

Self-Disclosure and Communication Security in Tinder Relationships: An Online Dating Study

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Abstract

Introduction: The culture of dating has changed a lot, and young people today are more interested in finding romantic partners through online dating sites. This study aims to describe interpersonal relationships that are formed through an online dating application called Tinder.

Methods: This study used a qualitative design with a phenomenological approach. Three users of the online dating application Tinder, namely two men and one woman, were selected purposively as research informants. Data collection was carried out virtually using interview techniques and observation of informant conversations on the dating application. Meanwhile, in-depth interview data were only obtained from research informants who actively used the application. To reduce research bias, the researcher conducted further data exploration by extending the research time and recording and collecting verbal and nonverbal data virtually. The data obtained were analyzed using NVivo12 software.

Findings: These findings suggest that communication security in daring relationships is a concern for Tinder users. Furthermore, the study found that self-disclosure does not always guarantee privacy security in online interpersonal relationships. This study proves that the theory of self-disclosure contradicts the assumption of self-disclosure and privacy.

Originality: The novelty of this study is that it brings together the concept of communication security with social media studies. Many studies place the concept of self-disclosure in relation to interpersonal communication and are studied using a quantitative approach. Meanwhile, this study places self-disclosure within the framework of communication security studies with mixed methods.

Keywords: Self-Disclosure, Communication Security, Tinder, Relationships.

Introduction

This study aims to uncover the experience of self-security in the self-disclosure phenomenon facilitated by Tinder. This study is significant because self-security is an issue in the matchmaking culture. It is especially related to the issue of information and how subjects develop tactics so that information can still be disclosed by their partners. However, the issue of self-disclosure in the use of dating apps is quite widely studied. However, scholars tend to see normative security issues such as private information and personal data. The novelty that this study offers is to see the issue of security in self-disclosure in a more fluid way. The subject has a unique tactic when self-disclosing to a partner he has just met. By relying on additional 'tools,' the subject also spies on his partner to ensure that all the information he conveys is safe to be disclosed.

The culture and customs of arranged marriages have damaged society (Paramita, 2021). In addition, today's technological advances pose further disadvantages by bringing the potential to erode conventional (Habibah et al., 2021; LeFebvre, 2018; Lutz & Ranzini, 2017) interpersonal relationships. As people become increasingly busy with activities and productivity, the use of technology becomes more prominent. Therefore, communication interactions through online applications are currently widely used to

facilitate the formation of interpersonal relationships. The relationship that is formed can be a friendship zone or a more advanced stage (Hughes et al., 2021; Timmermans & Courtois, 2018) researchers assert that romantic relationships experience changes that explain the behavioral and communication movements that underlie a relationship (Brody et al., 2016; Sohail et al., 2019).

Nowadays, more and more young people are choosing online dating. The motivation for this phenomenon includes fulfilling the need for affection and attention (Afdilla, 2021; Chan & Cheng, 2016). It is a trend, relationships built through online dating have positive and negative sides. The possibility of casual sex is considered one of the negative sides (Sevi et al., 2018). On the other hand, online dating users can also take advantage of their potential partners through several stages by checking their backgrounds. However, the data presented may be fictitious. Narcissism and manipulateness are related to how much openness to information is disclosed online (Sanecka, 2017).

Tinder is one of the most popular online dating applications among young people for establishing relationships (Kallis, 2020) or seeking entertainment. Another driving factor for someone to engage in online dating is the frequent rejection of conventional dating methods (Hance et al., 2018). Relationships that are established through Tinder can develop further outside the online platform. If both parties are committed and intend to get to know each other better, they can proceed to a face-to-face meeting (LeFebvre, 2018; Timmermans & Courtois, 2018). This shows that establishing a relationship only through an application does not fully meet the need to get to know each other better (Newett et al., 2018). Therefore, a face-to-face meeting is also needed because it can function as an initial verbal and non-verbal introduction in the pre-interaction process (LeFebvre, 2018). Honest communication using a planned face-to-face meeting will increase understanding between the two parties (Ramirez et al., 2015).

Although there is a lot of research documentation on relationships through Tinder, the literature examining the security of communication using the application needs to be more extensive. In this case, openness between users is needed to build relationships. Effective communication is characterized as open communication, which cannot be achieved only through online communication on dating applications. This makes users feel insecure because they need to know the real audience they are interacting with (Ulcej & Svete, 2013).

