

## Construction Meaning of Smoking through Teenage Girl Smoker Perspective

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### Abstract

Social phenomena in smokers in Indonesia, which are generally close to male portraits, have become a common sight among people. It will be another scene in which this collection represents a female figure, there will be more and more social differences that will lead to a dark corner. The purpose of this study discusses the meaning of smoking in the perspective of women who become smokers, the reasons why teenagers smoke and communication experiences in the social environment. The method used in this study is the phenomenology of Alfred Schutz. The analysis shows that female teenage smokers do this when smoking is related to self-confidence and becomes a relief or minimizes the problems they suffer. These teenage smokers interpret cigarettes: first, smoking is a relationship of intimacy and friendship. Because cigarettes can dilute the compilation room to carry out social activities in the environment. Second, smoking by necessity. It cannot be canceled because it has become a habit and a habit. Third, smoking as a lifestyle. It has become a trend / slang and is considered someone present. One reason to become teenage smokers is inseparable from existence because of the reason before it was launched for the purpose that was the cause of teenage girls who smoked and their purpose of becoming smokers.

**Keywords:** meaning construction, smoking, phenomenology, adolescents.

### INTRODUCTION

Indonesian population become the biggest smoker population in ASEAN. The report of Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance (SEATCA) titled The Tobacco Control Atlas, ASEAN Region show that Indonesia is a country with the greatest number of smokers in ASEAN, which is about 65.19 million of people. This number is equal with 34 percent of the total population of Indonesian people in 2016. Smoking is an activity reaping pros and cons as well become a social polemic in Indonesia. For some people consuming, smoking has a lot of fun, making comfortable, and etc. While for some no smoking people, smoking is useless activity. This activity become a habitual for smoker causing material loss, health and social. Indonesian people are really close with this activity, even the more days pass the number of smoker increase. Until today, Indonesia is the fourth rank of the world in consuming cigarette. Based on the Central Bureau of Statistics data in 2015, from the result of Susenas, it can be noticed that people in over fifteen years old consuming cigarette is about 22.57 percent in urban area and 25.05 percent in rural area. The average number of cigarette stick spent in a week reach 76 sticks in urban area and 80 sticks in rural area.

The highest Government concentration in the effort of decreasing the number of cigarette consumer through the warning of the dangerous of smoking in various media. Even, there is a

government regulation (PP. no. 109 year 2012) having content about the material of cigarette, cigarette packaging, health warning, no smoking area, advertising control, etc.

According to Maya (2018) in the study said that “about 80 percent of 1.1 billion of smoker in the world is in the country region with the lowest to average earning and cause a heavy burden for the country in countermeasure disease and death due to the effect of the tobacco. When the cigarette has no relation to the moral consequence and ethics, cigarette become the common thing and can be consumed by all of people without regarding the gender and social, so the cigarette is just a cigarette. However, in society perspective, smoking become an appropriate thing for men only without any negative judgement. While, when women smoke, strange view, negative judgement can be ejected from people surrounding. Various slanted moral judgement addressed to the women doing smoke in common area. Bad opinion such as women in quotes “wild”, “mischievous”, “scoundrel” when people look at women smoking.

Community culture in Indonesia, there is a certain opinion about women and men. Men are assumed as individual having masculine character such as strong, dominant, rational. While women are assumed having feminism character such as mellow, emotional, sensitive, full of love. The understanding about there is a difference between men and women in society create a grouping

between social behavior and anti-social behavior including appropriate and inappropriate behavior, expected and unexpected behavior from men and women.

Smoking behavior in women become a controversy about the ethics in certain society circle which finally create various opinion. Smoking is assumed as uncommon and unusual thing if it is committed by women, due to the special character making women and men are different is smoking. Along with community development which is more modern, smoking habit now days is not assumed as taboo thing in social life.

The level of smoking habit in adult people circle become a reflection for teenager to imitate that habit. It is supported by the higher level of need in modern life style, make teenager especially women to try new things in their life. In this case, there are many factors caused women choose to consume the cigarette and become smoker.

