

## The Effects of Gender and Question Variation on Number of False Memory

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False memory is different from fact. In justice, false memory of eye witness could make mistakes that affect judge's decision. False memory is influenced by many factors, namely gender and question variation. Gender is linked with episodic memory, while question variation is linked with recall and recognition. The purpose of this study was to see the effects of gender and question variation on false memory. Factorial design was used with 29 students of many faculties in Surabaya University as sample. Result shows that females make less false memory than males although the difference is not significant. Recognition questions result in higher scores than recall questions. Specifically, recognition questions with true information result in less false memory than recall questions, whereas recognition questions with wrong information result in lower scores than recall.

*Keywords:* false memory, gender, recall, recognition

Ingatan palsu (false memory) merupakan ingatan yang berbeda dengan kenyataan yang terjadi. Pada bidang hukum, *false memory* dapat membuat kesalahan dalam kesaksian saksi mata yang berpengaruh pada putusan hakim. *False memory* dipengaruhi banyak faktor, dimana penelitian yang masih menghasilkan hasil berbeda adalah faktor jenis kelamin dan variasi pertanyaan. Variabel jenis kelamin berkaitan dengan memori episodik, sedangkan variabel variasi pertanyaan berkaitan dengan pertanyaan berbasis *recall* dan *recognition*. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk melihat adakah pengaruh jenis kelamin dan variasi pertanyaan terhadap jumlah *false memory*. Penelitian menggunakan metode eksperimen dengan *factorial design* kepada 29 mahasiswa yang berasal dari berbagai Fakultas di Universitas Surabaya. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa perempuan menghasilkan jumlah *false memory* yang lebih sedikit daripada laki-laki walaupun perbedaan ini tidak signifikan. Penelitian juga menunjukkan bahwa pertanyaan *recognition* menghasilkan jumlah *false memory* yang lebih sedikit daripada pertanyaan *recall*. Secara spesifik, pertanyaan *recognition* dengan informasi benar menghasilkan skor yang lebih tinggi daripada *recall*, sedangkan pertanyaan *recognition* dengan informasi salah menghasilkan skor yang lebih rendah daripada *recall*.

*Kata kunci:* ingatan palsu, jenis kelamin, mengingat kembali, pengenalan

Brandon and Davies (in Myers, 2008) found some cases in which people did not do any crime but went to jail because the eye witness gave false witnesses. Cutler and Penrod (in Myers, 2008) also stated that every year in America, there were 4500 wrong cases out of 7500 cases because false identification. The eye witnesses gave information out of their memories, and memories could give false information. False memory describes distorted episodic memory (Bauste & Ferraro, 2004). False memory is also a memory of something

that never happens or memory of something different from fact (Deese, Roediger & McDermott, in Bauste, 2004). In general, false memory means a memory that is different from fact and it can be experienced by anybody including eye witnesses.

In eyewitness context, the judges believe in women more than men although women's accuracy is not significantly better than men (Ancok, 2004). Herlitz, Nilsson, & Backman (in Bauste & Ferraro, 2004) found that women had a better performance in tests of word re-call, fact recall, activity recall, subject-performed task recall dan sentence recall. Andersson (2001) also revealed that women had a better explicit

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