

CHAPTER 4

PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STUDY

4.1. Orientation

The study about The Dynamics of Javanese Women's Self-Adjustment to Committed Relationship with Western Men involves three Javanese women aged 19 to 29 years old as the subjects who are in committed relationship with Western Men for minimum one year. Those three subjects are SP aged 19 years old from Semarang, EG aged 27 years old from Secang, and OC aged 21 years old from Karangjati.

Table.4.01. Background of Subjects and Their Partners

Subject	Age	Occupation	Partner's Nationality	Partner's Age	Been Together
SP	20	Student	Dutch	26	1 year
EC	27	Entrepreneur	Canadian	38	2 years
OC	21	Student	American	28	1.5 years

The study with these three subjects was carried out with the permission and acknowledge of the purpose of this study. All three subjects gave the permission to the researcher to be involved to their personal lives. In addition, the subjects knew and allowed the researcher to involve some of their closest persons to be interviewed. The observations in this study was not told by the researcher to the subjects because there is a chance that the subjects behaving manipulatively because they knew that they were being observed.

The first subject (SP) is a twenty years old student of a university in Semarang. She is the only child in the family, and also an orphan. She stays with her father and a step-mother in Semarang. The researcher met SP for the first time in an event called the Dutch Pancake in September 2018 then she was known as a member of Bule Hunter Community in Semarang and her boyfriend is

Dutch which she found through a dating app. He works in a cargo company in the Netherlands.

The researcher conducted the interview with SP in Hestag Café in Sultan Agung street no. 81, Semarang. The researcher chose this place because SP recommended this place to the researcher and it was not really far from SP's house. Besides that, the café was not too crowded and the interview would not be distracted. The whole meeting took for about three hours.

The researcher did some interviews and observations to SP many times because the researcher met SP quite often. The researcher met with SP four times in August. The researcher also had a chance to observe when her boyfriend when he visited Semarang in August.

The second subject (EC) is a 27 years old business woman. Before being a business woman, she was a maritime crew in a one of the largest maritime company in Asia, in Singapore. She is the first child of the family and has one younger sister. Her parents used to have a confection factory but it was destroyed by a competitor in which ordered more than two thousand pieces of clothes and cancelled unilaterally. Six years after that, EC decided to go back to her parent hometown, Secang, to continue her family business. She is now working in a maritime and export-import company in Hong Kong as a counsellor. EC is a Canadian man's (N) fiancée. She stays in Semarang with her boyfriend because her boyfriend works as a teacher in an international school in Semarang. They usually go to Secang every weekend to check the business that they run together.

The researcher met N in an event called the Dutch Pancake in September 2018. He introduced the researcher to his fiancée and refer her as a subject of the study because he knew that the researcher is doing a research to Javanese women who are having a committed relationship with Western men. N gave EC's number to the researcher to arrange the first meeting. The researcher met EC for the first time in October 2018 in a bar in Semarang. Since then, the researcher and EC kept contact each other and became friends.

The interview with EC was conducted in Namma Café, Semarang on 20th of September 2019. EC chose Namma Café because she also had a meeting in that café about the launching of her own brand before the interview. The data collection took approximately four hours.

The third subject (OC) is a 21 years old English literature student in a university in Semarang. She is the youngest child of the family. She has an older brother and sister. The researcher and OC met in EC's fashion project that the researcher and OC worked for together. The second subject, EC referred O to the researcher as a subject because EC knew that OC was dealing with the same problem as EC and was also relevant for the study. She stays in Semarang with her husband in which a teacher in the same school as EC's fiancé. The researcher and OC met for the first time in an event in her university. At that time the researcher was a speaker in a seminar and OC was the audience. Since then, the researcher followed each other on Instagram but rarely talking.

The researcher did an interview with OC in her apartment on 11th of October 2019 after the photoshoot project. Her husband (M) was not there because he was sent to Jakarta for school meeting but the researcher had a chance to meet her husband in October 2nd, 2019.

4.2. Preparation and Implementation of the Study

The preparation of the study consists of finding subjects and submitting the permission of the study to the subjects. The criteria of the subjects for this study are Javanese women aged eighteen to forty who stay in Semarang and are in committed relationship with Western men for minimum one year. Based on the criteria that the researcher has decided, the researcher found three subjects who matched the criteria. Those three subjects are chosen by the initiative of the researcher.

After choosing the subjects who match the criteria, the researcher tried to meet the subjects to inform them about the study that will be conducted and also its purposes. The researcher also asked for the subjects' permission to do some interviews to the subjects and the closest person to the subjects until the data is completely collected. The researcher met the subjects and after the researcher got the permission from the subjects in different locations each subjects.

The researcher provided informed consent for the subjects and the triangulation subjects to be signed. This informed consent could be the proof that the subjects were willing to participate in this study and allowed the researcher to use the data of the interview without any coercions.

Before the observations and interviews were conducted, the researcher prepares the observation guidelines in which consists of the researcher's general impression towards the subjects and the observation table. The observation table consists of observable behaviour based on five aspects of self-adjustment stated by Harber and Runyon (1984), namely the accurate perceptions toward reality, the ability to cope with stress and anxiety, the positive self-image, the ability to express the emotions and feelings, good interpersonal relationship with others.

The researcher also prepared a semi-structured interview guidelines in which consists of eight questions for the main subjects and nine questions for the triangulation subjects in which allowed the researcher to ask more questions depending on the response of the subjects. In conducting interviews, the researcher used cell phone to record the process of the interview.

4.3. Data Collection

The entire data was collected in between 8th of August 2019 to 14th of November 2019. The schedule of data collection was determined based on the agreement of the researcher with the subjects. The schedule was flexible according to the time offered by the subjects and agreed by the researcher because each subjects has their own busyness.

The researcher went through three steps in the process of collecting data from the subjects. The first steps was trying to contact the subjects to meet, explained the study to the subjects, and asked for a permission from the subjects to be participate in the research. The second step was planning to meet again with the subjects after getting permissions from the subjects to participate in the research. The researcher scheduled different time and places for each subjects for the observations and interviews. The third step was conducting the observations and interviews using a behaviour checklist and interview guide. The following is the schedule of the interview with the subjects.

