



**IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT AMONG *BLASTERAN* (MIXED-RACE) INDIVIDUALS
IN INDONESIAN SOCIETY**

Undergraduate Thesis

Compiled to meet the requirements of a Bachelor's Degree
Communication Studies Program, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
Diponegoro University

Arranged by

Elliana Azzahra Ayuningrum

14040120190080

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES
FACULTY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITAS DIPONEGORO
SEMARANG**

2024

VALIDITY SHEET

Undergraduate Thesis Title : Identity Development among *Blasteran* (Mixed-race)

Individuals in Indonesian Society.

Name : Elliana Azzahra Ayuningrum

Student Number : 14040120190080

Department : Communication Science

Declared valid as one of the requirements to complete undergraduate education

Semarang, 22th November 2024

Dean

Vice Dean of Academic and Student Affairs



Dr. Drs. Teguh Yuwono., M.Pol.Admin

NIP. 196908221994031003



S. Rouli Manalu S.Sos., MCommSt., Ph.D

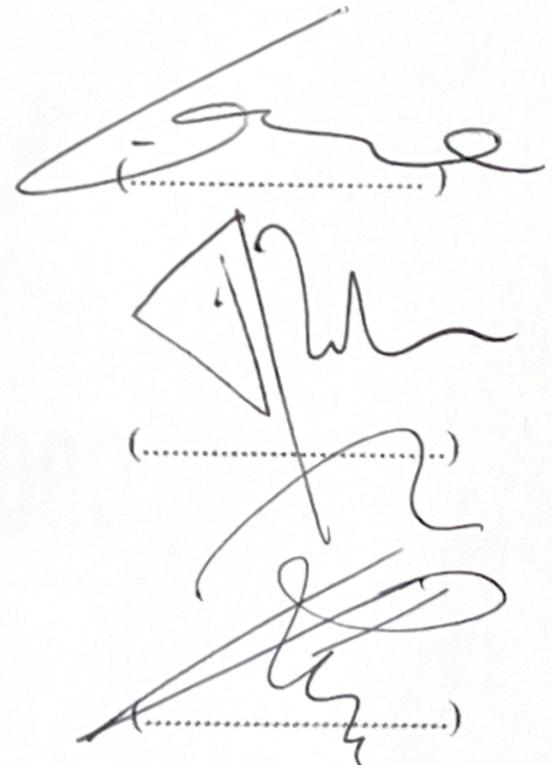
NIP. 198209282005012001

Supervisors:

1. Dr. Nurul Hasfi, S.Sos., M.A.

Examiners:

1. Dr. Drs. Turnomo Rahardjo, M.Si.



Handwritten signatures of the supervisor and examiners, each followed by a dotted line for identification.

2. Dr. Triyono Lukmantoro, S.Sos., M.Si.

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

I, the undersigned below:

Name : Elliana Azzahra Ayuningrum
Student number : 14040120190080
Place and date of birth : Jakarta, 8th August 2002
Department : Communication Science
Address : Jl. Discovery Fiore III No.20, Parigi, Kec. Pd. Aren, Kota
Tangerang Selatan, Banten 15227

I solemnly declare that the undergraduate thesis that I have written entitled:

Identity Development among *Blasteran* (Mixed-Race) Individuals in Indonesian Society

Is the result of my scientific writing, not the result of other people's scientific work. If in the future it turns out that the scientific work that I have written is proven to be the result of plagiarism, then I can accept the applicable academic sanctions (revocation of graduation predicate and bachelor's degree).

Thus, I make this statement truthfully and with full awareness and responsibility.

Semarang, 22th November 2024

Statement Maker,



Elliana Azzahra Ayuningrum

PREFACE

Greatest Thank you to the almighty God, Allah SWT's blessings and miracles so that the writer can finish this thesis titled "**Identity Development among Blasteran (mixed-race) in Indonesian Society**". This thesis is written to fulfill the requirement to receive the Bachelor of Communications in the Faculty of Communication, Social, and Political Studies at Diponegoro University.

