CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of The Study

The ways of building relationships have changed drastically over time with the emergence of the Internet and smartphones. People could encounter strangers online, even form a romantic relationship. Tinder is one of the applications that participated in changing how people build relationships. Tinder is available both in PlayStore and AppStore; it lets their users interact with new people from their nearby location and even worldwide just through their fingertips.

When it first launched in 2012, Tinder targeted university students as their users. Ever since the appearance of online dating sites or apps, the way students interact and connect with each other has transformed. Now, most university students see the formation of relationships as a lot less serious than it was deemed to be in the past. Everyone wants to have fun and enjoy the university experience, and dating apps such as Tinder, which is often seen as a quick and convenient way to find new people near you, truly helps university students to enjoy oneself and meet new people amidst their busy schedule.

Tinder truly changes the way how interpersonal communication takes place in romance. Interpersonal relationships play an important role in shaping human life. As social beings, humans have the tendency to depend on each other. Interpersonal communication can be defined simply as a direct communication between two or more people, which allows them to capture people's emotions and reactions directly both verbal and non-verbal. Interpersonal relationships are

needed mainly for two things: feeling and dependence. The first one refers to emotionally intense relationships, while the latter refers to the instruments of interpersonal behaviors such as needing help, seeking the feeling of being approved by others, and proximity.

Before the internet existed, people would meet their potential partner face-to-face in cafes, dinner at the restaurants or bars. With the internet and Tinder, the style of romance has shifted from coincidental meetings that seem 'destined' into initially searching. It feels that this generation is more 'impatient' in terms of romance. Tinder has also changed the ways interpersonal relationships are developed and maintained, and altered people's decision in choosing their partner. The options were kind of limited back then; phone calls, emails, or face-to-face meetings. Now, the options are pretty limitless, starting from chat messages until video calls could help in developing relationships with someone. These forms of communication are known as CMC, or computer mediated communication.

CMC is communication or human interactions between two people or more with the help of computer networks. It may be text, audio, graphics or video based and could occur directly (real-time) or indirectly. Most people might think that relationships that are formed through dating apps might have smaller chances to work as a consequence of the absence of non-verbal cues, which totally help to show closeness or proximity towards one another. With the help of CMC, communication can be done anywhere at any time which surely helps in building closeness and trust between individuals, and thus becomes one of the strengths of building relationships through Tinder.

A study in 2012 conducted by *American Sociological Review* showed that the method in which couples meet doesn't guarantee overall satisfaction of the relationship. The authors of the study found out that 'relationships that are first initiated online were not less frail than relationships that are built directly or offline during a similar period'. To put it in other words, it shows that CMC could still effectively build interpersonal relationships between people even without the nonverbal cues.

Surprisingly, years later, university students are still actively using Tinder as a tool to help them mingle with other students from the same school. Based on aresearch conducted by Tinder, it finds that 62% of graduates who met their present or prior partners at university are still together. In the UK, 53% of graduates met their partners during their studies and the dating app seems to be a popular option to find new connections; especially for exchange students who are newly exposed to a whole other surrounding. Exchange students are students who are enrolled in a program which gives them the opportunity to study at another university for some amount of time. Sometimes, student exchange programs also offer opportunities for students to study abroad. This is why exchange programs are popular among students, because they will have the chance to experience and participate in many new things.

Dating is undoubtedly one of the highlights from college experience. The process of forming a new connection with someone is always an exciting feeling. First starting off as strangers, then getting to know each other through numerous conversations and dates. If two parties are feeling comfortable with each other's

presence, they might agree to continue the whole relationship into a serious one. This experience is usually awaited by students who just begin college and get into new circumstances; this includes exchange students who are just exposed to a new environment. They want to know more about the place that they will inhabit for the next few months, and what better way to know it through locals or fellow students who already lived there?

Due to its popularity, many Indonesian students also use Tinder as a way of socializing with other students. Many Indonesian students who went through exchange programs tried out Tinder for various reasons. The most common one is to get to know the city better while making friends. But the thing with Tinder is, people do not use this app solely for looking for friends. As time goes by, Tinder is often used to look for one night stands or sexual relationships only, such as friends with benefits. This might come as a surprising experience or culture shock for some Indonesian students who are not used to this kind of nature back home.

Many Indonesian female students who went through exchange programs lived most of their life in Indonesia. Surely, they have the perfect capability of understanding and speaking English to interact with other people. But ever since they use Bahasa Indonesia on a daily basis, there might be some English words or sentences that they are not familiar with or have double meanings and could end up with them putting different meanings into those words or sentences. For example, the term "shut up" is regularly used and is popularly associated with asking people to stop talking but in a rude way. Yet, the term could also be used when someone is excited and thinks that it's cool when hearing others' stories and makes the

meaning completely change. For someone who isn't used to the double meaning, it might come off as a surprise and may feel offended by the sudden remark. Another thing that is also associated with language is how they put meaning into certain words, like "commitment" or "casual".

Mary Walz from University of Iowa class of 2022 might have the perfect description of her experience with the hookup culture that is heavily going on Tinder. She claimed that college students don't date anymore, they hang out. The term "hang out" here refers to another popular term amongst college students which is Netflix and Chill. To simply put, "Netflix and Chill" is a reference to having casual sex. The popular streaming service is used as a front to make things less awkward because they're just strangers that met on tinder and know nothing about each other.

Looking at how popular Tinder has become in the last few years, we can say that a 'digital transformation' is in progress regarding dating, courtship and modern romance. Unlike the preceding age group, solo adults today, more explicitly for those who are living in large town areas, have access to an incredibly endless supply of possible love and sexual partners via the social networks and smartphone algorithms. Undoubtedly, the internet has developed into a potent "social mediator." When a match happened, users could interact through text that Tinder facilitates inside the application. Through texts, users could exchange greetings which could lead to deeper conversations around activities like things to do around the city or even personal hobbies. In between these conversations, if two parties came from different cultures, there would be intercultural exchanges that happen. Some