This research use phenomenology theory of Alfred Schutz that according to him, human construct the meaning from out of mainstream experience through “typification”. The relationship between meaning is organized through this process, or can be called as stock of knowledge. So a set knowledge has practical advantage from the world itself, not only as knowledge about the world (Kuswarno, 2013). Schutz concentrate the concern to the way people understand the other’s awareness while their life in genre of awareness themselves. This comprehension they obtain by doing interaction each other, eventually the process of meaning occurring. Interaction meant is an interaction between individual by industrialization exist in their surroundings, and the special meaning appear toward industrialization. This process done by other individual to build up his/herself. This world is individual construction toward the situation of extern environment and intern individual, therefore in the process of meaning is begun with the stream of experience which is continuous and accepted by the senses.

Schutz (in Basrowi, 2004) mention that there is a “because motive” before “in order motive” happen. Because motive means a caused motive which is underlined an action from

individual, this motive become a consideration material of individual, where the individual has a changing in social behavior change and social problem. While in order motive means motive of aim becoming a target or hope of individual when they choose to smoke.

The meaning and awareness doing the action is done by every factor which try to build the meaning. These actors life never come out from social world they own, therefore the process of act always get a part when the awareness act over the data of sense which is raw to create a meaning so that they can notice something ambivalent character from the distance without step in more closely, identify through a process by connecting with the background.

## METHOD

This research used quantitative method by phenomenology approach. Phenomenology view from because of motive is cause motive which is underline an act of individual, this motive become a material consideration of individual, where the individual has a changing in social behavior change and social problem. While in order motive means motive of aim becoming a target or hope of individual when they choose to smoke (Basrowi, 2004).

Research location is conducted in Majalengka District because Majalengka is a District with heterogenic community and according to the data the level of smoking cigarette consumer in rural area is more than urban area. The subject in this research is smoking teenager girl and active smoker by purposive sampling technic, the subject of this research is determined based on the categorization which have been determined by the researcher.

## DISCUSSION

Teenager girl understanding about smoking, where in this case the understanding between consuming cigarette and the relation with the social factor. Today, the smoker will be identified with men. If the smoker in this case committed by teenager girl, the social view will more lead to negative side.

According to Wirawan (in Putro, 2017) explain that to define the teenager should

appropriate with the culture, so for Indonesia used the limitation of age 11 to 24. This research is revealed based on subjective experience from informant, SW (19 years old) is a teenager girl, active smoking for three years, HI (16 years old) is a young teenager, active smoking for two months, and AM (17 years old) is a teenager admitting become a smoker for the last three years.

Smoking behavior is a dangerous behavior for health, but still there are many people committing. Smoking behavior is many influenced by several things, which one of them is environment condition including home environment, family environment and social environment. Smoking habit is influenced by some factors, both external and internal, such as parents' education, the lack of parents' control and neighborhood, such as siblings and close friends which causes someone decide to smoke. Besides, smoking habit in teenager girl is influenced also by life style which is range. The assumption that women smoking is assumed as modern women, sexy, glamour, mature and independent is one of the trigger factors of women decide becoming a smoker. Not only that, women having smoking habit usually using cigarette as a tool for runaway from the problem they faced.

The majority of smoker women dissemble that by smoking can decrease or loss the stressful and can relieve a little burden they bear. Therefore, after smoking they feel comfortable and more relax in solving life problem (Bangun, 2008).

According to Alfred Schutz, this condition occurs due to "because of motive" before "in order to motive" occur. Because of motive means cause motive which underlined an action from individual when they decided to smoke, this motive become a material consideration of individual when they having a change in social behavior change and social problem. While in order motive means motive of aim becoming a target or hope of individual when they choose their own way to socialize with other individual (Basrowi, 2004).

In this case, smoking is an action where women committing smoking always assumed as taboo and inappropriate, moreover if the women wearing hijab. (George Ritzer, 2009) several facts

reveal that the more friend committing smoking the more possibility friends of them are smoker also and vice versa. There are two possibility happen from the fact, first the individual is influenced by his/her friends or vice versa. This case means that positive or negative friend they have will influence the form of individual identity.

