

NON-VERBAL SELF-DISCLOSURE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS IN MOVIES “SILENCED” AND “27 STEPS OF MAY”

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ABSTRACT

Sexual violence against women and children is still a social problem that is troubling society today. Records show that sexual violence reached 3,122 cases in 2021 and it reached the highest rate of 11,637 cases in 2020 based on the report from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (KemenPPPA). Many parties are aware of the difficulty of the sexual violence survivors to share their experiences, so several parties have taken the initiative to make films based on true stories of survivors of sexual violence, such as the film “Silenced” and “27 Steps of May”. The theory used in this research is the theory of non-verbal communication and self-disclosure. The author uses a qualitative research approach and phenomenological methods. The research data were obtained through literature study, non-participant observation, and documentation by selecting scenes related to the research. The results showed that individuals or groups of survivors of sexual violence who have physical limitations or mental disorders who cannot communicate verbally can still do self-disclosure in order to obtain justice and self-recovery from past trauma. Survivors of sexual violence who cannot communicate verbally can disclose themselves using non-verbal communication in the form of sign language, facial expressions, haptics (touch), body language, and the use of objects. The purpose of the research is want to know the self-disclosure made by survivors of sexual violence through non-verbal messages in the movies “Silenced” and “27 Steps of May”.

Keywords: *Sexual Violence, Self-disclosure, Non-verbal Communications*

1. PREFACE

Based on a report from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (KemenPPPA), the total number of cases of sexual violence against women and children in 2021 has reached 3,122 cases. Meanwhile, in 2020 the number of cases of sexual violence against children and women reached the highest number, namely 11,637 cases [1]. This indicates that sexual violence against women and children is still a social problem that is troubling the community to this day.

There are various types of sexual violence, including rape, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, forced pregnancy or abortion, sexual control, and so on. However, many survivors of sexual violence have silenced themselves due to trauma or pressure from their environment so that it is difficult to express their desire to tell stories, report and get justice [2].

This has made many parties aware of the difficulties experienced by survivors of sexual violence in telling about their experiences, thus making several parties take the initiative to make feature films based on the true stories of survivors of sexual violence, including: “Silenced” and “27 Steps of May”.

Concepts and Theories

Self-disclosure according to Joseph A. DeVito is a type of communication, when individuals reveal information about themselves that is usually hidden from others [3]. Survivors of sexual violence do self-disclosure to get inner support in addition to venting negative feelings and provide calm, self-acceptance, emotional support, and providing a sense of security will be obtained if self-disclosure can occur [4].

According to Deddy Mulyana, the definition of non-verbal communication is communication without words which is an oversimplification, because written words are still considered verbal even though they do not have sound elements [9]. Meanwhile, according to Arni Muhammad in Diningsih, what is meant by non-verbal communication is the creation and exchange of messages by not using words, but using sign language such as body movements, gestures, non-word vowels, eye contact, facial expressions, proximity, touch, and so on [10]. Talking about the past will be easy for people who do not have bitter memories, but it is different for people who have experienced trauma and people who have physical limitations, in this case the deaf and mute. Communication will not run as usual, but it will still be done using non-verbal messages. The use of sign language, body movements, touch, and objects can be used by survivors of sexual violence who have speech impediments to be able to tell about events that have become wounds for their past, so that support will still be obtained [5]. This study aims to determine the self-disclosure made by survivors of sexual violence through non-verbal messages in the films "Silenced" and "27 Steps of May". Another reason is because this research has never been studied before.

2. RESEARH METHOD

In this study the authors used qualitative research methods. According to Anslem Strauss and Juliet Corbin, qualitative research is a type of research whose findings are not obtained through statistical procedures or other forms of calculation [6]. Meanwhile, according to Imam Gunawan qualitative research is research that does not start from a theory that has been prepared previously but starts from the field based on the natural environment [7]. Two objectives of qualitative research according to Albi Anggito and Johan Setiawan, are to describe and reveal, as well as to describe and explain [8].

The author chose the semiotic analysis research method because the research subjects had the same background on the events that occurred, namely sexual violence, but had signs in the form of different ways of reacting when faced with these events. The author will analyze every scene related to survivors of sexual violence in both films as research media along with the impacts and responses given by the subjects that make non-verbal self-disclosure possible.

In the author's research, the research subjects are survivors of sexual violence, namely a group of children in the film "Silenced" and a woman in the film "27 Steps of May", while the object of the author's research is non-verbal self-disclosure of survivors of sexual violence. The theory used in this study is the theory of non-verbal communication, and self-disclosure, the authors use books and research journals related to communication science. The research data were obtained through literature study, non-participant observation, and documentation by selecting scenes related to the research. The author uses the literature study method by looking for the impact of sexual violence on survivors, explanations about self-disclosure, and delivering messages through non-verbal communication through articles, books, journals and reports to get validation and as a reference in collecting data. The author made non-participant observations because the author only made observations through scenes in the film to find out the non-verbal self-disclosure that occurred and was not directly related to the sexual violence case. The documentation used in the author's research is screenshots of scenes in the film, and the dialogue between the characters in the film.

