

## Interpersonal Communication Dynamics among Members at 'Toygraphy ID' Community

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### ABSTRACT

In general, in a community, various relationship dynamics are created within its members, and the Toygraphy ID community is no exception. In it, an interpersonal communication process takes place where members can build good, open, intimate relationships, and obstacles and solutions arise in building relationships with each other. For this reason, qualitative research examining the Social Penetration Theory will describe the phenomenon among Toygraphy ID members. The use of Social Penetration Theory as an analytical tool is intended by the author to identify the stages that occur and are experienced by resource persons who are members of communities connected online but active in face-to-face activities/events. In general, the initial stages are not constrained, where members will try to explore each other based on the common hobbies they have. Therefore, starting from a qualitative-descriptive approach, it was found that from the informants' accounts, each member interacted with each other in developing relationships, the majority of which was carried out in the form of discussions/toy photography activities. However, this kind of communication often encounters obstacles because each member comes from diverse backgrounds. In the end, based on the results of research on five sources, it was found that members of the Toygraphy ID community had experienced five stages in social penetration theory, namely orientation, affective exploration, affective exchange, stable exchange, and the depenetration stage. For this reason, it is hoped that the results of this research will provide theoretical implications in the future with the emergence of group communication studies.

### ABSTRAK

*Pada umumnya, dalam sebuah komunitas, tercipta ragam dinamika hubungan di dalam anggotanya, tidak terkecuali dalam komunitas Toygraphy ID. Di dalamnya, berjalan proses komunikasi interpersonal dimana para anggota dapat membangun hubungan yang baik, terbuka, akrab, dan terjadi hambatan serta solusi dalam membangun relasi satu sama lain. Untuk itu, penelitian kualitatif yang mengupas Teori Penetrasi Sosial ini akan mendeskripsikan fenomena diantara anggota Toygraphy ID. Penggunaan Teori Penetrasi Sosial sebagai pisau analisis dimaksudkan penulis untuk mengidentifikasi tahapan-tahapan yang terjadi dan dialami para narasumber yang merupakan anggota komunitas yang terhubung secara online namun aktif dalam kegiatan/event secara tatap muka. Secara umum, tahapan-tahapan awal tidak terkendala dimana para anggota akan berusaha melakukan peninjauan satu sama lain berdasarkan kesamaan hobi yang dimiliki. Oleh karenanya, berangkat dari pendekatan kualitatif-deskriptif, ditemukan bahwasanya dari penuturan para narasumber, masing-masing anggota saling berhubungan satu sama lain dalam*

*mengembangkan relasi, yang mayoritas dilakukan dalam bentuk diskusi/aktivitas fotografi mainan. Akan tetapi, komunikasi seperti ini sering menemui hambatan dikarenakan tiap anggota berasal dari latar belakang yang beragam. Hingga pada akhirnya, berdasarkan hasil penelitian terhadap lima narasumber, didapati bahwasanya para anggota komunitas Toygraphy ID telah mengalami lima tahapan dalam teori penetrasi sosial, yaitu orientasi, penjajakan afektif, pertukaran afektif, pertukaran stabil, hingga tahapan depenetrasi. Untuk itu, hasil penelitian ini diharapkan memberikan implikasi teoritis di masa depan dengan munculnya kajian-kajian komunikasi kelompok.*

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**Kata kunci:** *Penetrasi sosial, komunitas, Toygraphy ID*

## INTRODUCTION

A community is a social group where people have the same goal to interact with each other. Communities can gather and unite people from various backgrounds, thereby creating a sense of family (Putri, 2021). In a community, good relationships are very important so that members can be open to each other. Especially in a new environment, someone must adapt to be bounded among other members from various backgrounds. To have deep relationships among the members in a group, someone needs to gain relationships widely. Hence, someone can get to know other people gradually and become familiar with each other. Including maintaining online relationships.

Undoubtedly in this modern era, technology has developed online engagement. There are several social media that can be used by a community such as Instagram, *WhatsApp, Line, Facebook, YouTube*, etc. Through the existing media, the online community can be formed by using such technology to unite and connect with many people.