Smoking as a frustration shape, in this modern era, smoking is a familiar view. Smoking habit is assumed can give a pleasure for smoker, one of background things of individual commit smoking is to loss their frustration and assume that their action is not violation. Frustration is a thing which attach to everyone life in certain shape, heavy or easy level, different in long and short term. Ever or will have, no one can escape.

Tristiadi (2007:37) states that frustration is a disappointed caused by the failure of achievement of a goal or a tension condition which is not pleasure, fulfilled with sympathetic feeling and activity which is more high causing by the obstacle and resistance. Frustration is basically caused by misunderstanding of individual on the boundaries about themselves. This case is in line with smoking activity committing by individual in front of others, mainly committed in front of their group due to they are interested and bound with their group. When an individual in frustration condition, he/she more prefer a problem solving by trying something new and most of them choose an activity which make them feel comfortable and easeful. However, the way they resolve disappointed feeling is also heterogeneous. When one individual having desperate condition, he/she will observe other's action which one can help him/her to resolve his/her desperate feeling, though that action is not appropriate with the norms and the role he/she has.

Smoking as a diversion way of conflict. Smoking behavior is more based on emotional consideration of an individual when having some problem in family environment. A mature individual and having own thought even more having high level education will have a period of maturity transition which is more than others (Maselena et al., 2019). Along with the transition period, most of parents did not aware about the growth experience by their children. The family problem between a father and mother is often revealed in front of them. The parents' influence

is very important for an individual growth, according to Alfred Schutz a condition with “because of motive” before “in order to motive” happen. Parents’ education is really important and influenced on the individual’s emotion and growth. One of the founding about the smoker that the teenagers coming from desperate family, where their parents did not really care to their children and giving hard physical punishment are easier to become a smoker rather than the children with happy family. An individual committed smoking if their parents become a figure as heavy smoker, so it is liable that their children tend to follow.

Smoking meaning as friendship relationship, smoking behavior is also caused by the group of coeval’s influences. It often become the main factor in cigarette used problem by individual. During teenager period, an individual begins to spend his/her time more with coeval than his/her parents. This case means that a coeval friend has an important role for individual, since the teenager start to join coeval group. Coeval’s behavior toward the use of several substances such as nicotine can influence the individual to try it.

Some people try smoking to control their emotion such as desperate. Smoking may be assumed can increase their performance in test and the chance to reach the academic prestige (Hurlock, 1987). The strong influence of coeval is an important thing which cannot be underestimate in teenager period. Among the individual have a strong braid. In this coeval group, an individual applies the principle of life together and cooperation for the first time. The condition of coeval is really influenced the behavior, interest even attitude and teenager’s thought. Such as the influence of fashion style, life style, smoking and etc.

Smoking meaning as a need which cannot be left (opium). As we know, smoking is a mandatory thing for a part of society now days. From teenager to adult, from old to this era smoking has been something crucial need. It is not only a need for men, as the development of the era, smoking has been a need for women. “because of motive” in this phenomenon occurring due to modernization which accidentally replace the mindset and culture in

society, therefore the taboo thing is not existed more for society toward smoking women. From this case, it can be concluded that the smoking need cannot be dismissed. Therefore, “in order to motive” from the smoking need for teenager girl depends on each individual smoker. According to each individual, smoking is useful to resolve or help their mental condition.

Smoking meaning as life style. Smoking life style is not only means as friendship relationship or needs, but also means as life style for smoker. The development of human needs is triggered by scientific and technology progress which continuously having development from era to era. The more of human needs, the more demand of life style enhancement. As its impact, this case demand everyone to be always up to date. There are many factors caused a teenager girl become a smoker. Almost all of them said that the most influence factor of their smoking behavior is environment. Such as, society environment factor is able to change someone to be a heavy smoker. Society environment has a strong influence since in day life someone always having social interact. Besides social environment, family environment is also taking an important role in shaping someone’s behavior, in this case smoking behavior. Some of them confess that they begin to interested to smoke after finding one of family member having a smoke. This figure usually gives strong influence. Besides that, the factor which push an individual want to try something new including smoking is also cannot be ignored. An individual want to smoking comes from her/himself since having many things to be considered. So the smoking habit they committed is to overcoming stress.