Data processing and analysis techniques in this study are data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. Data reduction is done by selecting scenes, dialogues, along with theories and concepts to become the required information. The presentation of the data is

done by compiling the information that has been obtained in accordance with the chronology of the conditions that occurred. Then, drawing conclusions is done by testing the information that has been compiled using written references to obtain valid and accurate data. To test the validity of the data, the authors use a data source triangulation technique and a triangulation method to compare the information obtained from each film as a research medium and data sources using library research techniques, observation techniques, and documentation techniques so as to obtain accurate, valid final data results, and credible.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Self-Disclosure

In the case of rapes experienced by survivors, the author concludes that the lust of the perpetrators is the basis for acts of sexual violence, namely rape can occur, because in all conditions if the perpetrators are in normal conditions and do not deviate they will not do that.

Based on the author's summary in the previous chapter, self-disclosure is an attempt to provide information to other people who have had previous closeness or to other people who have just been known, because the information provided can be surface or not too deep to be more intimate which aims to provide some benefits. good. First, it can provide a feeling of relief caused by negative feelings that are vented through stories told to others and can reduce the effects of negative feelings or known as catharsis. Second, it creates a calm mind without bad memories of the past that previously still often appear, and makes it easier for individuals to interpret a situation that is currently happening and can evaluate decisions to find solutions to the problems that are being experienced. Third, can obtain resources from others in the form of support that is either emotionally, or directly or actually given. Fourth, fostering an interdependent relationship without anyone being harmed, thereby creating a sense of security, being able to learn to accept and understand oneself more deeply [4].



Figure 1. Survivor One Self-Disclosure
Source: Film "Silenced"

Survivor one is self-disclosing in this image. Starting from the disclosure of the perpetrators' crimes about rape committed to school students. Because survivor one answered a question posed by a human rights activist while in the hospital. Then when the painting teacher learned about it from the activist, immediately the teacher asked survivor one to explain in front of the camera to be evidence of crimes committed by several staff at his school.

Survivor one recounted incidents that he had experienced about sexual violence, namely the rape committed by the Principal, Head of Administration, and teacher Park Bo-hyun against herself and his friends. Survivor one told the teacher, two human rights activists and survivor two at the human rights activist's office and cried because they felt sad about the incident.



Figure 2. Survivor Two Self Disclosure
Source: Film “Silenced”

Survivor two is self-disclosing in this image. The self-disclosure started from the story of survivor one who provided information on students who had become victims of the Principal, Head of School Administration and teacher Park Bo-hyun. Then when it was discovered that survivor two was also one of the victims, he was asked to testify in court to the judge and witnesses at the trial to explain what happened to survivor two who was committed by the perpetrators of the rape. The pressure in the form of accusations that the testimony of survivor two was a lie and demeaned survivor two by calling her a “crazy child” was carried out by a perpetrator when survivor two was telling the chronology of the incident, even though survivor two unconsciously urinated because of fear of the conditions around her.

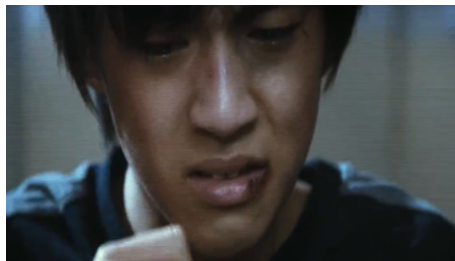


Figure 3. Survivor Three Self Disclosure
Source: Film “Silenced”

Survivor three is self-disclosing in this image. The triple survivor's self-disclosure started with the painting teacher who often saw the triplet survivor being mistreated by Park Bo-hyun's teacher for trivial reasons. Until one day the painting teacher felt that Park Bo-hyun's beating was too much, which led the painting teacher to save survivor three from one of the perpetrators of the rape. The painting teacher took the survivor three to the office of the human rights activist who happened to be visited by a private television media that was going to cover the testimony of the survivor three about the rape incident that happened to him and his brother. Survivor three told the rape incident to the painting teacher, two human rights activists, three media crews, survivor one and survivor two in front of the camera.