Table 4.02. First Phase of Meeting Schedule with the Research Subject

Subject	Date	Time	Location	Data Collection Method
First Meeting				
SP	August 11 th , 2019	12:00 – 15:00	Hestag Café	Interview and Observation
EC	September 20 th , 2019	13:00 – 15:08	Namma Café	Interview and Observation
OC	October 11 th , 2019	14.30 – 15.00	EC's Apartment	Interview and Observation
Second Meeting				
SP	September 2 nd , 2019	11.30 – 15.45	Eatboss Café	Observation
EC	October 11 th , 2019	11:00 – 14:00	OC's Apartment	Observation
OC	October 11 th , 2019	19:00 – 01:00	Sakapatat	Observation
Third Meeting				
SP	October 25 th ,	10:55 – 14:00	Eatboss Café	Interview and Observation
EC	October 25 th , 2019	07.30 – 10:00	EC's house	Interview and Observation

Table 4.03. The Meeting Schedule with the Triangulation Subjects

Subject	Date	Time	Location	Data Collection Method
Subject 1 (DP)	October 28 th , 2019	12:00 – 15:00	Subject's office	Interview
Subject 2 (MG)	October 28 th , 2019	13:00 – 15:08	Good Fellas	Interview
Subject 3 (SH)	November 12 th , 2019	11.30 – 12.00	SH's office	Interview
	November 14 th , 2019	11.30 – 13.00	SH's office	Interview

4.4. The Result and Analysis Study

4.4.1. Subject 1

a. Subject's Identity

Name	: SP
Age	: 20
Address	: Lamper, Semarang
Occupation	: Second year university student
Spouse's Nationality	: Dutch

b. Observation Result of Subject 1

SP is approximately 168 cm tall and 60 kg. She has brown exotic skin with combination normal to dry condition and very sensitive. She has thick and long wavy black hair and dark eyes.

The researcher met SP in Hestag Café at 11:30 on August 11th, 2019. At that time, SP was wearing long jeans with black t-shirt and maroon cardigan. The researcher and SP ordered some snacks and coffee before the interview was conducted. SP was very open and had very good intention during the interview. She turned her phone into silent mode and did not play with her phone very often.

SP was not very excited when the researcher and SP discussed about her goals in her relationship because she found it difficult to tell their parents that her boyfriend was a foreigner, but she kept continue answering the question although she cried. On the other side, SP was proud of herself for being a Western man's girlfriend because she thought Westerners are more open minded and equal in term of relationship.

During the second meeting on October 11th with the researcher, SP was wearing long jeans and a strip shirt. The second meeting was only an observation. The researcher met with SP in EatBoss Café then went to the cinema together to watch Maleficient 2. The researcher and SP talk about college and job during the meeting, but it was not a semi structured interview. The researcher did not plan for an interview at that time.

The third meeting between the researcher and SP was on October 25th. SP was wearing black jeans again with maroon t-shirt and glasses. The researcher and SP met in the same café as the second meeting. In this meeting, the

researcher and SP talked about the mutual interests between SP and R, lifestyle changes and SP's friends circle. The researcher and SP also talked about the role in their relationship.

SP came from a not very wealthy family. She is the only child of the family. Her mother passed away when she was just eight years old because of cancer. Four years later, her father married a woman as her mother asked in a letter before she passed away.

In her family, SP is not very talkative but she was very excited to talk about her mutual interested with her boyfriend especially when SP and the researcher talked about her similarities with R. They both love movies and do not smoke and drink alcohol. She also seemed very excited to talk about intercultural relationship.

SP is very active on social media, such as Instagram and WhatsApp. She often posts a picture or video on *Instastory*. She also set the researcher as her 'close friend' on her Instagram account in which only the people that she chose who could see her posts on *instastory*.

c. Interview Result of Subject 1

SP is nineteen years old university student in a university and the only child of the family. SP and her family stay in Semarang till now. Besides being a student, she is also a part timer English tutor for elementary school students. She earns Rp 25.000,00 per hour of teaching English.

Being in a relationship with a Westerner, especially with Dutch man is a new experience for SP. This is her first time for being in a relationship with Westerner. SP and her boyfriend (called R) met though a dating app, called

OkCupid. SP did not expect that she would find a boyfriend through an app but turned up they liked each other. After two months chatting through WhatsApp, they decided to try to be together. They have been together since January, 2018. One month after that, R came to Semarang to meet SP for the first time. They spent 3 weeks together but SP did not stay with R while he was here. SP had classes in the morning then spent time with R until evening, then decided to go home because she did not want her parents to know that she was with her boyfriend.

After being in a relationship for more than one year, SP have not told their parents about her relationship. SP tried to ask if her parents would allow her to be in a relationship with a Western man but her father did not allow her, so she still keeps her relationship as a secret from her family until now. She started lying to her parents about her activities to meet R.

For SP, being in a relationship with a Western man like R has led her to be more independent and confident. SP thought she was not attractive to Javanese man but it was fine for her by now. She learnt about consent and body positivity from R since SP thought that she was quite curvy. She thought that R is the "husband goal" for her because she thought he could respect her choices and accept her flaws. On the other side, SP found herself feeling guilty because she often lied to her parents about her relationship. She knew that her boyfriend, R was doing his best to try to be with her. SP told the researcher that R agreed to convert to Muslim. R even tried to breakfasting during Ramadan with SP, but it is still difficult for her parents to accept R.

The relationship between SP and R did not always go smooth. Just like other couples, there were many conflicts that they faced for more than a year being together. Besides the parent's approval, SP found it difficult to understand the family tradition. It could be either from her family or R's family. From her side, her family wants her to marry a Javanese man instead. While from R's side, his family want him to hold the marriage in his grandfather's house because it has been a tradition of the family. Besides the family culture, they also have a problem with religion. SP is a Muslim, while R is a non-believer. Although R has agreed to convert to be a Muslim, SP's parents still do not believe that R would be right person for SP.

In terms of relationship, SP told the researcher that she was very emotional. She was easily triggered of small things that R did wrong, while R could only beg her not to be mad at him. The bad thing that she confessed to the researcher was she often disparaged R and thought that he would always be the one who asks for forgiveness.

Sometimes when they were in a long distance relationship, SP's lifestyle changed in which might affect her health. She slept later than before because they had six hours different between Indonesia and the Netherlands. SP always waited R to get back from work to have a video call, but sometimes in the morning she had headache and being moody because of lacking of sleep. SP tend to stay away from her friends when her mood changed.

In their relationship, R plays a huge role. R paid all the fee to travel to Semarang such as flight tickets, apartment, and other expenses. R also paid for SP's daily needs, such as food, phone, transportation, skin care, and internet data plan although SP told the researcher that she has never asked for that.

What makes SP believe that R is the right person for her is that they can understand each other. For SP, cultural differences is the most difficult problem in her relationship with R but they always try to share the same value in their lives. For them, honesty is the main reason of why they maintain the relationship. They both also like watching movies and do not drink alcohol and smoking.

d. Interview Result with Triangulation of Subject 1

The first triangulation subject (DP) is the boss of subject 1 (SP). She is 24 years old master student of English Literature. She also owns a learning center in Sampangan in which provides study assistance for elementary to high school students. DP met SP when she applied for a teaching job in DP's learning center as an English tutor in 2018. They have known each other for approximately one year. She hired SP to be an English and Math private tutor for Elementary students. She meet SP quite often especially if there is teacher who cannot teach on that day, she is usually ready to replace other teachers' schedule to teach in regular class. DP also asked her to teach in a regular class while looking for a new teacher.

DP told the researcher that she talked to SP quite often especially when she did not have classes. They often talk about SP's relationship with R. SP is often confuse to react to the differences between R and herself especially because it is her first time being in a relationship. DP assumed that SP's relationship with R is either based on love or prestige but she never judged. She assumed that way because SP told her that she did not like how people assume her but she was active on Instagram uploading stories that might provoke her followers to talk behind her back. This is why she thought that she does not have

a friend because when she upload an *instastory* about her relationship she always get a positive reaction from people on Instagram who are also in a relationship or hoping soon to be in a relationship with Westerner.