Then refer to the existing community, the stressing point is the interpersonal communication. As a process, communication within a community member can be run well and harmoniously. Even though there are obstacles in the online communication process, each member must be open in order to be bound by the same identity as the member. That's why, building good relationships in online communities must be done effectively, between leader and member or among the members. The challenge itself met by online communities lies in long distance relations, in which people interact by using the internet.

Among online communities in Indonesia, there is a photography community called Toygraphy ID. This community is the first photography community in Indonesia to use toys as photography objects. One of the uniqueness found in the ID Toygraphy community is that the community combines the hobby of collecting toys with photography, thus providing a new 'color' in the world of photography. This community was first founded in 2012. Initially, the community was called Toy Republik Indonesia, but it changed to Toygraphy ID. The founder met the community's members on Instagram and formed Toygraphy ID.

The purpose of forming this community is to learn toy photography. Apart from learning to photograph toys, the Toygraphy ID community is also a place to channel the same hobby, such as the hobby of showing off toy photography on social media Instagram, then the hobby of liking costumes from fictional characters or cosplay, watching superhero films like Marvel and so on. In essence, this community is open to many hobbies besides things related to toy photos. Initially, this community did not have a vision and mission, but as time went by they wanted to introduce the art of photography with toys as objects.

In a community, good relationships are very important so that members can be open to each other. If there is a person who has just joined a new environment, then that person will of course still feel strange towards new people from various backgrounds in life. To build close relationships between fellow community members, a person needs to build close relationships with other people. That way, someone can get to know other people gradually and become familiar with each other. Building good relationships in online communities must be done effectively, because of course the way to build relationships between leaders and members can be different from non-online communities. The challenge faced by online communities is long distance communication, which means people in the community have to communicate using the internet. Moreover, online communities are social associations that use the internet and social media to communicate with each other and form networks (N. Puspitasari & Purwani, 2022)

Thus, the author wants to find out how members in the Toygraphy ID community can build and maintain good relationships in understanding each other, even though in a long-distance communication. Besides that, the author is also interested in knowing the obstacles experienced while in relationships since the members of the Toygraphy ID community come from different backgrounds. However, bounded by the same hobby and interest, communication among members can be run with openness. This reality is also relevant to the result of previous research that analyses the relationship among community members. One of them is observed through Bumble application users. In this online community, in line with the stages in Social Penetration Theory, each individual

who becomes a partner can communicate spontaneously and easily share their experiences because they feel compatible. As long as their relationship is deeper, there will be an increased need among Bumble application users to meet directly to know each other and start a more intimate relationship (I. Puspitasari et al., 2022)

Next, in explaining the phenomenon, this article will discuss by applying Social Penetration Theory. Introduced by Altman and Taylor, Social Penetration Theory focuses a process for building social relationships and increasing disclosure and intimacy in relationships. Altman and Taylor stated four stages of social penetration, namely (1) orientation; (2) exploratory affective exchange; (3) affective exchange, and (4) positive exchange balanced (Littlejohn & Foss, 2018) (Novianti, 2021). The Social Penetration Theory can also be analogous to the layers of an onion, the outermost layer is something that can only be seen from the outside and does not yet reveal a person's identity. The deepest layer is a person's true personality. On other sides, there are four layers of the onion, namely (1) surface disclosure; (2) peripheral disclosure; (3) intermediate disclosure, and (4) final or central layer (Abdurrahman et al., 2021). Meanwhile, in contrast to the theory, apart from these four stages, there is another new stage called the depenetration stage, that occurs due to the breakdown of social relations, causing conflict and termination of relationships (Nurdin, 2020).

Then to support the main theory, the author also explores interpersonal communication. In this research, the form of non-formal communication is carried out by two or more people, carried out to express ideas, notions, feelings to other people in order to build social relationships in their environment (Rahmi, 2021). Interpersonal communication requires a process, so that communication within a community can be established well and harmoniously. It is natural for every person who has just joined a new environment to feel unfamiliar with the people around. Even though there are obstacles or obstacles in communicating, each member must be open, so that they can understand their identity and harmony as members of the community. In the process of interpersonal communication itself, noise becomes a communication barrier experienced by communicators and communicants who are sharing information. That's why, this concept also leads the author to seek for noise-causing communication barriers within the Toygraphy ID community in building relationships (Wello & Novia, 2021). Here, the author tries to dig through all the stages experienced by the members of the community to reveal the usage of the interpersonal communication concept.

