

Article

## Working Couple's Communication Patterns In Maintaining Family Harmony

Intan Tri Ambarwati, Fizzy Andriani\* & Natalina Nilamsari.

Fakultas Ilmu Komunikasi, Universitas Prof. Dr. Moestopo (Beragama), Tanah Abang,  
10270 Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia

\*Corresponding Author: [fizzyandriani@dsn.moestopo.ac.id](mailto:fizzyandriani@dsn.moestopo.ac.id)

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**Abstract:** For married couples who both works are vulnerable to conflict between them. Effective communication is needed to prevent this from happening. This research aims to find out how the communication patterns of husband-and-wife couples work together to maintain family harmony. This research is a qualitative descriptive study involving four husband and wife couples who work in Jakarta. This research uses the Coordinated Management of Meaning Theory with the Family Harmony Aspect approach. Data was collected through interviews. The research results show that there are married couples who can still understand each other, even though they lack communication and are unable to express affection for their partner, such as by giving compliments. There are also two married couples who spend a lot of time with their partners, but even though other married couples admit that they rarely spend time alone with their partners, they still have a sense of mutual understanding. Communication between partners, mutual understanding and how they spend time together, are important aspects in maintaining family harmony. The implications of this research can be applied to premarital counseling, especially for job applicant couples, to minimize the risk of divorce due to disharmony.

**Keywords:** Husband and wife; working couple; communication patterns; family harmony; relationship

### Introduction

In a relationship with the opposite gender are fundamentally based on human nature's need for love. Marriage, or the tendency to live together with a partner as husband and wife according to law, is another name for this relationship (Husna, 2019). Marriage is a precious and meaningful event in everyone's life. Marriage in Islam aims to unite two individuals to live together as a halal and religious husband and wife. A husband and wife can be called one family living together under one roof and bound by marriage. Emotions, both negative and positive, are influenced by family. Families with harmonious relationships will foster peace, while families with discordant relationships will experience increased conflict. Every married person certainly wants a peaceful home life. Law Number 1 of 1974 states that the definition of marriage in Article 1 Chapter 1 emphasizes that "marriage is a physical and spiritual relationship between a man and a woman as husband and wife to build a happy and eternal household, a family based on God Almighty" (Amelia, 2019). Husband and wife often carry out interpersonal communication when interacting. Interpersonal communication generally refers to face-to-face conversations when participants influence each other's opinions about their communication partners.

The peace of home can be maintained if everyone understands each other. Understanding each other means being aware of each other's preferences, dislikes, assets, and shortcomings. A family environment where members are frank with each other will help husband and wife understand better. In addition, effective

communication between husband and wife is one of the critical elements in creating a solid family life. Effective communication is vital within the home. To develop successful relationships, open interpersonal communication is necessary for relationship maintenance. When two people come from different families, communication is a way of sharing emotions. When couples communicate, they can participate in an interaction system that continuously develops and moves forward as each partner experiences different stages. It includes sharing feelings, parenting, happy moments, and incidents involving problems. A harmonious family will be formed if husband and wife can work together, appreciate, cherish, love, forgive, and continue communicating (Arifin et al., 2022). Adjustment is one of the most challenging problems a husband and wife must face in a marriage. During marriage, husband and wife gradually adjust to each other. Success in marriage will depend on the phases that determine partner satisfaction. According to data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), in 2020, the number of divorce cases in Indonesia reached 436,512 cases, which increases yearly. If accumulated per day, there are approximately 1,250 people who choose to divorce. Many factors in divorce were caused by disharmony (37.6%), economy (25.8%), irresponsibility (22.1%), infidelity (10.1%), domestic violence (3.0%), and jealousy (0.25%). This data indicated that disharmony was one of the most critical factors causing divorce between husband and wife (Munthe & Vonika, 2018)