cultures are casual, while some other cultures are more reserved. As Indonesians, we are used to doing formal greetings first then build up the conversation slowly. But for people from foreign cultures, most of them are used to being upfront and straightforward from the start.
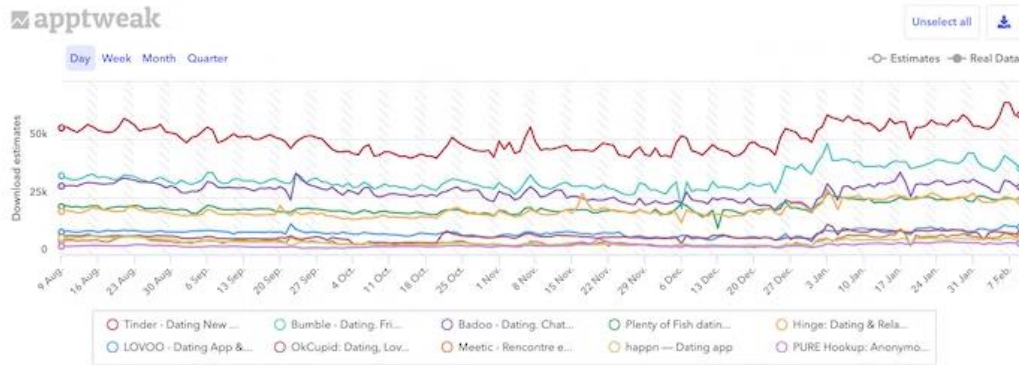
With them being straightforward and upfront, many may ask about having sexual relationships only or one night stands right away. But there are also people who genuinely want to make friends and sometimes want to try out what building a personal relationship feels like with someone who has a different cultural background. The attitude formed by the culture that they're from could bring in different perceptions towards what one wants while using or how they use Tinder. The studies on culture and cross-cultural communication have findings that according to the *homogamy hypothesis*, disputes are more likely to arise and can lead to psychological discomfort when couples are not matched in terms of educational level, religion, or other significant status factors (Wong & Penner, 2018:2).

People in individualistic societies are more likely to view others as autonomous actors with distinctive intrinsic characteristics that guide their conduct in various contexts. Self-esteem is based on the importance placed on the expression of one's special talents, perspectives, emotions, and preferences as well as the achievement of personal objectives. People from collectivistic societies, on the other hand, frequently see themselves as components of a social network that is interconnected (Hiew, 2014:89). In today's dating scene, we can see that most Indonesian youths have the freedom to choose their romantic partner. But usually,

parents' consent and approval still holds a big part in whether the relationship is going to continue into a serious one or not. Meanwhile, closeness and intimacy are more or less the things that are considered in searching for a partner in western cultures.

Due to the differences made by the culture that one is from, problems may arise when communicating, especially while trying to build a relationship. Intercultural partners are usually socialized in two different macro environments, and having similar or complementary orientations facilitates relationship development (McGoldrick and Preto, 2005:27). Usually, problems arise because two individuals have to navigate differences in communication patterns, family-of-origin dynamics, and gender roles. They might also come from different socioeconomic backgrounds or religions (Leslie & Young, 2015:789).
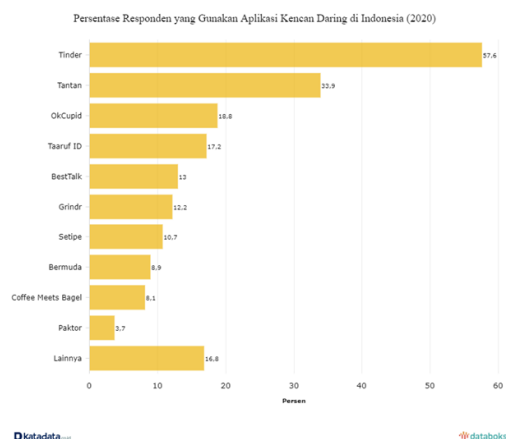
There are many interracial couples that met on Tinder and ended up in marriage. One of these successful encounters is shared by Sindy Petronella through her own YouTube channel. She first met her husband in Johannesburg, South Africa. Sindy is a woman of African descent while her husband is a regular white man from Germany. Her husband decided to download Tinder because he was bored and had nothing to do and wanted a nice little date in the afternoon while Sindy downloaded Tinder because she was actually looking for love but she was busy because she worked most of the time. After a little conversation they decided to meet up, and their first date went very smoothly. They felt connected to each other and the relationship continues until now, with them even being married. The relationship has been going on for four years now.

1.1 Most Downloaded Dating Apps Worldwide from August 2021 Until February 2022

(Source: *https://www.apptweak.com/en/mobile-app-news/check-out-the-most-popular-dating-apps-by-country* *accessed on 10th october 2022*)

Applications like Tinder have the main goal to unite people together, forging relationships of any kind, but mostly romantic relationships. People just have to swipe right in the profile of the people they're interested in and swipe left if they don't. When both people swipe right, a match will happen and both could interact with each other through chat. Users of Tinder can upload up to nine photographs and a brief bio to their profile. Other features of Tinder include user accounts that can be connected to a person's mobile phone number or other social network profiles, like those on Facebook, Instagram, and Spotify. We can see above that Tinder is the most downloaded dating application worldwide from August 2021 until February 2022 with an average of 50k downloads per day. The swiping method was also first introduced by Tinder.

Persentase Responden yang Gunakan Aplikasi Kencan Daring di Indonesia (2020)

1.2 Most Downloaded Dating Apps in Indonesia

(Source: *https://databoks.katadata.co.id/datapublish/2021/02/24/tinder-aplikasi-kencan-daring-paling-banyak-digunakan-di-indonesia accessed on 21th July 2022*)

Besides people who are looking for serious relationships, Tinder is heavily used by people who just want to search for friends, casual hook ups or even one night stands. Many exchange students choose Tinder as their way of knowing new people. In Indonesia itself, dating apps are not something either unusual or strange. Based on the data presented above taken by Rakuten Insight in 2020, it shows that 57,6% of the respondents in Indonesia used Tinder. The percentages are way higher than other dating apps services that are available in Indonesia, such as Tantan which took the second place with 33,9% and followed by OkCupid with 18,8%. Another survey taken by Rakuten Insights in 2020 presents us with reasons for using mobile dating apps in Indonesia. The highest reason, with 47.68% of the respondents, is that they are able to meet people they would otherwise never have crossed paths with. The second highest answer with 35.59% says that they feel more comfortable with making the first move online, and another 34.41% said it is convenient.

One of the students that happened to try out the Tinder experience while doing the student exchange abroad program was EN. She was one of the awardees of the Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards by Kampus Merdeka. She literally never tried out Tinder when she was in Indonesia, not even downloading it. At first, she was just curious about what there is on Tinder to offer. She also decided to finally download Tinder due to the suggestions from her friends to have a little bit of fun and try going out with guys that are not Indonesian, since at that time she was going through a little heartbreak as well. She matched with approximately 20 guys on the first day, and she found one of them, a German guy that is studying English in the same university as her host exchange university, easy to talk to. After 2 days of nonstop talking in the chat feature that Tinder provided, she finally agreed to go on a little date with him in the city center. The date was actually going really well, but at the end he was offering her to go to his place. She kindly rejects the offer, because she knows what is going to happen next. She was actually shocked because she didn't expect him to ask her to go to his place right after the first date. After that, they never talk again after the first date.

There are many other stories from those female exchange students who decided to give Tinder a try. These various experiences will get us to understand more about the Tinder scheme overseas, especially among college students and how these girls try to develop their relationship online with language and culture barriers while trying to give meaning to their relationship.

