

Social Media Usage for Long Distance Relationship Couple through Computer Mediated Communication

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Abstract. The role of social media is significant in long distance marriage relationship communications. Communication is a very important aspect for the survival of human life. Humans as social beings always want to establish relationships with other humans. There are various ways people establish communication, one of which is through social media including facebook. Facebook is the highest social media which is used by Indonesian society. This study used a descriptive qualitative method. The results indicate that the social media of facebook is widely used by long distance couples as a place of outpouring, seeking attention to their partners and means to get a response from a spouse or friend. The status written by the couple and get many responses from their friends will be analysed by CMC. A sample of 20 LDMR couples (Long Distance Marriage Relationship) participated in this study. The data cover couple's status on their facebook wall. There are six categories of responses in CMC for interpersonal communication, and the results of the study showed that the dominant responses on the purpose of the social media is for investigating and evaluating their couple's status.

Keywords: Computer Mediated Communication; Long Distance Relationship; Social Media

1 Introduction

Social media are growing rapidly and have many classifications and types that match the needs of today's modern people. Today's social media communication plays an important role in everyday life. Humans use social media for the entertainment needs of all, scientific interests such as learning tools, means of seeking coffers of wealth and much more [1]. The presence of social media is very helpful in everyday life, although there are also some people who are reluctant to use the tool for a reason. For users who are less wise in addressing the presence of social media, then social media will become opium. Because of its presence can bring the benefits or otherwise bring problems for its users.

This study discusses the role of social media for long-distance marriage couples, as this is a unique thing. Many couples today are married but because of something or other they must be separated. From a survey conducted in 2014 in the National LDR (Long Distance Relationship) Report, most of the causes of this long-distance relationship are due to work and schooling [1]. Jobs that require a person to leave the couple in some time. Schools are also a reason, for married couples are usually because the University is far from the area of

origin, thus requiring the couple to split the distance. Living a long distance relationship is one thing that is not easy. Of course, this is not just about the great distance between couples. This is actually a problem because the burden is quite heavy because it is located far from the loved ones. This kind of thing is very likely to cause a sense of loneliness and feeling very bored. If not resolved soon, then it is possible for the relationship to be bland and can even end up just like that. There are quite a lot of ways that LDR partners can make love relationships always feel good even though they are very far away with their beloved partner. The first thing that is easy enough to do is to maximize the use of technology in a long distance relationship that is currently in progress. In the present time, there are many forms of technology that can be used to keep feel close to the couple.

A long distance relationship requires a commitment that is maintained by two people who have a relationship even though they are physically separated from each other [2]. A long-distance relationship is when an individual lives with a minimum of fifty miles away from a partner within a period of at least three months due to school, career, or other affairs, and keeps in touch with his partner using telephone, email and other communications technologies [3]. One means of social media, which is widely used by long- distance marriage couples is video chat in app what's App. By using this video chat, they can still maintain the intimacy of the relationship. Because the sustainability of domestic relationships is determined by good communication between both parties [4]. The use of social media by means of the internet is an alternative media communication to maintain the commitment of long-distance couples romance [5]. Separate distance makes the relationship stronger. Indeed, for married couples who make long distance relationships is not easy to maintain relationships in order to stay in harmony. Some couples feel worried couples will have an affair with others [5]. But not everyone is the same in dealing with long- distance relationships, many also rely on loyalty and trust to the couple during the LDR. In keeping with intimacy and communication to stay good, LDR couples are using social media. Of the many social media that is used by the couple, researchers chose Facebook as research locus.