The husband's function is often interpreted as the head of the family, who is responsible for providing a living for the family. (Luvalo, 2019). Wives must be guided by their husbands to ensure that they constantly move in the right direction. Apart from being a partner, women have a crucial function in the household, namely as a mother who always takes care and guides her children, as well as a loyal companion to her husband (Rahman et al., 2017). Currently, women can always be active and participate in various fields in society. Women who were initially only able to work as housewives can now turn into career women who can be equal to men. Over time, a paradigm emerged between women regarding their roles and duties in the family and as housewives. It is because women have two roles simultaneously: housewives and workers. The phenomenon of working women is not something new among the population but has been found in several regions in Indonesia. Many women have jobs to meet household needs. However, some residents still assume that women who are still working, especially if they are married and have children, are not suitable for their household. (Hassan & Vellymalay, 2018)

Women are forced to work for various reasons, including cultural differences, natural roles that differ from their ideal, and financial obligations that cause them to support their husbands' families. Those who have had children are often forced to give up their roles as wives and mothers due to this situation. As a result, if this continues for a long time, the relationship between husband and wife in the house will worsen (Yusoffea, 2009). Working couples have advantages and disadvantages in their marriage. Positive consequences confirm that having a plan in case the partner dies, gets divorced, gets fired, and so on, helps a woman understand her husband better because she is aware of the outside world and life's challenges. For married couples who both work, but the woman has to complete more housework outside of work, this can lead to conflict between them. Hence, due to lots of workload, they spend a lot of time away from home. Consequently, children do not show affection towards their mothers. Not all married couples who choose to work have poor levels of marital commitment and divorce. Many married couples who work have proven to maintain the integrity of their marriage (Veronika & Afdal, 2021). For this reason, researchers aims to find out how married couples communication patterns maintain family harmony.

## Literature Review

Devito (1992:11) states, "Interpersonal communication is defined as communication that takes place between two persons who have an established relationship. The people are in some way connected". In its broadest sense, interpersonal communication refers to face-to-face communication in which participants influence each other's opinions about their communication partners. Dyadic communication is a unique type of interpersonal communication. According to Devito, interpersonal communication is any conversation between two individuals who have a relationship with each other. A doctor and a patient, two interview subjects, and a husband and wife are some examples of interpersonal communication (Anggraini et al., 2022). Therefore, interpersonal communication is considered the most successful because it occurs face-to-face and assists the communicator in determining the communicator's response. Personal contact is the outcome of interpersonal

communication that brings the communicator and communicant closer jointly; thus, the communicant more easily accepts what is being said (Ayuri, 2018)

According to the Coordinated Management of Meaning hypothesis of 1980, founded by W. Barnett Pearce and Vernon Cronen, humans construct their conversational realities, which is fundamental to understanding the meaning of being human. The implementation of different principles depends on communication content, explicit behavior, events, relationships between communicators, individual backgrounds, and cultural patterns, especially how meaning is created in interactions. Coordinated management of meaning theory is frequently employed in the context of family, culture, and other related factors. People can improve the quality of their social and personal lives by developing their communication skills. According to CMM theory, interaction results in the formation of meaning in communication. Vernon Cronen and W. Barnett Pearce state that people construct meaning hierarchically. Content, speech art, events, partnerships (contracts), life scripts, and cultural patterns are some of the meanings in this theory. (Imran et al., 2019)

There are three assumptions of coordinated management of meaning theory, according to W. Barnett Pearce and Vernon Cronen. The first assumption is that humans communicate as long as they have time to speak. Second, human existence influences social reality—a person's perspective on how meaning and action relate to interpersonal interactions. The third assumption is that personal and interpersonal meaning affects information transactions, or this assumption is related to conversation control. A person is responsible for the conversation when two people are talking to each other (Moore & Mattson-Lauters, 2009). Coordinated management of meaning theorists predict that people will organize meaning hierarchically. To suggest that individuals regulate meaning is to imply that they can choose how much weight to give to a specific message.