## **METHODS**

This descriptive qualitative research uses the constructivism paradigm to understand the world through a person's real experience and its reconstructive nature (Haryono, 2020). The constructivism paradigm creates and constructs messages, and is used in interpersonal communication science research (Nurhadi, 2017). The communication science tradition used is sociocultural, namely the communication science tradition which concerns the process of interaction between people in social groups which can form social interactions, a person has an identity that plays a role in social life, and becomes part of a community and has a culture (Daud et al., 2022). Also, language can shape reality, so interactions can influence everything found in research (Littlejohn & Foss, 2018).

The data collection technique relies on in-depth interviews with five key informants who are the members of the Toygraphy ID community. The criteria are as follows: members of the Toygraphy ID community for more than two years, so that the members are also familiar with other members. The informants are Rozi, Haikal, Aiden, Tio Danu and Anantha. To collect the data, the author uses triangulation as a data validity technique to increase understanding when searching for data in the field, and re-match information from sources (Sugiyono, 2013). Finally, data analysis techniques are applied to interpret the data through (1) data reduction by simplifying and separating field data; (2) Data display is an analysis process to draw conclusions and take action based on the information that has been collected and compiled; and (3) conclusion/verification, namely the process of data analysis by recording everything seen or interviewed by the researcher (Yusuf, 2017).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### ***Results***

#### **Stages of Social Penetration Theory**

##### **1) Orientation Stage**

In this orientation stage, the informants share and discuss simple topics about toys, such as action figure collections, types of cameras used for toy photography, and also topics related to pop culture. The orientation stage only reveals a little information about oneself. This is also referred to as the introduction stage in a social interaction with the public. Generally, this can be done carefully, in avoiding social expectations. Among Toygraphy ID, the members can experience the orientation stages easily. In this early stage, this can happen where someone is just getting to know a new environment and other people, by having short, simple and unimportant conversations (Novianti, 2021). The general issues will be delivered among them, as seen from the interview below:

*"The topics discussed are definitely not far from toys, photo tips like that, the same poison for toys as others, share the Tokopedia link, like that. "When we first met, we would definitely chat first, especially talking about toys, poisoning, that kind of thing." (Haikal, April 9 2023)*

*"If I usually have the same approach as a member, I ask, what toy is this? So, usually there are some toys that I don't know, ask what toys? What line? So what camera are you using? These are the three questions that are usually asked of new children, that is. If we talk about the most basic thing, what collection do you have? What's your latest collection? If you're talking about hobbies, then we'll probably recall his last post or maybe ask, where have you been? Why didn't you post yesterday? "That's right, usually there are some who are no longer active, but are still active in the community, so they are still trying to maintain connections between members." (Aiden, April 9 2023)*

## **2) Exploratory Affective Exchange Stage**

To the following stage, a person begins more. In general, there is an attraction to the person interacting with someone who is also starting to open up to themselves. The characteristic of social interactions that have entered the exploratory stage is that they already have more vocabulary or language that is only understood by one another. Within the Toygraphy ID, this occurs after several informants began to open up into the new environment, they discussed general topics with their friends in the Toygraphy ID community. The general topics discussed by them are quite varied, such as action figures, films, video games, pop culture, and also superhero comics.

