

The Influence of Parent-Child Attachment and Peer Attachment on Adolescent Aggressive Behavior

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the role of parent-child attachment and peer attachment on adolescent aggressive behavior. This research is quantitative research. The study population was private high school students in East Mesuji. Using the Krejcie and Morgan formula, a sample of 113 students was selected. Data were collected with three scales, namely the parent-child attachment scale, peer attachment, and aggressive behavior. Subject responses were analyzed using SPSS version 25 and analyzed with multiple linear regression models, stimulant testing (F test) resulted in a significance value of 0.000 (<0.05). Thus, the results of this study indicate that parent-child attachment and peer attachment together have a very significant influence on adolescent aggressive behavior.

Keywords: *parent-child attachment, peer attachment, aggressive behavior*

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Introduction

Lately in all countries, especially in Indonesia, there has been a lot of news about violence that has occurred. Violence cases are caused by aggressive behavior carried out by a person (Baker et al., 2020). Aggressiveness is a behavior that a person does to attack others and cause harm (Wang & Ai 2022). Aggressive attitudes will harm others and harm themselves (Muarifah et al., 2022). This case is very concerning, because it has an impact on psychosocial, mental health and development (Carr et al., 2020; Hayes et al., 2021; Laforte et al., 2023).

Some types of aggressive behavior include physical, verbal, and relational aggression (Dewi & Kyranides, 2022). Physical aggressive behavior is an action that causes damage to another person's

body, some physical aggressive behaviors are hitting, biting and kicking (Correia et al., 2022). Furthermore, verbal aggression is the act of hurting others with words, some verbal aggressive behaviors are shouting and calling names (Barros-Gomes et al., 2019). Meanwhile, relational aggression is a confrontational action that aims to manipulate and damage other people's relationships (Ersan, 2020). Relational aggressive behaviors include teasing a partner to cause jealousy, being silent when a partner is angry, and threatening a partner to comply with decisions (Moroń & Mandal, 2021). In addition, there are several aggressive behaviors that are often committed by adolescents, namely emotional abuse, sexual abuse, physical neglect, and emotional neglect (Lemaigre & Taylor, 2019).

Based on Detullio, Kennedy, & Millen (2022) revealed that aggressive behavior by children and adolescents is very concerning and at higher risk of displaying other behaviors. All violent acts that cause extreme physical injury are aggressive acts (Shcherban et al., 2022). Based on Vuoksimaa (2021) this aggressive behavior is a change from the developmental process of childhood to adolescence. Adolescence is a transitional period from childhood to adulthood and is the most complex period in development (Rahimovna, 2022). Adolescence is characterized by several physical and psychological changes (Oosterhoff et al., 2020). Adolescence has many pressures including emotional control, stress, depression anxiety and fear. Therefore, adolescence is a period that is very vulnerable to various changes because within each individual there is instability and imbalance, for example from the aspect of social relationships and emotions (Karneli, 2019).

Data from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) regarding physical and verbal violence committed amounted to 4,369 cases in 2019, then 6,519 cases in 2020, 5,953 cases in 2021 and 4,683 cases in 2022. Data based on community complaint data is quite fluctuating. Aggressive behavior exhibited by adolescents is a global health problem that includes emotional, economic, and social problems (Vega et al., 2022). As a result of aggressive behavior by adolescents, it will have an impact on themselves, including being shunned by their peers and having a poor self-concept (Isnaeni, 2021). Furthermore, the teenager will be labeled as a naughty child by making the teenager insecure and unhappy. People who are victims of physical aggression behavior are likely to spur

aggressive behavior in the future (Muarifah et al., 2022). Other consequences are damaged social relationships, death, mental disorders, depression, suicide, despair and negative thinking (Edwards et al., 2019; Estévez et al., 2018; Najman et al., 2019).

These data certainly have several influencing factors including internal factors, namely parent and child attachment (Vagos & Carvalhais, 2020). Parent-child attachment is a form of childhood attachment experience with the primary caregiver that functions for children's independence and their ability to develop positive relationships as they age (Lucktong et al., 2018). Parents have the primary responsibility for their child's development (Charalampous et al., 2018). The parent-child attachment relationship is a cornerstone in each child's development in managing emotion regulation and recognition. The importance of parental attachment to children from birth to adolescence. Parent-child attachment can influence the way children interpret, process social information, and react to social situations (Guedes et al., 2018).