*Content* is the initial step where raw data is converted into meaning. In other words, content is the words used to communicate. Notably, content is still not enough to form meaning in communication. When someone packages messages they want to convey in the communication process in a husband-and-wife relationship, the message cannot be interpreted quickly. Husband and wife conversations will differ in the choice or use of words. However, if these words are chosen in different communications, they will have different meanings. *Speech acts* are verbal behaviors such as praising, scolding, promising, threatening, stating, and asking. Episodes have meaning in communication routines and have a class beginning, middle, and end. At this level, the researchers begin to determine the effect of the context of meaning. In a sense, episodes describe the context in which people act. It could be considered that a relationship is an agreement and understanding between two people in which certain expectations regarding behavior are created. *Life scripts* are groups of past or present episodes that create a system of meaning that can be managed together with other people. In this life script, the history of each individual's relationships and interactions will influence the rules and patterns of interaction. Life scripts can be interpreted as having similarities to each individual's autobiography. (Hedman & Gesch-Karamanlidis, 2015). Furthermore, *cultural patterns* mean that each of us behaves under social values. These values relate to gender, race, class, and religious identity. Cultural patterns are "a comprehensive figure of the world structure and (a person's) relationship with that structure. A person's relationship with the larger culture becomes relevant when interpreting meaning. Speech acts, episodes, relationships, and life scripts can be understood at this level. Cultural patterns can increase the harmony of husband-and-wife relationships by adding spice. For instance, in typical Sundanese culture, "aing" means a lower caste. However, using this term as the pronoun "I" in dialogue between husband and wife cannot be separated.

As progress occurs in several areas of life, women and men now have equal opportunities to grow as individuals. When women choose to continue working after getting married and having children, they will appear in public and become the center of society's attention. According to the perspective of this ancient society, women should take care of the house and children. A wife's decision to work may be taken for several reasons. Apart from generating income, expanding your knowledge base and establishing social contacts are equally important (non-economic aspects). A woman's choice to work impacts the environment, marriage, children, and wife (Wijayanto & Sari, 2019). A person may acquire ideals that can form his personality and the growth and development of his family. His family largely shapes a person's personality. Apart from providing economic support, the family has the following goals: love, socialization, education, protection, and

recreation. The learning process that family members experience is the result of socialization and the frequent implementation of schooling (Rostiana et al., 2015)

One of society's most important social structures is the family, an institution tasked with ensuring social welfare and the biological preservation of human offspring. One can examine the concept of family from the perspective of social and cognation. In cognation, a family is a social unit connected through blood. Depending on the cognation level, families can be classified as nuclear or extended. In the context of social relations, a family is a group of people who, although not related by cognation, are bound through interactions and relationships and influence each other. Family is a minimal social unit in which a man and a woman, along with their offspring, are united through marriage and given specific tasks. The family provides vital functions that cannot be separated or combined with others. These are the various functions of the family (Kobandaha, 2019):

*Educational Function.* The tasks are generally referred to families' and particularly children's education. Education has more goals than just imparting knowledge to students; it also involves resolving and strengthening the basic principles that guide educational efforts. It implies that parents are attempting to provide resources and facilities, including educational materials, which increase the effectiveness of education in the family; hence, they can plan the management of education in the family more effectively.

*Protection function.* The protection function emphasizes the moment of the child in the womb until adulthood and old age, the family still acts as a haven and provides a sense of security, comfort, inner peace, and calm outside the body. Parents provide their family members with bodily protection from hunger, thirst, and other dangers. Meanwhile, mental protection helps family members develop strong psychological resilience; thus, they do not feel stressed later if they face a life crisis. Moral protection allows family members to refrain from wrongdoing and limit their virtuous activities to those in line with their community's standards, conventions, and laws.

*Affection Function.* There is a deep emotional connection between members of a family. The bonds of familiarity, affection and togetherness that unite its members are the foundation of a family. Parents must create a loving and happy family to commit to this role. In the family there are often various expressions of love in terms of words, attitudes, behavior, and so on.

*Socialization Function.* One form of parental responsibility is to introduce their children to a wider and more authentic social life. Children need to be raised in an atmosphere where they can make friends, interact with other people, live close to their neighbors or the surrounding community, so that they are able to adapt when they become members of society.

