

# Empathy and Its Relation to Youth Nationalism in Jakarta

Rahmah Hastuti<sup>1\*</sup>, Pamela Hendra Heng<sup>1</sup>, Naomi Soetikno<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Psychology, Universitas Tarumanagara, Jakarta, Indonesia

\*Corresponding author. Email: rahmahh@fpsi.untar.ac.id

## ABSTRACT

One of factual condition is when observing changes in the attitude of nationalism that occurs in society. The role of nationalism and empathy has been examined from various research studies and representing a variety of perspectives. This study was conducted on 54 individuals who are at the stage of emerging adulthood age. This study uses two measuring instruments, heroism measurement tools, one of which is nationalism. Next, the empathy measurement tool was adapted from The Interpersonal Reactivity Index on the Empathic Concern Scale dimension. The results of the analysis using the Spearman correlation, prove that there is a positive correlation between nationalism and empathy variables with a correlation score  $r = 0.491$ ,  $p = 0.01 < 0.05$ . That is, the higher nationalism in individuals shows the higher empathy in individuals. Empirical findings from this study that nationalism and empathy of the participants are classified as high.

**Keywords:** nationalism, empathy, emerging adulthood

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Empathy is important for meaningful relationships in the social world. Although important, there still seems to be a lack of consensus in the field regarding the definition of empathy. Empathy primarily includes the cognitive ability to take other people's perspectives by understanding the thoughts, intentions, emotions, and beliefs of others. Others have placed emphasis on the affective emotional responses of empathy that are generated by the feelings and emotions of others [1]. Previous research has even shown a decrease in interpersonal skills and empathy today [2]. This research is crucial to be empirically examined given that each individual is a relational creature and always requires a deep and meaningful relationship of their lives [2]. The study of empirical research in the discipline of psychology also pretty much discusses the various needs in the context of social relations that are manifested in the desire for friends, love, and a sense of togetherness [2]. However, even though it is inherently interpersonal, and society as a whole does not seem to live with the full interpersonal potential it needs. This can be seen both in decreasing interpersonal skills and increasing interpersonal problems in recent years [2]. One other factual condition is when observing changes in the attitude of nationalism that occurs in society. The role of nationalism in adolescents has been examined by various research studies from various points of view. Previous research on "The implementation of postkibra extracurricular activities (flag-raising troops) in the formation of character, morals and nationalism attitudes of SMA Negeri 3 Surakarta students [3]. Previous studies were examined at SMA Negeri 3 Surakarta which has a

fairly high level of discipline. The selection of participants in the study was that who had participated in post- extracurricular activities, namely because they were closely related to the principles of discipline in their efforts to foster an attitude of nationalism. National comes from the word nation (nation). Stoddard [4], states that "nationalism is a spiritual state, that is, a belief held by a number of people who have a sense of nationality, a feeling of belonging together to become a nation and state". Social psychology has begun to pay attention to heroes and heroism. Zeno Franco and Philip Zimbardo show the difference between heroism and altruism [5], as well as empathy, which is part of a form of prosocial behavior. The concept of behavior that reflects heroic behavior that reflects nationalist attitudes is a complex and controversial topic in the literature. Its operationalization and categorization are often based more on folklore than on science, which originally came from literary legends and historical figures [5]. As for the previous research which also concerns the title raised by the researcher, namely research by Suropto [3] regarding "Implementation of Paskibra Extracurricular (Flag Raising Troops) in an Effort to Grow the Attitude of Student Nationalism in SMP Negeri 3 Malang". The orientation of nationalism is the nation state, the love of nationalism is more directed towards fellow nations. Nationalism means a united nation because of the same birth factor [3].

According to Omensen [3], the notion of nationalism experiencing diverse developments as a whole can be classified into three terms. First, nationalism is an ideology as well as a form of behavior. Second, nationalism is an ideal that wants to draw boundaries between individuals of one country and those of other nations. Third, nationalism is like a coin which has two sides, the first side is politics and the other side is ethnicity or ethnicity. According to Santoso [3], Indonesian nationalism is a movement that emerged since the 19th and early 20th centuries. According to Musa [3], nationalism contains the following values, among others,

