

Communication Patterns of Married Couples in Fishermen's Families at Limbungan Village, Pekanbaru City Riau Province

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ABSTRACT

Married Couples in Fishermen's Families have their own communication patterns in carrying out their respective roles such as how to communicate, domination when communicating, and messages discussed in communication. Good communication is a very important thing that must be done in a husband and wife relationship, namely to avoid misunderstandings between the two parties, decision making, and problem solving in fishermen's families. This study aims to (1) know the characteristics of fishermen and fishermen's wives (2) describe the communication patterns of husband and wife in fishermen's families in Limbungan Village. The method used in this study is an in-depth interview method using a qualitative approach. Determination of informants in this research using the snowball technique with a total of 5 fishermen and fishermen's wives. The data used in this study are primary data and secondary data. Primary data was obtained by conducting in-depth interviews with fishermen and fishermen's wives, while secondary data was sourced from related agencies, namely the lurah office in Limbungan Village. Data analysis used in this study is descriptive analysis, and the theory used is the theory of communication patterns in the family by Devito (1997). The results showed that the characteristics of fishermen and fishermen's wives in Limbungan Village have a productive age, the number of dependents is 3 to 5 people and includes moderate family dependents, with the income of fishermen and fishermen's wives ranging from IDR 800,000 to IDR 2,300,000. There were 3 communication patterns between husband and wife in fishermen's families in the Limbungan Village, namely equality pattern found in informants III, IV, and IV. Unbalanced split pattern found in informants I, and monopoly pattern found in informants II.

Keywords: *communication patterns, married couples, families, fishermen, Riau*

INTRODUCTION

Limbungan is a village located in the East Rumbai Subdistrict of Pekanbaru City, Riau Province, which has a population of 12,452 people with an area of about 2,709.3 Ha. One of the jobs that become the main income of the people in Limbungan Village is the fishing profession. The fishermen in Limbungan Village are included in the traditional fishermen group and work individually. They do the fishing by using boats and simple fishing equipment. According to Endang (2022), traditional fishermen can be defined as fishermen who use traditional fishing gear in fishing activity, have limited business capital, and have a relatively simple fishing organization structure.

The types of fishing gear used by fishermen in Limbungan Village are nets, splints, and rawai. On the other hand, the types of vessels used include motorboats and rowboats. Juaro, Paweh, Pantau, Baung, and Shrimp are the catches obtained by the fishing community from Limbungan Village through fishing in the Siak River. Fishing activities are carried out almost every day, and the catch is sold directly by the fishing community or sold to middlemen.

The origin of the word “communication” in English comes from the Latin word “communis” which means “the same”. Words like “communico”, “communication”, or “communicare” also mean “to make the same” (Mulyana, 2022). In this context, “the same” refers to the same meaning, so that if two people communicate with each other with the same meaning between the two, then the communication can run well. In a family, it is important to communicate so that family members can interact and communicate messages effectively without misunderstanding. The purpose of communication is to convey information, opinions, and ideas among family members in two directions, both as senders and receivers of messages.

Each family has its own form or pattern of communication such as the way of communicating, the motives in communicating, and the messages that are discussed in communicating. Likewise, in fishermen’s families, married couples carry out the communication process as part of their interaction. This is important so that husband and wife can exchange information and thoughts effectively. This communication process is carried out as part of their daily life as a fishing family. Married couples in fishermen families have their own communication patterns in performing their respective roles and functions. In a marriage relationship between husband and wife, it is important to carry out effective and quality communication. Good communication is very important and cannot be ignored, because it can be a determining factor for the success of a husband and wife relationship, such as to avoid misunderstandings between the two parties, division of roles, decision making, and problem or conflict resolution.