*Religious Function.* Families must recognize and respect children and group members equally. Families must recognize and respect children and other family members equally. This can encourage parental identification with each child, and also contributes to better education at home.

*Economic Function.* It is very important that we create a sense of belonging and closeness between family members. However, apart from that, the implementation of family economic functions by and for all family members has the potential to increase a sense of mutual understanding, a sense of helping each other, and a sense of shared responsibility within the family.

*Recreation Function.* A person can feel relaxed when they are in a calm and peaceful situation and environment without internal tension. This refreshing and calming feeling can increase one's ability to deal with daily stress and busyness. The family must be able to provide a calming atmosphere, so that the ability to deal with pressure can emerge in each family member.

*Biological Function.* It addresses the biological needs of group members associated with this role. Physical protection, health, and hygiene related to hunger, thirst, cold, heat, and fatigue, as well as physical exercise and stress related to physical exercise, are all included in it. It also has biologically based sexual needs. According to Sarwono (1993), providing for the biological needs of group members is the main objective of the collective bargaining process. Indeed, it is the first action each group member must take as a unit, similar to satisfying the wife's desires for food, clothing, and sex.

(Gunarsa & Gunarsa, 2000) defines family harmony as a situation where all family members experience happiness, which is defined as reduced stress, disappointment, and satisfaction with all circumstances and their closeness (self-actualization), which includes social, emotional, mental, and physical

aspects. When one family member is happy with other family members, harmony is created. Psychologically, it can indicate two things: first, the development of all family members’ aspirations, goals, and desires. Second, only a few conflicts occur within and between communities (Ndihohiru, 2020). Therefore, a family that can achieve harmony, happiness, and satisfaction under any circumstances includes a family that can respond to problems wisely, thereby reducing stress and quarrels between husband and wife and being able to accept each partner’s strengths and weaknesses in the context of mutual respect and constructive adjustments.

According to (Gunarsa & Gunarsa, 2000), there are several aspects of family harmony,: *Affection between family members*. Family members expose mutual respect and love for each other. They can feel how good the family is. Family members express appreciation and affection honestly. This appreciation is necessary; hence, each member feels truly loved and recognized for their existence. *Mutual understanding between family members, apart from affection*. In general, adolescents expect understanding from their parents. With mutual understanding, there will be no quarrels between family members. *Dialogue or effective communication*. The members have communication skills and spend much time on what is intertwined in the family. In a harmonious family, there are several rules for good communication, including providing enough time, listening, maintaining honesty, and having time together with family. (Siahaan et al., 2019)

**Methodology**

The researchers employed the descriptive qualitative method with post-positivism paradigm. The communication between husband and wife works to increase harmony in a relationship as the research objects. Data was collected through interviews conducted with 4 married couples who had been married for 5-10 years, and the age of the source persons, which was not more than 40 years old.

Table 1. Communication patterns that occurred in working husband and wife couples

Coordinated Management of Meaning Theory	Family Harmony Aspects
Contents Speech Acts	Aspects of affection between family members
Episode Relationship	Aspects of mutual understanding
Life Script Cultural Patterns	Aspects of effective dialogue

Source: Researchers data, 2023

Based on the results of communication patterns that occurred in working husband and wife couples, researchers proposed some points, such as:

1. Aspects of Affection Between Family Members

- i. Content : How they resolve conflict in the household
- ii. Speech act : How they compliments each other
- iii. Episode : Have they ever complimented each other after marriage
- iv. Relationships : Their reasons to keep working after marriage
- v. Life script : How each parent given praise
- vi. Cultural patterns: Any cultural differences that occur

2. Aspects of Mutual Understanding

- i. Contents : Still feel like themselves after getting married.
- ii. Speech act : Doing household together.
- iii. Episode : The difference between partners in doing the household from they first got married until now.
- iv. Relationships : Any written agreement between them in taking care of the household.

- v. Life script : Their parents doing the household before marriage?
- vi. Cultural patterns: Any cultural differences that occur.