Current studies have not explored more on unmarried LDR couples, both married LDR couples or LDMR (Long Distance Marriage Relationship). Therefore, this study intends to identify the use of social media as the application of computer mediated communication in those couples. It focuses on one of the prominent social media in Indonesia namely Facebook. Facebook has long been in the ranks of social media, it turns out until now there are still many people who use this tool. According to the data from Kominfo, shows that the user of FB in Indonesia is the highest compared to other social media. The FB user reaches 62% than other social media. And according to the data from Kompas.com that the FB user in Indonesian is number 4 from all countries in this world. For India the FB user is 12% and for United states in 11%, and in Brazil is the same as the FB user as Indonesian, they are 6%. This is the reason why researchers choose FB as the object of research. For couples, Facebook is a means to express feelings by writing status. Usually one of them writes status, then he tags the couple. This is a form of LDMR partner communication. So researchers interested to examine, go to what categories of responses contained in the status of LDMR partner which tagged the partner.

2 Literature Review

2.1 Previous Studies

There are several studies related to CMC, below are some research results: Communication activities through the internet can lead to communication satisfaction resulting from the maintenance of intimacy and positive enthusiasm in relationships. Long-distance partners use applications and internet features to communicate with each other, exchange photos, voice notes, and even videocall. In creating an atmosphere of pleasant communication the LDR pair uses emoticons as an embodiment of emotion to show a more sincere message. LDR couples create rules for communicating with online media such as sharing social media account passwords, controlling interactions with the opposite sex, and sharing intimate photos on social media. Rules created by LDR pairs can create security and trust in relationships. The satisfaction of communication and the happiness of relationships created through the internet can influence the couple's decision to remain in a relationship and maintain his love commitments [6].

The next research result of communication management is carried out by students undergoing long-distance romance with their partners is to make the best use of free time to establish communication. Each pair instills the importance of communication and maximizes self-disclosure. Their respective activities, making each partner also instill mutual trust, in addition to the strong commitment that is owned which does not lead to termination of relationships even though conflicts often occur. In conflict management, avoidance behavior occurs early in the conflict, and cooperative attitudes are also carried out by the partner when dealing with problems [7]. The next research results from other studies: Intimacy can be realized by providing emotional closeness can be created with intensive communication, mutual attention to the couple. In addition, with self-disclosure can be shown by exchanging thoughts with a partner. Intimacy can be realized by three categories, among others are emotional closeness to the couple, sharing experiences with couples and self disclosure with long distance marriage partner.[8]

Table 1. Related Works

NAME	MEDIA	OBJECT	THEORY
Agnesya P, Sri B, Sri W, Agus 2014	internet	LDR Couple	CMC
Zamratul Khairani Z, 2015	-	LDR Couple	CMC
Shinta Rismia Ayu, 2017	video chat	LDR Couple	-
Muassomah, Penny	Facebook	LDR Couple	CMC

In the table shows that all the research above uses the LDR couples as objects, and two studies using CMC theory and two studies other using Internet and video chat. The title of this research is different from previous studies. This research talks about the communication of LDR couple and using CMC as a theory but in Facebook media.

2.2 Computer Mediated Communication

Computer mediated communication or communication mediated by a computer is any form of communication between individuals or individuals with the original group interact through a computer in an Internet network [9]. Herring said that CMC is seen as the integration of computer technology with everyday life. The CMC region examines how human behavior is maintained and altered by exchanging information through machines. CMC research focuses primarily on the social impact of computer-based text message communication technology [10]. There are three perspectives In the CMC theory that is Impersonal, Interpersonal and Hypersonal. From these three perspectives the researcher

focuses the study on the interpersonal perspective. Interpersonal communication is the communication between personnel with others directly without being separated by distance and face-to-face, in which everyone can capture the reaction of others both verbally and non verbally. While mass communication is a message that is communicated by many people through mass media or social media. The coverage of the CMC itself includes chat systems, world wide web (www), textual systems, graphics, photography, audio, and hyperlink videos, sharing videos like Youtube and social networking systems and friendship search systems like Facebook and so on [11].