unity, liberation and struggle and patriotism. Unity, which includes a sense of love for the motherland, implies that everyone is obliged to guard and preserve all that is above his homeland, so that awareness of the importance of national unity and integrity arises. This union is what according to Bung Hatta [3], as the first principle of nationalism. Then this principle also motivates the nation to unite and compete to advance Indonesia through educational values. Liberation and struggle related to nationalism are individual freedoms from human power or liberation from the oppression of slavery. Nationalism in this context builds the whole condition of the oppressed human reality towards a complete human being. The oppression that starts from the low thinking power and insight which leads to the low quality of education, so that it is easily defeated by foreign nations. The view related to patriotism is the spirit of patriotism, the attitude of someone who is willing to sacrifice everything for the glory and prosperity of his homeland. Another research conducted by Sartika [6], which examined "Cultivation of Nationalism through History Learning in Social Sciences Class XI Students in Jatilawang State High School". The results of his research are that through learning history students can foster nationalism values such as discipline, diversity, and unity. Next, a study conducted by Susanto [4] who examined "The study of the internalization of the values of nationalism in learning PPKn in SMP Negeri 1 Bandar Sribhawono, East Lampung". His research uses a survey method with a quantitative descriptive approach. The sample in this study were 84 respondents. Data analysis using Chi square and data collection techniques using questionnaires and supporting techniques using interviews and documentation. The results of this study indicate that the role of PPKn learning in SMP S 1 Bandar Sribhawono is categorized as having a role. Internalization of nationalism values in SMP S 1 Bandar Sribhawono was considered successful. The role of PPKn learning in internalizing nationalism values in SMP S 1 Bandar Sribhawono is categorized in the role category. Thus, the urgency of examining nationalism in the context of youth has been presented with various methods of its predecessor. Furthermore, the selection of research participants in this study is that youth, who are at the stage of emerging adulthood, are carried out with consideration at this age stage that they show their feelings to others more openly, able to express their thoughts which develop more complex over time so that they become less volatile in dealing with a variety of different experiences [7]. Individuals who are at this time also feel more accepted by other adults outside the family group become more important to them. Therefore, the formulation of the problem in this study is: "Is there a relationship between nationalism and empathy in emerging adulthood?"

## **2. METHOD**

The design of this research is non-experimental quantitative. Research subjects who acted as participants were selected using the purposive sampling method, that

is, sampling was based on respondents who were considered to be in accordance with the aims and objectives of the study. Subjects in this study were limited by certain characteristics, namely youth in the age range of emerging adulthood, and those netted as participants in this study were in the age range of 18 to 22 years.

### **2.1. Research Settings and Instruments**

This research was conducted in June to July 2019. The research instruments included: informed consent, the scale of nationalism using a measuring instrument developed by Hastuti and Budiarto [8], which was part of an assessment of heroism. Whereas, for empathy measurement using The Interpersonal Reactivity Index on Empathic Concern Scale dimensions [9].

### **2.2. Research Procedure**

Research preparation is carried out since compiling the proposal, starting with finding literature that fits the research topic. After the literature supporting the research is fulfilled, the preparation of measuring instruments and research instruments and research support equipment is carried out. Furthermore, the settings and profile of the research subjects are determined and the research design is formulated. Measuring instruments through the process of adaptation, back translation and validation testing are content validity through expert judgment. After going through the next content validity, face validity is carried out through a scale of readability which is done to prospective research participants in the amount of two people.

### **2.3. Research Implementation**

Researchers use data collection using google docs or google forms, and not through taking real data. In other words, the questionnaire was distributed, namely in electronic form (e-form). From the collected e-form questionnaires, a total of 43 questionnaires were completed. Researchers distribute it to study participants according to the specified characteristics. All research data processing was carried out using SPSS version 17 for windows. Data processing in this study was carried out using quantitative methods by means of calculation and statistical analysis with Statistical Product and Service Solution (SPSS) version 17 for windows according to data obtained from questionnaires in accordance with the relevant titles. Data analysis technique used is the correlation test to see the relationship between nationalism and empathy variables. Through statistical calculations, the data obtained on the nationalism variable is not normal, while for the normal empathy variable, the main data analysis uses the correlation technique namely Spearman correlation.

Next, different test techniques are also used, namely independent-samples T-Test for normal data and Mann-Whitney test for processing abnormal data when linked to additional data analysis to examine the differences between each variable with demographic data in this study.

**2.4. Measurement**

Based on the results of testing on the reliability of the two research variables, the heroism measuring instrument developed by Hastuti and Budiarto [8], which consists of 14 items, and in one of its dimensions, namely nationalism which consists of four items. Next, the measurement of empathy is based on the use of the measuring scale of the Interpersonal Reactivity Index and using measurements on one of its dimensions, the Emphatic Concern Scale dimension [9]. The first version of the empathy scale was more than 50 items, after a number of tests, a factor analysis was carried out to form four factors, one of which was the Emphatic Concern Scale dimension, which consisted of seven items.

**3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The description of the subjects in this study is generally grouped based on age, gender and descriptive research subjects' views on nationalism and efforts to improve nationalism. Based on data obtained about gender, male subjects numbered 11 people and the number of subjects with female sex numbered 43 people. A summary of the data can be seen in Table 1.

**Table 1** Demographic data of study participants by gender

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	11	25,6
Female	43	74,4

In the next section, we will discuss the picture of nationalism possessed by the participants in this study. The data description for nationalism uses a scale of 1 to 5 and has a hypothetical mean of 3. Meanwhile, the empirical mean of 3.7035. The empirical mean score is higher than the hypothetical mean score. Thus, it can be said that nationalism in research participants can be said to be high. Likewise, the data for empathy uses a scale of 1 to 5 and has a hypothetical mean of 3. While the empirical mean is 3.7641. As shown in the Table 2.