Members of this community have also reviewed Marvel super hero films and action figure characters from these superhero films. Through these public discussions, several informants became interested in getting to know their new friends. This is in line with the exploratory affective exchange stage, namely the second stage after orientation, a person begins to be open with the person they are talking to, and starts by talking about general things. A person begins to be friends with the interlocutor (Novianti, 2021) as shown below:

*"Personally, I am open when talking about the camera with several people, not everyone is invited to chat. "The general topics are different, sometimes games, toys, cameras, I even like to talk about artists, things like that." (Haikal, April 9 2023)*

*"Everything, like for example next month there is a new film, then before the film is shown we usually talk about that film, that particular film, then for example we agree to have a film, usually we have a discussion, for example Marvel, for example, Guardians of the Galaxy, right? "They'll definitely come out with new toys too, okay? Then we'll talk about those toys too." (Rozi, April 15 2023)*

## **3) Affective Exchange Stage**

At the third stage, interaction arises because of commitment and comfort. Someone can build intimate interaction and closer relationships. Intimacy is a form of feeling comfortable, relaxed without the burdens that occur with one another. In the community, after several informants had discussed general matters with their friends in the Toygraphy ID community, they began to be interested in discussing specific and more in-depth topics intimately. The specific topics discussed by the informants were very varied, from action figure collections, toy photography, asking about Instagram hashtags used for toy photography feeds, toy collectors, cosplay, and also the personal problems of each member. One of the interviews showing the deep interaction is as follow:

*"There's nothing specific, but for example, a specific topic, maybe something like a hashtag every day? This is what I said earlier, it's like boosting your photos, you know a lot of people on Instagram, usually there's a hashtag session, usually it's shared by one of the many communities, from abroad or within the country, so usually there are people who report it like that the most we ask is what is today's hashtag? Then you'll definitely let me know and not just one person will update, but lots of people will update until finally at the maximum time for posting, all the hashtags have been collected, like that. And that's the most important thing is sharing toys." (Aiden, April 9 2023)*

After discussing specific topics, the informants began discussing in-depth chats with their friends in the Toygraphy ID community. The in-depth conversations they talked about were about personal problems in life and also personally criticizing other communities similar to the Toygraphy ID community, but some of the informants who were interviewed had not discussed their personal problems and criticized other communities with friends in the Toygraphy ID community. In their friendship, the physical gestures they made were high-fiving each other, bro-fisting, and greeting them. Based on what was said by several informants who were interviewed, the Toygraphy ID community has collaborated with several hobby communities.

*"I have, but I didn't ask in a public space, because public spaces definitely have their own limitations, whereas if the approach is usually by PC (Private Chat), for example, there is someone who sells our action figures on the PC first from there, oh, I've started getting closer, starting to get closer, "Then*

*usually we confide, talk about anything, like life problems or whatever, from my experience it's like that."* (Aiden, April 9 2023)

The third stage that has been implemented by informants from the Toygraphy ID community is in line with the affective exchange stage, namely the stage when someone starts to socialize and talk about general things to personal things. If someone has reached the affective stage, they have discussed a topic in depth, started criticizing the topic, and started personal touches (Novianti, 2021).

#### 4) Stable Exchange Stage

For the last stage, individual relationships have reached the stage of exchanging feelings and thoughts with openness and comfort. Individuals build interactions at a more intense and intimate level. Because they have spoken about the honesty of their hearts, thoughts and feelings. Stable exchange means building a behavior that is repetitive in nature. So that, the closest people can guess and understand his feelings and thoughts. When all the informants had discussed specific and in-depth topics, they were already quite familiar and open with their friends in the Toygraphy ID community, but some of the informants did not know them, knew them a little, or knew their personalities well. and the uniqueness of his friends in the community.

*"The unique thing is, usually it's in the chairman, Mr. Oji, he sometimes, for example, at an event we fill a booth, he always cosplays Pokemon, with his children too, sometimes he also cosplays, for example, when there's a "buka bersama" or something, he likes to cosplay as Arab sultans like that." costume."* (Tio Danu, April 15 2023)

Based on the results of interviews with several informants, the Toygraphy ID community has a high sense of concern for its members, such as praying for those who are sick and those who have died, providing food to members who are manning a booth at an event, and making donations to orphanages. care. Some of the informants who were interviewed wanted to discuss personal matters outside the community, but there were also those who felt that private discussions had limits on who to discuss these matters with.