Smoking meaning created from “because of motive” which is caused motive underlining an individual behavior. this motive become a material consideration of individual when they having a change in social behavior change and social problem. While in order motive means motive of aim becoming a target or hope of individual when they choose their own way to socialize with other individual (Basrowi, 2004). Smoking meaning for teenager girl as describe in picture below:

Smoking Meaning

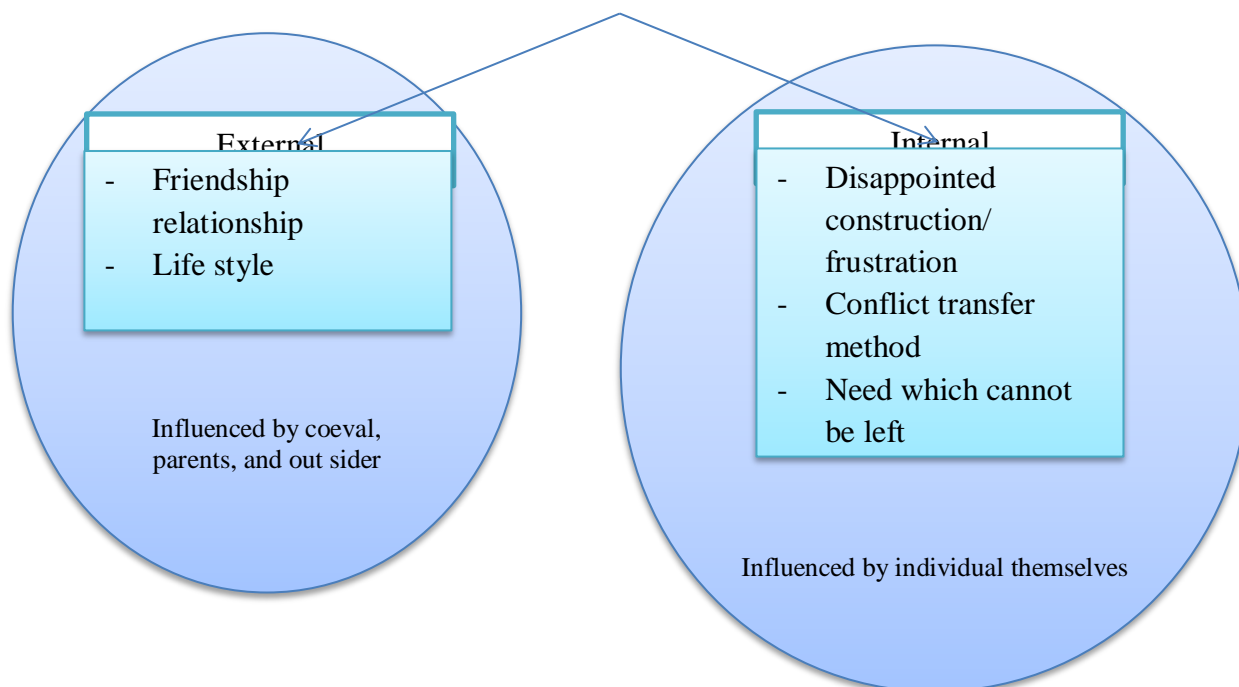


Figure 1. Model of Smoking Meaning

## CONCLUSION

Based on the research in the field and doing observation as well deep interviewing with the informant, the result of the research show that the smoker (teenager girl) committed smoking activity since they feel confident and minimalize the problem they faced. They interpret the smoking as, such as: the solidarity relationship, because smoking can melt the situation when they are doing social activity. Smoking as a need, smoking is something that cannot be left anymore since it become a habit. Smoking as lifestyle, smoking is assumed as modern life style. smoking

meaning also influenced by “because of motive” before “in order to motive” happen is a

cause of teenager girl committed smoke and the reason why they become smoker.

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