1.2   Research Problem

Currently, Tinder is in high demand among university students, including those who just entered university or exchange students due to how it is able to connect people without having to socialize outside in the real world. When users are connected through chat, they could build up conversations and talk about anything. But, if they are from different backgrounds, such as countries or even different parts of the world, things could be a bit rocky. This is due to different perspectives and ideas they have which resulted from the way they are raised and in which environment they have been raised in.

Many Indonesian female exchange students tried out to download Tinder for the sake of familiarizing themselves with the new city that they will live in for some time with the help of locals or fellow students. Meanwhile, using Tinder in Indonesia and abroad might be a very different experience due to cultural differences and many other factors. The researcher wants to know how Indonesian exchange students who use Tinder give meaning to their relationship through texts on Tinder & within the intercultural communication exchange that happened with their matches, and also how the relationship develops.

1.3   Research Objective

As for the objective that will be attained in this study is to understand the communication experiences of the Indonesian female exchange students that use Tinder abroad and how the relationship develops.

1.4   Research Significance

Theoretical Significance

The outcome of this study is theoretically anticipated to advance communication science and the form of development of Coordinated Management of Meaning Theory, Symbolic Interactionism Theory, Uncertainty Reduction Theory and Narrative Theory in understanding how relationships are given meaning and relationship development in interpersonal online relationships within intercultural context.

Practical Significance

Practically, this research can be an additional reference to understanding how meaning is given and relationship development in interpersonal online relationships within an intercultural context.

Social Significance

From a social standpoint, this research is hopefully able to offer an advantage to the community and readers on giving more insights towards how people give meaning and relationship development in interpersonal online relationships, mainly through Tinder, within an intercultural context.

1.5   Theoretical Significance

1.5.1   Research Paradigm

This research uses Interpretive Paradigm because the researcher wants to study humans' experiences that are in relations with each other. The interpretive paradigm is used as the foundation of thinking.

The interpretive paradigm sees fact as something unique, which cannot be compared to the others and cannot be generalized. The emphasized aspect in the interpretive paradigm is subjectivism or the excellence of an individual's experience. Interpretive theories describe an active thought process to recall an individual's experience or any event that happened to them (Littlejohn, 2014:15).

Other than using the Interpretive Paradigm as the thinking base of this research, the theoretical ideas that associate with the interpretive approaches are phenomenological approaches. Phenomenology sees objects and events from the perspective of one's perceiver. A phenomenon is an object, event, or condition in individual perception.

Communication in the tradition of phenomenological thinking is understood as an exchange of personal experiences through dialogue activities (Littlejohn, 2014:12-14). Phenomenological research aims to comprehend phenomena in relation to what the research's subject understands, such as perception, motivation, behavior, action, and other things holistically, and by describing in the construction of language and words in a particular natural setting and natural techniques (Moleong, 2007:6).

Phenomenology is research that sees the ways people understand and imposes the events in their life on the understanding of themselves (Littlejohn, 2009:309). Husserl was the first to define and theorize phenomenology as a means of comprehending the context of people's "life experiences" (research participants) and the significance of their experiences.

As a qualitative research methodology, IPA or Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis enables many people (participants) who encounter the same events to share their stories without being misrepresented or subjected to retaliation. The shared meaning of numerous people's lived experiences of a term or occurrence is described in a phenomenological investigation, according to Creswell. Furthermore, he added, "Phenomenologists concentrate on articulating what all individuals have in common as they encounter a phenomenon." (Creswell 2014:76). The ability of IPA tradition to make sense of the research participants' "life experiences" and genuinely enable the study to explore the topic under study is its most crucial feature.

1.5.2   State of The Art

Similar research has also been conducted by other researchers, as follow: The first research was conducted by Madison Smith from University of Akron in 2022 with the title of "A Swipe to the Right: Exploring Tinder Use in College Students". This research used the qualitative method and discussed how 5 students from University of Akron who are single and active users of Tinder interviewed about their motivation behind downloading Tinder. The research shows that out of five participants, 60% of those surveyed claimed to have downloaded Tinder for amusement purposes, 20% for the sole goal of meeting new people, and the other 20% for app-related curiosity. The participants were also asked about the kind of relationship that they were looking for by downloading Tinder. 60% of the participants answered that they are looking for a relationship but wanting to obtain friendship first and the rest not looking for anything particular. In the end, the

research concluded that while some people do use Tinder for the sole purpose of finding casual sex partners, The findings of this study support the hypothesis that college-aged Tinder users use the app to establish and forge potentially important human connections that are not exclusively sexual. Contrary to common misconception, Tinder is not just a glorified "hook-up" app; rather, it is a powerful platform for computer-mediated communication where users may connect, engage in conversation, and start a real relationship based on their preferences.

The second research was conducted by Ayip Fahmi F from Universitas Indonesia in 2014 with the title "Penggunaan Tinder dan Pengembangan Hubungan dengan Match dalam Tinder". The method used in this research is a qualitative method with phenomenological approach. The research discussed how the researcher found out that Tinder users who are students at Universitas Indonesia use Tinder for various relational goals. Based on relational goals, there are three types of people who use Tinder; the serious type, the flirting type and the looking for fun type. It is concluded that not everyone who downloaded Tinder wishes to find or jump into a serious relationship. Another finding by the researcher stated that the chat feature on Tinder is only used to make small talks containing information that are not too personal such as hobbies, favorite food, etc. before both users decide to move the conversation through other platforms. But many also do not continue the conversation to other platforms, meaning that Tinder users develop their relationships in various ways. Not every relationship that is formed through Tinder ends into a serious one.

The third research was conducted by Mashita Phitaloka Fandia Purwaningtyas, Syakira N. Maharani and Dian Aryamami from Universitas Gadjah Mada in 2020 with the title "The Commoditized Self: Interpersonal Communication in Tinder Online Dating Apps". The research used a new ethnography method with a qualitative approach. This research discussed how based on the researchers findings, online dating applications' mediality has pushed users to show their best. Additionally, they discovered that users' interactions with one another on dating apps have been impacted by the patriarchal culture in the society in which they live. The understanding of the conventional view that applies to women, according to which women need to seem "interesting" in order to fulfill certain criteria that are generally accepted as the concept of "beautiful," informs how Indonesian women present and carry themselves in interpersonal interactions. Additionally, women frequently use the idea of "male-gaze" to purposefully flaunt their charm in an effort to draw attention from men. Whether they are aware of it or not, how a user presents themselves on dating websites and apps plays a critical role in establishing the framework for ongoing interpersonal communication.