On the other side, DP thought that both SP and R sacrifice for their relationship. SP always tries to provide her time to meet R in which made her lied to her parent. R is also patient to wait for SP. He came along from the Netherland and moved to Semarang just to be closed to SP although they have never met before. It could be a sign that he is serious to his relationship with SP. DP also thought that they both are still childish. Sometimes when they have an argument, SP chose to keep silence, did not reply and pick up any call from R. SP claimed to DP that she wanted to know how R reacted to the problem. DP thought that this was not the right way to solve the problem.

SP sometimes talked to DP and asked for her opinion about maintaining a relationship with Westerner because she knew that DP's circle is mostly Westerners and realised that she was lacked of experience in terms of intercultural relationship. She also tried to explain about Javanese culture and etiquette to R based on DP's suggestion. She tried to let R to face the cultural differences between his home in the Netherlands and in Indonesia, especially in Semarang.

DP told the researcher that sometimes SP asked her boyfriend to give her money indirectly, but she told him that she did not have money for gasoline, mobile data, and school's credits so that R feels pity for her and send her money. DP said it is true that SP never asked for money, but taking the advantage of R's innocence. Nevertheless, DP said that SP also often succumbs especially when

they face problems related to cultural differences although she is also more demanding.

According to DP, when someone who is actually facing the differences and forced to follow certain attitude, there will be a sense of “not in the same page”. Sometimes SP felt this way and did not solve the problem by communicating to her partner and looking for the better solution. She often just accepts how their relationship works but DP always supports her.

While being in a relationship with R, sometimes SP cannot control herself so that the problem with R is sometimes affected on how she teaches in a regular class in which is not good in DP’s opinion, such as just giving tasks to the students and let them do it by themselves while she was just sitting and playing with her phone. DP have told her that she did not want her student’s parent see the way she teaches their children.

In the end of the interview, DP hoped that someday SP could be honest to her parents about her relationship with R because they will know about it after all and it is better to always try to listen to each other so that they can understand and embrace each other’s differences.

e. Case Analysis of Subject 1

Based on the observations and interviews conducted by the researcher on SP and her co-worker, the researcher found that there are differences in social and cultural backgrounds between SP and R. R is a 26-year-old Dutch citizen who was born and raised by his parents in the Netherland before finally deciding to move to Semarang, Indonesia in 2018. While on the other side, SP is

ethnically Indonesian Javanese who was born and raised by her father and a step-mother in Semarang until now.

The differences in social and cultural backgrounds between SP and R brought other differences, such as values in their lives and the ways of preserving certain things. The different value in which is brought by the background is religion. As a devout Indonesian, SP and her family adhere to the religion of Islam. This belief is not only a basis in life as a part of a family or on a larger scale, but also in determining a life partner. This is the answer to SP's request of asking R to become a Muslim if he is serious in going out in a courtship with SP.

The problem did not immediately disappear when R agreed to become a Muslim. SP's parents still have not approve of SP's relations with the Westerners and would be better if SP would date other Javanese people or in other words, marrying someone from the same ethnicity because her parent think that marrying Westerner is not a good choice and will bring her daughter far away from the family. Her parents still think that all Westerners do not have manner like Javanese people do. In this case, internal conflict appears because SP does not only have to adjust to the relationship with R, but also adjust herself to their parents as a daughter. She always wants to be together with R but on the other side, she also loves her parents.

The conflict within herself leads into different and conditionally behavior that might be maladaptive. In front of her parents she tries to always be a good daughter, but when it comes to a conversation about relationship, she often lies to her parents to fulfill her needs to meet R.

SP is active on Instagram. She always post an *instastory* at least once or twice a day and sometimes posts about her excitement in relationship with R that might provoke her friends to talk behind her back. In this case, SP told the researcher that she does not have friends who she can believes, but DP thought that she just does not realise that she actually has some friends but choose to be friend with people who are closely related to the Westerner.

In their relationship, R plays bigger role than SP. In terms of financial, R always paid almost everything of their expenses, such as mobile data, travel expenses, apartment, and also SP's needs without any complain from him because he knew that SP needs more and she is still a student. On a different side, based on the observation that conducted by the researcher, SP often posts some pictures and videos when she was shopping a not luxury but quite expensive brand or hanging out with her friends and it happened almost every day. The researcher assumes that it might be the trigger of why some of her friends found her lifestyle changed.

In their relationship, the woman does not always have to do the house work. They both agree with equality of gender role in their relationship, but in reality, SP likes when R sends her money instead of working hard. SP never explicitly ask for things that she needed, she wanted R to figure out what she wanted without telling him her actual feeling.