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first of which is the breakdown regarding the discussed topic and the plan of the research that will be conducted surrounding the background, problem formulation, purpose of the research, significance of the study, theory base, operational concept, as well as the methodology of the research that is conducted. The second chapter consists of a general description of the study that will be conducted. The third chapter consists of the textural and structural description. The fourth chapter consists of the essential meaning of the textural and structural. The fifth chapter consists of the conclusion that is drawn and the results of the research, suggestions of the parties relating to this research as well as the recommendations for the next research.

The results of the research within this thesis are hoped to contribute to the study of communication studies and benefit the *Blasteran* (mixed-race) who lived in Indonesia and were part of Indonesian society.

The writer is aware that the writing in this thesis is far from perfect. Because of that, the writer hopes to receive suggestions and criticism to improve the writing and serve as evaluation material for the writer in the future and the thesis revisions so that it will be more beneficial to the readers.

Semarang, 22th November 2024



Elliana Azzahra Ayuningrum

MOTTO

Like the sun,
every dream, struggle, and path is illuminated by the light.

...

Light will find its way through highs and lows—shining its paths and bringing warmth to those it
touches.



DEDICATION PAGE

Mama, I dedicate this to you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The researcher would also like to give the sincerest appreciation to the following individuals who have inspired, supported, guided, and assisted me in completing this thesis research,

Allah SWT, the reason I stand here today. Through Allah SWT's boundless grace, granted me countless opportunities and guided me along the paths that have led me to this moment. In every challenging moment while working on this thesis, light has illuminated my way, and Allah's mercy has provided solace and ease.

My dearest **Mama**, my best friend, my greatest inspiration, and the heart behind this research. Your childhood stories touched me so deeply that they became the inspiration for this thesis. You have always been my best listener and wisest advisor, standing by my side through every challenge. You are my everything, and I am endlessly grateful for your love and guidance. I wish you a long, healthy life, so you can continue to witness and celebrate the goals I achieve in the future. *Thank you for being my constant source of strength and love.*

Papa, thank you for always filling my life with laughter and joy. You have always ensured that I am supported in every possible way, creating opportunities for me to grow and thrive. I am deeply grateful for your love, care, and constant presence in my life. Thank you for everything, Papa. Please stay healthy forever!

Dr. Nurul Hasfi, S.Sos., M.A., thank you for your endless support, not only in guiding me through my thesis but also in so many aspects of life beyond it. I deeply appreciate the dedication and encouragement you have shown me. Your achievements inspire me daily, and I deeply appreciate your attention and encouragement. I hope to follow in your footsteps toward success. **Drs. Turnomo Rahardjo, M.Si.**, thank you for the valuable guidance and insights you provided throughout my research process. Your kindness and support have made a lasting impression on me. I will always remember your generosity and the impact it has had on this thesis.

To **Mba Amida Yusriana, S.I.Kom., M.I.Kom.**, you believed in me when I struggled to believe in myself. Your wisdom, support, and encouragement during my darkest moments gave me the strength to persevere. As one of my role models, your remarkable achievements inspire me to strive for excellence. *I am deeply thankful for your support.*

Nazhif Zakiy Musyaffa, words cannot fully express how much your thoughtfulness and love mean to me. Thank you for being my biggest source of strength and love. Even though sometimes distance makes it a little bit harder for us, I know we can make it through. I am so grateful and happy to have you in my life. None of this would have been possible without you. *Thank you, thank you, thank you.*

Athar Raihan M, I am deeply grateful for your presence throughout this journey. You are not just my best friend but also my brother and my mentor. It is incredible to know that someone as intelligent and remarkable as you shares such a unique bond with me. *How about another round across Europe again someday?*

Abel Jethro, my best listener and my biggest source of comfort. Through all the ups and downs, you have been there, offering the support and advice I needed the most. Your presence has a way of making me feel safe and at ease, and I am so grateful to have you by my side. Thank you for everything you have done and for always being there for me.