3. Aspects of Effective Dialogue

- i. Contents : Exchange stories before sleeping.
- ii. Speech act : The time they spend together without other family member/children.
- iii. Episode : Any changes in spend time together that have occurred since they first got married until now.
- iv. Relationships : Any agreement to spend time together.
- v. Life script : How they spend time with their family or both parents before marriage.
- vi. Cultural patterns: Any cultural differences that occur

Those Communication Patterns that Occurred in Working Husband and Wife Couples above will be analysed by looking at three aspects of Family Harmony consisting of Affection between family members; Mutual understanding between family members; and Dialogue or Effective Communication, then each aspects will be measured through the following indicators: Communication Content; Explicit Behavior; Events; Relationships between Communicators; Individual Backgrounds; and Cultural Patterns, as shown in the table 1 above.

**Findings and Discussion**

Based on the tables above, A, B, C, D, E, and F were from Coordinated Management of Meaning Theory; meanwhile, 1, 2, and 3 were Aspects of Family Harmony. In addition, (+) or (-) indicates the answer to the question asked by the researchers. The researchers conducted research on communication patterns of working husband and wife in maintaining family harmony using the Coordinated Management of Meaning theory and connected to aspects of family harmony that occurred in the Cipadu Jaya area. The research results revealed that there was family harmony by helping each other, being open to each other, being mutually responsible for the family, caring, and solving problems well in terms of family harmony among working couples in the Cipadu Jaya. In every family, there are bound to be misunderstandings and a lack of communication between husband and wife, often resulting in husband and wife fighting. Nevertheless, arguments can still be resolved between family members.

Table 2. Couple 1: Annisa (28 years old) and Aynal

Aspects of Affection Between Family Members	Aspects of Mutual Understanding	Aspects of Effective Dialogue
A - 1 : - +	A - 2 : + +	A - 3 : - -
B - 1 : + +	B - 2 : + +	B - 3 : - -
C - 1 : + +	C - 2 : + +	C - 3 : - +
D - 1 : + +	D - 2 : + +	D - 3 : - -
E - 1 : - +	E - 2 : + +	E - 3 : + -
F - 1 : - +	F - 2 : - +	F - 3 : + -

For couple 1, aspect of affection between family member are positive similarity in *speech act* (they compliments each other), *episode* (they complimented each other after marriage), *relationships* (their reasons to keep working after marriage). Aspect of mutual understanding positive similarity in *content* (still feel like themselves after getting married), *speech act* (doing household together), *episode* (the difference between partners in doing the household from they first got married until now), *relationship* (any written agreement between them in taking care of the household) *life script* (their parents doing the household before marriage). Aspect of effective dialogue negative similarity in *content* (exchange stories before sleeping), *speech act* (the time they spend together without other family member/children), *relationship* (any agreement to spend time together).

Table 3. Couple 2: Putri (32 years old) and Eko (36 years old) have a marriage age of 10 years

Aspects of Affection Between Family Members	Aspects of Mutual Understanding	Aspects of Effective Dialogue
A - 1 : - -	A - 2 : + +	A - 3 : - -
B - 1 : - -	B - 2 : + +	B - 3 : + -
C - 1 : + -	C - 2 : + +	C - 3 : + -
D - 1 : - -	D - 2 : + +	D - 3 : - -
E - 1 : - -	E - 2 : - +	E - 3 : - +
F - 1 : + -	F - 2 : + +	F - 3 : + -

For couple 2, aspect of affection negative similarity in *content* (they resolve conflict in the household), *speech act* (they compliments each other), *relationships* (their reasons to keep working after marriage), *life script* (how each parent given praise). Aspect of mutual understanding positive similarity in *content* (still feel like themselves after getting married), *speech act* (doing household together), *episode* (the difference between partners in doing the household from they first got married until now), *relationship* (any written agreement between them in taking care of the household)), *cultural patterns* (any cultural differences that occur). Aspect of effective dialogue negative similarity in *content* (exchange stories before sleeping) and *relationships* (any agreement to spend time together).