**Table 2** Comparison of empirical and hypothetical mean on nationalism and empathy variables

Variable	Hypothetical Mean	Empiric Mean	Meaning
Nationalism	3	3,7035	Tend to be high
Empathy	3	3,7641	Tend to be high

Based on the results of testing on the reliability of the two research variables, the heroism measuring instrument developed by Hastuti and Budiarto [8], in one of its dimensions, namely nationalism. The dimension of nationalism has four statements with the definition of nationalism, namely the positive value that develops in the sense of love for the motherland, and the willingness to sacrifice for the nation and state. Examples of items contained in this dimension are as follows, and all of them are positive items. "I am ready to sacrifice for the country". Through data processing, no items are wasted, because all items on this variable do not have a corrected item total correlation below 0.2, the internal consistency reliability coefficient of this dimension is 0.697.

Furthermore, for the empathy variable, too. The empathy variable uses a measuring scale, the Interpersonal Reactivity Index which is one of the dimensions, the Emphatic Concern Scale dimension [9]. The Emphatic Concern Scale dimension consists of seven items and includes three negative items, and four positive items. One statement on the negative point is, "The misfortune of others usually does not bother me very much", and an example of a statement on the positive point is, "I am often touched by the things I see happening". No items were wasted, because all items on this variable did not have a corrected item total correlation below 0.2, the internal consistency reliability coefficient of this dimension was 0.824. The results are summarized in the Table 3.

**Table 3** Reliability of nationalism and empathy variables

	Nationalism	Empathy
Number of positive items	4	4
Number of negative items	-	3
Before content validity & reliability test	4	7
After content validity & reliability test	4	7
Cronbach $\alpha$ reliability test before content validity	0,697	0,824
Cronbach $\alpha$ reliability test after content validity & reliability test	0,697	0,824

In analyzing the main data, the first thing to do is to test the classic assumptions namely to test the normality of data for each variable. Testing data normality is intended to determine the correlation technique that will be used in this study.

In this study normality testing uses the Kolmogorov-Smirnov one sample test technique. If the significance (p) of this test > 0.05 then the data is declared normally distributed. This is used as one of the references to state normally distributed data, and determine subsequent analyzes using parametric or nonparametric analysis. The normality test of nationalism variables shows that the data is not normally distributed. Kolmogorov-Smirnov value indicates the value of  $Z = 0.202$ ,  $p = 0.001 < 0.05$ . Meanwhile, for the normality test the total score of empathy variables shows that the data is normally distributed. Kolmogorov-Smirnov value shows the value

of  $Z = 0.101, p = 0.200 > 0.05$ . A full explanation can be seen in Table 4.

**Table 4** Data normality test results for nationalism and empathy variables

Variable	Kolmogorov-Smirnov (Z)	Sig. (2-tailed)	Information
Nationalism	0,101	0,200	Normal
Empathy	0,202	0,000	Not normal distributed

The next discussion is about analyzing the main data namely the correlation between the two variables. Spearman correlation is used in this study because based on the results of the previous normality test, one of the variables, empathy, is not normally distributed. Based on the results of the correlation on the two variables, namely nationalism and empathy, using the Spearman correlation,  $r = 0.491$ , and  $p = 0.001 < 0.05$ , meaning that there is a significant positive relationship between nationalism and empathy. The results also show that the level of correlation power (r) is a positive relationship. Meanwhile, the significance value (p) of 0.000 means that there is a significant relationship between variables. Thus, nationalism is proven to be related to empathy. If nationalism in the individual is high, empathy for the individual is also high.

**Table 5** Main data analysis results

Correlation	Correlation Coefficient (r)	Sig. (2 tailed)
Nationalism		
Empathy	0,491	0,001

Based on the analysis of additional data that is through the processing of different nationalism tests based on sex. For nationalism reviewed by sex using independent sample t-test analysis techniques, and obtained t values with equal variance not assumed = -1,175 and significance, (p) = 0.247. That is, there is no difference between nationalism between men and women.

**Table 6** Nationalism variable test review based on gender

Sex	Mean	T	Sig. (2 tailed)
Male	3,5000		
Female	3,7734	-1,175	0,247

Based on the analysis of additional data namely through the processing of empathy differences test based on sex. For empathy variables were reviewed based on sex using the Mann-Whitney test technique because the data distribution was not normally distributed, and t values were obtained with equal variance not assumed = -0.602 and significance, (p) = 0, 547. That is, there was no difference between empathy between men and women.

**Table 7** Empathy variable test variables reviewed by sex

Sex	Mean	Z	Sig. (2 tailed)
Male	20,05		
Female	22,67	-0,602	0,547

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This study aims to determine the relationship between nationalism variables with empathy variables. Based on the data analysis that has been done, it can be concluded that there is a significant positive relationship between nationalism and empathy. Based on the results of the correlation test produces a correlation coefficient  $r = 0.491, p = 0.01 < 0.05$ . That is, that the higher the empathy, the higher nationalism in individuals, and vice versa. The findings of this study reinforce the notion that when individuals have high nationalist attitudes, they also have high empathy. Empathy scores of participants in this study were high. However, this study has several limitations or limitations including the limited number of samples and the area that can be covered by researchers. Thus, due to these limitations, researchers cannot generalize to other regions.

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