f. The Dynamics of Self-Adjustment to Committed Relationship of Subject 1

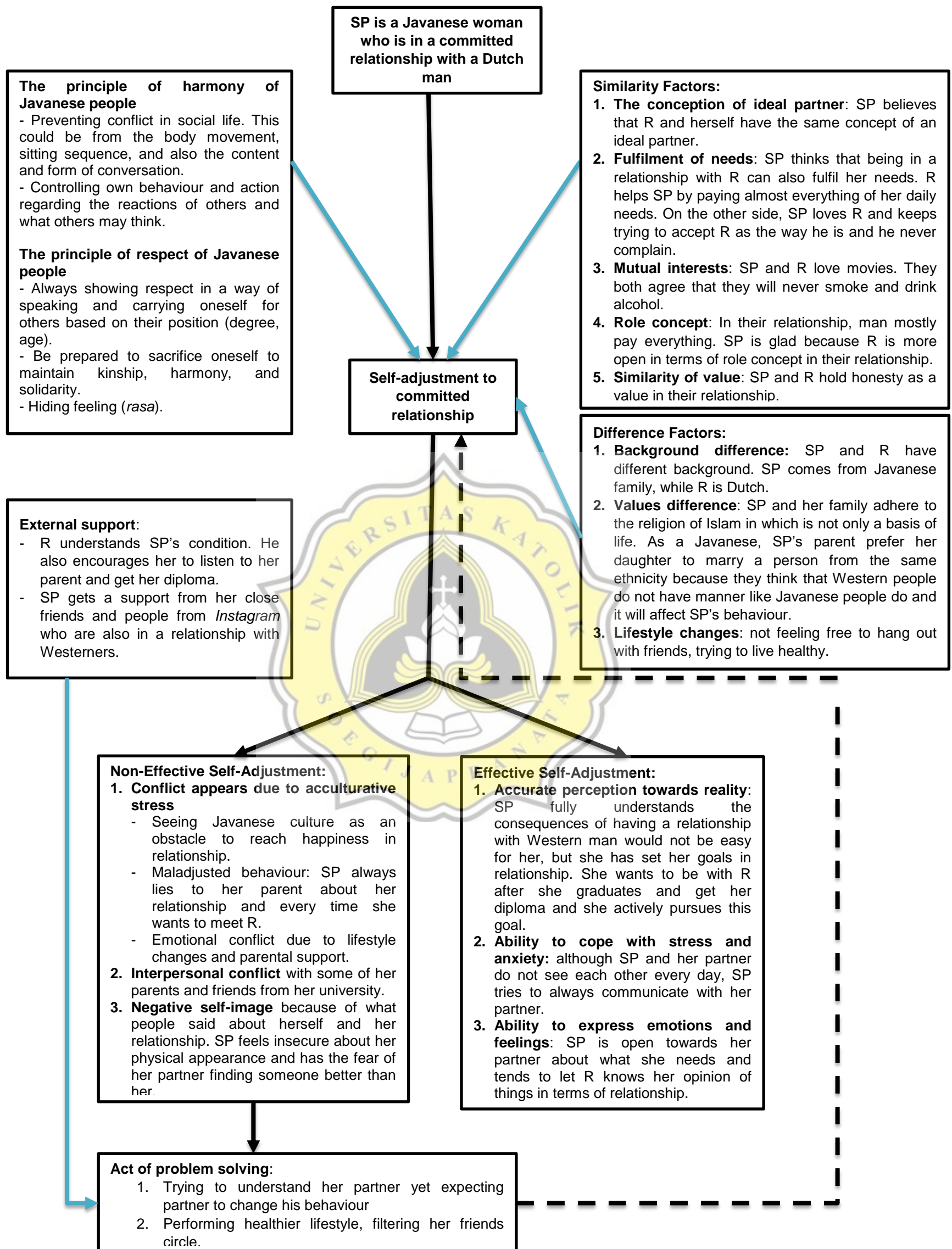


Fig 4.01. The Dynamics of Self-Adjustment to Committed Relationship of Subject SP

4.4.2. Subject 2

a. Subject's Identity

Name	: EC
Age	: 27
Address	: Karangrejo, Semarang
Occupation	: Entrepreneur
Spouse's Nationality	: Canadian

b. Observation Result of Subject 2

EC is approximately 40 kg and 150 cm height with long black curly hair. During the first interview, EC was wearing grey playsuit in which is from her own brand, matched with long jeans. While during the second interview, EC was wearing black crop top and jeans hot pants with ZARA sneakers in which she told that they are expensive. Subject has brown skin. EC is a Muslim. She does not drink alcohol because it is forbidden in Islam.

The researcher met EC in Namma Café, Semarang. EC recommended the place to the researcher because she wanted to take some photoshoot for her fashion brand which will be launched in October. EC asked the researcher to take part on the photoshoot before doing the interview. It did not take long to build the rapport between EC and the researcher. The researcher conducted the interview with EC twice although it was quite difficult to match the schedule between EC and the researcher due to the launching of her fashion brand. Nevertheless, the researcher tried the best to get the as complete information as possible from EC. The researcher also observed EC's behaviour during the interview.

Based on the researcher's observation, EC is very friendly person and expressive. Her surroundings are very supportive. She is very confident with her appearance for having dark skin and long curly hair. She always controls what she eats and loves home work out with her friends or fiancé.

EC is also an independent woman. She went back to her town to build her family business after six years working in a maritime company abroad. She just started a new clothing line business with her fiancé in October. Besides being busy with the business, she also works online with a maritime company in Hong Kong. Her fiancé (N) is a Canadian who stays in Semarang since two years ago. He works as an English teacher in an international school in Semarang.

Based on the observation conducted by the researcher, EC is quite protective towards N. During the interview, EC played gadget often and told the researcher that she needed to text N because she missed him. N was sent to Jakarta when the interview was conducted. EC also stopped the interview many times to try to call N. EC looked upset because N did not pick up the phone.

On June 4th, 2020 EC invited the researcher to come to her new house for house warming party with some other friends. EC and N have moved together since the third month of their relationship but in a teacher house that was provided by N's school for free. The reason why they decided to rent a house is because the teacher house consisted of eight people and they wanted to have their own privacy as a couple.

After the warming party, EC came and talked to the researcher about her past relationship with an Indonesian Javanese man back when she was on the first year on high school. Her ex-boyfriend was on the last year of high school. As a couple, EC and her ex-boyfriend were very curious about sex and they decided to try to have sex without any acknowledgement of health and safety sex. EC turned out pregnant of her ex-boyfriend and she knew it only when the fetus was six month old.

EC decided to drop out from school and hide her pregnancy from her friends and teachers but let her ex-boyfriend to continue his school because he was on the last year of high school and was going to have national exam. After her ex-boyfriend graduated, they decided to get married based on religion of Islam, not legally. They lived together under the support of EC's parents. They let them to get married because they thought he was a good man for EC and he came from well-educated and religious family.

Although they were married, EC did not want to have a baby in a young age. She had tried pills and traditional medicine to get rid of the fetus but it did not work until the time she had to deliver the baby. They went to the gynecologist to control her pregnancy but the gynecologist said that her baby was healthy, but turned out the baby did not cry after the labor. The doctor had to stimulate the baby but it did not work. The baby died few hours after the labor.

After living together for almost one year, EC found out that her ex was physically and mentally abusive. EC was told to hide at home and not allowed to go out because her ex was embarrassed. Her ex always locked the door when he worked until she found that her ex had a relationship with another woman. When EC's family came visiting, her ex always told him that EC went out with her friends. Her ex always hit her every time she tried to speak up. EC finally could escape from her house without money and any preparation when part of the roof on her house collapsed because there was heavy rain. She walked to her parents' house and begged her parents not to let her ex to meet her.

Her parents gave her a chance to go to school in another city although her relatives underestimated her. Her parents sent her to maritime vocational high school in Purwokerto because the school provided dormitory so she could hide

from her ex. Her parents bribed thousands million rupiah to the school because there was a regulation that the female students have to be virgin. EC knew that her family underestimated her, therefore she studied harder until she got the first parallel rank and got accepted in maritime college and got a job in Singapore right after she graduated.

Even though EC sees herself as a successful and independent woman, her relatives still underestimate her and never been proud of her just because she had pregnant. Her relatives thought that if a woman failed to uphold the dignity of her family and failed in her marriage, she is considered as failed in her whole life. That is why EC does not like to go home and meet her relatives during the big day of Ramadan. She only goes back home to meet her mother once every two months because her mother has ovary cancer. That is also the reason why she encourages other girls to be aware of sexual health.

She still feels guilty about her baby's death even after ten years. She told the researcher that she has the trauma of building a relationship with Indonesian man after what her ex did to her. She was confused if she should let N knows about her past. She was also confused because N and EC were planning to have a kid but it never worked although EC did not use birth control. She was afraid if it was her karma that she did not expect the baby.

