

Father Figure and Relationship with Mother of Individual Who Experiences Possession Disorder

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Abstract

The method applied is a case study, supported by three participants, they are all women who have experienced possession disorder twice for minimal. Data collection obtained by interviewing the participants and participant's friend or family using semi-structured interview followed by SSCT test. All participants have obtained informed consent and expressed their willingness to become participants.

This study also received approval from the Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Psychology, Gadjah Mada University No. 4204/SD/PL.03.01/XI/ 2017

INTRODUCTION

Possession is a phenomenon that occurs in the whole world. The research conducted by Bourguignon, 1973 towards 488 multicultural society throughout the world, it is 90% received based on cultural aspect that has other awareness, including possession condition or Trans (Quoted by McCormick & Goff, 1992). Possession towards some kinds culture known as culture *bound syndromes* that consist of amok (Indonesia), bebainan (Indonesia), latah (Malaysia), pibloktoq (Arctic), ataque de nervios (Amerika Latin), benzimazurazura, guria, kupenga, kwechitsko, hsieh-ping in Cina, mal ojo in America Latin, danzar in Sudan Tengah (APA, 2000; Cohen, 2008; Coons P. M., 1992; Helman, 1990). Possession according to literature discussed in psychiatric (based on medical model), culture and social (antropolog carry out the research as usual), and religion (theology). Some literatures try to integrate those several views that aim to get a whole picture related to the phenomenon (disorder) possession. literature Commonly discusses about; the relationship between possession and dissociation, the cause of possession, possession disorder that followed by dissociative personality (recently it is known as dissociative identity disorder), the personality of the victim of possession, function of possession, possession expression related to culture, distinction between normal possession and possession as an disorder, the possibility of possession caused by spirit entity, and how to overcome possession. (Beaumont, 2014; Bourguignon, 1989; Coons, 1992; McCormick & Goff, 1992; Suprakash, Kumar, Kumar, & Kiran, 2013; Taves, 2006; Uszkalo, 2012).

The previous invention reveals that possession disorder occurs in Indonesia related to traumatic abuse happens during childhood (Siswanto 2012; 2015). This is appropriate with literature that states that dissociative identity disorder or Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD) sufferer that overwhelming possession in the past time, having traumatic, and abuse experience during childhood, especially physical and sexual abuse (APA, 2000; 2013; Coons P. M., 1992; Fonagy & Target, 1995; ISSD, 2004).

The researcher realizes that losing of a father figure is one of invention when he conducted the research in Makasar. The researcher as the practitioner clinical psychology handled the reflection of several cases supported the possibility of losing a father figure during childhood because of a working father, the children

stay away from father at dormitory or the death of the father. In other side, the feeling when a child hates their mother, being ignored, protective nurture are another invention that is necessary to comprehend to gain more comprehensive understanding related to the possession. The previous figure reveals that the presence of a father and the relationship between mother and father is a significant component/ critics in arranging of children character structure . Father has direct influence towards children's wealth . Therefore, this research will uncover how father figure supports the possession disorder. How does the relationship with mother affect children emotional development?

METHODS

The research design applied to this research is a case study, as a case study is more appropriate if the main question of the research related to how and why, if the research only has little possibility to control events that will be investigated and research focuses on contemporary phenomenon. Case study applied to this research is categorized into explanatory type, this is used to test available, explain, or expand the theories. Therefore, the case study applied to this research pay attention to the theory, in which a case study that facilitates derivative theory (Willig, 2008; Yin, 2015).

Participants that involved in this research are those who have experienced possession disorder twice. This possession disorder is a categorized as a disorder that is meant ICD 10 and DSM 5 (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). All participants have obtained informed consent and expressed their willingness to become participants. This study also received approval from the Research Ethics Committee of the Faculty of Psychology, Gadjah Mada University No. 4204/SD/PL.03.01/XI/ 2017

Possession disorder assessment that has been experienced by the participants conducted by a researcher who practices as clinical psychologist and has received consideration either from the Promoter or Co- promoter to decide whether the participants are appropriate or not.

The researcher chooses Java and outside Java as the research location. The consideration choosing those different locations is to obtain a wide picture about different culture optimally so it can attain the generality of research result.