*"Very, like some of us may have apologized beforehand, if some of them may have left us first, of course we also share information with each other, we visit too, maybe friends who are sick, we pray for a speedy recovery, those are the little things that I also think make others sensitive to each other."* (Aiden, April 9 2023)

Based on the results of interviews with several informants, they want to create friendships within the Toygraphy ID community to exchange ideas and look at problems, such as resolving the problem of late giveaways, the joys and sorrows of being a freelance worker, and the problem of members getting laid off from the company where they work.

*"Yes, of course I want to, like one of my friends at TGI often exchanges ideas, problems and becomes a place to vent, because at TGI itself there is Haikal who was interviewed yesterday, there is also a friend of mine whose name is Anantha so we have been friends for quite a long time, and because TGI, started discussing toys, got close and finally discussed personal things. eee, for example, about college, what are you busy with, what work are you doing, for example in class, for example about freelancing, usually we share what freelancing is like, how hard it is to freelance, what the office is like, chat about that . "* (Aiden, April 10, 2023)

The fourth stage that has been carried out by several informants who have been interviewed can be said to be in line with the balanced exchange stage, namely the stage when someone is quite familiar with another person, is open, and knows each other's unique and personal things (Novianti, 2021).

Meanwhile, contrast to stages above, at the depenetration stage, some of the informants had experienced differences of opinion with friends in the Toygraphy ID community, which caused conflict in friendships. For example, there are differences of opinion regarding what the Toygraphy ID community should be like. The informant's way of resolving these differences of opinion is by respecting each other's opinions so that the friendship between the two members is not broken.

*"From myself, eh, how should we respond to how we will hold the gathering later? What kind of theme? How good is it? There are additional places, additional inserts for this and that, even like yesterday, a little story, at TGI, it used to be with Anantha, it was more about the problem of where we tend to take ourselves as TGI. In the past, I and Anantha wanted to direct TGI and hold TGI, but It didn't happen, there was a difference of understanding between me and Anantha, he wanted to continue TGI, I was the one who continued JLH, so that's where it took me a long time to find a middle ground, it didn't take long*

*to find it, but after a while we just appreciated each other, we just kept in touch. each other, that is. With Haikal, maybe at JLH we exchange ideas, and most usually we talk about Instagram issues, branding content creators, what kind of content we provide to the audience, while I really want to go to toys photography, if I want to go to JLH, for Haikal I want to go to Japan. "That's where we check each other."*

Another example is also due to a difference of opinion from a member of the Toygraphy ID community, because the vision of the community was not in line with his opinion, the person finally left the Toygraphy ID community and formed a new community that was similar to the Toygraphy ID community.

*"Oh, if there are differences of opinion, it's called a lot of heads, yes, there will definitely be differences, like I said at the beginning, there is also the same community in this TGI community, usually a fraction of our members who don't agree with TGI, he comes out and creates a community. new, most of the communities that are similar to TGI are former TGI members."*

Based on the results of an interview with one of the informants, there was a member of the Toygraphy ID community who was suspected in the community. The reason why this person is suspected is because he has committed fraud against members of the Toygraphy ID community. The fraud carried out by this person was claiming to be a seller of action figures and selling them to members of the community, but the product they bought never arrived, so the fraudster ended up being expelled from the community.

*"Oh, like that, there are a lot of people who look for profits outside of TGI but take TGI with them, we usually talk about that, once we reprimand them, twice we reprimand them, for example if they are still like that, we usually kick them out and they are automatically shunned by other members, for example "For example, for example, he was once a toy seller in our community, but when we paid for the toy, it wasn't delivered, so that's already fraud, it's already a crime, so whether we want to or not, we'll reprimand him, we'll take action."*

The fifth stage of the social penetration theory applied by some informants is in line with the depenetration stage, which only occurs when there is damage to social relations. This happens because of a conflict between two people so that the relationship is broken (Nurdin, 2020).

### **Social Media, Online Communities, and Interpersonal Communication**

In regards to the concepts used in this article, social media used by the Toygraphy ID community to create interactive communication and make building easier relations. Based on answers from some informants, the social media used by the Toygraphy ID community are Whatsapp, Line and Instagram. According to them, it makes it very easy for members of the community to build relationships, discuss action figures, photography, apart from building relationships, social media can be used to share photos and also information about tourist locations that will be used as gathering places for the Toygraphy ID community.

