5 years (Divorce rate in Indonesia, 2011).

Children’s attachment with non-custodial parent (usually father) has been affected badly. Upon divorce or separation, the relationship of father with family members weakened. This has been main concern in relation to the development of secure attachment in children. Some studies showed that adolescents from single parent family due to divorce are more prone to substance abuse and other risky behaviors, and low academic achievement (Steinberg, in Garnefski & Diekstra, 1997), emotional problems such as depression and low self-esteem compared to adolescents from intact families (Wadsworth & Maclean, in Biblarz & Gottainer, 2000). On the other hand, Baldwin and Hoffmann (2002) found that family cohesiveness is not significantly affects adolescent’s self-esteem. They argue that adolescent from intact family has higher self-esteem merely due to availability of supports and affection from family. These studies indeed show that there is relation between adolescent’s self-esteem and family structure, but inconsistent.

Besides family, the next closest micro system that directly affect adolescent’s development is peer. Armstead and Greenberg (1987) found that attachment with parents and peers were significant predictors to self-esteem and life satisfaction. Along with Armstead and Greenberg, Wilkinson (2004) also suggests that close, secure, and trust-worthy relationship with parents and peer will enable adolescents in giving more appreciation to their selves. Booth, Rubin, and Rose-Krasnor (in Rubin et. al., 2004) stated that high quality
friendship can buffer adolescents from affecting by bad quality relation with their parents. Laible, Carlo, and Raffaelli (in Rubin et. al., 2004) found that adolescents who have secure attachment with their peers but insecurely attached to their parents have better self-adjustment compared to adolescents that have insecure attachment with their peers but securely attached to their parents. Nevertheless, other studies found that adolescent’s perception on their relation with their parent is related stronger to their self-esteem instead of their relation with their friend, and age seems to be of no contribution (Armsden & Greenberg; Burke & Weir; Greenberg et. al.; Rosenberg; in Paterson, 1993). However, adolescence is the period of social roles development; both mother and father still become important attachment figures (Hazan & Zeifman, 1999; Fraley & Davis, 1997).

Inconsistency of findings in above studies on attachment as one of factors that affecting development of self-esteem in adolescence, both in intact and non-intact family, has made researcher comes to realize the importance to understand further on adolescent’s self-esteem development in both intact and non-intact family. Based on above presented issues, there are two main research questions in this research: (1) is there any relationship among adolescent’s attachment with mother, father, and peer with their self-esteem development? (2) Is family structure affecting relation among adolescent’s attachment to mother and father with their self-esteem development?

**Method**

Subjects of this research were students from grade XI and XII of SMKN “X” and SMKN “Y” in Yogyakarta, both males and females. Thirty seven subjects were from intact families and 41 subjects were from single parent families due to separation or divorce.

Data were collected by self-report questioners filled by students. Questioners consist of 15 items to measure self-esteem using Coopersmith Self-esteem Inventory which had been adapted by Afiatin (2003), 24 items to measure attachment to mother using Armsden and Greenberg’s (1987) Inventory of Parent and Peer Attachment Revised Version (IPPA-R), 23 items to measure attachment to father using IPPA-R, and 24 items to measure attachment to peer using IPPA-R. Data for types of family structure of subjects’ were attained through identity form of subjects. Subjects were asked of their parents’ marital status, either still in marriage tie or has been separated or divorced.

Hierarchical multiple regression was used to analyzed on the relationship among adolescent’s attachment to mother, father, and friend with their self-esteem. In hierarchical multiple regression, independent variables were entered sequentially based on Bowlby’s theory of hierarchical figures of attachment as well as some findings that showed adolescents still keep mother as main attachment figures, followed by peer, and father. If attachment with mother is indeed more prominent than father and peer, the result of analysis would show significance even after attachment with father. Second hypothesis on the possibility of family structure to affect relationship among adolescent’s attachment to mother and father with their self-esteem was analyzed using Moderated Regression Analysis (MRA).

Additional independent-sample t tests were carried out in order to dig further on the differences between groups of subjects
from intact and non-intact families as well as female and males subjects on their self-esteem, attachment to mother, father, and peer. The aim of this research is to understand further on factors that affect self-esteem as well as attachment in respect of family structure and gender.