This communication model is practiced on Tinder and only uses member profiles to reduce uncertainty. Reducing uncertainty can be done by selecting photos and viewing and assessing profiles because self-presentation and self-disclosure are very important in forming relationships and impression management (Ward, 2016). A profile is a description of verbal and non-verbal communication to strengthen and provide satisfaction in continuing the relationship to the next stage (Sharabi, 2021). In establishing a relationship, communication interaction activities require self-disclosure. Self-disclosure is needed because it plays an important role in moving to the next stage in interpersonal communication. Although men and women have different perceptions about using Tinder (David & Cambre, 2016), women are generally more open than men (Profile, 2020). When disclosing biographical information, women are also more intimate (Hollenbaugh & Everett, 2013). Women use Tinder more for friendship and self-validation, while men use it more for hooking up/having sex, traveling, and finding relationships (Ranzini & Lutz, 2017).

Self-disclosure is the disclosure of personal information when two parties interact and communicate (Loisa & Setyanto, 2014). The things shared during self-disclosure can range from superficial to personally sensitive (Masaviru, 2016). In making self-disclosure, individuals will initially consider whether the disclosure will have a positive or negative impact. Therefore, trust becomes a force in self-disclosure. The power of self-disclosure is achieved through the perception of mutual trust between the two parties (Qin et al., 2021). However, previous research has shown that using Tinder to build relationships has more negative impacts than positive impacts (Her & Timmermans, 2021).

Excessive self-disclosure through social media is currently considered a normal social phenomenon that is done to maintain relationships (Rahardjo et al., 2020). The role of social networks is becoming more effective for communicating, sharing information, eliminating loneliness, utilizing free time, accessing and updating information, and making new friends while allowing someone to hide their true identity due to a lack of self-confidence (Pashaei et al., 2018). Self-disclosure on the Internet generally includes a person's general information that can be known to the public, while personal things remain confidential (Loisa & Setyanto, 2014).

The dimensions of self-disclosure include intention, amount, positivity, depth, and honesty. These dimensions are the determining elements in a person's self-disclosure when in a relationship (Wheless & Grotz, 1976). Likewise, the high probability of uncertainty in a relationship through the Tinder application depends on how much self-disclosure both parties make when in an interpersonal relationship (Swarnawati, 2021). This then became the basis of this research. In addition, several shortcomings were found in previous research where self-disclosure through online media was said to be able to weaken the bond in a relationship (Pechmann et al., 2021).

Therefore, this study discusses the use of Tinder and the security aspect of communicating. The two main phenomena that will be discussed are related to a) the concept of self-disclosure when using the Tinder application and b) communication security using the Tinder application. This study concludes that self-disclosure in a relationship is important but is not done when communicating via Tinder Online. Hybrid communication (online and offline) is a safe communication solution. Safe communication means that the offline meeting will be a means of honest communication for both parties. Because the communicators meet face to face, both can evaluate each other and produce relatively honest communication.

The novelty of this study brings together the concept of communication security with social media studies. Many studies place the concept of self-disclosure in relation to interpersonal communication and are studied using a quantitative approach. Meanwhile, this study places self-disclosure within the framework of communication security studies with mixed methods. This study defines it as a stage of providing information on social media. Based on the informant's experience, there are two stages, namely, the interaction stage and the experiment stage. In this second stage, the communicator decides whether the information is worth disclosing or not.

Methods

This is a phenomenological study using a qualitative approach. It also includes an interpretive and naturalistic approach to the study subjects (Denzin, n.d.), which is considered appropriate to help understand the phenomena experienced by the research subjects through descriptions expressed using words or language (Moleong, 2014).

Because the study took place during the Covid-19 pandemic (April-October 2021), data were collected through virtual interviews and observations of online conversations of research informants on Tinder. To reduce research bias, the researchers extended the research time and recording for data exploration, including the collection of verbal and non-verbal data. The research subjects were three informants, two men and one woman, who were active members of the online dating application Tinder. The data obtained were analyzed using NVivo12 software (Bandur, 2019).