Table 4. Couple 3: Mawar (31 years old) and Dedi (32 years old) have a marriage age of 8 years

Aspects of Affection Between Family Members	Aspects of Mutual Understanding	Aspects of Effective Dialogue
A - 1 : - -	A - 2 : + +	A - 3 : + +
B - 1 : - -	B - 2 : + +	B - 3 : + +
C - 1 : + -	C - 2 : - -	C - 3 : + +
D - 1 : - -	D - 2 : + +	D - 3 : - -
E - 1 : - -	E - 2 : + +	E - 3 : - -
F - 1 : + -	F - 2 : + +	F - 3 : - -

For couple 3, aspects of affection between family negative similarity in *content* (they resolve conflict in the household), *speech act* (they compliments each other), *relationships* (their reasons to keep working after marriage), *life script* (how each parent given praise). Aspect of mutual understanding positive similarity in *content* (still feel like themselves after getting married), *speech act* (doing household together), *relationship* (any written agreement between them in taking care of the household), *life script* (their parents doing the household before marriage) *cultural patterns* (any cultural differences that occur). Aspect of effective dialogue positive similarity in *content* (exchange stories before sleeping), *speech act* (the time they spend together without other family member/children), and *episode* (any changes in spend time together that have occurred since they first got married until now).

Table 5. Couple 4: Ita (33 years old) and Bagus (30 years old) have a marriage age of 6 years

Aspects of Affection Between Family Members	Aspects of Mutual Understanding	Aspects of Effective Dialogue
A - 1 : - +	A - 2 : + +	A - 3 : + +
B - 1 : + +	B - 2 : + +	B - 3 : - +
C - 1 : + +	C - 2 : + +	C - 3 : + +
D - 1 : + +	D - 2 : + +	D - 3 : - +
E - 1 : + +	E - 2 : - +	E - 3 : + +
F - 1 : + +	F - 2 : + +	F - 3 : + +

For couple 4, aspects of affection between family positive similarity in *speech act* (they compliment each other), *episode* (they complimented each other after marriage), *relationships* (their reasons to keep working after marriage), *life script* (how each parent given praise), *cultural patterns* (any cultural differences that occur). Aspects of mutual understanding positive similarity in *content* (still feel like themselves after

getting married), *speech act* (doing household together), *episode* (the difference between partners in doing the household from they first got married until now), *relationship* (any written agreement between them in taking care of the household), *cultural patterns* (any cultural differences that occur). Aspects of effective dialogue positive similarity in *content* (exchange stories before sleeping), *episode* (any changes in spend time together that have occurred since they first got married until now), *life script* (How they spend time with their family or both parents before marriage), *cultural patterns* (Any cultural differences that occur)

In terms of the affection aspects between family members on contents, the first couple often expressed their affection for each other as praises. For instance, the first couple of examples of how they solved problems. Aynal revealed that he preferred to talk directly with his partner. However, Annisa, Aynal's wife, said she often discussed it via WhatsApp. This couple, who repeatedly praised each other, explained that there has been no change in the meaning of speech acts since the beginning of their marriage until now. Meanwhile, in terms of the meaning of the relationship, this couple explained that neither of them committed when they decided to work together. In the meaning of the life script, this couple admitted that their parents rarely praised them before marriage. Furthermore, this couple had differences in the meaning of cultural patterns. This difference could be seen by them when entering the Eid al-Fitr holiday. However, the first couple could be pretty effective when caring for the household together related to mutual understanding. They considered that a household was run by two people, not just one person. From the beginning of their marriage until now, they have continued to care for the household together. This couple explained that no commitment was discussed when taking care of the household.