Data collection method applying semi structured interview and completing sentence test. Semi structured interview has an advantage that facilitates rapport / empathy, give bigger chance of flexibility, therefore it can be reached and it is possible to interview entering new location, it tends to produce more datum (Willig, 2008).

A test used in this research is sentence completion that works based on projective technique, variation from free association method previously developed by Jung (sacks and Levy, 1950). Consistently survey finds completion sentence test is general test used as a personality assessment instrument, especially for favorite variable (Holaday, Smith, & Sherry, 2000; Sherry, Dahlen, & Holaday, 2004). Sentence completion tests used is Sack Sentence completion test (SSCT) (Bastaman, tt; Sacks & Levy, 1950).

RESULT

Participant 1 (Pr)

Pr (nickname) is a 22-year-old female participant. She is a Christian and married, she has a one-year and half-month old son. Her husband works for textile factory in Bawen, Ungaran. They live in the house of Pr's parent.

Pr is the first child in her family and she just had her little sister when she was in the 1st grade of junior High School. Pr spent her childhood with her grandparents. Her mother worked for a factory, while her father worked as a farmer Pr spent her time at home by watching and listening to songs collection in VCD player bought by her mother until she perfectly memorized the songs. Unfortunately, Pr did not have any peer surround her house so he never spent her time playing together with another child around the environment where she lived. Her grandparents used to invite her to join them to go to the rice field. Pr closed to her grandfather who was a reog shaman. Pr used to ask her grandfather to join doing the sacred ceremony for

reog in a cemetery. Her grandfather agreed to go with her in consequence she had to keep silent during the ceremony, and if she talked to much during the ceremony her grandfather will ask her to go home. Pr's parents used to invite Pr to see reog performance, as her father, mother, and grandfather involved in that performance. During her childhood, Pr used to see a little supernatural creature like dwarfs at night. Her ability improved, until she was in elementary school. She could see a supernatural creature, even in the afternoon. Pr used to tell her grandfather or mother what she could see. Both of them paid attention to her story, then by giving comment and explaining, what the creature actually is and tell her what she had to do when she saw those creatures.

Father figure

The relationship between Pr and her father is not good. Several adults in her family considered that her Father is as a negative figure. According to Pr, father is fierce, strict person, obsessive and easy to be worried. Pr found her father's emotion was unstable. It made Pr felt afraid of her father because he was easily angry many times.

Pr thought that her father hurt her by being unfair, father treated differently between her and her sister. Pr thought that her father was stingy with her, in contrast he was generous with Pr's ADIK. Pr felt she was difficult to get on with her father. Pr got physical emotional (father bulged his eyes and shouted to her). In consequence, Pr kept distance from her father, as she felt afraid of her father. It is in accordance with SSCT that indicates a problem with father, Pr considers her father as fierce and authoritative figure, yet he cannot be a good guidance for religion comprehension. The first time Possession disorder occurred when Pr felt hurt because of her father. Since then, if she felt hurt she experienced possession disorder, especially when her father hurt her.

Relationship with mother

According to Pr, the way her mother treated her was different from her father. Pr closed to her mother, because her mother still spent her time with her for sightseeing, and served her. She thought that her mother understood her and gave her positive response if she hurt by her father. The way her mother treated her and her sister is fair. When mother got angry, she would be easily to be stable. It was different from her father that tended to love her sister and her father used to bob up and down her previous mistake. Hence, SSCT revealed that there is a little problem related to mother, followed by conflict between the willingness to be closer with mother and suspect that mother will give more love to sister.

Possession Disorder

Pr experience possession for the first time when she was in the first grade of junior high school, when she paid a role as a reog. Afterwards she experienced the possession disorder many times, even it could happen many times in a day, and finally she went out from Reog community. After that, Pr felt that something used to follow her. The moment of possession used to happen at school. After she experienced possession, she used to go home.

The early possession occurred because Pr felt annoy with her father when she was in the Junior High School, the possession disorder used to happen when she felt hurt, someone made her annoy, her friends disturbed her, or in other words it can be said when her emotion provoked that made her cried and sad. The last possession happened when she was in the Senior High School.