EC promised herself not to be in any relationship until she graduated from college and got a job. She started building a relationship when she stayed in Singapore. Her ex-boyfriend worked in an export-import ship from the same company where she worked in Singapore. Consequently, they met only when the ship landed in Singapore. They were together for almost two years. They had a plan to get married and shot a pre-wedding in Thailand. But before that, she

found out that her ex-boyfriend cheated on her when the ship was unloaded in Thailand. There was a girl sent her an email consisted of some intimate photos of her and EC's ex-boyfriend.

c. Interview Result of Subject 2

EC is 27 years old woman from Secang but now she stays in Semarang with her fiancé. She does not only work in a maritime and export-import company in Hong Kong, but also has a clothing line production family factory and her own fashion brand collaborated with her fiancé. As a business woman, she is now busy with the second launching of her products, meeting some clients, and finishing the Disney costume project for Disneyland Hong Kong this New Year.

EC met her fiancé (N) from Instagram. N sent some messages to EC through Instagram because he liked sport and EC showed some of her daily sport routine on Instagram. After chatting through Instagram, N decided to ask EC to have lunch together, but EC refused at first. After two months, N asked EC again to have lunch together and EC agreed. After the first meeting, EC and N kept meeting each other. N asked EC to go with him for weekend holiday in Jepara in which was also a teacher *staycation* event and they decided to be together in a relationship since then.

EC and N have been in relationship for two years. EC thinks that there are so many differences between them. One of them is religion. EC is a Muslim, while N is a Buddhist. They both do not want to convert to one religion, and because of the religion difference, EC and N will not be able to get married in Indonesia but they still want to celebrate it with Javanese style in EC's

hometown. They are planning to get married in Canada in which is N's country but only family member will be invited.

Other than that, the problem that they are facing is the cultural differences. As a Javanese woman, EC is very open to the modern Western culture but things are different for N. Although N has been staying in Semarang for more than two years, it is still difficult for EC to teach him Javanese culture and etiquette. As an American, N is used to live in a very independent and equal situation while EC still holds some Javanese principle such as parent's approval for having a relationship or getting married, letting older people eat first, and bowing when she passes through older people. N sometimes thinks that in Javanese culture, the people are over-respecting other especially if they are older. N is also very straightforward. He always tells EC if he does not like something, but EC thinks that sometimes it is not polite. They sometimes argue about their cultural differences. EC thought N could not really understand the etiquette, while she also faced the difficulty to try to explain it to N.

For EC, her fiancé has been an ideal partner who can understand that they both have other activities and job to do besides being together. Being a business woman, EC realized that she needs to set her time management and expect for support from N as her fiancé. She gives N freedom to do anything that he wants as long as it remains responsible and not to hurt each other. Vice versa, EC expects N to treat her the same.

EC thought that being in a relationship with N could help her to fulfil her needs in terms of love and belonging. N always refuses if his school asks him to work on weekends so he can spend time together with EC and Marley (their dog). In terms of financial, EC does not ask for financial support from N because she

has her own income, but sometime N paid for meals and EC bought him sneakers, PS4, or things that he wants. They do fifty-fifty often for their expenses.

d. Interview Result with Triangulation of Subject 2

The triangulation subject of subject 2 (EC) is MG. MG is EC's manager for her fashion brand company. Before working with EC, MG worked EC's family as their personal tailor. MG is based in Secang and always with EC when she has to visit the clothing factory in Secang. MG sometime comes to Semarang because EC asks her to accompany or replace her on the meetings when she was unable to come. MG is always be on the photoshoot of EC's products catalogue.

MG is 32 years old mother of one child and because of her age in which is not far adrift towards EC, MG admitted that she is very close to EC even outside of her responsibilities at work. As time goes by, EC introduces MG to some of her close friends, as well as the researcher. Therefore, MG knows most of EC's close friends in which coincidentally most of them are in a relationship with Westerners. They do not only hang out but sometimes also talk about fashion design and ask MG to help them fix their old clothes.

The interview with MG was taken in Good Fellas Restaurant on October 28th, 2019. The researcher had the opportunity to interview MG because MG was in Semarang to do a survey of the materials for EC's brand second launching with EC, but EC was in hotel with her fiancé and the researcher set the schedule to meet MG.

The interview with MG was going smooth. MG was very supportive and welcome to do the interview although at first she told the researcher that she would feel guilty for talking about EC behind her. After the researcher told MG

about the purpose of this research and the informed consent that is used as a guarantee that the data of this research will be kept as a secret.

MG knows EC for more than eight years, even before EC met her fiancé. MG also knows how they meet and their progress of their relationship. MG told the researcher that EC also often told her about her relationship problem. MG confirmed that EC met her fiancé from *Instagram*. But before that, EC's ex-boyfriends were Westerners and there was only one ex-boyfriend who is Indonesian Javanese. MG told the researcher that EC thought that she did not get the face of what Indonesian likes and that would be the answer of why she loves working out and building the tones of her body that turned out she loves sport.

MG told the researcher that EC is a very independent woman. She could do everything by herself. She also often involves in some charities especially for women and children. She is very kind-hearted. She hired housewife in her neighborhood to empower them and let them have their own income and encourage them to become more financially independent instead of just sitting at home and waiting for their husbands.

Above all the kindness, EC is quite protective in terms of relationship. She cannot stay far from her fiancé for a long time. It happened when her fiancé was sent to Jakarta by his school for three days. She was quite emotional when her fiancé did not reply her messages or pick up her calls. MG also told the researcher that EC went to her fiancé because she missed him when her fiancé was sent to Singapore for Model United Nation to accompany his students.

The reason behind her protectiveness is because EC's past relationship. She was in a long distance relationship with a Western man and it did not end up happily. Her ex-boyfriend was involved in another relationship with someone else and EC knew it just one year after they were in a relationship. When they broke up, her ex-boyfriend asked EC that he wanted his money that he spent for her back. EC was very upset, but she returned all his money back. She gave him the total bill of her money that she spent for him and told him that she would appreciate if he would return her money but would not hate him if he does not.

Being in a relationship with N is not easy for EC. MG told the researcher that SP sometimes received some direct messages from people that she did not know before. The messages consist of cursing words. She took it seriously and asked her friend who works in IT field to detect the *Instagram* accounts who sent her the messages. Turned out, it was R's ex-girlfriend using a fake account and some of his ex's friends who sent her those messages. She also found out that they texted N, telling him about how sorry his ex-girlfriend was and encouraged him to talk to her, but R never replied and told EC about it.

EC was very upset to what they have done to her and her fiancé. She told MG that she also pity her for doing such thing but in another side, she saw her very active on *Instagram* and showing off her dating routine with many different foreigners. She decided to text his fiancé's ex-girlfriend (WT) and told her that she was very upset to know that WT behave very negatively to someone that she did not even know before. Not long time after, she got a reply from WT. WT told her that she did not sent the messages and was very sorry to know that some of her friends texted her. MG and EC did not believe what WT said, but they did not do anything further.

MG told the researcher that EC's response to a problem outside of her relationship with R has been very wise and mature. In the other side, the way she responded to an intrinsic problem was quite presumptuous. She sometimes confront N when she found him doing something wrong. She is more open to talk about the problem in their relationship, including expectation in their relationship and also sex life, but she is sometimes spiteful. She tent to recall her bad memories or something that N did wrong in the past.