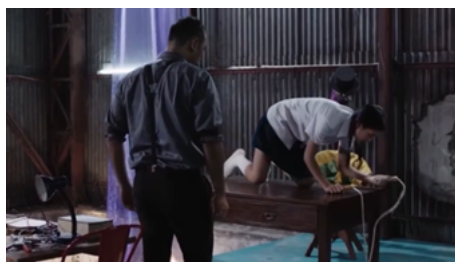


Figure 4. Survivor Four Self Disclosure
Source: Film “27 Steps of May”

Survivor four is self-disclosing in this image. The closeness that is developed between the magician and the survivor four creates a sense of trust for the fourth survivor to the magician, especially when the magician says that the fourth survivor can tell him various things. Then the survivor four returned to the magician's room carrying a rope and wearing junior high school (JHS) children's clothes. Survivor four gave an explanation about the incidents of sexual violence, namely rape in the past by doing a reenactment of the incident. Each moment is vividly depicted using tools around survivors to help clarify the story survivor four is trying to tell the magician.

The Benefits of Self-Disclosure



Figure 5. Benefits of Self Disclosure in Film “Silenced”
Source: Film “Silenced”

Every decision and action must have a reward that will be obtained, as well as self-disclosure made by survivors one, survivors two, and survivors three. Seen in the picture, survivor one and survivor three are chatting and sharing stories with each other, with happy smiles on their faces, besides survivor three can fall asleep on the sofa without being disturbed by the surrounding circumstances which proves his belief that people will protect it. Survivors feel good benefits after the disclosure, they can feel calmer and feel safe. The survivors are aware of the presence of parties who support and help them to be released from the perpetrators of the sexual violence.



Figure 6. Benefit of Self Disclosure in Film “27 Steps of May”
Source: Film “27 Steps of May”

Many influences and conditions change which are quite significantly different after the survivor four do self-disclosure. Limiting physical contact with everyone as well as the father, isolating oneself from the social environment and avoiding interaction, leading a monotonous life, and self-injury that is always carried out whenever memories or memories of sexual violence appear are some of the things survivors of four did when they were young. life plunged into the burden of a story of bitter experiences that he still bears alone. But everything changed for the better after the self-disclosure occurred, seen in the picture of the survivor four confidently hugging his father without any hesitation while saying "it's not

father's fault" are the words in a sentence that came after eight years of not uttering a word from his mouth survivors of four, these words are followed by tears of emotion from his father, survivor four continues his transformation by walking to open the door of the house and go out to see a world that he had never seen before.

Non-Verbal Communication

According to Deddy Mulyana, the definition of non-verbal communication is communication without words which is an oversimplification, because written words are still considered verbal even though they do not have sound elements [9]. Meanwhile, according to Arni Muhammad in Diningsih, what is meant by non-verbal communication is the creation and exchange of messages by not using words, but using sign language such as body movements, gestures, non-word vowels, eye contact, facial expressions, proximity, touch. , and so on [10]. The author summarizes that non-verbal communication is communication without words using only sign language, body movements, eye contact, expressions, proximity, touch and so on in interacting to provide information that can also affect personal image and interaction patterns.

This study has two subjects, namely a group of deaf children in the film "Silenced" and an adult woman in the film "27 Steps of May" using different non-verbal communication, namely:



Figure 7. Survivor One Non-verbal Communication
Source: Film "Silenced"

In this scene, survivor one is seen communicating with the lawyer for the rape perpetrator in front of the crowd during the trial. The purpose of the communication was to answer questions from the perpetrator's lawyer about the rape experienced by survivor one. Communication is done not using words orally, but non-verbally using sign language and facial expressions.

The non-verbal conversation started with a question given by the perpetrator's lawyer, "you (survivor one) said that the principal had raped, is that true?" (orally). Then the translator explained using sign language to survivor one, then survivor one replied "yes the principal has raped me". The first survivor gave the message using sign language, namely by straightening his fingers then closing them and bringing the tips of his fingers to the chin of the first survivor as shown in the picture. Survivor one answered the perpetrator's lawyer's questions with a sharp gaze and answered them with a confident face.



Figure 8. Survivor Two Non-verbal Communication

Source: Film "Silenced"

This scene is a scene when survivor two is communicating with a painting teacher to explain why the teacher doesn't want to be drawn by conveying a message that does not use words orally. Communication takes place using non-verbal messages, namely sign language and facial expressions from survivors of two.

The non-verbal conversation began when the painting teacher saw the survivor two alone without anyone else during the lesson drawing the faces of their friends in front of them. The painting teacher asked "how about you draw me and I draw you?" by using sign language. Survivor two just shook his head meaning he didn't want it. The painting teacher again asked using sign language "why don't you want it?", "I have bruises" answered survivor two using sign language, namely by placing one of the survivor two's palms to the cheek and then shifting a little hair in front of his forehead to show the bruises that are visible. he meant. The second survivor answered the painting teacher's question with a gloomy face and slightly lowered his head.