Jasmine Nazila, you have been such a good friend during my time here in Semarang. Your support and companionship have meant so much to me over these past months. I will always cherish the moments we have shared together.

Amira Salim, my constant source of laughter and the friend I can always count on, to be honest and open. I cherish our daily little conversations, sharing cat pictures, and all the random moments that make my day brighter. Thank you for being Abuy's and Moza's biggest fan. I know that you know that you mean so much to me:)! And **Sasha Frida**, my *cemet*. Thank you for being my roommate these past few weeks. I am so glad to have you here with me. It has been such a great time having you around.

Dimas Rahardjo, my fellow Bunnies. I am so grateful to have you by my side during this thesis process. Good luck on your thesis dim, you deserve the best. **Dzikri Aditya Ihatra**, Your presence adds so much color to my life, and I will always be there for you. You truly deserve all the happiness in the world.

Kak **Adeela Afra, Dava Aldana, Tissya Kloer, and Andika Alhakiem**, just wanted to say I am really grateful for all of you. I truly enjoy the moments we share.

A huge shoutout to Kak **Olina Hartani Muliani Gultom**! Thank you so much for sharing your invaluable insights and offering your guidance throughout this research. I truly couldn't have done it without your support:))!

Vaddy, Ira, and Meidyana, thank you so much for all the help and support you guys gave me during my thesis defense preparation. I couldn't have done it without you guys!

Satriel Febkha and Galih Daneshwara, your energy and presence always bring a lot of people laughter and joy, and I appreciate that. Thank you Iyel and Galih for being such great listeners and a source of fun during this thesis process.

Auntie Yanti, your unwavering support has always been a constant in my life. You always make sure that I am okay, no matter what. You have been there for me from the time I was little until now, and it means the world to me. Wishing you a long and healthy life so you can witness me achieving more of my goals in the future.

문 목사님 (**Pastor Moon**), my heartfelt gratitude for the countless opportunities and invaluable insights you shared. Thank you for your care and kindness during my time in 나주 빛가람 교회 (Naju Bitgaram Church). I will forever treasure the moments we spent sharing meals, engaging in meaningful conversations, and exchanging knowledge and wisdom that enriched my life beyond measure. You were among my journey's greatest blessings.

Tante Julia, *mijn engel*. Thank you for the unwavering support you have given me during my time in Nijmegen and ever since. Your constant care and encouragement have brought countless blessings

into my life, which have carried me through so much. *U zal voor altijd in mijn hart blijven als mijn engel uit Nijmegen. Heel erg bedankt, tante. God zegene u.*

Lastly, my beloved Oma Cantik, **Elly Gretha Pondaag**. Though we never had the chance to meet, your presence has been a guiding light in my life. You inspire me every day to become the woman I am today, and I hold your love and strength close to my heart. You are my biggest role model, and I feel your constant support with every step I take. I know that somewhere in Heaven, you are smiling over me with pride, and that thought gives me courage and comfort. Thank you for being my eternal source of inspiration and love. *This achievement is dedicated to you.*

ABSTRACT

Title : Identity Development among Blasteran (mixed-race) in Indonesian Society
Name : Elliana Azzahra Ayuningrum
Student ID : 14040120190080

This research examines the identity development of *blasteran* (mixed-race) individuals in Indonesia, with a focus on how they navigate their cultural heritage and social integration within Indonesian society. Drawing from qualitative data, the study explores the experiences of seven informants, aged 19 to 22, who live in urban areas such as Jakarta and Bekasi. The informants, representing a range of mixed ethnic backgrounds, provide insight into the complexities of identifying as both Indonesian and foreign. The research investigates the personal experiences of these individuals, emphasizing how familial dynamics, societal expectations, and cultural influences shape their sense of self and belonging. Through phenomenological analysis, the study highlights how cultural, social, and familial factors contribute to the sense of belonging and self-acceptance of *blasteran* individuals. The findings reveal a nuanced understanding of identity, where mixed-race individuals experience both a sense of pride and challenges in reconciling their dual heritage. This study contributes to the broader discourse on race, ethnicity, and identity in Southeast Asia, particularly in post-colonial contexts, and underscores the importance of social acceptance and personal agency in the development of a coherent mixed-race identity.