From MG's side, being SP's friend is very nice. She learns about hard work and women empowerment that women should be independent to define their happiness. She realised that each persons have their own strengths and weaknesses, just like a 'combo deal' and she is fine with EC's whole self because she thinks EC can control herself and is willing to learn from other people.

e. Case Analysis of Subject 2

Based on the observations and interviews conducted by the researcher on EC and her manager, the researcher found that EC is very mature and open to any conversation about her relationship. EC also told the researcher that she was excited to be involved in this research.

The obstacle that they are facing right now is their religions. EC is Muslim, while N is Buddhist. They both know that this difference will lead them into difficulties to get married in Indonesia, but they also do not want to convert to one religion. EC does not want to force N to become Muslim, and so as N. EC's family is also very open to their difference and does not see it as a problem.

They agree to someday get married in Canada but EC has to understand that the cost of wedding party in Canada is very expensive and N does not want

to spend their money only for a one night party. N tried to explain to EC that they might be just sign the marriage certificate and declare their marriage to the embassy. EC is fine with that, but she still wants to bring her family to Canada to meet N's family. They are now working for that.

Besides the religion issue, EC and N are struggling to adjust themselves into cultural differences. EC is very open to the modern Western Culture as a Javanese woman, but she needs to teach N to behave like Javanese at least when he meets her family. The adjustment began when EC wanted N to meet her family in Wonosobo for Eid holiday, she taught N some Javanese etiquette because even though her parents understand their differences, she wanted to show her older family that N could be the right person for her by showing them the politeness.

As a Canadian, N is used to live as a very straightforward and independent person. He can express what he wants and what he does not like to EC, but EC does not always think that it is polite. As a Javanese woman, EC is used speak very carefully and not to offend others. She tends to keep everything inside. That is why she could be very emotional when they argue to something even the simple ones. She likes to recall the things that she thought were not right and confront him.

EC is also very protective to N. She could easily get mad if he does not reply her messages or pick up her calls but there is always the reason behind that. She had bad experience of her past relationship that made her very upset. She cannot be in a long distance relationship because she is afraid if their relationship does not work as she expected or if it turns out the same as her past relationship. Other than that, EC was married to a high school lover because she

was pregnant. Her baby died few hours after the labor. This experience left an inner wound and guilt for EC. Their marriage turned out did not last for long because her ex-husband was abusive and EC ran away from her house to her parents' house without her ex-husband knowing. The unsuccessful marriage was a traumatic experience for EC especially because of her ex-husband's behavior and she tent to generalize it to all Indonesian men.

EC decided to continue her school in another city and promised herself no to be in a relationship until Since then, EC was never be in a relationship with Indonesian men. Even though EC and N are sometimes arguing about many things, she thought that N has always been the best partner. He can understand that EC is very busy with her fashion business but he keeps supporting her. On the other side, EC faces the differences by keep trying to appreciate N's honesty because she realized that their relationship would have been worse if they were not open to each other and did not communicate effectively.

EC is also good at time management. She always spends her weekends with her fiancé and her pets at home. For her, weekend means quality time with her partner. She usually cooks and spends her time with her fiancé by watching movies and doing exercise at home. For her, quality time is very important for their relationship because they realized that they both work on weekdays and only have time to really discuss everything effectively on weekends.

EC is financially independent even before she met her fiancé. It makes their relationship gets easier when they both can take part in funding their needs without letting one person pays for everything, especially because N expects woman who can be equal and EC meets that criteria because she does not ask for financial support for her own needs.

f. The Dynamics of Self-Adjustment to Committed Relationship of Subject 2.

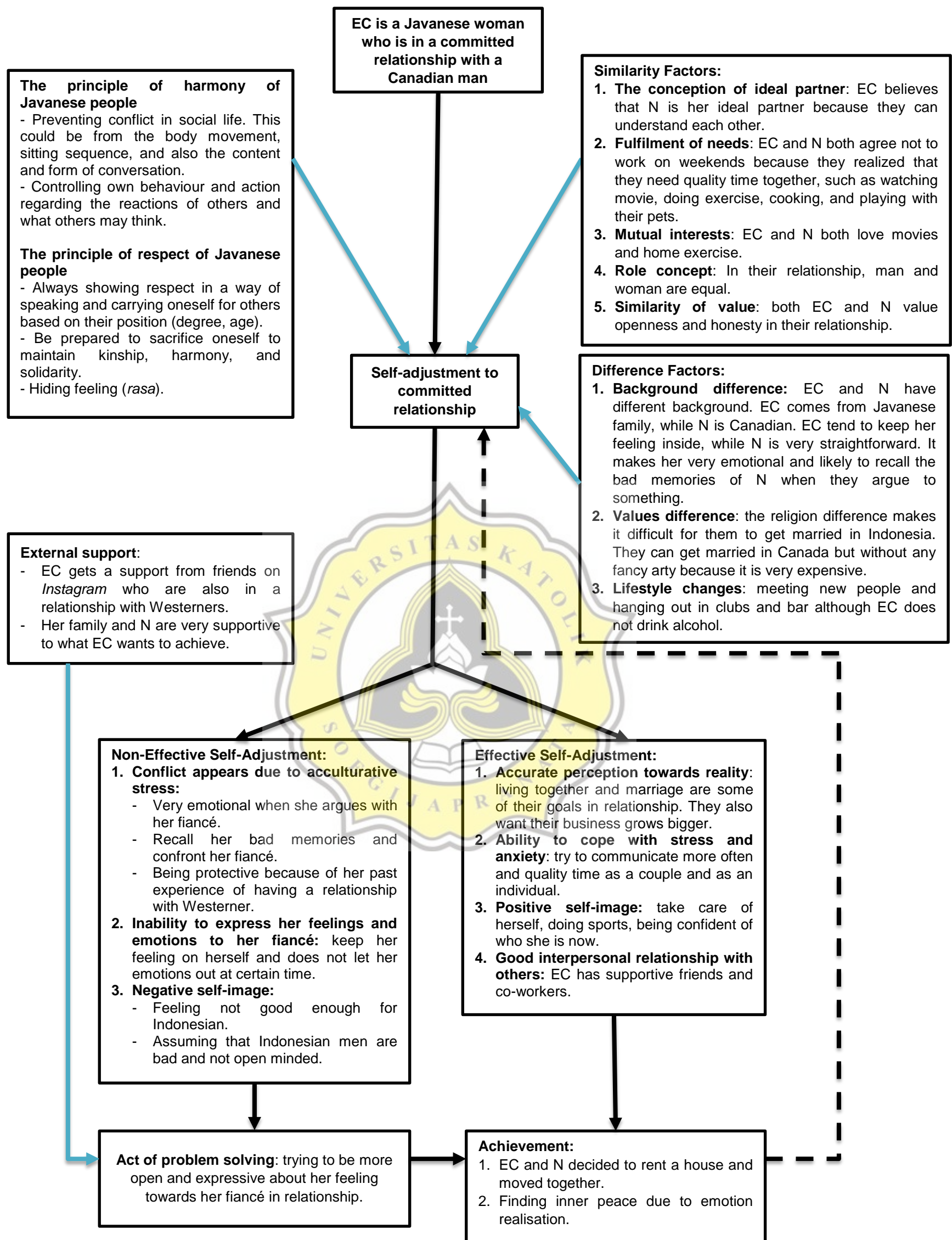


Fig 4.02. The Dynamics of Self-Adjustment to Committed Relationship of Subject EC

4.4.3. Subject 3

a. Subject's Identity

Name	: OC
Age	: 21
Address	: Candi, Semarang
Occupation	: Last year university student
Spouse's Nationality	: American

b. Observation Result of Subject 3

OC is approximately 150 cm tall and 48 kg. She has dark exotic skin, brown eyes, and very straight hair. During the interview, OC wore light blue crop top and short jeans matched with sandals. OC was very communicative and enthusiast to talk about the topic of the interview and it was easier for the researcher to get the information that is needed.