Result

First hypothesis was proved, attachment to mother, father, and peer strongly predict self-esteem in adolescents. Hierarchical multiple regression analysis was carried out by entering attachment to father, friend, and mother in sequence. Results on Table 1 showed that attachment to father significantly predicts self-esteem in adolescents. The value of $F$ Change=$11,951$ ($p=0,001; \ p<0,05$) and $R$ Square Change=$0.136$ shows that attachment to father significantly able to predict self-esteem as far as 13.6%. Attachment to friend also significantly predicts self-esteem in adolescents. The value of $F$ Change=$8,811$ ($p=0,004; < 0,05$) and $R$ square=$0.227$ on Model 2 shows that attachment to father along with attachment to peer significantly predict self-esteem as far as 22.7%. $R$ Square Change=$0.091$ shows that, by itself, attachment to peer significantly able to predict self-esteem as far as 9.1%. Model 3 shows that attachment to mother still has significant power to predict self-esteem after attachment to father and peer had been controlled at $F$ Change=$4,396$ ($p=0,039; <0,05$) and $R$ square=$0.27$ on Model three shows that attachment to mother along with attachment to father and peer significantly predict self-esteem as far as 27%. Nevertheless, the value of $R$ Square Change=$0,043$ shows that on itself attachment to mother only has 4.3% contribution in the whole model.

Second hypothesis was rejected, family structure has no affect toward relationships among attachment to mother and father with self-esteem. Moderated Regression Analysis (MRA) was used in analyzing interaction of family structure with attachment to mother and father. First variable as results of multiplication between attachment to mother and family structure is called “moderate1” and “moderate2” used for second variable as results of multiplication between attachment to father and family structure.

As shown on table 2 Model 2, family structure only contribute 0.1% ($R$ Square change=$0,001$) to self-esteem upon controlling attachment to mother. Thus family structure does not significantly predict self-esteem as shown on the value of $F$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>$R$</th>
<th>$R$ Square</th>
<th>Adjusted $R$ Square</th>
<th>Std. Error of the Estimate</th>
<th>$R$ Square Change</th>
<th>Change Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>.369$^a$</td>
<td>.136</td>
<td>.125</td>
<td>5.20815</td>
<td>.136</td>
<td>$11.951$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>.476$^b$</td>
<td>.227</td>
<td>.206</td>
<td>4.95951</td>
<td>.091</td>
<td>$8.811$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>.520$^c$</td>
<td>.270</td>
<td>.240</td>
<td>4.85091</td>
<td>.043</td>
<td>$4.396$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Table 1
Hierarchical Multiple Regression Analysis on Hypothesis 1$^d$

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a. Predictor: (Constant), Attachment to father
b. Predictor: (Constant), Attachment to father, attachment to peer
c. Predictor: (Constant), Attachment to father, attachment to peer, attachment to mother
d. Dependent variable: self-esteem
Change=0.07 with \( p=0.793 \) (\( p<0.05 \)). Model 3 showed the result of moderate1 variable, a variable created as interaction between attachment to mother and family structure towards self-esteem, with R square value=0.005 and \( F \) Change value=0.432 (\( p=0.513; \ p<0.05 \)) indicates that family structure only contributes 0.5% in predicting self-esteem. Thus, family structure is not a moderating variable on the relationship between attachment to mother and self-esteem.

Similar results also shown on moderate2 variable in Table 3. Upon controlling attachment to father that has been significant predictor towards self-esteem (R square=0.136; \( p=0.001 \)), family structure can only predict self-esteem with additional of 1.3% (R square change=0.013; \( p=0.290 \)). Moderate2, as an interacting variable of attachment to father with family structure, can only add 0.6% (R square change=0.006; \( p=0.467 \)) of contribution to the prediction of self-esteem. Thus, family structure is not a moderating variable toward the relationship between attachment to father and self-esteem.