The fourth research was conducted by Meredith G. Harrison, PhD, Richard D. McAnulty PhD, and Amy Cavanello, PhD from University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2021 with the title "College Students' Motives for In-Person Meetings with Dating Application Matches". The study examined the reasons college students meet their matches from dating apps in person or offline. According to the study, 80 of a sample of 267 American college students who used dating apps had at least one in-person date. Contrary to what many people think, dating apps like

Tinder don't encourage quick hookups. Usually, the top motive for in-person meetings with their matches is love. It is consistent with the research finding that people are downloading dating applications to connect with others, not just looking for casual sex or hookups.

The last research was conducted by Anziela Paramitha, Steven Tanuwijaya and Susilowati Natakoesoemah from London School of Public Relation in 2021 with the title "Analisis Motif dan Dampak Penggunaan Aplikasi Tinder Berbayar". The research discusses why people choose to use paid features that Tinder offers and how it affects their Tinder experience while for most users, the unpaid features that Tinder has are already enough. This research interviewed 4 tinder users who upgraded their Tinder into Tinder Premium. These 4 users have 5 main motives on why they upgraded their tinder; motive to meet new people, motive to seek out love, motive to seek out sexual partner, curiosity motive and ease of communication motive. After upgrading their tinder into the Premium one, these 4 users felt there's positive and negative outputs.

The five research above mostly discusses Interpersonal communication that happened or takes place in Tinder, mostly from college students' perspectives and experiences which makes them similar with this research. There are, of course, some noticeable differences between the research. Besides discussing the Interpersonal communication that takes place on Tinder, this research focuses more on how female Indonesian exchange students develop relationships through Tinder and how they give meaning to their conversations that take place on Tinder.

1.5.3   Technology and Interpersonal Relationship

Not only technology helps us in making our daily lives easier, nowadays technology could also help us in terms of forming romantic relationships. These days, the traditional boundaries regarding time and space no longer exist among society. We are bounded by Instant Messaging and free calls by provided applications. In this day and age, when presenting photos and videos of us online is something that is not foreign, the difference between online and offline relationships are decreasing even though it does not disappear completely.

One type of communication mediated by computers, or computer-mediated communication (CMC), is social media. A recent communication method called computer-mediated communication (CMC) has the potential to herald a time of rapid technical and social change (Pratiwi, 2014 in Laksana, 2021:67). In a broad sense, CMC can be defined as any type of digitally mediated communication. John December offers the following definition: computer-mediated A process of shaping media for diverse objectives while incorporating people, existing in a specific setting, and using computers to facilitate human communication. In a nutshell, it can be defined by Susan Herring, who says that CMC is human communication that takes place using computer tools (Thurlow, 2004 in Laksana, 2021:68).

There are many advantages that one could get from forming online relationships. The internet gives space to individuals that feel they don't belong in the real world and have a hard time forming relationships directly in real life. Communication and relationship development have tight relations with self-disclosure theory. Self disclosure is a method of communication that people use to

share details about themselves with others. A person's thoughts, feelings, aspirations, objectives, failures, successes, fears, and desires, as well as their likes, dislikes, and favorites, can all be included in information that is either descriptive or evaluative. Strangers who communicate through text based CT (Communication Technology), such as instant messaging, are more likely to express with higher regularity and intimacy than face-to-face communication (Antheunis, 2007:831).

In terms of psychological perspectives, McKenna and Bargh conclude that increasing anonymity and control over how a person presents oneself on text based CMC makes it easier to reveal personal aspects of one's life rather than face to face communication. The lack of nonverbal cues in CMC encourages higher levels of self-disclosure because individuals don't have to be concerned about ruining their public image. While in terms of communication perspectives, this behavior could be explained through the explanation of behavioral adaptation of CMC participants in order to compensate for the lack of non-verbal cues (McKenna and Bargh, 2000:60)

Technological development also supports individuals in creating and maintaining relationships that are separated by time and distance. In the process of forming online relationships, emotional proximity is more important rather than physical closeness between individuals. Individuals who use technology as a tool in interpersonal relationships are required to judge their partners through text messages and not visual appearance. But on the other side, there are also many disadvantages in forming relationships online. The fact that there's anonymity in interpersonal relationships in the realm of the internet creates higher levels of

uncertainty and lack of trust due to never meeting each other in person. There are also many cases where someone's impression online turns out to be quite different than the real person offline. This creates quite a gap between expectation and reality within individuals (Valentine, 2006:384).

1.5.4 Coordinated Management of Meaning Theory

Looking at Em Griffin's book, A First Look at Communication Theory (Em Griffin, 2019:65-76), most communication theorists hold the *transmission model* as a communication theory that is successful in delivering a message, which means the receiver's understanding or interpretation of the message is close to what the sender meant. Contrary to the *transmission model*, Kimberly Pearce, a communication Professor at the Fielding Graduate Institute and Cronen from University of North Carolina Wilmington in 2010 offer the theory known as Coordinated Management of Meaning Theory, or CMM, examines communication in great detail. She stated that communication is a fundamental factor that shapes all of our beliefs, connections, and social environments.

Kimberly Pearce, the president of CMM Institute for Personal and Social Environment, breaks down CMM into four claims about communication. The first claim is that our communication creates our social world. This claim talks about how communication 'makes' selves, relationships, organizations, cultures, etc. our social world. According to Barnett Pearce, who summed up this fundamental idea of the theory, persons-in-conversation simultaneously form the worlds they create while also co-constructing their own social realities.

The second CMM claim states that there are significant differences between the stories we tell and the ones we live. When we converse with people about our social worlds—ourselves, others, relationships, groups, or the general public—a major portion of what we say is referred to by CMM as a story. According to Pearce and Cronen, communication is a two-way process that involves both stories told and stories experienced. In order to understand the world around us and our place in it, we tell ourselves and others stories while stories lived are the consistent social behaviors we practice in an effort to integrate our lives with those of others. This procedure is known as *coherence* in CMM, which refers to the creation and management of meaning. Because we can make the tales we tell comprehensible and consistent, there will always be differences between the stories we told and the stories we lived. However, the stories we live interact with the deeds and responses of others, which may lead to confusion. Every element of our social worlds is the result of the coordinated efforts of many people.

In addition, Pearce and Cronen mentioned that people can align their lived stories without agreeing on the meaning of their told stories. That is the coordination component of CMM. Coordination, according to Barnett Pearce, is the "process by which persons collaborate in an attempt to bring into being their vision of what is necessary, noble, and good, and to preclude the enactment of what they fear, hate, or despise." This deliberate alignment of lived stories does not necessitate agreement on the meaning of their joint action. CMM also suggests that people can synchronize their actions even if they do not share the same motivations.

