

# Cultural Study: The Feeling of Love of *Buginese* Men

Wistita Winaudri  
University of Muhammadiyah Malang  
wistitawe07@gmail.com

Miftah Ellyan Anggi Djabbar  
University of Muhammadiyah Malang  
miftahellyananggi@gmail.com

**Abstract:** Love, in general, can be described as a meaningful thing and a basic need of every human being. Love can make someone feel safe or depressed if they do not have it. There is a correlation between loving, to be loved, and happiness. In Buginese culture for men, one of their ways to prove their love is ready to propose and give mahr with a large amount of *uang panai* when they get married. This study aims to identify Buginese men's thoughts about love. The participants in this study are 100 male college students who are in a relationship, but not married yet. The Love Thought was collected using Love Scale based on Rubin. The sample was taken by using purposive sampling. The result of this study shows that the intense feeling of Buginese men about their love for their partner tends to be in a high category. One of the factors is the mutual interest that they feel for their partner.

**Keywords:** love, Bugis, *panai*, culture

## Introduction

Bugis is one of the tribes in Indonesia that has its own uniqueness. One of the uniqueness of the Bugis is gender specifications and marriage traditions. In Bugis culture, *oroane* is a term for men who are both physical and role-oriented, who appear masculine and can establish relationships with women. Moreover, the tradition of accepting marriages from men is the provision of *uang panai* for women (Suliyati, 2018). So, what about "love" for her partner?

This study aims to identify the feeling of love of Buginese men towards their partner (not at the stage of marriage yet). It starts from giving money to the brides before marriage, which is called *uang panai* as part of the marriage culture among Bugis society. In this case, the men are required to give the women an agreed amount of *uang panai*. This money is different from the *mahr* given at the time of the marriage agreement (Di et al., 2012).

Giving *uang panai* is believed by some Buginese people as proof of love. In the perspective of materialism, all realities are composed and shaped by materials. From a psychological perspective, love is considered the most basic emotion in life and has an essential role in human mental health. Love makes people commit to a relationship such as marriage (Hoesni et al., 2013). Love is also considered the most sensitive feeling of all time experienced by people (Rubin, 1970). Love is associated with some factors, such as intimacy, affection, and commitment, and is the most significant component in the satisfaction of a relationship (Kansky, 2018).

In a broader scope, love can bring happiness, life satisfaction, and the presence of positive experiences. However, love can also be a source of stress, negative feelings and pain, especially if it is associated with dependency and obsession with a partner (Dush et al.

2005). The initial concept of love involves attraction, falling in love, and staying in love. Love is expressed through expressions in three words "I love you," which is an important depiction of the relationship. Expressions of love and affection are considered decisive moments in the progress of romantic relationships (Harrison, 2011).

Romantic relationships have several affecting factors, one of which is the individual's thoughts about love. Romantic couples can look unrealistic depending on how they understand love by realizing that love is built on positive illusions and delusions (Taylor et al., 2009). Therefore, the current study seeks to identify how strong the feeling of love of Buginese men is when they want to perpetuate marriage, especially when associated with the local culture.

Interpersonal attractiveness is based on experience, liking, friendship, admiration, and love. This attraction is the main element in a romantic relationship, so that it will foster a stronger love. Love will make the relationship more lasting (Dayakisni & Yuniardi, 2008).

Love in the last few decades has become scientific research in the field of psychology (Berscheid & Regan, 2005). As many as 40% of students do not know the concept of romantic love and love at first sight (Averil & Boothroyd, 1977) because each person has a different experience of falling in love. Falling in love and meeting someone suitable makes someone have feelings, that is called love. Sometimes these feelings of love can directly impact on obeying what their partner wants to do or listening to all of their partner's stories. Love does not focus on attitude but rather on feelings between two people (Kenrick & Johnson, 1979).

Love is conceptualized as an attitude aimed at another person or a collection of different thoughts towards a loved one. There are three concepts in love, namely (1) attachment, understanding the needs of

partners and being aware of the interdependence (2) attention, increasing happiness and responsibility to partners (3) open and mutual trust (Rubin, 1973).

Understanding of love differs from one culture to another. A culture, especially eastern culture, has control of passion and commitment to living a relationship (Doron & Szepeswol, 2012). Love contains cognitive components such as commitment and one's understanding of how to love. The commitment can be in the form of attention, doing something to maintain the relationship to last long, protecting relationships from danger, and improving relationships when there are problems (Tunner & Helms, 1995).

## Methods

This study uses descriptive quantitative to determine the value of the variables to be measured (either one variable or more). This research was conducted using a scale as a measurement tool, which can be used for research in both small and large populations (Darmawan, 2014).

## Participants

The population in this study cannot be determined by researchers because the exact data on the number of *Buginese* male college students on *Sulawesi* island could not be found. The population in this study belongs to the unlimited population. Participants in this study were male students who had and were having a partner, *Bugis*, residing on the island of *Sulawesi*, and not married yet. The sampling technique used non-probability sampling, namely purposive sampling. Participants in this study were 100 *Buginese male* college students ( $M=21.92$ ;  $SD = 1.67$ ).