Interpersonal communication is every form of a person's behavior both verbal and non verbal that responded by others [12]. Interpersonal communication involves at least two people who have distinctive characteristics, values, attitudes, thoughts and behaviors that are distinct and different. In addition, interpersonal communication also requires the act of mutual giving and receiving among actors involved in communication. In other words, communication actors exchange information, thoughts and ideas, and so on. Interpersonal communication is a special form of human communication that occurs when we interact with others and influence each other. The simultaneous interaction means that the actors of communication have the same actions towards an information at the same time. The mutual effect means that communication actors are affected by the interaction between them. Interaction affects thoughts, feelings and the way they interpret an information [13]. By using computer mediated social learning theory that emphasize closeness between the participant of the CMC despite of their physical absence like in the personal communication does [14].

In reviewing the communication of interpersonal perspective, there are five things to give effect to the responses facebook status to be reviewed. First, advise and give judgment. The response of the communicant containing the advice and judgment is called evaluative. Second, analyze and interpret. The response of the problem solver communication solving to the status and in the form of interpretation of the problem is called interpretative. Third, affirm and provide support. The response of the communicant with convincing, motivating and sympathetic intentions is called supportive. Fourth, questioning and investigating. The response of the communicant who contains curiosity by asking questions is called investigating. Fifth, conduct and understand. The response of the communicant by showing empathy in the form of understanding is called understanding. In addition of to these responses there is also an alternative response called a combination response, which combines responses to one another [15].

2.3 Long Distance Marriage Relationship

Communication LDMR couples through social media can be called interpersonal communication (husband and wife), and can also be called mass communication. It is said interpersonal communication, because it is addressed to someone, in this case is the husband or wife who is apart distance. And called mass communication, because what is expressed and delivered in social media that intends to be known by all friends, family and others. There are two functions of communication that is to stay alive like physical salvation, self-awareness is increased, we can show ourselves to others to achieve personal desires and for the sake of our survival and family, and to establish good relationship with the social around. A person who has the ability to communicate can help, start and maintain healthy relationships with others. Everyone hopes to be recognized and appreciated. In a long distance relationship, there is an exchange of information made by the couple to maintain the quality of relationships that lived, either by looking for information about his partner or how individuals reveal various informations about him. In this case, romance is almost the same as friendship, where this

relationship has a stable exchange of information. It concerns with the four principles in the dialectics of friendship, to manage communication among the individuals involved [16].

2.4 Social Media

Internet media is a new medium that has many advantages over the old internet media [17]. Social media is a means of interaction used by all over the world. They can be connected to each other even within a great distance. In wikipedia social media is an online medium. Where users can interact with each other or otherwise called the virtual world. There have been various- kinds of social along with their rapid development as well as the number of users, calculated per August 2017. Facebook ranked first in the number of users is 2.047 million users. While the rank below is youtube with the number of users 1,500,000 people and whats the app with the number of users 1,200,000 people. Communication media is more inclined not affect the quality of marital relationship in LDMR. People use facebook for communication and also as a medium for online shopping [18]. Cell phones are most often used to communicate and express affection . Many couples geographically distantly use Facebook and find it as a positive social networking site while other new couples tend to feel pressured to promote their relationship status through Facebook [19]. There is a research said that everything uploaded on Facebook turns giving positive and negative impacts for students [20]. The presence of the internet has presented patterns of relationships between individuals that are not the same as what happens in the real world [21]. The information and communications technology has a very big influence to the learners [22]. Its mean we must be wise in using facebook. The largest number of users is also a consideration for researchers to choose facebook as research locus. Because facebook free to access anyone, as long as make friends in the media interaction.