The answers from the informants interviewed were in line with the concept of social media, namely becoming a new instrument, namely becoming a communication medium that creates new types of interactions for society. Apart from that, the answers from several informants were also in line with the types of social media, namely, as social networks, various media networks, and discussion forums (Nabila et al., 2020).

*"Yes, here, for now it's more of a WA group, so members can be more interactive with each other. "Yes, because it's easier to reach each member, for example if you need something, someone wants to be taught a technique, just ask via the WA group, Instagram." (Tio Danu, April 15 2023)*

*"Actually, the TGI community interaction is Line, basically to reach people using Line, just because I'm not active at TGI, and they have their own WA group and I didn't join, and I don't know either, so far I know that Line is the best for creating a community because there are notes, and the notes can also be used by many people, and there are albums. If you want to put photos of toys, or information about places to eat and travel, you can put them there, it's better. "Meanwhile, WhatsApp is not adequate, to be honest, in my opinion, the WA community feature only appeared last year, whereas it was already available on Line 4 years ago, so the community experience online, if you want to add more, it's even worse on Telegram, it's messed up again." (Aiden, April 10 2023)*

Based on the explanation, the community feels like they have a new family. The reason is because those who have joined the community can learn new things about toy photography, such as photography techniques and action figures. The thing that makes the Toygraphy ID community have a sense of family is because of the selective

system for its members, people in the community already know each other and are close when they gather in person.

*"I can say as TGI yes, it was, I can only say it was, because I only entered for a few years, and after that I didn't enter, in my opinion the family is more honest at TGI, because the system is selective, making the more you get to know who is at the circuit, whereas JLH is a community that is probably a very open space, you don't even know anyone's faces, the people who take part are just people at the gathering, Juju Raja as family eee yes, I do felt that, what's it called? Ambiance also feels like a family at TGI, but that was before, but still is now. "Because I saw that Anantha and Haikal were still in contact, so I think that's a good thing, in fact I can come tomorrow on the 15th." (Aiden, April 10 2023)*

*"TGI certainly has a sense of family, TGI often helps its members who have experienced disasters, goes to charities to orphanages and even becomes a place for their members to confide in themselves." (Tio Danu, April 15 2023)*

All members of the Toygraphy ID community are people who like collecting action figures and also photography, chats that are discussed during this time gathered directly about the latest action figures, films, video games, and also comics.

Others also express themselves through their hobby of toy photography. The reason is because photography work uploaded on social media gets a lot of attention from Instagram users, such as getting likes and comments from fellow members of the Toygraphy ID community and from outside the community, apart from that, they can also develop their work because they are given suggestions and criticism from members of that community.

*"Oh, that's for sure, social media is a place for us to express ourselves, right, so there's definitely a feeling that we express our happiness when lots of people like us." (Anantha, April 15 2023)*

*"Yeah, eh, what is it? The core of TGI is that we show off our work on the Instagram platform, so to be able to see whether we or our members are developing or not from uploading photos, at first he made it look like the toy was just an ordinary photo, later, for example, uploading it to Instagram later. "We'll comment on whether it's a bit lacking, whether the angle or the lighting isn't enough. We'll comment on it later when he introspects or studies again in the next upload. The photo can be better, that's how it is." (Rozi, April 15 2023)*

The Toygraphy ID community can be said to be legitimate if its members only interact via social media. The reason is because a community is said to be legitimate because it has many active members and has the same hobbies and interests, namely toy photography, watching films, playing video games, reading comics and collecting action figures. Apart from liking action figures, members of the Toygraphy ID community are also open to discussing other topics such as artists, cosplay, household furniture, culinary, travel and pop culture.