This method is used to compared mean scores between continue variable between two different subjects. The difference between two groups of subjects normally known as effect size is acquired through calculating its eta square within 0

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>( R )</th>
<th>( R ) Square</th>
<th>Adjusted ( R ) Square</th>
<th>Std. Error of the Estimate</th>
<th>Change Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>( R ) Square Change</td>
<td>( F ) Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>.381*a</td>
<td>.145</td>
<td>.134</td>
<td>5.18016</td>
<td>.145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>.382*b</td>
<td>.146</td>
<td>.123</td>
<td>5.21216</td>
<td>.001</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>.388*c</td>
<td>.151</td>
<td>.116</td>
<td>5.23199</td>
<td>.005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Predictor: (Constant), Attachment to mother  
b. Predictor: (Constant), Attachment to mother, family structure  
c. Predictor: (Constant), Attachment to mother, family structure, attachment to mother & family structure  
d. Dependent variable: self-esteem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>( R )</th>
<th>( R ) Square</th>
<th>Adjusted ( R ) Square</th>
<th>Std. Error of the Estimate</th>
<th>Change Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>( R ) Square Change</td>
<td>( F ) Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>.369*a</td>
<td>.136</td>
<td>.125</td>
<td>5.20815</td>
<td>.136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>.149</td>
<td>.126</td>
<td>5.20354</td>
<td>.013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>.394*c</td>
<td>.155</td>
<td>.121</td>
<td>5.21974</td>
<td>.006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Predictor: (Constant), Attachment to father  
b. Predictor: (Constant), Attachment to father, family structure  
c. Predictor: (Constant), Attachment to father, family structure, attachment to father & family structure  
d. Dependent variable: self-esteem
to 1. Eta square reflects amount of variance on dependent variable explained by independent variable between two groups of subjects. According to Cohen (in Pallant, 2007), there are three category of effect size: (1) small (eta square between 0,01 – < 0,06), moderate (eta square between 0,06 to < 0,14), and high (eta square ≥ 0,14).

Table 4 shows that there is no significant difference on level of self-esteem between subjects from intact and non-intact families. Effect size = 0,0023 shows that the difference amount of self-esteem between these two groups only 0,23%.

On the other hand, independent-sample t tests carried out on attachment to mother, father, and peer shows that there is no difference between subjects from intact and non-intact families except for attachment to father. There is significant difference on attachment to father between these two groups as shown on its effect size = 0,1675 (16,75%).

Findings on above analysis show that there is no significant difference on level of self-esteem, attachment to mother, and peer between subjects from intact and non-intact families. Significant difference only found between groups of subjects on attachment to father.

Further independent-sample t tests between female and males subject on dependent and independent variables showed on table 5. Moderate difference between these two groups of subject only found on attachment to mother (8,16%), but there are no significant difference between these two groups of subject on self-esteem, attachment to father, and attachment to peer. Looking to their mean scores, attachment to mother on females (74,84) subject only slightly higher than males (mean = 66,71).

**Discussion**

Analysis results showed that first hypothesis is proven, that attachment to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent Variable</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>Sig (2-tailed)</th>
<th>Mean Diff.</th>
<th>Effect size</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-esteem</td>
<td>-0,421</td>
<td>0,675</td>
<td>-0,524</td>
<td>0,0023</td>
<td>0,23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachment to mother</td>
<td>1,749</td>
<td>0,084</td>
<td>-4,200</td>
<td>0,0387</td>
<td>3,87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachment to father</td>
<td>-3,910</td>
<td>0,001</td>
<td>-11,17</td>
<td>0,1675</td>
<td>16,75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachment to peer</td>
<td>-0,980</td>
<td>0,392</td>
<td>-2,059</td>
<td>0,0125</td>
<td>1,25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent Variable</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>Sig (2-tailed)</th>
<th>Mean Diff.</th>
<th>Effect size</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-esteem</td>
<td>0,657</td>
<td>0,513</td>
<td>0,835</td>
<td>0,0056</td>
<td>0,56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachment to mother</td>
<td>2,598</td>
<td>0,110</td>
<td>6,123</td>
<td>0,0816</td>
<td>8,16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachment to father</td>
<td>0,951</td>
<td>0,345</td>
<td>2,971</td>
<td>0,0118</td>
<td>1,18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachment to peer</td>
<td>1,410</td>
<td>0,163</td>
<td>2,949</td>
<td>0,0255</td>
<td>2,55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
mother, father, and peer significantly predict self-esteem on late adolescents. Together they contribute 27% in total to predict self-esteem. Descriptive data on frequency distribution of independent variables and dependent variable also support the result of this analysis. Table 6 and picture 1 below show summaries on percentage comparison of scores of 78 subjects on attachment to mother, father, peer, and self-esteem in this research.