3 Methods

This research was conducted with qualitative descriptive with a phenomenological approach [23]. The focus of this research is social media, researchers limit the media Facebook, because Facebook media faster and the highest user all over the world. The data collection used is documentation, that is by collecting the facebook friends of researchers who are undergoing LDMR, and at the same time asking permission to them to be allowed to read the status of married couple LDMR and the responses contained within the wall facebook. The researcher determines the LDR pair in writing the status "are there any friends who are undergoing LDR with their husbands? please comment here. I am permitted to analyze the status of LDR couples on Facebook". Then there were 13 friends who commented and only 10 of them were undergoing LDR Then in the analysis, it uses an interpersonal perspective of CMC theory. The data taken by the researcher is one of the status of husband and wife of LDMR in January-June 2018. That is the status of one of the wife or husband tags his / her partner with the aim of the couple to know and respond to that status. Whatever response is analyzed is not just the response of the spouse, but the whole response contained in that status. The analysis used is with data reduction, data organization and data interpretation. By reviewing status and responses, then categorize them into the types of responses listed in the interpersonal communication.

4 Finding & Discussion

Table 2. Responses Categories

Couples	Status	Response Intentions					
		Eval	Inter	Supp	Inves	Und	Comb
NZ & AN	11 June 2018	3	0	1	3	3	1
EWA & AN	12 July 2018	6	0	1	5	2	0
MH & MH	11 July 2018	2	0	0	1	0	0
IR & DS	6 May 2018	1	2	1	2	2	0
TS & KH	7 July 2018	1	0	0	2	0	0
UM & KR	11 June 2018	2	0	0	2	0	0
PCA & RA	24 July 2018	3	1	1	3	1	0
RK & AR	26 May 2018	1	1	2	0	1	1
AT & WH	4 July 2018	2	1	0	3	0	2
Sum		21	5	7	22	11	4

Table 2 shows five categories of response as stated in CMC theory of interpersonal communication. Interpersonal has five responses in the form of advice and assessment is called evaluative, the response in the form of interpretation is called interpretive, the response in the form of support is called supportive, the response in the form of investigating and responses in the form of understanding. Meanwhile, according to Carl Rogers add one category of combinations.

4.1 Couples NZ and AN

NZ writes the status on June 11, 2018 about the dense teaching schedule of 20 credits in the next semester "anyone will meet me Tuesday, Thursday or Friday". This is the outpouring of a wife's heart to her husband. Usually the credits charged to the lecturer are 12 credits of the semester, because NZ gets 20 credits means NZ gets the excessive teaching load. Meaning NZ complained this to her husband. Husband's response "full schedule of mothers" is a form of assessment and included in the evaluative category. The next response "What are the ammunition?", This is in the question category that is inquiring. The next response is "quick mutation", this is an advice and included in the evaluative category. Subsequent response in the form of a smile image that states that the communicant understand the intent of the response, it belongs to the category of understanding. The final response is "ready", meaning the husband understands the wishes of his wife and fall into the category of understanding. UDR response "20 credits ????" is a question entered in the inquiry category. Next response "beuh warnyassaaaah !! Keep strong yaaah ... "is an assessment as well as support. This is categorized as evaluative and supportive. So that can also be entered into the combination category. The next response "chicken eggs" is an advice so that enter the category evaluative. Next is "snacking fruit aja ... little but often, healthy keep ya mama daffa n debay ...", this response into the category of advice, then support, enter the category evaluative and supportive. It can also include a combination category. The third response RH "3 days az ya?" He asked and this entered the category of inquire. The next response "I will meet this lecturer" means he estimates and analyzes, this is interpretative category.

4.2 Couples EWA and AN

EWA status marking her husband as well as EWA photo doing selfi in the car "Sorry sorry it is okay if the mother is idle selfi, while waiting passengers come, while mom does not bring baby aisyah, which surely mother will not mind for other but her. Wonder with the magic camera effect ". This status is written and tagged the husband because EWA wants the husband to know this status. this can be said to seek the attention of the husband. The first

response comes from the AD "monggo despite 10 times rapopo ... every open FB that appears always who have dimples". This is in the form of support and interpretation, enter the evaluative and interpretative category, as well as enter the combination category. The next response comes from WB "Do not be discouraged, let us realize if we crawl automatically to the older, enjoy fabiayyi aalaa irobbikuma tukadziban". This is an advice and included in the evaluative category. And WB responds again "hahahaha" meaning he understands the clarification of the EWA submitted and entered the category of understanding. WB response again "enjoy". This is an advice and included in the evaluative category. The next response IRR "watch out there paparazzi, then invite photos for magazine miscellaneous lho". This is an advice and included in the evaluative category. Next response OA "What camera use jin?". This is a question to enter the inquiry category. The following responses VF "free selfi ya no passengers, from all angel". This is a question and entered the inquiry category. VF replied again "hahaha" means he understands and is in the category of understanding.