The time when Pr experienced possession disorder, the spirit came inside to her body and her body differently changed. Sometime a guardian spirit (good evil) but in another time the bad one came into her body. Pr had experienced possession disorder such as oppression, but it was different form possession disorder as usual, Pr opened her eyes and felt like she was choked and became breathless. She tried to call her mother or mentioned the name of Jesus but it was hard to utter. Then she could set her free when she was successful to mention the name of Jesus. According to Pr, this kind of possession is a possession that hurt herself.

When the possession started, Pr used to realize that she was going to experience the possession disorder.

Because the possession did not suddenly occur, it started from the right feet that was stiff, then walked thoroughly all over her body until she fully forgot what happen to her at that moment.

During the possession process, the behavior shown is like stiff, getting a fever, fall fainted, running, and the content of speaking changed, it was different from Pr as usual, the way she spoke and her behavior was just like a little child and she could know all things that everyone could not know about. Several disorders also revealed different personality, such as she mentioned her mba Ika. It seems that *mba Ika* was a figure who guarded her and *mba Ika* could not receive bad treatment happen to Pr. On the other side, showing the action or worshipping the wealth of the Goddess, Dewi Sri.

After possession ended and Pr became realized who she was, she used to feel tired and weary. Pr was still able to see supernatural creatures and knowing all things that others do not, such as finding talisman hidden in a house.

Function of possession

The time when Pr experienced possession disorder, she got a lot of attention. Her family did the best effort to set her free from possession disorder. In consequence, her parents left the activities joining reog. In this case, the mother is the busiest person who handles it, because the existence of Pr's little sister who was still less than one year old. The possession disorder happened to Pr made her mother paid more attention to Pr and at the same time, her mother had to take care of her little baby. Her mother shared the story, while she carried out her baby on her chest, she walked out to find her daughter who ran around and pray for her sister. Pr's father also looked for bone of pig and buried it, in order to avoid Pr from possession disorder.

Participant 2 (De)

De is 27 years old, female, a postgraduate student. De is Hindu, from Bali. De has 2 little brother and she is the oldest one. When De was Childhood, she spent her life with her parents, a grandmother, and a cousin who was one year older than she was. They lived in Luwuk Sulawesi. At that time, her fathers used to work at evening shift while her mother worked in a hospital, so her grandmother was a person who took care of her. When she was in kindergarten, she and her family moved to Palu. Her grandmother took and picked her up from school. Her grandmother died when she was in the first year of Senior High School. She used to play doll with her cousin. When she was in the elementary school, she used to wash her clothes by herself. After washing her clothes, she used to play with her friends. De felt that the happiest moment she ever gets started from the third grade of elementary school to the 2nd year of Junior High School.

Her parents spoiled De when she was a child. Her mother paid her attention a lot, her mother used to fulfill what De wanted. When De did not go to school yet, she closed to her father. Her father was also the same with her mother, he fulfilled all De wanted. De felt that she had a psychological relationship with her father. However, between her father and mother they had a different way in parenting. Her father tended to give limitation to her, while her mother tended to let her do what she wanted. De remembers that experienced physical violence twice. The first time was when she was in the 2nd year of elementary school, when she had just moved to Palu. Her mother cramped her mouth with full of chili because she said a dirty word, but De did not know the meaning actually. Her mother actually had reminded her not to say that word. The second violence, her father hit her when she was in the 1st year of Senior High School, the result is her foot was being reddish and she was absent from class the next day.

Beside the violence, her father and mother used to reveal their fight in front of De, even though they only argued with each other. Her father was fussier than her mother was. They blamed on each other. They used to be a mediator between them, De acted as a communication device between them along until they get together as normal. They often argued each other because of financial matter.

Father figure

Father is easy to be worried and his worried shown by giving limitation to her children that make De felt inconvenient. It happened when De was in the Senior High School. De does not have any good relationship

with her father. It started from Senior High School. Her father was worried because she got along with male friends, but her father's response is exaggerated, that made De felt inconvenient. After the moment, De used to have a conflict with her father, there was a fight between them when De went home. It happened until De went to college. De was angry to her father, because her father tended to pay attention to her big family.

SSCT test revealed that relationship with her father is interrupted. Participant considers that father is fierce, authoritarian, and discipline figure. He liked to compare between his children and others and he was not good at anger management.