The third claim on CMM, talks about how we get what we make. CMM declares that we create our social world through our patterns of communication. Before his death, Barnett Pearce wrote in his last major article that we asked three questions before engaging or in the midst of a conversation; *What are we building, How did that get made, and What can we do to improve social worlds?*

The last one claims that if we get the pattern right, we could create a better social world. A better social world, according to Barnett and Kim Pearce, would be filled with people who care, love, are compassionate, and have grace. A person needs to be conscious in order to develop conversational patterns that will improve the social world. Being present or aware of the contributions that other people are making during a conversation is known as mindfulness. It involves paying less attention to what they are saying and more attention to what they are actually doing and developing into. When a conversation is flowing, those who are conscious can take a step back and say or do something that will improve the circumstances for all parties.

This theory is used in this research as a guide for when Indonesian female exchange students try to give meaning to their conversations on Tinder with their matches. Coordinated Management Meaning Theory, or CMM, could help these girls in creating meaning in their conversations online and judge their level of proximity and intimacy with their matches. As someone who lives in Indonesia and is used to the mannerisms that are common in Indonesia, Indonesian female students who went through an exchange program and tried out Tinder might have some sort of difficulties in terms of conversing with people from other cultures

especially online. When having conversations online, people usually use slang and words that might be hard for people that are not from that culture to understand. This might create different meanings between the sender and receiver.

Usually, when having conversations online or in this case, on dating applications such as Tinder, Indonesian people like to really get to know each other first before deciding to take the relationship further or meeting each other in real life. Meanwhile in other cultures, it is more common for people to use the chat feature in Tinder to just converse about basic information such as university and major. After that, a meet up would be initiated to get to know each party better. Since this is not a common situation in Indonesia, Indonesian female students might be hesitant about meeting up and give it a different meaning.

Other than that, we also need to consider the dating apps culture. Usually, dating used to have a tight relationship with social settings; people used to meet partners through friends, colleagues or acquaintances. But now, with dating applications around, dating is a private activity. People flirt and get to know each other through texts, within the comfort of their own home. The consequence to this is it makes casual sex so much more accessible. Online platforms make it easier to engage in sexual activities because it is easy to have short-term relationships and also disengage at the same time. This can be liberating for some users, but this might also be dangerous because there are cases where sexual predators are actively using dating apps. But overall, dating applications have made the dating culture change by making it easier to meet new people and give users so many choices, in terms of

people and where the relationship is going. When texting, this needs to be put into thought to determine what kind of relationship it is.

1.5.5 Creating Meaning Through Symbols and Reducing Uncertainty

Symbolic Interactionism Theory

Early social constructionist George Herbert Mead (Em Griffin, 2019:53-63), stated that communication and symbolic interaction shape our thinking, sense of who we are, and the larger society in which we inhabit. In simplest terms, communication is the exchange of meaning through language and symbols that allows members of society to comprehend their social environments. Individuals, as actors in connection to social groups, create symbolic and shared meanings via repeated acts of contact. The focus of symbolic interactionism is on small-scale interactions between social actors.

It was Herbert Blumer who first introduced the term "symbolic interactionism." Talking to each other, according to Mead, is the most human and humanizing action that anyone can partake in. He outlined the three fundamental ideas of symbolic interactionism—meaning, language, and thought.

Meaning here refers to how Individuals act in reference to the subjective meaning objects have for them. For Mead, meaning-making isn't an individual undertaking; rather it's a joint venture. Language, on the other hand, relates to the origin of meaning. The second tenet of Blumer's argument is that social contact between individuals produces meaning. In other words, language is used to negotiate meaning. But symbolic communication is more than just a way of expressing intelligence—also it's how we make sense of the world. A symbol

conveys messages on how we are to feel about and respond to the object, event, or person to which it refers. The act of assuming an additional role is referred to as thinking. The final claim made by Blumer is that a person's understanding of symbols is influenced by their own mental processes.

Minding is the term used by Symbolic Interactionists to describe thinking as an internal dialogue. While we consider what to do next, we pay attention to the two-second delay. Whenever we are in a challenging position, we frequently talk to ourselves to work things out. But before we can communicate, we need language. The three concepts are interconnected, and it leads to the understanding of Mead's concept of self. Mead claimed that we paint our self-portrait through imagining how we look from others perspectives or others eyes.

This theory is used in this research as a guide to the condition where both Indonesian female students and their matches need to use language as it is a universal language when communicating even though it is not their first language. The fact that they need to use a language that is not their mother tongue may spark difficulties in communicating and could even give different ideas or meaning from what the sender intended. There are also words that have double meaning, and for someone that is not particularly used to speaking the language, it may cause confusion and miscommunication.

Many Indonesian female students who went through exchange programs lived most of their life in Indonesia. Surely they have the perfect capability of understanding and speaking English to interact with other people. But ever since they use Bahasa Indonesia on a daily basis, there might be some English words or

sentences that they are not familiar with or have double meanings and could end up with them putting different meanings into those words or sentences. For example, the term "shut up" is regularly used and is popularly associated with asking people to stop talking but in a rude way. Yet, the term could also be used when someone is excited and thinks that it's cool when hearing others' stories and makes the meaning completely change. For someone who isn't used to the double meaning, it might come off as a surprise and may feel offended by the sudden remark. Another thing that is also associated with language is how they put meaning into certain words, like "commitment" or "casual".

Other than language, when doing interactions online, young people nowadays like to add memes to the conversation in order to make the conversation less stiff. Memes are photos that could contain information of different forms, such as an idea, a skill, a behavior, a phrase, or a particular fashion. Usually, memes are carried out through social media like Instagram, Twitter or Facebook. The most transmitted and copied meme will become popular and become a part of a culture. The memes that are popular in Indonesia usually differ from what is popular in other countries, because memes are usually influenced by the culture. Of course, there are memes that are popular worldwide and could be understood by the vast majority of people who understand the English language. But, since meme formats are usually pictures, it is still up to the person and which culture that they are most exposed to in order to give meaning to the meme. It becomes tricky when having conversations with people from different cultures and trying to exchange memes because the pictures might be translated into different meanings.

Furthermore, not only can we use this theory to see from the texts, we can also see from how one presents itself in Tinder. In Tinder, we have to present ourselves by putting out our best picture and interesting bio in order for people to be able to 'see' who we are, since the interactions do not happen in real life and people cannot judge us directly. Because of this, people tend to try to present themselves as good as possible; they portray themselves the way others want to see them. In the online world, Tinder users are able to use a lot of time to shape their self-presentation. The online world also gives wider access and control for their users to shape their self-presentation rather than in the real world (Hancock & Toma, 2008:1024).