Figure 1 shows that percentage of self-esteem scores moves in accordance with scores of attachment to mother, father, and peer. Most of subjects have moderate self-esteem (50%), and at quite close percentage scores of attachment to father, mother, and peer also fall on moderate range (32% - 42%). Similar movement also shown on lowest, low, high, and highest groups. In short, attachment to mother, father, and peer are positively related to self-esteem.

Other findings from various researchers also agree with above finding, that attachment and self-esteem are positively related. Greenberg, Seigal, Leitch (1983) & Armsden & Greenberg (1987) also found that quality of attachment to parent and peer significantly predicted life satisfaction and self-esteem. Similarly, Feeney & Noller (1996) also found that secure attachment is positively related to high self-esteem. Wilkinson (2004) also stated that close, secure, and trust-worthy relationship with parents and peer will enable adolescents in giving higher appreciation to their selves.

Table 6.
Percentage Comparison of Frequency Distribution of Independent and Dependent Variables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Lowest</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Highest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-esteem</td>
<td>7,70%</td>
<td>20,50%</td>
<td>50,00%</td>
<td>15,40%</td>
<td>6,40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachment to Mother</td>
<td>7,70%</td>
<td>24,40%</td>
<td>32,10%</td>
<td>29,50%</td>
<td>6,50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachment to Father</td>
<td>5,13%</td>
<td>28,21%</td>
<td>33,33%</td>
<td>28,21%</td>
<td>5,13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attachment to Peer</td>
<td>5,13%</td>
<td>20,51%</td>
<td>42,31%</td>
<td>23,08%</td>
<td>8,97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1. Graph of Self-esteem, Attachment to Mother, Father, and Peer
Interestingly, this research also found that attachment to father has become stronger predictor to self-esteem compared to attachment to mother. Attachment to father strongly predict self-esteem at 13.6%, while attachment to mother only predict self-esteem at 4.3% upon controlling attachment to father and peer. This finding differs from previous findings that mostly found attachment to mother play stronger roles in adolescence compared to attachment to father (Paterson, Field, & Pryor, 1994; Allen et al., 2003).

Further explanation on this anomaly can be found in gender literature. Gender literature emphasizes that man and woman identity is based on different resources. The development of woman identity is mainly in interpersonal relationship, while development of man identity is mainly on independence and personal achievement (Gilligan, 1982). Chodorow (1989) also stated that social roles of father mostly occur outside family, while social roles of mother mainly occur inside family. Taken together, mother tends to take care of their relationship with children thus affecting most on children’s psychological condition. Meanwhile, father tends to take care of children’s relationship outside the family.

Such different orientation between man and woman showed that father and mother contribute to different aspects of attachment. Secure attachment provides safety and encouragement towards autonomy and exploration. High quality relationship and support from mother will contribute to feeling of security and savehaven that will affect the psychological conditions of children. At the other hand, father tends to encourage independence and autonomy that will contribute to self-competence and social competence as well as children’s’ interests towards relationship outside family.

Short version of CSEI used in this research consists abundantly of the aspect of competencies, both personal and social. These aspects of competencies can be considered to explain on the results of analysis that found attachment to fathers becomes stronger predictor on self-esteem compared to attachment to mother. This finding is quite similar to Rice, Cunningham, & Young (1997) finding that the attachment to father predicts children’s social competencies stronger than attachment to mother.

Another interesting finding in this research is that attachment to peer stronger predict self-esteem (9.1%) than attachment to mother. Doyle, Ducharme, & Markiewicz (2002) also found similar results that there is positive relation between interaction with peer and secure attachment to father. These findings show that attachment to father has different affect to child’s development compared to attachment to mother. Social competence as development result established by secure attachment to father contribute to children’s interpersonal relationship. Secure attachment to father affect secure attachment to peer.