Phenomenological data analysis on Tinder observations was conducted over six months using the following steps. The first step describes the personal experiences of informants related to the phenomenon being studied--how self-disclosure occurs and how secure the communication of Tinder users or members is, the second step is to make a list of informant statements and group them. Grouping them into meaningful categories according to the research objectives (providing 2-3 statements), the third step is writing a texture description based on the informant's experience so that researchers can understand what the informant experienced, and the last step is to describe structurally how the experience occurred. The analysis process includes horizontalization, which describes and gives equal value to all informant statements, followed by interview transcription to provide researchers with a better understanding of the informant's experience. Textural description, focusing on the experience gained by the informant. In this case, the researcher describes the informant's experience as a Tinder user when they communicate or experience closeness with others and whether they experience violence or only understand the potential for violence. Structural description: Researchers describe the multicultural experiences of informants, such as the time and location of the incident. Description of meaning and phenomena refers to the process of combining structural and textural descriptions to describe the experiences of all informants clearly and whether they have similarities or differences (Moustakas, 1994). Data obtained during phenomenological analysis include the time and location of the experience, the communication that occurred, the growth of attachment, and awareness of possible negative impacts.

Results

In this study, the subject descriptions were analyzed to present the subject descriptions as seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Subject Description

Sex	Number	Age Range	Tinder Usage
Woman	1	18-26 years	< 1 year
Man	2	18-26 years	> 1 year & < 1 year

Note: Three informants were analyzed in this study

Table 1 shows that the subjects of this study consisted of three people (two males and one female). The age range of the three was young adults aged 18-26 years. This age range is in accordance with previous research reports on the general age range of social media users (Boursier et al., 2020; Dhir et al., 2018; Boursier et al., 2020). All research participants were members of the online dating application Tinder with a minimum duration of use of one year.

Table 2. Dimensions of Self-Disclosure

Dimensions	Indicator	Informant 1	Informant 2	Informant 3
Disclosure of intent	Be aware of what is being said to others	often	often	seldom
Amount	The amount approaching others	often	sometimes	often
Positive attitude	Able to express anything about yourself	sometimes	sometimes	often
Depth	Provide in-depth personal information	often	often	often
Honesty	Be honest in expressing yourself	often	often	often

Note: The dimensions of depth and honesty were often carried out by three informants

Table 2 shows that all three informants, as members of the online dating site Tinder, disclosed themselves to potential partners they knew or chose. The results also show that all three made self-disclosures when getting to know others through the Tinder application. Informants 1 and 3 had slightly higher self-disclosures than informants 2. It was found that some negative impacts would emerge after the informant disclosed himself. Therefore, an analysis was conducted based on the results of the questionnaire on the impact of self-disclosure. The results are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Impact of Self-Disclosure

The Impact of Self-Disclosure	Informant 1	Informant 2	Informant 3
Negligence	Yes	Yes	No
Rejection	Yes	No	No
Loss of control	No	No	No
Betrayal	Yes	Yes	Yes

Note: Three Informants experienced betrayal as a result of self-disclosure

Table 3 summarizes four impacts of self-disclosure: neglect, rejection, loss of control, and betrayal. All three informants experienced betrayal in the form of ghosting and cheating. Their dating partners even gave their personal data to other parties. As for neglect, rejection, and loss of control, not all informants experienced them.

The Concept of Implementing Self-Disclosure in Using the Tinder Application

Based on the results of self-disclosure of informant 1, a male undergraduate student, self-disclosure was done by first introducing themselves and telling each other about their interests and hobbies, then telling about their daily activities and courses. This became the to determine whether or not to continue the relationship. The participant explained "*... in terms of communication, it was more about sharing daily things and problems, and she gave me acceptable solutions. We also talked about our hobbies and characters. Then, there was a kind of desire to meet. I can say that continuously chatting is boring, but finally, we set a time and met. Well, I was actually interested in her from the start after seeing her profile picture. Moreover, when we met, we matched, and our communication was in sync.*"

When the subject decides to proceed to the next stage, both parties exchange contacts. However, informant 1 is not the one who initiates communication. Therefore, the other party must be open and willing to initiate. In a relatively close relationship, the informant will communicate his/her problems. When his/her Tinder partner provides a reasonable solution, the subject will feel confident and safe. Informant 1 will also suggest the idea of going out without hesitation. During the early stages of dating, the informant will look at other factors of his/her partner, such as age, physical appearance, and mindset. As the participant noted *"... at first, I was not very open, especially about personal problems. We only shared about work, school, and hobbies. I started to open up about personal problems after meeting in person. However, my partner is different. He shares almost everything, including his/her personal problems."*