## Instrument and procedure

Data were collected using a questionnaire love scale to measure the power of love in *Buginese* men from Rubin with 3 aspects, namely attachment, attention to others, and mutual trust and openness to couples with a Cronbach alpha 0.762. The questions in the questionnaire distributed had 9 options, ranging from number 1 for incorrect answers to number 9 for very true (Rubin, 1970). This scale also comes with demographic questions for participants (name, age, origin, ethnicity, duration of dating).

Participants fill in the scale through an online questionnaire about love scale by sending to several online websites via Whatsapp, Email, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. The data collection was carried out in one month, where participants were advised to answer honestly because the data collected will be kept confidential, although the participation was voluntary.

## Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using descriptive statistical

tests with the help of SPSS 22 for windows. The descriptive analysis method is a statistical method used to analyze data by describing data that has been collected as it is without intending to make conclusions that apply to the public or generalization (Sugiyono, 2008).

## Result

The results of the analysis showed that 57% of *Buginese* men had strong feelings of love for their partners, and 43% did not have it.

Table 1. Categorization of Love Scale in Buginese men

| Score       | Category   | Frequency & Percentage |
|-------------|------------|------------------------|
| $X < 47.67$ | Strong     | 57 (57%)               |
| $82.33 < X$ | Weak       | 43 (43%)               |
| Total       | 100 (100%) |                        |

\* Data were divided into 2 categories, namely high and low. If  $X \geq \text{Median} = \text{low}$ ; If  $X < \text{Median} = \text{high}$

## Discussions

*Buginese* men have courage, tenacity, self-esteem, and determination. It is the typical eastern Indonesians. Besides, they display feelings of respect, care for others, have the desire to help, and show morality. This principle is a proof that Bugis parents try to instill strong values in their children (Afandi et al., 2016). For some aspects, it can affect the feeling of love of Buginese men.

Respondents who have high love power were illustrated in the concept of love from Erich Fromm. In this case, love is shown by action in the form of human strength, which is manifested in freedom. It implies that love is present without coercion. Love is also manifested in action; that is, the act of giving and not receiving (Wisnuwardani & Mashoedi, 2012).

Someone with a strong feeling of love has an attachment to his partner. Men understand their partner's needs and are aware that their partner depends on him. In this research, respondents with a strong feeling of love understand their partners' needs. In this case, we can associate it with a marriage where men realize that their partners are very dependent on one culture in the process of marriage, thus wishing to receive *uang panai* (Rubin, 1970).

The relationship of closeness, attachment, feeling of security and comfort, as well as caring for their partners is a way of thinking shown by affection to their partners (Meier & Allen, 2007). Caring for each other also makes relationships between partners closer, become an emotionally and physically safe place, and can foster trust between women and men (Bowlby, 1982).

The existence of trust is the basis of interpersonal relationships between the two. Trust is based on openness, acceptance, and support for their partners. If the relationship goes well, it makes the feeling of love

towards the partner also stronger. Besides, the important thing in a relationship is communication. Excellent communication with partners about either problem or plans in the future will strengthen the feeling of love (Jhonson, 1997). If connected with *uang panai*, the men are ready from the beginning when they decide to start having a relationship with women.

In gender roles, women show more sensitive aspects such as jealousy and prefer to be privileged. Research with a sample of 1000 students showed that 65% of men would not have a relationship and marry someone who does not have love (Andrade et al., 2015). *Buginese* men prepare for the future to show seriousness and trust in their partners, and the preparations are both in a job and materials.

In other similar research, men choose a partner based on love (Ackerman & Li, 2011). Love can also be described in the form of giving and not receiving (Fromm, 1956). Based on this research, it can be interpreted that a *Buginese* man who is ready to propose a woman has prepared *uang panai*.

Cross-cultural studies look at love from three things: intimacy, commitment, and passion (Gao, 2001), where Chinese (Asian) men and women have a high commitment to their partners. This is in line with the results of previous research in which the power of love with a commitment to the male was high among *Buginese* (Asian) men (Steinberg, 1986). Another study found that commitment in a relationship is an essential component in a relationship with love. This influences long-term relationships in couples and their seriousness (Putri, 2010).

The important thing is how you show love to someone you love and how you receive the love of the person. The final stage of choosing a partner is to develop relationships with a high commitment since the end goal is marriage (DeGenova, 2008).

## Conclusions

The results of this study revealed that *Buginese* men have a strong feeling of love towards their partners (even before married). Attachment, attention, trust, and openness makes *Buginese* men have a strong feeling of love. In other words, they love their partners sincerely and seriously. Moreover, they know that there are big things to be prepared besides materials (*uang panai*) when they are going to take a more serious step since it is an absolute thing in *Buginese* culture.

Love will always be an interesting thing in human life to discuss. Love can also help overcome obstacles. We all cannot choose who our mothers, our fathers, or our children are. However, the only thing we can choose is a partner. The most important thing in love is the way you show love to your partner and how you receive love from your partner.

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