Key Words: Mixed-race, Biracial Individuals, Blasteran, Identity Development, Identity Development Theory, Multicultural Individuals, Mixed-heritage.

ABSTRAK

Judul : **Perkembangan Identitas Individu Blasteran (Ras Campuran) dalam Masyarakat Indonesia.**
Nama : **Elliana Azzahra Ayuningrum**
NIM : **14040120190080**

Penelitian ini mengkaji perkembangan identitas individu blasteran (ras campuran) di Indonesia, dengan fokus pada bagaimana mereka menavigasi warisan budaya mereka dan integrasi sosial dalam masyarakat Indonesia. Berdasarkan data kualitatif, studi ini mengeksplorasi pengalaman tujuh informan, yang berusia antara 19 hingga 22 tahun, yang tinggal di daerah perkotaan seperti Jakarta dan Bekasi. Informan-informan ini, yang mewakili berbagai latar belakang etnis campuran, memberikan wawasan mengenai kompleksitas mengidentifikasi diri sebagai orang Indonesia sekaligus orang asing. Penelitian ini menyelidiki pengalaman pribadi individu-individu ini, dengan menekankan bagaimana dinamika keluarga, ekspektasi masyarakat, dan pengaruh budaya membentuk rasa diri dan rasa memiliki mereka. Melalui analisis fenomenologis, studi ini menyoroti bagaimana faktor budaya, sosial, dan keluarga berkontribusi pada rasa memiliki dan penerimaan diri dari individu blasteran. Temuan penelitian ini mengungkap pemahaman yang lebih mendalam tentang identitas, di mana individu campuran ras merasakan kebanggaan sekaligus tantangan dalam mendamaikan warisan ganda mereka. Penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi pada wacana yang lebih luas tentang ras, etnisitas, dan identitas di Asia Tenggara, khususnya dalam konteks pascakolonial, serta menekankan pentingnya penerimaan sosial dan agensi pribadi dalam pengembangan identitas campuran ras yang koheren.

Keyword: **Ras campuran, Individu Biracial, Blasteran, Perkembangan Identitas, Teori Perkembangan Identitas, Individu Multikultural.**

PREFACE

Greatest Thank you to the almighty God, Allah SWT's blessings and miracles so that the writer can finish this thesis titled "**Identity Development among Blasteran (mixed-race) in Indonesian Society**". This thesis is written to fulfill the requirement to receive the Bachelor of Communications in the Faculty of Communication, Social, and Political Studies at Diponegoro University.

This thesis consists of five chapters. The first of which is the breakdown regarding the discussed topic and the plan of the research that will be conducted surrounding the background, problem formulation, purpose of the research, significance of the study, theory base, operational concept, as well as the methodology of the research that is conducted. The second chapter consists of a general description of the study that will be conducted. The third chapter consists of the textural and structural description. The fourth chapter consists of the essential meaning of the textural and structural. The fifth chapter consists of the conclusion that is drawn and the results of the research, suggestions of the parties relating to this research as well as the recommendations for the next research.

The results of the research within this thesis are hoped to contribute to the study of communication studies and benefit the *Blasteran* (mixed-race) who lived in Indonesia and were part of Indonesian society.

The writer is aware that the writing in this thesis is far from perfect. Because of that, the writer hopes to receive suggestions and criticism to improve the writing and serve as evaluation material for the writer in the future and the thesis revisions so that it will be more beneficial to the readers.

