The Validity of Tarot as a Personality Inventory

Dimas Armand Santosa
Faculty of Psychology
Universitas Surabaya

Tarot is mainly known by the general population as a divination media while in reality, it is also usable to measure the personality of individuals by using the personality categories based on the Tarot major arcanes (Ouspensky, 1976; Levitt, 2003; Mathers, 2004). The goal of this research was to test the validity of Tarot as an alternative personality inventory by comparing it with the Big Five Personality score measured by using International Personality Item Pool (IPIP) on each personality category based on Tarot. The subjects of this research were 494 psychology students from the 2008-2011 generation. In order to determine the subjects' Tarot personality categories, the subjects' birth date were used, and in order to measure the Big Five Personality score, IPIP was used. Results show that there were no significant differences between the Big Five Personality aspects score on each Tarot personality categories. The scores of ANOVA and cross-tabbing between each Tarot personality categories do not show any significant differences, meaning that Tarot is not sufficient to be used as an alternative personality inventory.

Keywords: Tarot, major arcane, big five personality, difference test

Tarot lebih banyak dikenal oleh masyarakat umum sebagai media meramal. Sebenarnya *Tarot* juga dapat digunakan untuk mengukur kepribadian seseorang dengan menggunakan kategori kepribadian berdasarkan *major arcana Tarot* (Ouspensky 1976; Levitt, 2003, Mathers, 2004). Tujuan penelitian ini adalah menguji tingkat validitas *Tarot* sebagai alat pengukur kepribadian alternatif dengan membandingkan skor *Big Five Personality* yang didapat menggunakan International Personality Item Pool (IPIP) antar-kategori kepribadian berdasarkan *Tarot*. Subjek penelitian adalah 494 mahasiswa fakultas psikologi angkatan 2008-2011. Teknik pengukuran menggunakan tanggal lahir subjek untuk menentukan kategori kepribadian *Tarot* dan IPIP untuk mendapatkan skor *Big Five Personality*. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa tidak ada perbedaan skor aspek *Big Five Personality* antar-kategori kepribadian berdasarkan *Tarot*. Skor ANOVA dan *cross-tabbing* menunjukkan bahwa tidak ada perbedaan skor aspek *Big Five Personality* antar- kategori kepribadian berdasarkan *Tarot*. Hasil ini menunjukkan bahwa *Tarot* belum dapat digunakan sebagai alat pengukur kepribadian alternatif yang signifikan.

Kata kunci: Tarot, major arcana, big five personality, uji beda

Tarot was invented in Italy on the Renaissance era, the beginning of the 15th century. At first Tarot was a variation of the commonly used set of cards at that time, eventually developing into a divination media (Levitt, 2003). Tarot as a divination media consists of a set of 78 cards, generally being a symbolism of a human's life experience. The use of Tarot as the divination media is arguably the most commonly known use of Tarot by the general public, despite the fact that Tarot is also usable as a projection media in order to achieve enlightenment in life (Victor, 1999). Another use of the Tarot that is less known by the general public is as a measurement media for basic personalities, similar to the zodiac (Levitt, 2003).

Zodiac is the yearly cycle based on the moon phase change in astrology. Originated from the Latin word "zodiacus" which means cycle or the circle of animals, zodiac is affected by culture. The most commonly known zodiacs in Indonesia are the Greek Zodiac which consists of Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius; and the Chinese Zodiac which consists of rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig (Tierney, 2000; Wu, 2005). Zodiac is more commonly known by the