There are two choices for Tinder users in presenting themselves in their profile: the first one is to look as interesting as possible to catch the attention of potential partners or as honest as possible in describing themselves. In 2006, Gibbs, Ellison and Heino did research that found how dating application users try to balance out their desire to look interesting while still being honest in presenting their profile on the internet (Gibbs, Ellison & Heino, 2006 in Hancock & Toma:1024). The profile feature in online dating applications has the purpose of attracting and giving a positive impression to other people or even possible future partners, so the motivation to control their self-presentation should be high. Nevertheless, people's intention to use dating applications differs. The difference in the motives of using a dating application would influence the forming of their self-presentation on their profile. For example, people with long-term commitment would try to present themselves as real as possible, meanwhile people that are only

interested in short-term relationships would try to present themselves as 'pretty' as possible in order to attract many suitors (Whitty, 2007 in Hancock & Toma, 2009:1025).

Uncertainty Reduction Theory

Uncertainty Reduction Theory was first introduced by Chuck Gerber (Em Griffin, 2019:105-115), the theory basically explains the idea of reducing uncertainty about someone new by gaining information about them. Chuck Berger believes it's natural to question our capacity to forecast how first interactions would turn out. Uncertainty reduction theory (URT) is concerned with how information can be acquired and understanding developed through human interactions.

When two strangers meet, their primary concern is increasing predictability about the behavior of both themselves and others in the interaction. Berger argues that any one of the following three preceding situations can increase our desire to eliminate confusion about new acquaintances:

1. **Anticipation of future interaction**: We know we will see them again.

2. **Incentive value:** They have something we want.

3. **Deviance:** They act in a weird way.

According to Berger, the primary goal of communication is to "make sense" of our social environment. As you prepare for your first encounter with a stranger, Berger observes that there are at least two different types of doubt you will experience. When you aren't sure on how you should act towards a stranger, one kind of uncertainty deals with behavioral questions. In here, we're going to question whether or not we shake their hands or give out a friendly hug? To reduce the stress

that behavioral ambiguity might bring on, there are frequently established procedural guidelines. It goes beyond basic sense to be polite.

A second type of uncertainty centers on cognitive inquiries meant to shed light on the other person's identity as a distinct individual. Your imagination may build up a crazy assortment of probable qualities and attributes when you first meet someone. Acquiring knowledge that enables you to rule out most of these alternatives is necessary for reducing cognitive ambiguity.

In order to clarify how his basic idea of uncertainty connects to eight crucial factors in the establishment of relationships—*verbal communication, nonverbal warmth, information seeking, self-disclosure, reciprocity, likeness, liking, and shared networks*—Berger offers a series of axioms.

Axiom 1, Verbal Communication: Given the high level of uncertainty existing when people first meet, the level of uncertainty for each person will decrease as the amount of verbal communication between them rises. There will be more verbal communication when the level of uncertainty decreases.

Axiom 2, Nonverbal Warmth: In a first-contact scenario, uncertainty levels will decline as nonverbal warmth grows. Additionally, a reduction in ambiguity will result in an increase in nonverbal friendliness.

Axiom 3, Information Seeking: Information-seeking behavior increases in situations of high uncertainty. Information-seeking behavior reduces when uncertainty levels drop.

Axiom 4, Self-Disclosure: Low degrees of intimacy in communication content are a result of high levels of uncertainty in a relationship. High levels of intimacy result from low levels of ambiguity.

Axiom 5, Reciprocity: High reciprocity rates result from low levels of uncertainty. Low reciprocity results from high levels of uncertainty.

Axiom 6, Similarity: When two people are similar, uncertainty is reduced, but when they are different, uncertainty is increased.

Axiom 7, Liking: Lower levels of uncertainty result in higher levels of liking, and higher levels of uncertainty result in lower levels of liking.

Axiom 8, Shared Networks: Uncertainty is decreased by shared communication networks whereas it is increased by a lack of shared networks.

Berger believes most social interaction is goal-driven; we have reasons for saying what we say.

This theory is used in this research for a guide when the Indonesian female exchange students are trying to develop a relationship with one of their matches from Tinder. This theory will help making sense of their journey, starting from when they started talking to each other through the chat feature that is available on Tinder until deciding to move into a different social media platform for texting and gaining more information about each individuals, the first meet up, the following meetups, until they decided to hit it off into a real relationship.

It is not rare to find people who jump into a relationship because of the thrill and not because they were really truly in love with the person. This theory will support how the Indonesian female exchange student processed their relationship

while having total uncertainties with the other person since they were practically complete strangers with no mutual friends whatsoever to surely check about their background and some other important stuff needed in getting to know each other before going into a commitment. It will also help with interpreting how those girls and their partner try to reduce uncertainty while being in an intercultural relationship and the way they maintain it, because this research will also try to dive into the problems that occurred throughout the whole relationship due to uncertainties.

1.5.6 Narrative Theory

Walter Fischer was the one who first introduced the Narrative Paradigm. He teaches at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California. Fischer is certain that stories influenced by history, society, and character are the best way to understand all types of communication that appeal to our reason. Humans, he believes, are story-telling creatures that *"see and grasp existence as a series of continuing narratives, as conflicts, characters, beginnings, middles, and ends."* Almost all types of communication, with the exception of direct greetings, jokes, and phatic communication, are viewed by Fisher as stories. He emphasizes his view that there are no communication theories that are merely descriptive or didactic by using the phrase "narrative paradigm" (Em Griffin, 2019:297).

'Narrative' came from the word 'narration' which has the meaning of the telling of a story or an experience bound by the logic of cause and effect that happens in a certain place or time, by revealing a story, an event, or an incident

based on the sequence of the events. Using the narrative analysis means assigning texts as a story that is seen a series of events, logics, and sequence of events, parts of events that are selected and thrown away (Eriyanto, 2013:9)

The main function of narrative is to help give meaning into a certain experience, this could be done in two ways which are linking actions in a logical, sequential or reciprocal way. The most important element in narration is the actions by telling a dynamic life in a time series (Keraf, 2010:136).

Basically, human beings have a high level of curiosity and want to see or experience something new and like to tell stories to other people about events they just experienced. The narrative paradigm expresses the belief that humans are storytellers and that consideration would be judged based on emotions, and aesthetics are the basis of our beliefs and behavior. In other words, humans are more likely to be persuaded by a good story rather than a valid argument (Sobur, 2014:216).

The narrative paradigm gives a different way of thinking about the world than the rational world paradigm suggests. With narrative, Fischer explains how we are moving from dualism only towards a more complete feeling that shapes science, philosophy, story, mythology and logic. The narrative paradigm gives an alternative from the world rational paradigm without negating traditional rationality. With the narrative paradigm approach, we could see several different concepts which can be seen from the narrative and form a narrative rationality that includes coherence, probability, truth and with a logic of sound judgment (West and Turner, 2008: 51).