Building a strong family life is one of the important factors by establishing effective communication between husband and wife. As the results of Muladsih’s (2011) research show that communication is very important in a family and the communication pattern in a family has a significant influence on family well-being and harmony. The way family members communicate can affect the relationship between them, and can also affect the emotional and psychological health of each family member. Ginting (2020) states that there are five important factors in husband and wife relationships that can affect the quality of communication, namely mutual openness, empathy, support, positive feelings, and equality. If married couples can apply these five factors in their daily lives, the desired harmony can be more easily achieved. This shows how important it is to apply these five factors in a marriage relationship.

Objectives of this study

This study aims to identify the characteristics of fishermen and their spouses and describe the communication patterns between husband and wife in fishermen families in Limbungan Village.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted in Limbungan Village, East Rumbai Subdistrict, Pekanbaru City, Riau Province between July 22 and August 7, 2022. The method used to collect data is by conducting in-depth interviews. According to Kriyantono (2020), in-depth interviews are a way to collect data and information by meeting directly with sources to obtain detailed and comprehensive data.

The method used to analyze the data in this study is descriptive analysis. Sugiyono (2011) explains that descriptive analysis is a way to describe the data that has been collected in accordance with reality. The purpose of descriptive analysis is to provide a systematic, factual, and accurate description or description of the facts and properties of a particular object. In this study, the theory used is the theory of communication patterns in the family described by Devito (1997) in the book “Communication Between Human Problems”. According to Devito, to achieve goals in the family, married couples must use the right communication patterns. There are four communication patterns in the family, namely the equality pattern, the balanced split pattern, the unbalanced split pattern, and the monopoly pattern.

This research uses snowball sampling techniques to determine informants. The process of selecting informants is carried out selectively by looking for participants who are really appropriate and understand the problems studied and provide information in accordance with the purpose of writing until getting data saturation. People who provide information in this study are fishermen and fishermen’s wives in Limbungan Village with a total of 5 informants. To obtain primary data, researchers conducted in-depth interviews, observed, and made direct observations on fishermen’s families using an interview guide. Meanwhile, secondary data was obtained from relevant agencies, especially from the village head office in Limbungan Village.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of interviews and direct surveys at the research location, it can be seen that the informants’ conditions are categories such as age, education, number of family members, and income. The characteristics of informants in Limbungan Village can be seen as follows:

Characteristics of Fishermen

Fishermen are people whose lives are entirely or mostly dependent on fishing activities. Based on the time used for fishing, fishermen are divided into three groups: full-time fishermen, main part-time fishermen, and additional part-time fishermen. In this study, the informants taken were full-time fishermen, i.e. fishermen whose entire time is used for fishing.

The characteristics of fishermen are based on 5 fishermen informants who carry out fishing activities and reside in Limbungan Village, East Rumbai Sub-district. The characteristics of these fishermen are seen from several variables, namely: age, education, number of dependents, and income (Table 1).

Table 1. Fishermen Characteristics of Limbungan Village

No.	Fishermen Characteristics	Number of fishermen	
1.	Age	<15and >65years	0
		46 – 65years	4
		15 – 45years	1
2.	Education	Elementary school	3
		Junior High	2
		Senior High School	0
3.	Number of family members	<3 person	0
		3 – 5 person	5
		>5 person	0
4.	Income	<IDR1.000.000	0
		IDR1.000.000 – Rp2.000.000	4
		>IDR2.000.000	1

Table 1 shows that fishermen informants belong to the productive age group. Productive age is considered capable of working optimally so as to obtain maximum income. Age is one of the factors that can determine a person’s productivity at work. As found in Maryam’s (2012) research, fishermen aged between 15-65 years are considered a productive age group and have potential as a workforce. In this study, fishermen informants in Limbungan Village already have sufficient work experience. To do fishing work, good health, sufficient energy, as well as proficiency in the operation of fishing gear and knowledge of fishing areas are required. However, the older a person gets, the more their ability to work decreases due to factors such as

declining health and energy.