Figure 9. Survivor Three Non-verbal Communication

Source: Film "Silenced"

In this scene, the survivor three are explaining the reason why he was beaten by the teacher who did the rape until he was injured, as well as telling the story of the rape incident that the survivor three and his brother experienced before that. Communication was carried out using non-verbal messages in the form of sign language and facial expressions to the teacher, two human rights activists and three media parties, one of whom was asking survivor three.

The conversation started with a question given by a man from the media "why did your brother go to the train tracks in the morning, can you tell us what happened to your brother?" orally then translated by the painting teacher using sign language to survivors of three. Survivor three was silent and watched the teacher paint until he finally answered "after teacher Park Bo-hyun finished work he asked us to come to his house", survivor three answered the question using sign language by starting to put his index finger on the right side of his nose then move it up and down as in the picture. Then the next few movements are not shown in the movie scene and continue to raise the index finger of the right hand then point to the left in front of the face of the third survivor and then throw his right hand forward. The third survivor told the incident with a blank stare and at the end of the story he was crying because he remembered the incident and regretted the death of his brother.



Figure 10. Survivor Four Non-verbal Communication
Source: Film “27 Steps of May”

This scene is a scene where survivor four explain to the magician the rape incident that he experienced in the past. Communication takes place not using words verbally but non-verbally by using similar objects that were there when the incident occurred and practicing what the perpetrator did according to what the survivors experienced at that time. The use of touch to magicians is also done as a way to better understand the specifics of the story of survivors of four.

Communication begins with the arrival of survivor four into the magician's room. The confused magician called "Mei" the name of the fourth survivor, but ignoring the call from the fourth survivor magician shifted the things on the table in front of him to fall then the fourth survivor climbed onto the table and began to tie one of his hands to the table with a rope. "May what are you doing?" asked the magician. Not answering the magician's question, survivor four simply extends his hand gripping the rope to the magician meant to help her tie his other hand to the table. In the next scene, survivor four are holding plates of food of different colors which are stirred with a spoon until the colors are mixed. Then the fourth survivor extends his hand holding a spoon to the magician who intends to ask the magician to forcefully bribe the food to her. Another non-verbal communication that occurs in the next scene is survivor four forcibly pulling the magician's hand and then directing his hand to the button on survivor four's shirt which is meant to force survivor four's shirt off, the magician refuses it and tries to escape.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of research and discussion of non-verbal self-disclosure conducted by survivors of sexual violence as subjects in the film "Silenced" and the film "27 Steps of May" as research media, the authors draw the following conclusions:

The factors that cause sexual violence to survivors in this study are the lust of the perpetrators and the appropriate conditions in this case by time and place. In both films there is no other reason that can be evidence other than the moral damage that has been suffered by the perpetrators so that they can commit these crimes. In addition, the appropriate conditions increase the perpetrator's desire to commit rape, because both films show survivors of sexual violence in a lonely place alone without anyone else, and when it is night.

Survivors of sexual violence who are also victims experience several traumas as a result of the rape that occurred, namely the destruction of trust in others and loss of self-confidence, isolating themselves and avoiding socialization and trauma in matters related to their dark past. Other people, even though they want to do good, are still a figure of concern for survivors due to the events they have experienced, making it difficult for them to accept other people into their lives. Not only that, survivors also become closed individuals and feel inferior when dealing with other people. Starting from closing themselves, socialization also does not occur because of fear of other people's judgments of themselves when interacting.

Survivors of sexual violence feel afraid of something that is considered normal by others because it makes them remember bad events in the past.

Communication can still occur to survivors of sexual violence even in conditions of physical disability or trauma that causes a loss of desire to speak. Communication occurs non-verbally, namely by sign language, body movements, touch, and using objects around to reinforce the meaning that the communicator wants to convey to the communicant.

In both films, the methods used for self-disclosure are different from one another, this can occur because the conditions experienced by the research subjects are not the same, both physically and mentally. The self-disclosure in the film "Silenced" uses non-verbal communication, namely sign language, so it requires a translator because the research subjects in the film are a group of deaf people and the disclosure is also made to the public. Meanwhile, self-disclosure in the film "27 Steps of May" is through non-verbal communication, namely body movements, touch, and several other objects to strengthen meaning, and the subject of research in this film is a woman who has experienced trauma that makes her not want to talk, and disclosure is made to the magician who has become a close friend to the subject.

Benefits are one of the things that survivors of sexual violence get when they make disclosures. There are several benefits obtained. First, the emergence of a sense of security that is created from the courage to trust others to listen to the dark stories of the survivors' past about the rape they experienced. Second, increased self-confidence when communicating in front of many people which is the result of the survivor's self-acceptance after the disclosure. Third, the loss of fear of something that used to make survivors remember the rape they experienced so that survivors return to being normal people in general. Fourth, recovering from past trauma so that survivors can live to be themselves without any shadow of events in the past.

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