Informant 2, a worker, increases self-disclosure by chatting or exchanging messages. When finding a match on Tinder, both parties will hang out, chat, and determine the direction of the conversation they want. In addition, when a closer relationship is established, the two continue to communicate more via mobile phone. In choosing a partner, informant two will choose someone who can make him comfortable communicating. He will also consider his identity. Informant 2 admitted that many social media users label themselves as FWB, referring to 'friends with benefits' or, in other words, intended to seek benefits. If informant 2 finds an FWB, he will immediately stay away because he considers it to lead to a mindset that is oriented towards money and sex addiction. As the participant explained: *"I first check his biodata, whether he describes himself openly or not. Because on Tinder, many label themselves as FWB (friends with benefits), which means they are only looking for benefits."*

Informant 3's openness depends on his/her level of trust in someone. When meeting new people, the participant tends to share positive aspects about himself/herself. Furthermore, he/she will look forward to a reciprocal relationship regardless of whether his/her partner gives the same response or not. If the feedback received is lacking, informant two will end the relationship by reducing the intensity of communication. As the participant stated: *"Usually, I give 80% of my personal information, depending on my level of trust in the person. When meeting new people, I share my positive aspects."*

Informant 3, a psychology student, can trust others by reading their biographies and paying attention to how they greet and talk to others. When meeting new people, informant three will introduce herself briefly to find out who the person she is talking to is so that she can establish broader communication. The participant stated: *"I prefer to read her biography, the way she greets me, and the way she talks to me. That is what makes me more interested."*

Communication Security in Using the Tinder Application

Communication interaction is part of daily human activities, such as carrying out activities and establishing relationships with others. Social media is currently one of the solutions for establishing relationships. The development of technology changes human life, especially in terms of interaction and communication (Habibah et al., 2021). Interpersonal interaction and communication, which has been conventional, can be done through media such as computers, telephones, and the Internet. One of the impacts is the online dating trend. Tinder is one of the applications designed to help individuals find romantic partners online. In finding a match through Tinder, communication security needs to be considered. Personal security is one of the significant problems in building relationships online (Gibbs et al., 2011). This needs to be considered when using Tinder. Communication security based on the results of the study is shown in Figure 1.

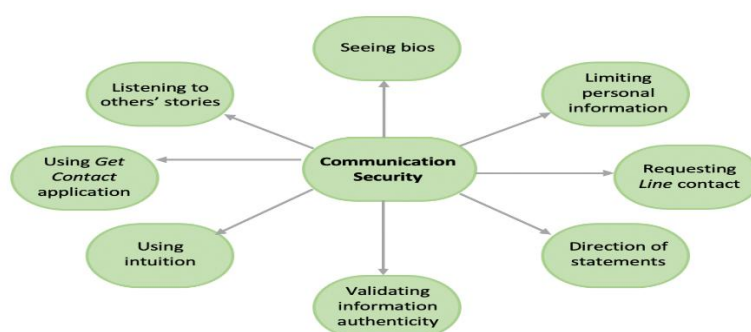


Figure 1. Communication security in using the Tinder application
(source: Research Data)

Direction of Statement

The direction of the statement can be determined from the content of the conversation. The content of the conversation that is detrimental and leads to 'sexual things' can differentiate who we are talking to, whether they are male or female, as stated by the participant: *"I can tell whether she is a real girl or a transvestite from their chat. A transvestite tends to talk more about sexual things, like asking for photos of genitals and so on."*

Communication using other media

Media is a means used to convey messages. In this case, Tinder users also use other platforms to communicate. However, other applications can be misused as a way to trap users who have just met. A previous study reported that violence increased after the advent of dating applications (Pooley & Boxall, 2020). The participant explained: *"I have experienced it; a guy I just met on Tinder invited me to communicate via the Line application. While we were chatting, he suddenly sent me a photo of his genitals."*

Limit personal Information

On Tinder, users can put or change any information and use anyone's photo or edited photos to attract the opposite sex. This illustrates the limitations of personal information and the practice of undetected identity fraud. For example, adults can act like teenagers or vice versa. They can even use other people's photos for unknown reasons. The participant explained: *"There is a fake account that uses my photo. I do not know why the person behind the account did something like that. Maybe the person is not confident or has other motives."*

The personal information provided also depends on the level of trust the informant has towards the person he/she has just met or already knows. Here is the statement of the participant stated: *"I reveal about 80% of my personal information, depending on the level of trust I have towards the person."*