Limbangan Village fishermen have a relatively low educational background. This explains that the level of education for fishermen does not affect their activities as fishers, because work as a fisherman relies on physical strength and energy while knowledge is mostly obtained from work experience. This is supported in Nurhaeda's research (2019) which says that higher education levels are not necessarily more proficient than fishermen with low education levels. This happens because fishermen with higher education levels are not necessarily more proficient in fishing than fishermen with low education levels, even though when fishing fishermen use tools to catch fish. The skill of using tools is not obtained in formal education but through self-taught learning and hereditary learning from their parents, so that fishermen who have never sat in school or with elementary, junior high, and high school education levels are proficient in using the tools used in fishing.

In this study, fisher dependents are measured by the number of fishermen's wives and children who are family members. The greater the number of family members, the greater the economic burden that must be met and the greater the allocation of income that must be spent. Based on the data from the 5 informants interviewed, it is known that all informants have 3-5 family members. Based on the Central Bureau of Statistics classification, the number of family members is divided into 3 groups, namely families with low members (<3 people), medium family members (3-5 people), and high family members (>5 people). From the results of the study, it can be concluded that the number of fishermen members in Limbungan Village is included in families with members who are a burden on the family in the medium category.

The income of fishermen who ranged from IDR 1,000,000.00 to IDR2,000,000.00 was 4 people, and the income of fishermen > IDR 2,000,000.00 was 1 person. It can be concluded that the income of fishermen in Limbungan Village is still relatively low. The low income of fishermen is due to uncertain catches and bad weather. With the small income of fishermen in Limbungan Village, fishermen's wives also work to increase household income.

Characteristics of fishermen's wives

A fisherman's wife is the spouse of a man who earns a living from capture fisheries. In addition to being responsible for domestic tasks at home, fisher wives are also involved in earning a family income. This is seen as a form of collaboration between wife and husband in an effort to improve family welfare. Therefore, fisher wives must divide their time well between income-generating activities, taking care of the household, and other activities.

Characteristics are based on 5 informants who are fishermen's wives who work and participate in earning a living and reside in Limbungan Village, East Rumbai Subdistrict. The characteristics of fishermen's wives are seen from several variables, namely: age, education, occupation, and income (Table 2).

Table 2: Characteristics Fishermen's Wives of Limbungan Village

No.	Characteristics Fishermen's Wives	Number of Fishermen's Wives
1.	Age	<15 and >65 years
		46 – 65 years
		15 – 45 years
2.	Education	Elementary school
		Junior High
		Senior High School
3.	Jobs	Seller fish on the street
		Seller Vegetable on the street

4.	Income	<IDR1.000.000	1
		IDR1.000.000 – Rp2.000.000	4
		>IDR2.000.000	0

Table 2 explains that the age group of fisher wives tends to be in the productive age range which allows them to carry out various activities.

Formal education refers to the last level of education completed by fisher wives. Formal education can shape the mindset of fisher wives so that in working, they can think and act rationally. From the table presented, it can be seen that the majority of fisher wives only completed education up to Elementary School (SD) with a total of 3 people, followed by 1 person who graduated from Junior High School (SMP), and 1 person who graduated from Senior High School (SMA). This shows that the opportunity for fisher wives to pursue formal education is still limited.

Fishermen’s wives in Limbungan Village work as sellers fish and sellers vegetable on the street. This is consistent with Astanty and Andi’s (2014) statement that family members in coastal community households, including fisher wives, are involved in income-generating activities as an adaptation strategy in livelihoods that are formed both traditionally and as a result of dynamic socioeconomic environmental conditions.

The income of fisher wives is the amount of money generated by fisher wives, and routinely contributes to increasing the income of fishermen’s households. Based on interviews with 5 informants, in general, fisher wives in Limbungan Village have an income of <IDR 1,000,000 to IDR2,000,000.