OC is a kind of strong girl. She kept continuing the interview session although she cried. She also knew what exactly her feeling was and was able to express it in front of the researcher. OC also had a very good intention towards the researcher. OC did not turn her eyes away from the researcher and always tried to give detailed answers to the questions that the researcher asked.

OC is fashionable and confident with her body posture in which is categorized as petite. She also did modeling for EC's fashion brand. However, she is not very confident with her skin colour. She thought she was not pretty enough and attractive for Indonesian men. She generalized her bad thoughts into all Indonesian men that she was not their type of ideal woman. She wished she could be in a relationship with Javanese man instead of having difficulties on adjusting herself into different cultures.

During the interview session, OC did not touch her phone at all. She did not do other activities neither except, making iced tea for the researcher and herself.

She was very calm during the interview, but when it comes to other things, she could be easily panicked. For example, when the researcher visited her apartment, she was folding her husband's clothes then she realized that she could not find her husband's teacher uniform. She was panic and called the security to check the balcony on the lower ground in case if the uniform fell down. She called the wrong number because she was panic. She almost cried, then the researcher asked her to calm down and helped her to look for the uniform.

c. Interview Result of Subject 3

OC is 21 years old university student in a university in Semarang. She studies English Literature. She is the last child in the family and has one older brother and sister. Her family has Javanese ethnicity and stays in Karangjati. In Semarang, OC is used to stay in a boarding house near her university and moved together with her husband (M) that she met on a dating app few months after M proposed her. Although OC is still quite young, she is now married to an American man (M) and they are planning to move to the United States right after EC's graduation.

Before getting married, OC and M were in a backstreet relationship because OC's parent did not allow her to have a relationship with a Western man. Other than that, M was also a non-believer. Although M agreed to convert to Islam, her parent still could not accept that their youngest daughter to be in a relationship with Westerner. They asked OC to break up with M and have a relationship with Javanese man instead.

OC met M for the first time through a dating app called Tinder. That was her first time using Tinder. They kept sending messages for few days and M decided

to ask OC to hang out. OC did not want to hang out at first because her boarding house was too far from the city center but M picked her up and drove her home after. They had dinner in Makabana Space and talked about M's job in Semarang. OC started to feel connected to M because they shared the same topic that they both understood. M is an English teacher in an international school in Semarang, while OC is a student of English Literature. They have the same interest in terms of education. That is why they feel connected to each other.

About one month after knowing each other, they decided to start a relationship and moved together in an apartment. M did not stay in an apartment before they moved together. He stayed in a teacher house in which is provided by his school for free. When they moved together, M had to pay six million rupiah per month for the apartment while OC did not pay anything although she had her own income. She works as an English tutor for secondary school students and she admitted that she used her advantage for having a relationship with *bule* to gain more income.

After one year of being in a relationship, M proposed OC to be his wife and finally get married on 16th of October 2019 legalized by the religion of Islam, but not by law. They are planning to get the certificate from the state after OC's graduation, while also apply for the United State visa type K1 in which is a type of visa that people use to get married legally to American citizens in between ninety days.

OC thought, having a relationship with M has changed her thoughts about Westerners. She learnt a lot from her husband that it is not nice to assume that Westerners are more dignified than Indonesian. M asked her to change her mentality and realize that humans are created equal with the same dignity even

though they have different eyes, hair, and skin color, ethnics, and opportunities in life. OC told the researcher that she becomes more open towards cultural differences and not to judge people by their physical appearances. She got her confidence from her husband who encouraged her to be proud of her body.

For OC, the positive side of having a relationship with a Westerner is that he knows what he wants and clearly explains it to her. M is very straightforward and it is easier for OC to understand what he likes and dislikes but sometimes OC felt bad because she had never used to it before. She could see what her future would be with M because they both were communicative. However, having a relationship with a foreigner is not always easy, especially when it comes to cultural differences and religion.

OC explained, her parents wanted her to marry a Javanese man instead of a Westerner. Besides the reason that OC is the youngest child of the family, her parent thought that Western men are always bad, atheist, and also sex predator. OC agreed that some of Westerners are just like what her parents told her, but she believed that not all Westerners are like what her parents said, especially her fiancé, M. M was an atheist before and he decided to be a Muslim because he wanted to marry OC. He understood that OC was a Muslim and her parent wanted her to marry a man who has the same religion. OC stated that she never forced M to be a Muslim because he knew the consequence of being in a relationship with her and he chose to stay.

OC's parents asked her to break up with M although at that time she told her parent that M was ready to convert to Islam and he was serious. OC lied to them that she broke up with M. Her sister and brother knew about it and support

her relationship with M although her brother did not support her at first, but she tried to explain that M was not a type of man that their parents talked about.

OC and M have been through rejection from OC's parents together. They both visited OC's parents several times to ask for their permission to get to the more serious relationship but the results were always the same. Her parent still did not accept M in their house and asked him to leave. They did not let OC go because they did not want her to see M again. OC stayed at home for about one month although then she decided to lie to her parent to sleepover in her friend's house to see M again. Since then, OC never go back home again. Her parent tried to call her but she refused to talk to them. Her siblings knew that she stayed with M and where they lived but they chose not to talk to their parents.

There was time when they decided to get married without any permission from OC's parents, but OC wanted to get married with her parent's permission. She decided to visit her parents with M to try to ask for their permission again. Her brother and sister helped them, picked them up from the apartment to their parents' house at that night. They met her mother but her father was sleeping. OC and M knelt down on her mother's feet. M told her that she was serious with their relationship and he wanted to marry her. OC cried while kneeling in front of her mother's feet. Her mother cried and told them that the decision would be her father's. They tried to talk to her father to ask for his permission.

Seeing her father face, she could not say anything but fell down and cried. M helped her to stand up and move closer to her father. They knelt down in front of his father. They could not say anything, they cried. Her father kept on silence for a certain time then he said only one sentence that everything should be in

Islamic method. OC cried and told M that her father gave them permission to get married.