In terms of effective dialogue, the first couple explained that they did not have enough time alone with their partner but could understand each other. The meaning of the content explained that the first couple rarely exchanged stories before taking a break. The lack of time at home was one of the reasons. In the meaning of the speech act, the first partner revealed that they rarely spent time alone with their partner. Meanwhile, in terms of the episode, this couple often exchanged stories before taking a break in the past, but nowadays, it is rarely done because of their busy schedules. For the first couple, there was no commitment to effective dialogue. Furthermore, the second couple rarely expressed their affection for their partner through praise in terms of affection between partners. When they were married, they rarely praised their partner, and it was different when they were dating and they frequently praised their partner. Hence, to resolve this couple's conflict by giving them a little time to fix their existing problems and, preparing a space to talk to each other. In the episode's meaning, this couple explained that no changes have occurred to their partners. Being in a dating relationship before marriage was one of the reasons why couples knew each other's characteristics. The cultural patterns in this couple were pretty much the same, and nothing changed. This couple could be effective in mutual understanding because the household was done together. From the beginning until now, this couple still worked on the household together. They had no commitment or agreement to take care of the household. They rarely helped their parents before marriage, but they were no longer like that when they married. In household matters, they worked together to help each other.

In terms of effective dialogue, this couple rarely exchanged stories before taking a break, but they occasionally spent time together without inviting their children. They stated that it was done after work when there was a suitable time. In the aspect of effective dialogue that occurred in this couple, no commitment or agreement appeared. Meanwhile, the third couple rarely expressed affection for their partner with praise in the aspect of love between family members. They considered that praise was a form of joke that was thrown at their partner. They resolved conflicts by giving their partner time and then discussing it together. This couple explained that they decided to work because of economic factors in their family. This couple is quite effective in mutual understanding because the household was done together. However, the meaning of the episode explains that in the third couple, a change occurred in their partner. In addition, at the beginning of their marriage, the partner was more accessible to ask for help compared to now when it was pretty late when the wife asked for help. The third couple did not agree to take care of the household. This couple took care of the household, which was done together. However, the third couple admitted that they rarely exchanged stories before they took a break in terms of effective dialogue. They often spent time with their partner in other ways. It could not be denied that occasionally, this couple spent time alone with their partner when they came home from work by inviting them to eat without bringing their children.



In addition, the fourth couple often praised each other related to affection between family members. They resolved conflicts by giving their partner time. They considered this method to be more effective than discussing it directly because it could create new problems. In terms of understanding, this couple can be said to be effective because the household was done together. They often spent time alone with their partner by exchanging stories before resting related to effective dialogue. When a wife decides to work, it must first be discussed with her husband. One thing that husbands and wives must be concerned is family conditions. Did the family conditions at that time allow the wife to work? Ensure the wife has also thought carefully about her wishes so the discussion with her husband can go smoothly.

Researchers found a lack of communication between husband and wife in the four couples. However, it cannot be completely said that there is family disharmony among all working couples, but rather that it is just a commotion that usually occurs in every married couple, and can be resolved well. These couples understand their respective roles and obligations, always staying together to create a harmonious family. In the aspect of mutual understanding, it is something that is considered important by all couples. They both realize that taking care of the household is a shared responsibility. These four couples admitted that they resolved problems in their household by giving their partners time first, then discussing together for a moment and finding a solution to the problem. Researchers found that even though dialogue between couples seemed lacking, this could be resolved because of mutual understanding between them.

## Conclusion

The results showed that all couples showed different levels of family harmony, and they were able to manage joint household responsibilities with or without formal agreement. However, some couples struggle to find quality time together. This research also found that there are normal marital conflicts between couples, and they can always be resolved well. In this study, similar communication patterns were found in all couples that researched i.e (+ +) positif similarity in aspect of mutual understanding in *speech act* element: 'doing household together'. That is to say, when they are doing household together, the situation of mutual understanding increase for all these couples. The results also show that there are married couples who can still understand each other, even though they lack communication and are unable to express affection for their partner, such as by giving compliments. There are also two married couples who spend a lot of time with their partners, but even though other married couples admit that they rarely spend time alone with their partners, they still have a sense of mutual understanding. This research underlines the importance of mutual understanding and effective communication in maintaining a harmonious family life for working couples. The implications of this research which is based on the Coordinated Management of Meaning theory can be applied to premarital counseling, especially for applicant working couples, to minimize the risk of divorce due to disharmony. Acknowledging the limitations to this research, researcher suggest that future research should deepen the data obtained with more in-depth interviews. So that the findings become more comprehensive.

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