HUSBAND AND WIFE COMMUNICATION PATTERNS IN FISHERMEN FAMILIES

Devito (1997) noted that there are four communication patterns prevalent in families, namely equality pattern, balanced split pattern, unbalanced split pattern, and monopoly pattern. In this study, the researchers conducted direct and open interviews with five main informants consisting of married couples in fishing families in Limbungan Village. Table 3 shows the profiles of the informants used in this study.

Table 3. Informant Profile.

No.	Name of Husband	Education level	Name of Wife	Education level	length of family life(years)	Jobs	
						Husband	Wife
I	Luqman Hakim (41 years)	Junior High School	Zubaedah Harita (39 years)	Senior High school	12	Fishermen	Selling fish in the street
II	Asrul (49 years)	Elementary school	Dalima (44 years)	Elementary school	22	Fishermen	Selling fish in the street
III	Udin (47 years)	Elementary school	Sri (43 years)	Elementary school	20	Fishermen	Selling fish in the street
IV	Atan (47 years)	Elementary school	Asnawati (46 years)	Elementary school	23	Fishermen	Selling fish in the street
V	Pian (50 years)	Junior High school	Iyet (41 years)	Elementary school	23	Fishermen	selling vegetables and fish on the street

In this study, researchers found 3 communication patterns from the five informants of married couples in fishermen's families. They are equality pattern, unbalanced split pattern, and monopoly pattern. The following are the results of interviews and discussions obtained during the research and described briefly, namely:

Equality Communication Pattern

Devito (1997) argues that the equality pattern of communication is when each family member has an equal and balanced opportunity to communicate. Each individual can express their opinions, ideas, and beliefs freely and openly. Communication in this pattern takes place honestly, directly, and is not influenced by the division of power that usually occurs in other interpersonal relationships. There is no role of leaders and followers or opinion givers and opinion seekers, because everyone has the same role.

Based on the results of the interview, it is known that Informant I when communicating Individuals feel they have the freedom to express their opinions regarding family affairs. Informant I also communicates in an open, honest, and trusting manner between one another without anything being hidden. However, in communicating Informant I has unequal opportunities, where the husband has more opportunities to communicate. As stated by the married couple of Informant I:

Informant I (Suami):

“Kesempatan komunikasi bagus, saya selalu ada kesempatan kalau mau berkomunikasi. Bebas kalau mau berpendapat dan harus jujur. Untuk apa menyembunyikan sesuatu”

Informant I (Wife):

“My husband and I have the same opportunities, but more often my husband has the most opportunities. Free and nothing is covered up and just open, so far open and honest.”

In contrast to Informant I, Informant II's married couple felt that one party dominated when communicating, namely the husband. Husbands tend to be commanding rather than communicating to their wives. In communicating opportunities, Informant II does not have the same opportunity, husbands have more opportunities to communicate and initiate conversations more often than wives. In expressing opinions, the wife is also less open and free when communicating. The wife always obeys the husband's words, but does not convey her opinions to the husband. The following are the results of the interview with the married couple of Informant II:

Informant II (Husband):

“Communication is good, there is always a chance. I am usually the one who talks more often or starts communication than my wife. Free if you want to give opinions and important things will always be conveyed.”

Informant I (Wife):

“My husband and I have the same opportunities, but more often my husband has the most opportunities. Free and nothing is covered up and just open, so far open and honest.”

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Informant II (Wife):

“Quite good, the husband talks the most. Not so open, it's useless not to be heard by my husband sometimes. Because I already know that my husband is difficult to hear my opinion, sometimes I don't convey it.”

In the married couple of Informant III, when communicating, both of them feel free, open, and honest to express their opinions in any matter. In communication opportunities, both have the same opportunity. Informant III also carries out communication by being open and trusting one another. Likewise, the married couple of Informant IV and Informant V, both also have free, honest, equal opportunity, and open communication. This is reflected in the interview with the married couple of Informant III:

Informant III (Husband):

“My wife and I can communicate anytime or, for example, when we are out fishing. It's good that the opportunities are balanced and equal. Free, whatever is conveyed and will be listened to together. I think it is open and honest, because it is discussed together.”