*"In my opinion, going back to the definition of community, a community is like a group of people who have the same interests, so whether they want to gather in real life or online, in my opinion, if for example they still have something or the same interests and goals, "It doesn't need to be the same goal, but more like, they have the same tastes, the same preferences, in my opinion it has become a community." (Anantha, April 15 2023)*

*"Oh, it's very open, we're basically a photography and toys community, but for example, if we want to discuss films, anime, something like that, basically we'll probably discuss pop culture in Indonesia too." (Rozi, April 15 2023)*

The answers from several sources who were interviewed were in line with the concept of online communities, namely social groups consisting of people who have the same interests, exchange ideas and interact with each other. Everyone in a community has the same needs, beliefs, resources, hobbies, interests, and conditions (Mamonto, 2022). Apart from that, several characteristics of the community are in line with the answers from several informants, namely the existence of an organized living unit, territorial nature, existing and real nature, reciprocal relationships, and also the same factors (Putri, 2021).

Referring to the opinions, communication barriers that occur in the Toygraphy ID community are due to misunderstandings about an action figure brand. The way to overcome this is to straighten out these misunderstandings by checking the action figure brand's social media and saying that the brand thought to be the Hot Toys brand was actually the Toys Era brand. Misperceptions also occur due to differences in sense of humor, therefore the informant must also know the personality of the person he is talking to in the Toygraphy ID community to avoid misunderstandings and conflicts.



*"There must be something like a misscom, like something wrong... what is that? What do you say? It seems like I might have made a mistake in judging, like what factory is this from? When discussing toys, for example I said Hot Toys, but it turns out it's from the factory, Toys Era, the meaning is different from what is understood. The best way is for me to cross-check again, bro, like I'll check again on social media what release it is, like that hahaha . "* (Haikal, April 9th, 2023)

*"As for obstacles, I usually get to know each other personally first, of course, characters and personalities are different, so the joke is that I'm afraid I'll go too far with this member, for example, if I'm too dark a joke or something, this member will accept it, whereas with the other members I won't." "Accept it like that, that's also there, usually we first see what its nature is like, we can't generalize it so there are obstacles to something like that, for that matter."* (Rozi, April 15th, 2023)

Another obstacle is the age difference of some members of the Toygraphy ID community, ranging from 12 years old until adult. For the adult members, they can adapt conversations to the young although sometimes misperception occurs. This is in line with elements of interpersonal communication, namely noise due to interference experienced by the communicator and the communicant who is chatting becomes distorted, so that the content of the chat received by the communicant is different from what is conveyed by the communicator. Noise can also occur because the communicant misunderstands the communicator's words (Wello & Novia, 2021).

*"And eee what? In terms of conversation barriers, in my opinion, so far there are none, it depends again on your personality, for example, like me, you can see how I talk to other people, whether I don't know them yet or of different ages, as long as I can carry myself in the conversation, like that, goes back to the person of the person, as long as they can carry themselves in a place like that with people like that, in my opinion, there are no obstacles, just respect each other, in my opinion, that's definitely like what I said before. there are members whose youngest age is 12 or 14 years old, still in elementary school, and you have to think that they are your successors, how can your heavy thoughts be understood by elementary school children, it has to be like that. Like just sharing photos, maybe it doesn't have to be as heavy as I want to continue TGI, do you want to hold TGI or not?"*

Showing all the results of interviews, it can be identified that the informants have carried out parts of the Social Penetration Theory. All of the informants had reached the deepest layer, namely central. This is in line with the four layers of the onion analogy in Social Penetration Theory, namely surface disclosure, peripheral disclosure, middle disclosure, and central disclosure (Abdurrahman et al., 2021).

## CONCLUSIONS

Here are some summarizations taken from this article:

- (1) The communication process of members of the Toygraphy ID community has gone through all stages of Social Penetration Theory, namely the orientation stage, the exploratory affective exchange stage, the affective exchange stage, the balanced exchange stage, and depenetration stage, where most of the members are already very strong in their respective each stage. Toygraphy ID community members also know their friends to the deepest level, namely the central disclosure.
- (2) The majority of members of the Toygraphy ID community can build good, close and open relationships because of their similar hobbies in terms of collecting action figures, pop culture and photography.
- (3) The obstacles experienced by members of the Toygraphy ID community are due to the large age difference between community members. To overcome these obstacles, members must adjust the topic of conversation so that it can be understood by the younger members.

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