This theory is used as a guidance in this research for relationship development. Relationships between people who met on online dating apps can be developed into various stages. Mark Knapp and Julia T. Wood stated that there are 6 stages of relationship development between two people that are already feeling attracted to each other (Weaver II, 1993:495-504):

a. *Initiating*

The purpose in the initiation stage is to present oneself to others. Individuals will try to give a good first impression in order to open up communication.

b. *Experimenting*

The purpose of the experimenting stage is to find something that was unknown before. Individuals will try to find out about this particular stranger and try to find similar interests. In this stage, there's a process called 'small talk' that happens. Small talk could be considered the beginning of the self-disclosure process. In the 'small talk' process, there would be information exchanges between individuals in a relaxed, informal manner, and unstructured.

According to Knapp, small talk can fulfill few important functions on a relationship, such as (Weaver II, 1993:497):

a) Small talk is a helpful process in opening up topics that could integrate two individuals that just started to interact

b) Small talk could function as a mechanism to increase the depth of a relationship that has just started to get build

c) Small talk provide a safe procedures for someone to show oneself and how other people could understand others better

  d) Small talk could maintain sense of community with other human beings

Few information that could be obtained through the small talk process are usually name, hobbies, domicile, personal interests and so on

c. *Intensifying*

When a relationship already reaches the Intensifying stage, it is safe to say that the two individuals have become close friends. This stage involves bigger commitment towards a relationship, enhancement in self-disclosure, and an individual's capability to open up or become vulnerable. Besides, an individual becomes more adept in predicting the other individual's actions in a relationship. Knapp claims there are 6 verbal cues which could indicate that the intensifying stage is reached (Weaver II, 1993:499):

 a) Forms of address becoming more informal. Individuals start calling each other with less formal names, such as first names, nicknames or even pet names.

 b) The use of the first plural pronoun becomes more frequent (i.e., the usage of the word "us" is getting more frequent)

 c) Private symbols are starting to form, for example words or slang that only have certain meaning to the two individuals.

 d) Verbal shortcuts that are formed or created based on assumptions, hope, attraction, knowledge, interaction and experience after spending time together will appear more often.

 e) More expressions about commitment are frequently talk about

f) The other individual will act as a reminder in the process of understanding our own self

In this stage, the usage of nonverbal cues will be more frequent. Usually, individuals who are at this stage shift from conversations to touches or body gestures. Individuals will give bigger chances for their partner to come into their personal space. Typically, individuals start to show their relationship to the public (Weaver II, 199:500).

d. *Integrating*

On this stage, two individuals will show an even bigger commitment. Two individuals are starting to become one and the relationship starts to develop their own uniqueness that distinct it from other relationships. Two individuals mutually share their perceptions, thoughts, and decisions towards many things. Rules, roles, definitions and strategies are applied and tested at this stage. In this integrating stage, couples feel a big enthusiasm for each other which leads to them only seeing their partner from their own perspectives.

According to Knapp (Weaver II 1993:500), there are several verbal and non-verbal cues that could indicate the integrating stage is reached:

a) Attitude, opinions, attraction, and taste that differentiate one couple from another keeps on being cultivated

b) Both individuals social circles becomes integrated and acknowledge the two individuals as a couple

c) Signs that shows the intimacy of the couple keeps on getting shown

    d) Similarity in behavior, clothing attire, and speech are shown to show their unity

    e) Physical penetration from certain body parts contributes in the process of uniting individuals

    f) Mutual properties are starting to form

    g) The empathetic process reached its peak which leads to a better understanding of the prediction of other individual behavior

    h) Body rhythmic and routines becomes synchronize

    i) Every so often, mutual hobbies or interest could make the two individuals get closer

e. *Revising*

Julia T. Wood added revising into the 5 stages of relationship development which was illustrated by Knapp. After the integrating stage is reached, an individual will need time to process the relationship that happened and decide whether to continue the relationship or call it quits. Rationality is highly needed in this stage. Interpersonal communication plays a big role here, because self-talk is usually practiced during this time. An individual will try to talk it out with themselves, whether they could tolerate their partner's bad or weird habits, or is it possible for them to change their own bad habits to accommodate their partner's needs or feelings.

In this stage, an individual could try to compare their relationship with others and other relationship alternatives. An individual will try to review the whole relationship and judge whether they're happy or not in the relationship. If an

individual feels the relationship doesn't serve them right, they could decide to leave and vice versa. When an individual decides to continue the relationship, there would be a revision and changes based on the request of the partner (Weaver II, 1993:501)..

This stage would be filled with anxiety, tension, and emotions. Changing one's self for their partner is definitely not an easy thing to do. The success rate of this stage could lead to the next stage, bonding.

f. *Bonding*

This stage is a form of both process and an occurrence. The term bonding refers to the relationship after being revised. Bonding is a contract of union between two individuals (Weaver II, 1993:02-503). On this stage, decisions are being made together, especially if the decision is affecting one or the other, or even the whole relationship itself. New rules are being made on this stage, resulting in new customization style and finally also leads to new behaviors (Weaver II, 1993: 504).

When commitment is formed, a relationship will keep on developing. It does not mean that a relationship stops evolving on this stage. After this stage is reached, a couple will need to always try to maintain their relationship, negotiating, adjusting, etc. The bonding stage could also be seen as a final step for two individuals that are currently in a relationship (Weaver II, 1993:504).

1.6   Conceptual Operationalization

This research focuses on how female Indonesian exchange students give meaning to their relationship through texts on Tinder & within the intercultural

exchange that happened with their matches, and also how the relationship develops. The concept operationalization for this research is the narratives behind the experience of the three informants towards the topic. There are three concepts of the narratives that are going to be highlighted here:

a. **The first part/The Beginning**

In this part, the informants will narrate their first journey on using Tinder. First, we would start on their purpose behind downloading Tinder until they interact with their matches. This part will focus on their interactions with their matches on the chatting feature, and how the informants give meaning towards their conversation to measure out their level of closeness.

b. **The second part/The Middle**

This part will be focusing on how the informants start to interact with their matches more or on a daily basis. This part will also look into how the relationship progresses at this point, like which one of their matches that they decided to go forward with and the reason behind. We will also try to examine the kind of meaning they give to their relationship.

c. **The last part/The Ending**

In this particular part, the informants will narrate their relationship development process and how they ended up with the one match they chose. This part will also cover how the relationship takes direction, whether they decided to continue the relationship even after going back home or to put off the whole thing. If they decide to continue the relationship, we will also try

to view how they communicate and overcome the difficulties as people who came from different backgrounds and environments.

1.7   Research Method

1.7.1 Research Design

The research design used in this research is a qualitative descriptive method with a narrative inquiry approach. This research will describe how Indonesian female exchange students give meaning to their relationship through texts on Tinder & within the intercultural communication exchange that happened with their matches, and also the process of the relationship development.

The goal of qualitative descriptive research is to sum up many conditions, circumstances, or social reality phenomena that are present in the society that will serve as the study's subject. It attempts to depict this reality as a characteristic, quality, characteristic, model, indication, or description of a specific condition, circumstance, or phenomena.

