

The Role of Mother Personality Traits and Mind-mindedness as Mediators of Mother Attachment Toward Child Attachment

Yuspendi

Faculty of Psychology Maranatha Christian University and
Faculty of Psychology University of Indonesia

The objective of this study was to investigate the role of mother personality trait and mind-mindedness as mediators of mother attachment toward child attachment. The low correlation between mother attachment pattern and child attachment through a sensitivity mediator, support the search of other factors which could be a mediator of mother attachment towards child attachment. The samples ($N = 211$) were housewives 25-45 year old as main caregivers with children of 3-5 year old residing in Bandung city. Instruments applied were Experiences in Close Relationship–Adult Attachment Questionnaire, Attachment Q-Set, Big Five Inventory, Mind-Mindedness and demographic data. Based on a structural equation model it was revealed that there was a fit between the theoretical model and the research data of mother attachment influencing child attachment mediated by mother trait extraversion, trait neuroticism, and mind-mindedness. It meant that mother personality and mind-mindedness played a role as mediators of mother attachment to child attachment.

Keywords: attachment, personality trait, mind-mindedness

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk meneliti peran sifat kepribadian dan *mind-mindedness* ibu sebagai mediator kelekatan ibu terhadap kelekatan anak. Rendahnya hubungan pola kelekatan ibu terhadap kelekatan anak melalui mediator sensitivitas mendorong pencarian factor lain sebagai mediator. Sampel penelitian adalah ibu rumah tangga berusia 25 – 45 tahun sebagai pengasuh utama dan memiliki anak usia 3 – 5 tahun. Sampel ($N = 211$) adalah para ibu yang bertempat tinggal di kota Bandung. Alat ukur yang digunakan Experiences in Close Relationship–Adult Attachment Questionnaire, Attachment Q-Set, Big Five Inventory, Mind-Mindedness, serta data demografik. Berdasarkan model persamaan struktural diketahui ada kesesuaian (*fit*) antara model teoretik dan data penelitian yaitu kelekatan ibu memengaruhi kelekatan anak dengan dimediasi sifat *extraversion*, sifat *neuroticism* dan *mind-mindedness* ibu. Hal ini berarti sifat kepribadian dan *mind-mindedness* ibu berperan sebagai mediator kelekatan ibu terhadap kelekatan anak.

Kata kunci: kelekatan, sifat kepribadian, mind-mindedness

The emotional bond between mother and child will affect the development of the feeling of safety or security in the child's future, and will help the child develop healthy emotions and relationships as well (Flory, 2005). A mother can form a secure relationship with her child if the mother feels secure and would be a source of the secure feeling for their child.

The importance of mother and child emotional bond caused psychoanalysis experts to believe that the experience

of emotional bond during early childhood has a significant effect on the development of personality and adaptation after adulthood (Pervin, Cervone, & John, 2005).

Bowlby (1969) developed the psychoanalytical concept based on the ethological-evolutionary approach in the attachment theory. Bowlby (cited in Dacey and Travers, 2002, p. 137) formulated his thoughts as "A warm, intimate relationship between mother and infant is essential to mental health because a child's need for its mother's presence is as great as its need for food."

Bowlby's theory of attachment drove Ainsworth, Blehar, Waters, and Hall (1978) to test the theory by measuring 'the strange situation' in the laboratory in order to collect data in picturing child attachment pattern.

The author thanks Hera Lestari Mikarsa and Siti Marliah Tambunan from the Faculty of Psychology University of Indonesia for their guidance and supervision on previous drafts/version this article.

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Yuspendi Gunawan, Faculty of Psychology, Maranatha Christian University. Jalan Prof. drg. Suria Sumantri, MPH No.65 Bandung 40164. E-mail: gyuspendi@yahoo.com