The next response MM "Kakaaaak beautiful". This is the assessment of the communicant so that enter the category evaluative. The next response AG "eaa cosmetics ads just neng, while being natural hihihhi". This is an advice and included in the evaluative category. The next response SH "Right lho audiences, until now ajin cheek really smooth not because of camera effect". This is an assessment and an evaluative category as well. DKA's next response "Ajiiiiin". This is difficult to categorize, but from the way this writing is a support, so that enter the supportive category. The response that JH "has become a mother still exists as well?" This is a question so that enter the category of inquire. JH's next response is a laughful teasing picture, so it explains that JH understands and agrees with EWA comments. This is categorized as understand. The last response DH "ajiin gorgeous" means DH gives an assessment of the photo uploaded by EWA and it belongs to the evaluative category.

4.3 Couples MH and MH

Status written by MH for his wife by uploading a photo of their daughter that read "why this child yes, love you papa muach". This status implies that the father wants to show a photo of their cute daughter using glasses, and he adds a support later. The first response came from SZ "Fiqa ugly" this is a judgment even though it really means to tempt fiqa. Still, this is an evaluative category. The next response from AUM is "fiqa already girl?". This response contains a question and entered the inquiry category. The last response from S "like his mother when small fiqa". This is an analysis and interpretation so that it belongs to the interpretive category.

4.4 Couples IR and DS

IR uploaded a photo with her husband by spelling the words "hope only to Allah". This status tags the husband and expects the husband to know the status. It means she missed her husband by uploading photos of their memories. The response in that first status comes from RO "where is his son's tea? ". This response is a question which means "where are the children kak?". So this response entered the category of inquire. The next response from ER "seeeeeer ... hahahah" which means ER upload photos that illustrate the harmony of IR and husband. This response contains support and is in the supportive category. The next response TF "like added thin?" Which means "like a bit thin". This is an analysis and interpretation of photos that appear and enter interpretative categories. Furthermore TF said "taper cheek" which means he gives an assessment of IR and this is in the category evaluative. And last TF's response was "wkwkwk" he laughed which meant he understood the IR answer and got into the understand category. The last response in this status is IS "lek now looks very much like yoo ... whereas it

used to be unlike GP, hahahaha". this response is an analysis and interpretation and interpretative category. Then IS adds "right teteh ... used to be normal" which means he gives an assessment of the similarity of IR partner and husband. This is an evaluative category.

4.5 Couples TS and KH

The researcher will then examine TS's status "Be grateful then you will be happy", TS wrote this status and uploaded photos together with family, he marked his wife, meaning he wanted to tell his wife that TS was longing for family togetherness. The first response comes from IR "Bulik where?", This response is a question, so it can be categorized as a search. The next response CDM "do not forget wrapped yo .. for me hehehe" This response contains the intentions of advice so that the category evaluative. After getting a response back from KH then CDM replied "ooo .. moh6 yach" which means ... "well I do not want". This response contains the intention that the CDM understands the answer and submits a rejection and it belongs to the category of understanding.

4.6 Couples of UM and KR

The next response responded to the status of UM's "Daddy KR how do we book to go to the house adek nindi after Eid?". The above status is an invitation from UM to KR's husband about booking a VIP train to visit relatives by ending a smile that sticks out the tongue, meaning like want to joke at the husband. The husband responded to that status with "the king size there is not? ha ha ha". This means that the husband answered with questions that contain elements of jokes, this entry into the category of investigation. The next response came from EF "immediately book yah dude before running out", it contains advice to immediately book tickets so that the category evaluative. The next response came from the MW asking if EF has departed? And EF replied "still getting packing into the car", meaning EF understands the question and answers. This is categorized as understand. The next response came from KR as husband addressed to EF "Be careful on the road". It contains advice to be careful, so that the category evaluative.