Second hypothesis is rejected; family structure does not affect the relationship between attachment to mother and father with self-esteem on adolescent. This finding is quite shocking as divorce or separation decrease the quality of relationship among family members. The relationship of children with non-custodial parent (usually father), either quantitatively or qualitatively will decrease as time goes by (Amato & Booth, 1996). According to Braver et al. (1993), father will tend to keep and maintain his relationship with the family if conflict with his ex-wife low
and father is actively involved in decision making on children. Besides, divorce also decreases the quality of relationship between mother and children and husband (Amato & Keith, 1991).

So, why family structure does not affect the relationship between attachment to father and mother with self-esteem? According to some studies, marital conflict is associated with insecure attachment to parent on adolescent in intact family (Feeney; Henry & Holmes; in Mikulincer & Shaver, 2007). Sprecher, Cate, and Levin (in Cassidy & Shaver, 2008) found that attachment level of individuals from divorce family is no different with those from unhappy intact family. Those findings explain that the relationship qualities with parents are of paramount importance. Thus, family conflict should be more of importance towards secure attachment among family members instead of family structure itself. Qualify relationship among family members may give stronger impact on the development of children's self-esteem.

Additional analysis of independent-samples t-tests were carried out separately in order to sharpen results of research. Based on independent-samples t-test, there is no significant difference on level of self-esteem between subjects from intact family and non-intact family. This finding proven further that family structure is not a significant predictor on self-esteem.

On the other side, independent-samples t-test was also carried out to see the differences on levels of attachment to mother, father, and peer between subjects from intact and non-intact family. There is no significant difference between these two groups of subject on attachment to mother and peer. Nevertheless, significant difference was found between these two groups of subject on attachment to father. This finding is not shocking as most studies found that divorce indeed change the relationship between father and members of family, both children and ex-wife. Relation between children and non-custodial parent, normally father, will decrease as time goes by (Amato & Booth, 1996). According to Braver et. al. (1993) found that father tends to maintain his relationship with his children if the conflict rate with his ex-wife is low and father is still directly involved in decision making for the children. The tendency of father to maintain his relationship with children is quite dilemmatic as conflicts normally precede divorce. Unresolved conflicts become one of main factors that caused divorce. What is normally happen is what was found by Amato and Booth as stated above.

Results found in both regression analysis and independent-sample t test on self-esteem, attachment to father, and family structure provide new paradigm. Family structure indeed affects attachment to father, as the most common non-custodial parent. Meanwhile, attachment to father affects self-esteem of subjects. Nevertheless, family structure does not affect self-esteem. These findings show that although family structure affects attachment to father, but not strong enough to become predictor for self-esteem. This supports the finding that family structure does not affect the relationship between attachment to mother and father with self-esteem of subjects.

Another independent-sample t tests were carried out on self-esteem, attachment, and family structure based on groups of female and male subjects found no significant effect size on those three variables between these groups except for attachment to mother. There is only slightly difference between female subjects and male subject on their attachment to
mother with moderate effect size = 8,16%, but not significant (sig. 2-tailed = 0,11). In some literature there are findings that show males are generally independent and less emotional attached compared to females (Gillian; Katz; in Paterson, 1993). The IPPA-R scales are aims in measuring relationships areas of subjects. Berman and Sperling (1991) also found that female adolescents reported higher affective relation with mother compared to male adolescents. Thus, such finding in this research re-affirms previous findings.

This study concludes that, attachment to mother, father, and peer is significantly related to self-esteem. Attachment to mother and attachment to father affect different aspects of children’s development. Attachment to father impacts more on self and social competences as well as relationship outside children’s family. As CSEI mostly measure such aspects, the results of this study found that attachment to father predict self-esteem of adolescents (13,6%) stronger than attachment to mother (4,2%). In accordance, attachment to peer that has related aspect in interpersonal relationship in accordance with attachment to father, become stronger prediction to self-esteem in adolescents (9,1%) compared to attachment to mother. Nevertheless, attachment to mother still significantly predicts self-esteem on adolescents after attachment to father and peer had been controlled. Altogether, attachment to mother, father, and peer significantly predict self-esteem on late adolescents at 27%.

References


of Youth and Adolescence, 12, 373-386.