Informant III (Wife)

“The communication opportunities are equal, there are no rules. Very open and honest, nothing is covered up. I'm afraid it will become a burden, there are no secrets.”

The results of the five informants' interviews, for the communication pattern of equality (equality pattern) were found in Informants III, IV and V. The three informants have open, honest, free communication patterns, as well as equal opportunities and equality in communication. This is in line with Devito (1997) that the Equality Pattern is an open, honest and understanding communication pattern. Each person also shares the opportunity to communicate equally and equally, no one feels dropped by the partner's opinion. This results in harmony. In line with Adelina's research (2014), to establish and maintain the quality of communication in married couples, couples must be able to communicate openly and demonstrate the ability to talk about the problems faced, express expectations and desires to partners so that partners can understand their thoughts and feelings. In addition, couples must provide appropriate and appropriate responses so that the goal of commitment in marriage, namely family harmony, can be achieved. This is in line with Fadillah's (2019) findings that young married couples can maintain harmony through open, empathic, supportive, positive, and equal interpersonal communication patterns.

Based on the discussion above, if depicted in a form or pattern, the equity pattern of communication between husband and wife can be seen in Figure 1.

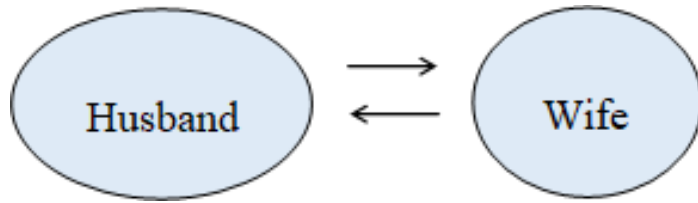


Figure 1. Form of Equation Communication Pattern

The equality pattern of communication is characterized by an equal number of arrows between the messages sent by the husband and wife, indicating that communication is balanced and mutually beneficial. In this pattern, husbands and wives have equal opportunities to communicate and share equal rights in decision-making. There is no domination from one party over the other, so both have equal standing in the relationship.

Unbalanced Split Pattern of Communication

Based on the results of the interview, it is known that informant I feels the dominance of his partner when communicating, namely the husband who dominates more. Because the husband is the head of the family, and the wife more often follows the husband's direction and allows him to win arguments or make decisions. That reason also makes the wife feel more dependent on the husband's decision. Similar to Informant I, Informant II also felt dominated by the husband. However, when making decisions, it is the husband who has the right to determine it. As stated by the married couple of Informant I:

Informant I (Husband):

"I definitely dominate, I am the head of the family. So the wife definitely has to obey. The final decision is still in my hands because I am the head of the family."

Informant I (Wife)

"The father is the one who really dominates. He is the leader of this family. Depending on my husband's decision, as long as it is good for everyone, I accept his decision."

Unlike the married couples of informants III, IV, and V, they did not feel that one dominated in terms of communication. And when making decisions, informants III, IV, and V always discuss it and make a mutual agreement and do not impose the will of one another, so there is no sense of dependence on the partner's decision. The following is the statement of the married couple Informant IV:

Informant IV (Husband):

"I don't dominate, I always listen to my wife's opinion and don't make decisions myself. No, if you want to decide something, you have to ask each other what the agreement is."

Informant IV (Wife):

"No, we always discuss it together. No, decisions are agreed upon together."

Based on the interview results of the five informants above, that for the unbalanced split pattern of communication was found in Informant I. In accordance with what Devito (1997) stated that the Unbalanced Split Pattern is when one party is dominant in communication and in control. The less dominant party,

perhaps because they have a lower income or look less attractive, tends to let the dominant party win every debate and make their own decisions. The dominant party tends to make assertive statements, give their views freely without seeking opinions from the other party, and use their power to maintain control. On the other hand, the less dominant party tends to ask for opinions and follow the decisions of the dominant party.