Relationship with mother

In contrast, the relationship between De and her mother was quite good, even De felt she had a strong psychological relationship. In consequence, the way she behaved towards her parents was different. Even though she was open to her parents, but she filters what she would open to her father, in other side de was always open with her mother. Nevertheless, the result of SCTT test revealed that De had little problem with her mother, it was emotional relationship, but De also had conflicts with her mother. It made the relationship with her mother became unstable. Perhaps this is the reason why De against her mother's suggestion.

Sibling

The relationship between De and her sisters were not special, especially with her eldest brother. While her relationship with her youngest little brother, there was jealousy between them. The difference between De and her youngest brother is nine years. De used to like to tease and make her youngest little brother cried.

Possession Disorder .

The first time when De experienced possession disorder was when she sat on Senior High School. De had her first period was in the Senior High School. The possession happened when Pasraman held (Short-term boarding school for Hindu). The event held at school. The possession occurred when De pretended to cry since many friends were crying at that time. Afterwards De fell fainted and screamed.

The second possession happened when De studied in Java. Afterwards De used to experience possession many times, in other words she experienced it almost every semester. The second possession occurred during reading Weda (holly bible of Hindu) competition. Participants should stay there because the place where the competition held on was so far from the city. De wanted to go back to her boarding house. De had just finished training at 11.00 AM, and then De fell asleep at 02.30 PM. During her sleep, she heard a voice just like "heeh!". However, there is nobody who stayed at the same room did not hear anything. De heard sound of footstep, sound from upper floor and it happened until 5.00 PM. De was quite afraid at the time and she could sleep well from 5.30 to 6.30 PM. At that day, De won the reading competition. In the afternoon when she came back to her boarding house, De would like to pray at temple to be grateful to God as she won the reading competition. At the same time, De saw *pocong* then she screamed because she was shocked. She threw the offering she brought and she would like to go inside the house, but when she stood in front of the door, she behaved as if the door closed so she pounded on the door and asked to open it. Then De ran into her room, she went into the corner of the room, and behaved as a cat and she roared. She scratched and torn the bed cover. Then Muslim man, priest and Hindu priest tried to help her, but it failed, she still experienced possession, even she kicked the Hindu priest. The one who was successful to call her down is her cousin by putting the Weda close into her face. The possession occurred from 9 AM to 5 PM. When the next day she woke up, her body looked so bruised and her face was so pale, so she asked dispensation to her lecturer. She said that after experiencing possession she felt tired, it was just like working like a bricklayer.

The last possession occurred last year, when De had a problem with her boyfriend. This possession disorder happened in her boarding house, and her friend helped her to calm down.

Function of Possession

According to the case of De, the function of possession was not clear enough. It seems that the causes of possession are fatigue and uncontrolled emotional problem. Possession occurs related to the ability to adapt to a new environment, when De moves to a new environment, she tends to experience possession more often.

Participant 3 (Ti)

Ti is a female student who is 22 years old, last semester at a state university in Semarang. Ti and her big family are moslem with strong belief. Ti is a single child in her family. Starting from elementary school, she had known that she is not foster child. She got the information from her relatives. Ti could not receive for being a foster child. Ti's friends were naughty, they like narcotic, drugs and free sex. Even though her parents gave her advice, she still played together with her gangs because she felt comfort staying around her naughty friends. Ti behaved like naughty girl to provoke her mother to say that she is a foster child, but her mother did not say that. Because of her naughty behavior, her mother sent her to moslem boarding school when she had graduated from Junior High School. The other reason is her family whose strong belief in religion and good moslem.

Ti's parents spoiled her when she was a child, her parents are always fulfilled what she wanted. In other hand, her parent is authoritarian. Ti had to obey what her parents ask. If Ti against her parent, she would get physical punishment. For example, her father hit her using banana tree branch when Ti against her father; even her father used sandals or wood even though sometimes it was overshot. After Ti received physical punishment, she used to go to her aunt's house and stayed there for a long time until her father visited her to apologize. Starting from Ti's childhood, she used to see tiff in her family. The big family from her father did not like her mother, especially her aunt. Ti's mother used to argue with her aunt then her father took side on her sister. Even her father said to Ti that father would divorce and asked Ti with whom Ti would live. SSCT reveals that Ti had a problem in her family. Ti does not have any family, and she thought that her parents unusually treated her.