4.7 Couples PCA and RA

The next status belongs to PCA "Lalaa .. yeyee .. come again" PCA Uploaded a picture of a sack of clothing that her husband sent from Jakarta. After reading the response below, the researcher understood that the courier package had twice delivered the goods to the PCA home. The first response came from the husband RA "lho wes nyampe arek e nda, hahaha" the husband made sure with the question, because he was not sure that the courier came again, so RA gave a laugh, this is in the category of inquire. Still with the husband's response "wahaha riwa riwa ae yo mas courier?", Meaning the husband gave a question at once laughed at the courier who had twice to the PCA home, this is in the category of inquire. IWO responded to the photo with the question "daster kah this kak?". The question above is in the inquiry category because IWO wants to know what is in the sack.

4.8 Couples RK and AR

Next is the RK couple who wrote the status of "masyaAlloh tabarokalloh ... sholihah girls listening murottal" this status tags the husband by uploading a photo of their daughter, indicating that RK wants to report the growth of the child. The first response comes from NK "ya ampuun if I endorse psti will be many who want ya nduk", it contains the meaning of analysis and interpretation, so that enter interpretative category. The next response AR "funny anake wong iki", this response contains an assessment of the uploaded photos, so that the

category evaluative. RK's husband's response is "yes funny ta mother, putune haji yusuf kalipare", it contains support for the wife that the husband assures that their child is funny, so it is in the supportive category. The final response comes from AR "hihihi" meaning he understands the RK husbands' answers that provide support and emphasis. AR response is in the understand category.

4.9 Couples AT and WH

The latter status is AT property. She marked her husband and uploaded their first child photo with the status of "nih lho abi, your child's behavior, at 4.31 teteh wake up asking for feeding nasgor, in the middle of eating him KO again with mouth filled with rice". AT tags the husband with the intention of reporting the growth of their child's cuteness and want to share the cuteness with husband who currently husband is in Bangka and AT are in Lampung. The first response comes from the PA "masyaAlloh my grandson cute, maybe nglindur yo". The above responses contain two intentions, the first one being an assessment and the second one being analysis or interpretation. So in the category evaluative and interpretative, as well as enter the combination category. The next response AR "overslept so while eating hihihi ... more emaknya donk ngabisin". The above responses contain the intentions of questions and advice, so that enter the category of inquiry and evaluative. These belong to the combination category. The next response is a question from E "where is the side dish?" It contains the meaning of the question so that entering the category of inquiry, because E wants to know why eat but do not use side dishes. The data above shows that there are still many LDR pair who use FB facilities in communicating. Many of their friends responded and commented on the status of the LDR pair. The most are in the form of questions and investigations. Other people like to find out what happened to the lives of others. Interpersonal communication theory Johnson's perspective examines all of the comments on one of the FB statuses belonging to the LDR couples and is apparently dominated by question and investigations.

5 Conclusion

From an analysis of the status of nine couples undergoing LDMR, an evaluative feedback number of two to one responses, in the form of an interpretive response of five responses, in the form of a responsive response of seven responses, of twenty-two responses, there are eleven responses and in the form of additional categories of combinations there are four responses. This study concludes that the responses that many conveyed either by a partner or a friend in Facebook status is an inquiry in the form of questions related to the matter written in LDMR couple in Facebook status. In addition to inquiry and inquiry advice or assessment is a response that many appear to rank second after questions and investigations. This means that many responses are curiosity, or the current popular language is "kepo". With the following percentages: Evaluative 14.7%, interpretative 3.5%, supportive 4.9%, 15.4% probe, understand 7.7% and the last combination 2.8%.

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