Based on the above discussion, if depicted in a form or pattern, the unbalanced split pattern of communication between husband and wife can be seen in Figure 2.

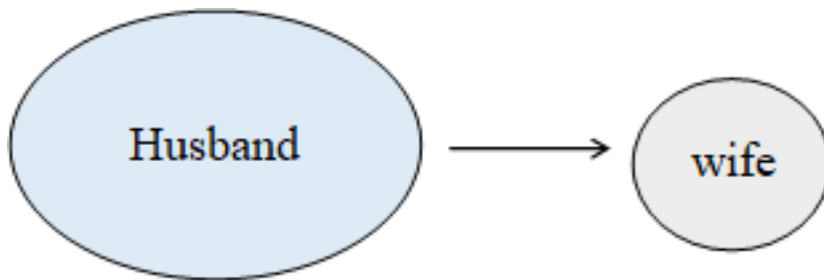


Figure 2: form of Unbalanced Split Communication Pattern

In the Unbalanced Split Pattern, the arrows indicate the unequal amount of messages from husband and wife, which means that one party dominates the communication, namely the husband. Individuals who are considered intelligent dominate, give opinions freely, use their power to maintain control, and rarely ask for the opinions of others except to gain security for their own egos or to convince others of the greatness of their arguments. Unequal measures indicate that husbands and wives do not have equal rights in decision-making. In this situation, the husband has more power in making decisions, while the wife tends to follow the decisions made by the husband.

Monopoly Pattern of Communication

Based on the results of the interviews of the five informants, it is known that Informant I did not feel any orders when communicating with his partner. In making the final decision, the husband has the right, but it is still discussed together. When facing problems such as arguments, it is the wife who often gives in. However, if there is an argument, Informant I will try to resolve the problem immediately.

In married couples, Informant II feels that there is an order when communicating, namely by the husband. When making decisions, the most entitled to determine the final decision is the husband. The wife fully trusts the husband's decision. And in solving problems or debates that occur, Informant II sometimes is not resolved immediately. So that henceforth the wife more often gives in so that problems or arguments do not arise. The following are the results of the interview with the married couple of Informant II:

Informant II (Husband):

"Yes, sometimes, when I communicate I want this, then my wife will obey what I say. Sometimes together, but however the final decision remains in my hands. My wife follows what I say. Sometimes I let the arguments go, and then it's over or subsides by itself. But if it's a big problem, I'm the one who firmly gives direction to my wife."

Informant II (Wife):

"Yes, my husband gives more orders. I obey my husband when communicating as long as it is for the

common good. I obey what my husband says as the head of the family who decides what to do. For small arguments, I often give in. If the conflict is big enough, usually the husband makes the decision directly.”

In contrast to Informant II, the married couples of Informants III, IV, and V did not feel any orders from either partner when communicating. When making decisions, married couples Informants III, IV, and V always discuss it together. To solve problems, they tend to give in to each other and lower each other's ego so that all problems can be solved together by discussing and finding solutions. As stated by the married couple of Informant V:

Informant V (Husband):

“There are no orders, if communication is normal, at least ask for help nicely. Yes, decisions are agreed upon together, there are no individual decisions. Except for home affairs, for example the kitchen, the wife decides for herself. Because that's her responsibility, right? If it is about something important or sensitive enough, it must be discussed together.”

Informant V (Wife)

“No, we respect each other. There are no orders. Make decisions together with the husband. Discussed together if it is about or for mutual interests.”

The results of the interviews of the five informants above, for the monopoly pattern of communication (monopoly pattern) found in the married couple Informant II. In accordance with what Devito (1997) stated, the dominance of one individual who is considered the owner of power. This individual is more likely to give orders than communicate and would rather give instructions than listen to input from others. Since it is already known who will win, debates rarely occur in monopoly situations. However, because debate is rare, when conflict occurs, the individuals involved do not know how to find a common solution peacefully. They don't know how to properly express their opinions or disagree, so arguments can hurt the dominant party. The power holder is satisfied with his role because he can give orders, guide and look after the other party. On the other hand, the other party is satisfied with having their needs met, not having to make their own decisions, not having to bear the consequences of those decisions.