View Biodata

Bio or personal information is personal information contained in a Tinder user profile regarding hobbies and things they like. In interpersonal communication, personal information is very important because everyone wants a good impression from the opposite sex. The emergence of social media is not only used as a means of communication but is also often used to present oneself for certain purposes (Krisnawati, 2020). Building meaningful impressions and relationships can be done through first, ingratiation (licking), showing an attractive side to impress others. Second, self-promotion (promoting oneself) to show one's competence. Third, showing confidence in morality (exemplification). And fourth, expecting empathy (supplication) (Nugroho &

Hasfi, 2019). The participant noted *"The first thing I look at in Bio is whether the user describes himself openly."*

Listen to other people's stories

Tinder can be a means to create closer relationships. However, because both parties do not know each other's background and motives in building a relationship, one of the communication participants may lie or even act indecently. In addition, participants can also do ghosting. This is a decrease in conversation interaction on Tinder that can occur due to unilateral cancellation of communication caused by users who do not show commitment in the conversation, and interrogative questions are a deviation from the turn-taking pattern (Roca-Cuberes et al., 2023). Misrepresentation or deception of the impression displayed on Tinder is done consciously by choosing anonymity or users excessively presenting themselves in a way that does not match their reality (Nugroho & Hasfi, 2019). To avoid this, informant 2 protects himself by seeking information by listening to the stories of other Tinder users. The participant noted *"This case often occurs among Tinder users. A similar case happened to me when a perpetrator pretended to be a nurse on duty and asked me to send a photo showing parts of the body from the chest to the waist, then asked for another photo showing the whole body. I immediately refused because I often hear stories like this."*

Using the Get Contacts App

In addition to listening to other people's stories to find out someone's background, the Get Contacts application can be an alternative to find out more about the person we are communicating with. Some people will provide information about the person we are currently communicating with. The participant stated *"By using the Get Contacts application, I can see the percentage that people give to the number."*

Using intuition

In addition to using Get Contact, a person can gain a sense of security by trusting their feelings or intuition. Feelings are formed from personal experiences, and the experience of communicating with someone they just met can be seen from their communication style. The participant stated *"I use my feelings. If the communication style seems strange at first, I will check it through the Get Contact application."*

Validate the Authenticity of Information

Validating the authenticity of information is one way to build trust in our communicants. Trust is the belief that something is true and supported by evidence. Therefore, finding out more about our partner is very important in a relationship. As stated by the participant *"I will validate the authenticity of the information first."*

Tinder Dating App

Technological advances have changed the paradigm of human thinking and the way humans establish relationships, from establishing friendships to finding partners. In the past, people thought that the most effective communication was face-to-face communication. However, today's communication uses a lot of computer media (CMC) supported by the Internet, so there is a change in civilization, namely cyberspace communication.

Establishing interpersonal relationships through online applications has become a new phenomenon in Indonesia. This country, which is known for its strong sense of family and collectivism, is now slowly changing. Tinder has been able to change the role of relatives, matchmakers, and matchmakers in helping someone find a partner for a serious relationship.

The study results show that the advantages of dating through Tinder include: *first*, a screening process where users can check the background of potential partners. *Second*, making new friends. *Third*, finding sexual partners. *Fourth*, pursuing love. and *fifth*, ease of communication. Dating through Tinder can also reduce the role of parents in the matchmaking process, simplify romantic relationships, and provide a space for expression and socialization (Waluyo & Revianti, 2019; Paramitha et al., 2021).

In this study, informants sought friendship or partners through *Tinder* for various reasons. These reasons included gaining new experiences, seeking pleasure, building networks, having fun, sharing experiences, making friends, finding a life partner, having easier conversations than conventional face-to-face conversations, escaping, and ordering online prostitution services. The results are illustrated in Figure 2.

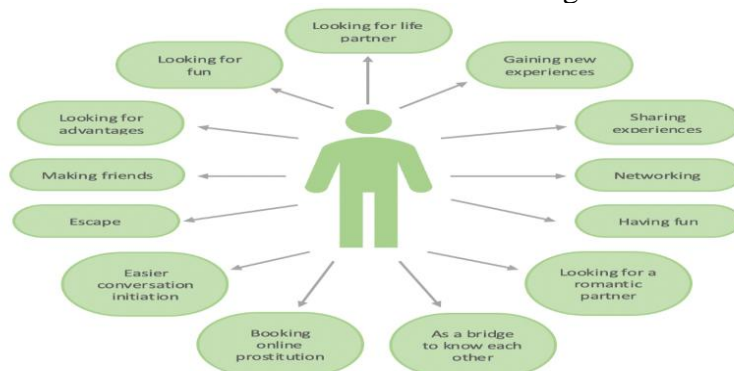


Figure 2. Reasons to use the Tinder dating app (source: Research Data)

Based on the data in Figure 2, when establishing a relationship through Tinder, the informants are not only looking for something related to sexual needs but also how they can establish a positive relationship. This is also supported by the data presented in Figure 3 about the topics of conversation discussed by the informants when communicating through Tinder. The topics of conversation are not dominated by topics related to romance.