Insecure attachment and anxious attachment are strongly associated with aggressive behavior (Alapján, 2016; McErlean, 2019). The quality of attachment between parents and adolescents contributes significantly to the development of aggressive behavior (Fralely & Shaver, 2008). Aggressive behavior that arises is a problem of attachment with parents (Sroufe, 2021). Insecure attachment can reinforce an adolescent's aggressive behavior (Guangdong, 2014). Thus, the more secure the attachment between parents and adolescents, the greater the possibility of avoiding aggressive behavior.

In addition to internal factors that influence the occurrence of aggressive behavior, there are external factors that can influence adolescent aggressive behavior, namely attachment to peers (Bogerts, 2021). Peer attachment can strengthen the behavior that will be raised by an adolescent (Sijtsema & Lindenberg, 2018). If aggressive behavior is perceived as increasing status or social relationships within the group, individuals may be more likely to express aggressive behavior. The experience of attachment between peers and receiving full attention will lead to self-confidence and

develop emotional competence both positively and negatively (D'Urso & Pace, 2019; Schoeps et al., 2020).

High peer attachment will result in lower aggressive behavior and delinquency in adolescents (Wright et al., 2015). Adolescents can imitate the behavior that arises from their peers (Qashdina & Alfiasari, 2018). Therefore, if peers bring up aggressive behavior, adolescents will imitate them (Tian et al., 2019). Peers are emotional supporters of an adolescent (Utomo & Pahlevi, 2002). So that if there is rejection from peers, it will make a teenager bring up aggressive behavior (Setiawati et al., 2020).

Previous research has never examined together the effect of parental and peer attachment on aggressive behavior in adolescents (Rahimovna, 2022). The effective contribution related to the two variables of parental and peer attachment to aggressive behavior in adolescents has not been answered (Medelin & Alwi, 2023). In contrast to previous studies, this study is a renewal study with two variables tested simultaneously and provides information on how much effective contribution will be made from the variables of parental and peer attachment to aggressive behavior in adolescents. The hypothesis in this study states that there is an influence of parent-child attachment and peer attachment on adolescent aggressive behavior.

Methods

Participants

In this study, the research population was private high school students in East Mesuji, totaling 169 students. The sampling technique used the Krejcie and Morgan formula, so that the sample in this study amounted to 113 students. Data collection in this study on September 25, 2023 and ended on November 5, 2023 with an online questionnaire via google form. This is based on considerations made by the researcher. Some of the advantages that can be considered are that it allows researchers to get a large number of respondents, save costs and time and guarantee the anonymity of respondents. Before proceeding to the questionnaire, respondents are required to read and fill

in the informed consent if the respondent agrees then will click "Yes" and proceed to the next page to fill out the questionnaire.

Measurement

There are three measuring instruments used in this study, namely the parent-child attachment scale, the friend attachment scale and aggressive behavior. The statements in this scale are positive and negative. The Likert scale used in the questionnaires of these three variables has four answer options. The answers range from very suitable (SS), suitable (S), not suitable (TS), and very unsuitable (STS). The category of favorable items was rated "very suitable" is worth 4, "suitable" is worth 3, "not suitable" is worth 2, and "unsuitable" is worth 1. In contrast, the category of unfavorable items was rated "very suitable" is worth 1, "suitable" is worth 2, "not suitable" is worth 3, and "unsuitable" is worth 4.

Parent-Child Attachment Scale

In this study, the parent-child attachment instrument refers to the concept Armsden & Greenberg (1987) which is adapted from the Indonesian version of (Indriyani, 2020). Which consists of three aspects including aspects of trust, aspects of communication, and aspects of alienation. The three aspects consist of favorable and unfavorable items. The statement consists of 28 items. The results of the reliability value with a Cronbach alpha value of 0.892.

Peer Attachment Scale

In this study, the peer attachment instrument refers to the concept Armsden & Greenberg (1987) which is adapted from (Gullone & Robinson, 2005). Which consists of three aspects including aspects of trust, aspects of communication, and aspects of alienation. The three aspects consist of favorable and unfavorable items. The statement consists of 25 items. The results of the reliability value with a Cronbach alpha value of 0.888.

Aggressive Behavior Scale

In this study, the aggressive behavior instrument refers to the concept Perry (1992) which was adapted from the Indonesian version of (Khan et al., 2023). Which consists of four aspects including aspects of physical aggression, aspects of verbal aggression, aspects of anger and aspects of hostility. The three aspects consist of favorable and unfavorable items. The statement consists of 43 items. The results of the reliability value with a Cronbach alpha value of 0.877.