In the monopoly pattern of communication, conflicts that occur in the family are not resolved because it is difficult to argue and do not know how to resolve the conflict. Even though conflict will always occur in the life of a married couple. As for the consequences of unresolved conflict according to Ginting's research (2020), life in the household is getting more complex over time, and married couples must try their best to face these challenges. When conflicts arise in an attempt to solve problems and cannot be resolved, the husband and wife relationship can become disharmonious. Often, married couples engage in disputes or arguments due to different opinions and views on issues. This leads to conflict resolution which requires a change in values or habits on both sides, but if they are unable to come to an agreement on a solution, new conflicts arise. This process can repeat itself over and over again.

In this study, Informants I, III, IV, and V solved problems and conflicts by giving in, lowering ego and discussing together. Partners are patient and offer solutions to overcome the problems faced, and are able to solve these problems together. This is in line with what was stated by Firtzpatrick in Dewi (2011), that there are four ways that couples can resolve conflicts in marriage, namely avoiding conflict, giving in, discussion, and compromise. Avoiding conflict by avoiding behaviors that can exacerbate conflict and divert attention from the issues discussed. Conceding is done by sacrificing personal interests and letting the partner win the conflict without resolving it completely. Discussion is done with the aim of finding the best alternative that can fulfill the wishes of both partners. In compromise, one partner will attempt to influence the decision

taken in resolving the conflict. However, in a compromise situation, there is a risk that one partner may find fault or blame the other partner, or even try to persuade or force the partner to follow his or her wishes.

Based on the above discussion, if depicted in a form or pattern, the monopoly pattern of communication between husband and wife is seen in Figure 3.

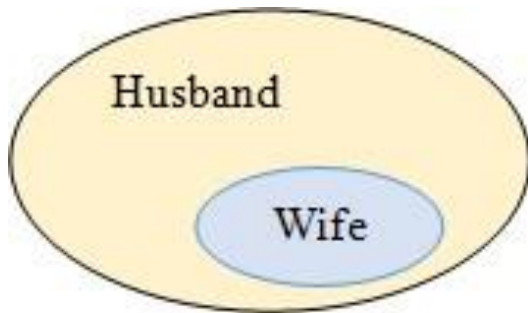


Figure 3: Form of Monopoly Communication Pattern

In the monopoly pattern of communication where one party is seen as the ruler, namely the husband, the husband instructs rather than communicates and never asks for the wife's opinion. The unequal size indicates that the husband and wife do not have the right to make decisions. The most entitled to make decisions is the husband. This communication pattern shows domination by one party, in this case the husband who dominates communication.

CONCLUSION

The characteristics of fishermen's households consist of fishermen and fishermen's wives. The characteristics of fishermen in Limbungan Village have ages ranging from 41 years to 50 years and at that age the informant is in the productive age to work, the last education level of fishermen is elementary and junior high school, the number of dependents is 3 to 5 people including medium family dependents, and fishermen's income ranges from Rp1,800,000 to IDR2,300,000. The characteristics of fishermen's wives have an age of 39 years – 46 years and are included in productive age, the education level of fishermen's wives is elementary, junior high, and high school, the types of work done by fishermen's wives are traveling fish sellers and traveling vegetable sellers, and the income earned ranges from IDR800,000,- to IDR1,000,000,-. There are 3 patterns of communication between husband and wife in the fishermen's family of Limbungan Village, a communication pattern called the equality pattern is found in Informants III, IV, and V. While unbalanced and separate communication patterns are found in Informants III and IV. While unbalanced and separate communication patterns are found in Informant I. While the monopoly communication pattern is found in Informant II.

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