Father Figure

According to Ti, her father is permissive. Her father rarely communicate with her except talking about material need, her father seldom gives her any attention, such as giving advice related to Ti's future. Her father tends to ask Ti to make decision by herself. In additional, her father has hearing disorder that makes difficulties in communicating. It is appropriate with SSCT that say Ti has a little problem with her father. In this opinion, her father is weak, but he is kind actually. Her father tends to ignore or he did not aware to Ti, it causes Ti keeps distance with her father.

Relationship with mother

Ti is not close with her mother, because her mother is busy with her work and she works until evening, Ti feels that she does not gain any affection from her mother. During her childhood, when she was close with her mother, the time when she quarreled with her friends, her mother used to blame on her. Ti knows that her mother has a special relationship with another man beside her father, but finally she realizes that it is because of a financial reason. SSCT reveals that Ti has a little problem with her mother, she has a conflict with her mother. Ti sees her mother as a positive figure, as a figure who deserve well of her family and full of affection, in contrast her mother also has negative character.

Behavior of possession

When Ti went to college, Ti used to experience possession many times and she could not remember how many times it happened to her. Possession occurred when Ti felt down that make her over thought and sometimes she did such as daydreaming. At the time when her mind was empty, she felt dizzy at the back part of her head and she felt the supernatural things had started to come inside her body. The supernatural creature came through her nape of neck afterwards Ti did not realize. According to the people around, Ti used to speak a very good Javanese language. However, when the possession occurred inside the mosque, Ti

spoke mandarin language. One day when Ti could not sleep well, she experienced possession, she saw the supernatural creature, she could hear what people think, and it was a Satan whispered her. Next, when Ti joined the professional work placement, Ti was angry, rebellious, chattering her teeth screamed and she felt overweight. She felt that her soul would come out of her body, she could see what happened outside the room while her position was still lying down and holding a rosary.

Function of possession

Ti share her experience related to the possession disorder to her parents, but her parents did not trust her. Ti received attention and support from her friends. I called her boyfriend and asked him to pray for her. Even her friends helped her to pray for five times in a day, she felt relieved. She also read Quran, but it was only for one month because she saw a supernatural creature again. The previous possession, her family and relatives gave her attention and took her to an Islamic teacher man, and then the man helped to heal her.

DISCUSSION

All participants who experienced possession reveal the same pattern in having relationship with their parents. The same patterns related to parenting and relationship with their parents during childhood. During their childhood, they used to feel afraid stronger during their childhood than other children. Participants 1 used to feel afraid when she saw some dolls around her bed, the dolls looked alive. Participant 3 confessed that she is always fear. While the participant 2, even though she does not say straightly, she confesses that, her father is easy to be anxiety and her family has an ability to see supernatural things. The character as a anxious appears because they used to see their parents fight during their childhood. The behavior of parenting that followed by feeling afraid or being haunted by someone will support disorganized attachment, even though the real abuse does not occur. Disorganized attachment seen as representative from dysfunction of the attachment rational system that direct to dissociative symptom (Howell, 2005).

The participants experienced the different ways of parenting done by their parents. Participant 1 sees a father figure that as a petulant and he likes to give punishment. While a mother is understanding and she always gave her time to play together with her children. Participant 2 feels that she has psychological relationship with her mother and she used to share her story to her mother even though mother gave physical punishment when she was a child. Participant 3 feels that there was a distance between her and her parents because of their own work. Her father used to call her when she was away from her father, because he felt anxiety, while her mother was calm down. All parents of the participants often quarrel during their childhood. Even the father of participant 3 had asked her to choose with whom she will live if her parents would be divorce. The relationship with mother that influenced by conflict with father, especially related to dissociation and other symptom related to stress . The individual of father likes masculinity, intellectual, even their warmth is less important than a characteristic of their stable relationship with their children. Children who have safe relationship will have good interrelationship and sensitive towards their parents; they also will have more ability to adapt psychologically than those who have a problem with their father and mother. .