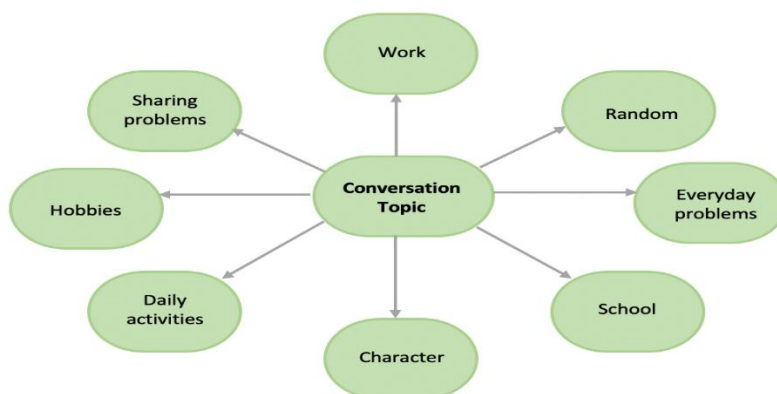


Figure 3. Topics of conversation via the Tinder application (source: Research Data)

The reasons or motivations for establishing a relationship via Tinder, along with the topics discussed, are mostly unrelated to erotica and will serve to improve communication between participants in establishing a relationship. In order for the relationship to run well, online dating app users can present themselves selectively, where they choose personal information that is worthy of being presented to their potential partners. This is done to achieve comfortable online communication while anticipating future meetings (Sari & Kusuma, 2018).

Tinder is a popular online dating application used by young people to establish relationships. This application makes it easy for users to find friends or dating partners. However, communicating through this platform can be boring, because user interaction is only done through the application or by looking at photos without meeting in person. In addition, users tend to experience sexual exposure on the application. This can be seen in Figure 4.

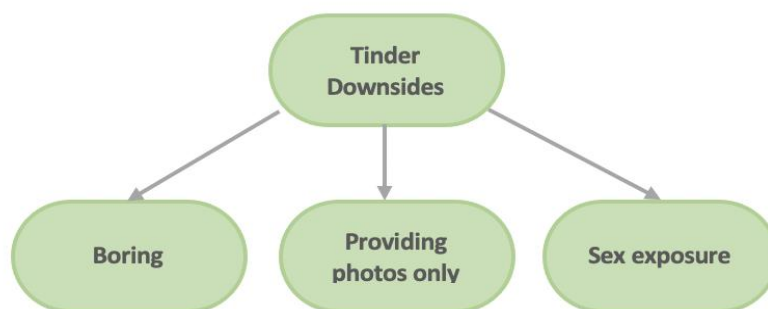


Figure 4. Weaknesses of the Tinder application in establishing relationships
(source: Research Data)

The data show that face-to-face interpersonal communication is also necessary (Placeholder1) to create meaning and impressions. The social context reduction approach states that the quality of interpersonal communication will be compromised if there are few identity cues available (Nugroho & Hasfi, 2019). The participant stated *"If we want to know someone, we need to meet in person to know what the person is like. Meanwhile, by only relying on dating apps, we cannot see the person in person; we can only see their photo, which could be fake."*

Discussion

The concept of implementing self-disclosure when using the Tinder application

Social media is part of the technological development that allows for unlimited social networks. Social networks are a particular type of network in which the bonds that connect one point to another in the network are social relationships. Social media has now become a common place to communicate, replacing conventional communication (Alalwan et al., 2016; Taylor et al., 2011).

Currently, there are many types of social media applications. One of them is an online dating application called Tinder which is designed to help users find potential partners in a certain area (Hess, 2014). Through this application, individuals can interact with other individuals according to their choice. In addition, social media also provides psychological entertainment in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic (Matthes et al., 2021).