Semarang, 22th November 2024

Elliana Azzahra Ayuningrum

TABLE OF CONTENTS

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY.....	2
VALIDITY SHEET.....	3
MOTTO.....	4
DEDICATION PAGE.....	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.....	6
ABSTRACT.....	10
ABSTRAK.....	11
PREFACE.....	12
LIST OF TABLES.....	16
LIST OF APPENDIX.....	17
CHAPTER I.....	18
INTRODUCTION.....	18
1.1. Background of Study.....	18
1.2. Problem Formulation.....	23
1.3. Research Objective.....	24
1.4. Research Significance.....	24
1.4.1. Practical Significance.....	24
1.4.2. Academic.....	24
1.4.3. Social.....	24
1.5. Theoretical Framework.....	25
1.5.1. Research Paradigm.....	25
1.5.2. State of the Art.....	26
1.5.3. Identity Development Theory.....	30
1.5.4. Face-Negotiation Theory.....	32
1.6. Operationalization of Concepts.....	34
1.7. Research Method.....	35
1.7.1. Approach.....	35
1.7.2. Subjects.....	36
1.7.3. Data Collection Methods.....	37
1.7.4. Sources and Types of Data.....	37
1.7.4.1. Primary Data.....	37
1.7.4.2. Secondary Data.....	37
1.7.5. Data Processing Technique.....	38
1.7.6. Goodness Criteria.....	39
CHAPTER II.....	41
GENERAL OVERVIEW OF IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT AMONG BLASTERAN (MIXED-RACE) INDIVIDUALS IN INDONESIAN SOCIETY.....	41

2.1 The overview of Mixed race people in Indonesia.....	41
2.2 Blasteran Individuals in Indonesia.....	42
CHAPTER III.....	46
TEXTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION OF IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT AMONG BLASTERAN (MIXED-RACE) INDIVIDUALS IN INDONESIAN SOCIETY.	46
3.1 Textural Description.....	47
3.1.1 Early awareness of their identity.....	47
3.1.2 Individual Identity Struggles.....	57
3.1.3 Identity Commitment and Exploration.....	69
3.2 Structural Description.....	79
3.2.1 Early awareness of their identity.....	80
3.2.2 Individual Identity Struggles.....	89
3.2.3 Identity Commitment and Exploration.....	98
3.3 The Composite of Textural and Structural Description.....	106
3.3.1 The Composite of Textural Description.....	106
3.3.2 The Composite of Structural Description.....	110
CHAPTER IV.....	116
SYNTHESIS OF THE TEXTURAL AND STRUCTURAL MEANING OF IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT AMONG BLASTERAN (MIXED-RACE) INDIVIDUALS IN INDONESIAN SOCIETY.....	116
4.1 Early Awareness of Their Identity.....	118
a. Family Dynamic as the Foundation.....	118
b. How Social Interactions Shaped Individual’s Identity.....	119
c. A Journey to Identity Formation.....	120
d. Self-perception.....	121
4.2 Individual Identity Struggles.....	122
a. Identity’s Sense of Belonging.....	122
b. Family and Cultural Expectations.....	123
c. Discrimination and Stereotyping.....	124
4.3 Identity Commitment and Exploration.....	125
a. Embracing Individual’s Biracial Identity as a Source of Strength.....	125
b. Exploration through Cultural Traditions.....	126
c. Identity Self-perception.....	127
d. Individual Reflections Towards Own Identity.....	128
CHAPTER V.....	130
CLOSING.....	130
5.1 Conclusion.....	130
5.2 Implication.....	132
5.2.1 Academic Implication.....	132

5.2.2 Practical Implication.....	132
5.2.3 Social Implication.....	132
5.3 Recommendation.....	133
5.3.1 Academic.....	133
5.3.2 Practical.....	134
5.3.3 Social.....	134
REFERENCES.....	136

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2. 1. Informant Identity

44

LIST OF APPENDIX

Appendix A: Interview Guide	1
Appendix B: Transcript of the Informant	2
Appendix C: Horizontalization of the Informant	19
Appendix D: Open Coding Table of the Informant	30