Another interesting finding in the research is that their grandparents nurture all participants. It is because their parents are busy with their work, so the role of their grandmother/grandfather is important. Grandmother manages their daily needs in the afternoon, and then they can meet their parents in the evening. In this research, the role of grandmother is not clear enough. Participant 1, she closed to her grandparents, while participants 2 and 3 have a fair relationship with their grandmother. Children spontaneously imitate body language, posture, the way to speak, and behavior people surround them, especially adult. Many people who have different behavior and pay role on their parenting influence their character such as unsolved anxiety and uncertainty. It happens because the participants are not close enough to the person who nurtures them. It has also affected them becoming a disorganized attachment, personality that causes dissociation symptom , and possession disorder is one of the results.

The role of the father of the participants described as a negative figure. Participant 1, father is a petulant, especially towards the participant 1. It makes her afraid of her father. Participant 2 considers her father as a pessimist and he often makes authoritative regulation that make he can not fulfilled her daughter's needs.

Participant 2 thinks that her father educates her like the military. This is the reason why participant 2 often has conflicts with her father. Participant 3, since she was a child, she is not close to her father whose problem hearing impairment, her father only pays attention to material needs. Participant considers her father, as a weak-kneed father so she feels pity to her father because of her mother's treatment to her father. The negative relationship with father makes participants face to difficulty to adapt to a new situation so that they have a risk to experience possession disorder. Children whose good relationships with their father, they have little possibility to face to depression, disruptive attitude, lying or showing their pro-social attitude. The same research finds that a son who lives and nurtured by her father has a little problem at school and for a daughter, he will have a high self-confidence. Children who live with her father have a good physical health and emotional condition, having good academic score, staying away from drug and violence, and become good children .

The relationship of participants towards their mother seems so ambivalent. Participant 1 sees her mother as a figure who is friendly, always providing her time to her daughter. In contrast, she is doubtful whether her mother loves her indeed or not, yet her mother also pays attention to her little sister. Participant 2 feels that she has a psychological relationship with her mother, nevertheless she still remember the way her mother gives her physical punishment or abuse towards herself. Participants 3, she hates her mother because her mother is busy with her work and since she knows her mother has an affair with another man beside her father. In other side, she realizes that her mother earns her family for living. Those three participants grow up in unlucky ways for their mental development. Participant 1, she lacks of affection since her little sister born. Her father nurtured her little sister directly and always take the side of her little sister, it is different from her because her grandparents nurtured her. A participant 2 is similar to participant 1. She lacks of affection due to the existence of her two little sisters. The effect is she feels so happy by seeing her little sisters crying. Participant 3, she is the single child in her family, she is not close to her parents, and then she gets along with the naughty friends that give her negative impact that makes her parents decide to send her to Islamic boarding school. Dissociation symptom towards a woman related to relationship followed by conflict between a mother and daughter

Their uncontrolled emotion commonly causes a situation that supports the participant's experience possession. Participant I experienced the possession if she felt annoyed, especially when she hurt by her father and her friends. Participant 3, she experienced possession when she is over thinking about her family problem and when she fought with her boyfriend.

Possession process is consistent with the previous research (Siswanto, 2015). In the early possession process, participants feel the physical change such as dizziness, headache, or many other physical sensations. There is a perception change e.g. seeing supernatural creature, soul comes out of the body. In this stage participant is still conscious.

The next chapter is the possession, the stage where the participants do not realize what they have done. They can only hear from their friend or peoples surround about the happen of their possession. The attitude happens during the possession are falling fainted, then when they wake up their personality has changed such as speaking another language they never use, the different content of their speaking that does not represent their selves, running and screaming.

Pasca possession in this research has similarity with the previous research. The participants feel tired/ weak that make them want to take a rest much. Their body becomes more sensitive, so when they stay at the new environment, they are able to feel the existence of supernatural creature. Figure 1 draws all participants.

CONCLUSION

The individual must not experience traumatic events, physical or sexual abuse during childhood to experience possession known as Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID). Parenting that causes children develop disorganized attachment because they are not successful to build relationship with the caretaker, there is a distance between child and father, the relationship with a mother that followed by love and hate is enough to support the possession disorder. All those situations cause a child feels continuous fear and anxiety that

make dissociation symptom develops (Howell 2005).

Figure 1: Description all participants