In interacting or communicating with others, individuals need to do self-disclosure, which is how someone reveals information about themselves that is not known by others. Self-disclosure through social media can affect other people's trust and liking for individuals, but this impact will also depend on the level of similarity felt by both parties (Qin et al., 2021). Positive self-disclosure (Goodmon et al., 2015) will lead to positive values in a relationship. The self-disclosure in question is not total openness but has limitations. The openness carried out by individuals in establishing acquaintances with new people must consider whether the disclosure will have a positive or negative impact on the relationship being built. Even when self-disclosure has been formed, individuals who initially only conveyed positive information tend to share information about their bad side.

The dimensions of self-disclosure include elements of intention, amount, positivity, depth, and honesty that determine the extent of a person's self-disclosure in building relationships (Wheeless & Grotz, 1976). Self-disclosure explains how a person reveals information about themselves that is not known to others, individuals can get to know each other and decide whether to have a next-level relationship. Self-disclosure is a message about oneself that is communicated to others (Wheeless & Grotz, 1976). As the relationship gets closer, self-disclosure becomes more frequent and deeper. Shallow self-disclosure has the potential to affect interpersonal relationships (Rains et al., 2016). The benefits of self-disclosure in interpersonal communication include: *first*, openness in relationships to improve better and more intense communication. *Second*, increasing knowledge and understanding between both parties. *Third*, understanding each other's self-concept. *Fourth*, reducing defensiveness. *Fifth*, being more careful in communicating. *Sixth*, increasing self-confidence. *Seventh*, increasing interpersonal interest and ease of communication. *Eighth*, building mutual trust between both parties. *Ninth*, interaction norms based on agreements between both parties. and *tenth*, the formation of interaction norms that are formed through how close the relationship is between the two (Septiani et al., 2019). The output of self-disclosure through social media, both positive and negative, depends on the acceptance of both parties (Rains & Brunner, 2018). Effective self-disclosure is constant and stable self-disclosure accompanied by intensity. However, individuals can flexibly express their self-disclosure in a way that is in line with their personality (Manu et al., 2017).

There are many factors that influence self-disclosure, one of which is self-efficacy. Self-efficacy refers to a person's belief in their ability to control a situation and produce something beneficial (Santrock, 2012). This is supported by the results of previous studies (Wu, 2019) that reported that individuals with high self-efficacy can understand and evaluate themselves objectively to develop and improve their sense of self-identity and are more flexible and objective in dealing with their strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, when individuals have good self-efficacy in expressing themselves, they will realize their sense of security (Edwards, 2015).

Based on the results of interviews with research informants, self-disclosure occurs in different situations *first*, when they feel comfortable with their partner. *Second*, when they feel suspicious that someone they know will hurt them. Therefore, they will try to protect themselves. The act of self-disclosure on social media has several differences compared to traditional self-disclosure. When disclosing something intimate, it is considered more inappropriate to disclose it online than in person (Lin & Utz, 2017), someone will only disclose personal information to people they know. The more someone knows someone else, the more intimate or in-depth information about themselves is disclosed. In the real world, people always try to limit themselves in self-disclosure. While on social media today, many people use the platform to share things that are personal and confidential because of its easy access. To build and maintain social relationships, social media users often sacrifice privacy by voluntarily sharing more personal information (Cheung et al., 2015). self-disclosure on social media can affect how important users consider privacy, see privacy boundaries, and manage their personal information (Zlatolas et al., 2015). Self-disclosure in the form of personal information can occur directly and indirectly through social media (Kroll & Stieglitz, 2021).

Key informants who have handled Tinder cases stated that individuals who are vulnerable to becoming victims or being negatively impacted by their Tinder activities are those who lack self-confidence and are unable to cope with the situations they face.

Therefore, they need to be more careful in the approach process. In online dating, informants will present themselves selectively, namely choosing which information they want to convey to their potential partners. This is done so that communication becomes more comfortable and subsequent meetings can be anticipated (Sari & Kusuma, 2018). In addition to presenting themselves selectively, informants receive messages with excessive attributions of similarity, use applications to communicate immediately, and receive feedback that is considered a realized expectation. In communication interactions, Tinder users use four main strategies to build meaningful impressions and relationships, namely: *first*, ingratiation strategies to show that they are personally attractive and worthy of being liked. *Second*, self-promotion to show the impression that they are competent in certain skills. *Third*, examples to ensure that they are moral and trustworthy. and *fourth*, requests to gain empathy (Nugroho & Hasfi, 2019).