Narrative research is a literal kind of qualitative study with strong connections, and it provides a qualitative strategy that enables us to write in a compelling literary form (McCarthey in Permanarian, 2010:127). Narrative research is a narrative report that tells a detailed sequence of events. A narrative research design involves the researcher describing people's lives, gathering tales about people's lives, and writing about people's experiences (Clandinin in Wikaton, 2018:2). In narrative research, participants and researchers are closely bonded. This is due to the fact that participants supply in-depth information, and researchers

listen and relay tales or data. so that participants believe the tale they tell or the knowledge they impart is significant and useful to others.

1.7.2 Research Subject

As part of this study, the researcher will choose three Indonesian female exchange students who tried the Tinder experience while they were on a student exchange program who are willing to be interviewed. The informants were chosen because they successfully developed a romantic relationship after using Tinder, also each of them had different and unique experiences before finally developing a romantic relationship. Besides that, each informant had diverse previous experiences with Tinder; some had tried it before their time doing the exchange program while the other had zero experience. The contrasting occurrence of each informant will present a unique point of view towards the topic.

1.7.3 Data Types

This research uses data in the form of:

1. Words and Actions

    Words and actions of people being interviewed are the primary data type. The researcher recorded the main data type through written notes or recording devices for video/audio tapes, taking photos, or films. The recording of the primary data type through interviews conducted by the researcher with informants results from a combined effort of seeing, hearing, and asking questions.

2. Written Sources

Additional written material from written sources is the data type that takes the shape of text and is broken down into sources from archives, personal records, and official documents.

1.7.4 Data Sources

1. Primary Data

   Primary data is the primary data obtained from in-depth interviews with the informants as the first source that fits the specific criteria set by the researcher.

2. Secondary Data

   Secondary data is additional or complementary data obtained other than in-depth interviews by the main informant. These additional data can be obtained from literature studies from journals, news in media, or similar research.

1.7.5 Data Collection Technique

The data collection technique used in this research is the in-depth interview. In-depth interviews were conducted with several Indonesian female students who went on exchange programs.

Since this research is qualitative research, the references that were used in the interviews are unstructured. This means that the questions are not fixed on a list of questions that has been arranged and decided, but rather the questions were improving according to the course of the interview. In seeking information, researchers used one type of interview called *autoanamnesa* (conducted interviews with subjects or informants). The interview can be conducted by meeting the

subjects or informants directly or indirectly. When the interview is conducted directly, it must be ensured that no one intervenes with the interview process.

Lincoln and Guba (Moleong, 2007:186) claim that the purpose of an interview is to construct people, events, organizations, feelings, motivations, demands, care, and verify information obtained from other sources, both human and non-human (triangulation), as well as to confirm, modify, and extend the construction created by the researcher as member checking.

1.7.6 Data Analysis and Interpretation

The analysis method used for this research is Narrative analysis. Data analysis is an attempt to systematically search and organize interview notes, literature reviews—others to increase the researcher's understanding of the researched problem and present it as someone else's. According to Riessman (2008:11), narrative analysis is "a family of approaches for analyzing texts that share a storied form." When collecting data with the narrative study, it needs to be analyzed from the stories the participants had told, a timeline of developing circumstances, pivotal moments, or epiphanies.

Riessman (2008) proposes a typology of four analytical approaches that capture this variety in the stories' composition. When a researcher looks at "what" is said or written to collect data, Riessman calls this method thematic analysis. She stresses the use of thematic analysis with various types of data to aid academics working with a variety of cases in identifying recurring themes. She gave instances of research that used interviews, historical records, and field notes to examine various study questions. She provided examples of how previous theories

influenced how oral and written narratives were interpreted, and how these narratives in turn created individual and collective identities (such as that of members of Alcoholic Anonymous) and provided motivation for social action (e.g., resistance against authority).

The narrative analysis used in this research is based on Riessman and Mishler's method that has been developed, which has been previously done by Berman (1999) to analyze data in critical narrative study towards how Indonesian female exchange students give meaning to their relationship and relationship development on Tinder. Here are the steps on analyzing the data (Berman, 1999: 96-97):

1. Changing recorded interviews into a text transcript. This needs to be done in order to simplify the process of data analyzing

2. A narration tends to be long and have the possibility to contain comments that are more or less unnecessary. To reduce this, a narrative reduction needs to be done. This will produce what Mishler called as "core narrative"

3. The application of Labov's framework to identify components from narration. In this stage, narration about the experience of how the participants started out to try Tinder when doing their exchange program until developing a relationship with their matches will be identified according to Labov's framework. According to Labov, components inside a narration could be divided into 6 parts (Kim, 2016:201) :

i. Abstract; the part that introduces narration, contains brief conclusions about narration and important points from the narration. In this part, the topic that is

discussed or researched will be shown, which is about how Indonesian female student give meaning and develop relationship with their matches on Tinder

ii. Orientation; this part unveils places, time, and characters that are inside the narration. This part enhances information that is already available from the abstract part, by showing more depth and details to the characters, places, where and how an event occurred. In this part, the Tinder matches will be unveiled; describing their characteristics, cultural background, the way they communicate, etc.

iii. Complication; this part contains the skeleton plot or an event that is the main point from a story. This part will reveal important events, like why or how they decided to officially get into a relationship with their Tinder match or problems they faced during the relationship.

iv. Evaluation; an evaluation is a comment from the narration, justification from the narration, or meaning that is given by the narrator towards the narration. The evaluation shows points on why a narration is told, and this could be done in a few ways; implicitly or explicitly. This part will serve comments from the informants about the process of developing a relationship through Tinder

v. Resolution; parts that show resolution from a story or conflicts that are shared. This part indicates that the narration is coming towards the end. This part will explain how informants and their match overcome the challenges in building a romantic relationship through Tinder and with people that came from different cultural background

vi. Coda; The narrator emphasizes the story's importance by equating it with daily life or with other incidents or deeds that take place outside the parameters of the narrative. This part will present how the informants connect this exact experience with their everyday life.

1.7.8   Data Quality (Goodness Criteria)

Qualitative research's validity standards are difficult since they must include both rigor and subjectivity as well as innovation (Johnson, 1999). The goodness or quality of qualitative research can be judged, according to Guba and Lincoln (in Guba and Lincoln, 2005: 196). Using the context of historic (historical situatedness) and the eroding of ignorance and misperceptions are some of the criteria employed in critical paradigm. In this study, a historical context is proposed to measure quality, which means that it does not neglect the historical, political-economic, and socio-cultural contexts that surround it. Goodness Criteria that represent credibility of this research is the placement of historical situations as part of an effort to explain the structure of Tinder as an online dating application and how it more or less constructs the dating culture now.