After getting the permission from both of OC's parent, they started planning for the marriage. They planned to have a religious marriage in a mosque near OC's parents' house. They have not planned for the documents and the wedding because OC wanted to graduate from the university first and started planning to go to the United States with M and get a legal marriage there.

For OC, M has been an ideal partner for her because they always tried to listen and understand each other although it is still difficult to set their egos aside. Eventually, there should be one of them who need to compromise with themselves for the better future in their relationship. She believed that it is not only her who compromises, but also M.

In OC and M's relationship, they both tried to fulfill each other's needs. However, in terms of financial, they have committed from the beginning that husband's money is wife's money and wife's money is wife's money. M paid almost everything of their expenses, such as apartment, electricity, water, gas, and meal. Sometimes OC helps him to pay if they were in a financial crisis. In terms of quality time, OC thoughts that they did not have enough quality time because M was busy because of his job. OC and M sometimes just discussed about things that they both were interested if they have time together, such as human rights and kids in M's school.

OC's lifestyle changed since being in a relationship with M. She knew more about Western food because sometimes M cooked for her. M taught her to care more to the others because she could not be an individualist all the time yet she

is now living with M. M also asked her not to spend money on something that is less important.

In terms of her relation circle, she does not have good relation with her university friends because she thought that they are not as open minded as her. However, she is a friend of the researcher's subject 2, EC, because their partners work in a same school. They both get support from other women who are also in a relationship with Westerners. She is not very open with people that she found from Instagram, but EC help her to make new friends in Semarang.

d. Interview Result with Triangulation Subject 3

The triangulation subject for EC is the researcher interviewed EC's older brother (SH). SH is thirty-three years old and the first child of the family. He is married and has one daughter. He works as a photographer and videographer for such events as pre-wedding, wedding, engagement, and *slametan*. He does not work alone. He is involved in an Event Organizer in Semarang.

The reason why the researcher chose SH as the source of information about OC's life is because he has gone through OC's story since the beginning. Other than that, based on OC's story, SH did not agree that his youngest sister was in a relationship with a Westerner at the first place, who is then supported and helped OC and M to get a permission from their parents to get married. SH should have had his own thoughts about OC and her husband and why he finally supported his youngest sister.

The researcher met SH on OC's wedding then asked him if he wanted to be involved in this research. Fortunately, SH's office is not very far from the researcher's house. The researcher then met SH at his office and started

explaining about the purpose of the research. The researcher also explained about the informed consent that is used in this research in order to protect the confidentiality of the data and the subject. SH agreed to be involved in this research and help the researcher to get the information needed for this research. In the end of the first meeting on November 11th, 2019, SH told the researcher that he would be ready for the interview during lunch break on November 14th, 2019.

The interview on November 14th, 2019 was conducted at SH's office. The researcher asked SH about his thoughts on having a relationship with Westerner. He told the researcher that he understood what OC wanted at that time to be together with her boyfriend before marriage, but on the other side, he could understand that his parents did not want OC to have a relationship with Westerner because OC is the last child of the family. Her older sister is married and now staying with her husband and her daughter in their own house in Solo. His parents also thought that being in a relationship with Westerner was not only about the religion issue, but also the feeling of losing a daughter, especially the last child of the family. SH thought that it was not necessarily because she dated a foreigner, but the same thing might happen if OC dated someone else from different city.

The researcher asked SH about the reason why he did not agree that OC was in a relationship with Westerner. SH explained that the main reason why he did not want his sister to be in a relationship with foreigner was because he did not want his sister to get scammed by *bule*. He knew some cases from the internet that some women who are in a relationship with *bule* are involved in some fraud cases, even domestic violence or such tragedy that made them could

not go back to their countries. He also explained about his parents' point of view of hanging out with *bule*. Being around *bule* could mean that the woman is following the Western culture that his parents could not accept, he said, for example the sex culture. He did not want his sister to be exposed to the sex culture from the West. Besides that, OC was still very young to think about marriage with someone that he was not sure about the background.

SH needed some time to understand what his sister wanted and who M was. He also communicated quite intensely with his sister and tried to be the person who always be there for his sister because he did not want his sister to feel left behind as a family member. After a while, he realised that his sister was very serious with her decision to be with M. When OC told her family that she broke up with M, he thought that she really did, but then OC told him that they were still together and wanted to get married. OC told him and her sister the truth about her relationship with M. SH and her sister agreed to help OC to talk to their parents about her plan with M because they did want OC to get married without parents' permission. They also did not want OC to only stay together with M without any legal bonding for longer time although they knew that OC stayed with M.

e. Case Analysis of Subject 3

Based on the observations and interviews conducted by the researcher on OC and his brother, the researcher found that OC was very open to the topic of the research. She was also very cooperative during the interview. OC was also mature enough although she was still quite young, twenty one years old. She admitted that she leant it from her husband, M.

Before they got married, there were so many obstacles that they faced together, such as religion and cultural issues. OC is a Muslim, while M was a non-believer who then decided to convert to Islam because he wanted to marry her. OC told the researcher that she never forced M to hold any religion if he did not want to, but they both understood that OC's family was religious although OC thought, getting married without her parents' approval would be easier for them.

Besides the religion issue, they also faced cultural differences. OC is Javanese woman who were born from Javanese family. She holds the culture and embraces her heritage by dressing and acting like Javanese woman at home for her husband. She is very open minded as a Javanese woman because she believes that she was exposed to Western culture because she studies English literature that made her engaged to intercultural events. Nevertheless, her family still holds Javanese culture and is also religious.

As a couple, OC and M faced many problems since they lived together. OC tend to compromise in her relationship. She thinks that compromising in a relationship is very common and she believes that she is not the only one who compromises, but also her partner. Compromising can be good when both always try to understand the situation and things that they could not change in each person, but on the other side it also can be a boomerang for oneself for not speaking up their opinion toward each other.

Based on the interview with OC's brother, OC's relationship was not only about religious difference. It was also about the cultural differences between M and her family. Being a daughter in a Javanese family, especially the only or last child could mean an asset of the family. The feeling of losing a daughter because

of marriage is one of the reasons why they did not want OC to be in a relationship with M.

The adjustment between them began when they decided to be together. It takes time for them to understand each other's culture since they have different background, but as long as get along together, they felt the connection and were able to understand each other's background and values. OC thought that she would date a Javanese man instead of foreigner because it was easier, but she believed that M was worth the effort.

The adjustment was not easy for them, but OC was such a brave woman. She broke her family's stigma about foreigner by showing them that M was not like what they thought. She ran away from home to stay with M and man up herself to ask her parents to allow her marrying M. Although, what she has done was not adaptive behavior, but she succeed to make her family trust her and M.

EC performed some behavior to solve her problem. She communicated her obstacles in relationship with M frequently to solve it together. She also convinced her older brother that her relationship with M was what she wanted, that M would take care of her and his family and they were serious to build a family together. Turned out, her explanation about her relationship made her brother agreed to help them to talk to their parents. Her brother and sister support her choice to get married in such young age.

f. The Dynamics of Self-Adjustment to Committed Relationship of Subject 3