Communication security when using Tinder

Tinder is the application of choice for those seeking friendship or a soul mate. Interpersonal interaction through online media is the same as that carried out at the stage of face-to-face interpersonal communication. The interpersonal relationship development model starts with initiation, experimentation, intensification, and integration, and the last stage is bonding (LeFebvre, 2018). Security in communication can be identified in the first and second stages. The first stage is the initial stage of communication interaction, where information about oneself is displayed as well as possible to attract the attention of the opposite sex. This is sometimes manipulated by providing false information, such as changing status from male to female, uploading fake photos, and so on. The second stage is the experimental stage, where uncertainty is reduced by communicating directly and indirectly. This stage can determine whether communication or relationships can continue. At this stage, the direction of the conversation or communication is attempted to create pleasure by getting to know each other through talking about hobbies, asking for location information, and creating interesting topics of conversation to build interest. Although the information seems trivial, it can have an impact on material and non-material losses.

The problem of human safety in communication is a reaction that arises due to the many humanitarian problems that occur, such as displacement due to conflict and physical violence, human trafficking, food insecurity, terrorism, illicit arms trade, and human rights violations. UNDP defines human security as: *First*, security from chronic threats such as hunger, disease, and oppression. *Second*, security means protection from sudden and painful disruptions in the pattern of daily life, whether at home, work, or in society. Such threats can occur at all levels of income and national development (UNDP, 1994). Based on this definition, every individual must be ensured to have a sense of security from chronic threats such as hunger, disease, or oppression. Everyone has the right to be protected from sudden and painful disruptions. This means that this form of protection must also be given to everyone at home, work, or in society, including when engaging in social media. Social threats, such as exclusion and rejection, can trigger various reactions to self-disclosure on social media. This shows that only some people who have experienced similar experiences will respond in the same way. Personality, past experiences, and social characteristics of different groups can influence how a person adapts to the situation (Grady et al., 2024).

According to UNDP, the concept of human security consists of 3 important principles: freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom to live in dignity. These three principles elaborate that the current concept of security is not only about

sovereignty, territory, or the military power of a country. The current concept of security is oriented towards achieving freedom from fear and freedom from want, which are the main forms of human rights.

These three concepts should be the legal basis for social media application developers. As Tinder application users, people clearly have their own reasons when deciding to join the application. Therefore, developers must ensure that users are free from worry or fear when using the application. Users must also be assured that the security of their data can protect their membership in the application.

In its report, the UN Commission on Human Security (CHS) defines human security as protecting the vital core of all human life in a way that enhances human freedom and fulfillment. Human security means protecting people from critical (severe) and widespread (widespread) threats and situations. It means using processes that build on people's strengths and aspirations. It means creating political, social, environmental, economic, military, and cultural systems that provide people with the basis for survival, livelihoods, and dignity (Commission on Human Security, 2003).

The human security approach in the Indonesian context consists of 4 dimensions, namely security from disasters, fulfillment of social welfare, practice and protection of diversity, and security from violence. The dimension of communication security in the use of online media as a means of establishing relationships can be done by paying attention to biodata and looking for supporting information using the Get application. Contact or hear stories from others, recognize and understand the direction of the conversation, and validate the authenticity of the information. Communication security is a must, considering that relationships established through online media can be a means to improve good and healthy relationships. Tinder is easy and fast, and decisions are made based solely on self-portraits (Degen & Kleeberg-Niepage, 2022).

Conclusion

This study shows that self-efficacy is one of the determining factors of self-disclosure. This is related to a person's ability to master a situation and create something beneficial. Individuals with high self-efficacy will be able to understand themselves better and evaluate themselves objectively. They have the advantage of developing and enhancing their sense of self-identity and can be more flexible and objective in dealing with strengths and weaknesses. Thus, when individuals with good self-efficacy express or reveal themselves, they will remain aware of their safety. Tinder application is one of the communication interactions favored by young people to find friends or romantic relationships. In addition to the ease of communication that users get from the application, they are also vulnerable to threats to their security as humans. In virtual communication, direct communication interaction without face-to-face can allow someone to hide their identity. Much of the information provided is manipulated to gain one-sided benefits. To overcome this, several aspects of online communication security need to be improved. This study has implications for the importance of recognizing biodata, finding supporting information using the Get Contact application or hearing stories from other users, recognizing and understanding the direction of the conversation, and validating the authenticity of the information presented. Individuals need to be careful when communicating their information before getting to know the communicant well.

Conflict of Interest

We declare that there are no conflicts of interest through financial, personal, or other relationships with other people or organizations related to the material discussed in the manuscript.

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