Data analysis

The data in this study were analyzed using multiple linear regression analysis on SPSS version 25. Before testing the hypothesis, researchers conducted an assumption test consisting of normality test, multicollinear test and heteroscedasticity test.

Results

Before testing the hypothesis, the researcher conducted an assumption test, namely the normality test, there was a sig value of $200 > 0.05$, the multicollinearity test obtained a tolerance value of $0.977 > 0.10$ and a VIF value of $1.024 < 10.00$ and the heteroscedasticity test obtained a $p > 0.05$. Next, the results of descriptive analysis consisting of maximum value, minimum value, mean and SD on each scale studied. Table I present the descriptive analysis of the data.

Table I
Descriptive data

	Descriptive Statistics				
	N	Minimum	Maksimum	Mean	Std. Deviasi
Parent-child attachment	113	44.50	120.30	74.4867	13.17041
Peer Attachment	113	46.00	82.00	71.2478	8.51105
Aggressive Behavior	113	67.53	92.80	84.6903	5.20676
Valid N (listwise)	113				

Source: SPSS 25 results, Primary data has been processed

Based on the results of the descriptive data test above, the data obtained is the parent-child attachment variable (X1), from the data, the minimum value can be described as 63.72 while the maximum value is 94.12, the average value is 84.6906 and the standard deviation value is 6.51847. On the peer attachment variable (X2) from the data can be described the minimum value of 46.00, the maximum value of 82.00, the average value of 71.2478 and the standard deviation value of 8.51105. then on the aggression variable (Y), from the data can be described as obtaining a minimum value of 39.00, a maximum value of 103.00, an average value of 84.6903 and a standard deviation value of 14.60130.

Furthermore, hypothesis testing is carried out by multiple linear regression analysis. This was done to determine the simultaneous effect of parent-child attachment variables (X1) and peer attachment (X2) on adolescent aggressive behavior. In this hypothesis test, researchers used the help of the SPSS 25 application. Furthermore, the significance level of $p > 0.05$ means insignificant and $p < 0.05$ means significant. [Table 2](#) present the hypothesis results.

Table 2
Results of multiple linear analysis test

		ANOVA ^a				
	Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
I	Regression	2492.442	2	1246.221	252.031	.000 ^b
	Residual	543.918	110	4.945		
	Total	3036.360	112			

a. Dependent Variable: Aggressive Behavior

b. Predictors: (Constant), Parent-Child Attachment and Peer Attachment

Source: SPSS 25 results, Primary data has been processed

The [table 2](#) above explains that stimulant testing (F test) produces a significance value of 0.00. This means that there is an influence of parent-child attachment variables and peer attachment on adolescent aggressive behavior. This the hypothesis in this study is accepted.

Table 3
Multiple Regression Coefficient Test Results

		Coefficients ^a				
		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig
Model		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	68.762	1.046		38.688	.000
	Parent-Child Attachment	-.289	.016	-.731	-18.100	.000
	Peer Attachment	.308	.025	.504	12.471	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Aggressive Behavior

Source: SPSS 25 results, Primary data has been processed

Based on the regression test in [table 3](#), obtained from the constant value $B_0 = 68.726$ and $B_1 = -289$, $B_2 = 308$ so that the regression line equation obtained from the constant value can be written $Y = 68.726 + (-289X_1) + 308X_2$. Furthermore, the effect of parent-child attachment variables on aggressive behavior is obtained with a significance value <0.05 and the effect of peer attachment on aggressive behavior with a significance value <0.05 . This it can be concluded that the variables of parent-child attachment and peer attachment partially affect aggressive behavior.

Table 4
Results of Multiple Regression Determination Coefficient Analysis

Model Summary				
Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.906 ^a	.821	.818	2.22350

a. Predictors: (Constant), Parent-Child Attachment, Peer Attachment

Source: SPSS 25 results, Primary data has been processed

Based on the results of the analysis in [table 4](#) above, it can be seen that R Square is 0.821, which means that there is an effect of parent-child attachment and peer attachment of 82.1% on aggressive behavior.

Discussion

The purpose of this study was to determine the role of parent-child attachment and peer attachment on adolescent aggressive behavior. The results of this study reveal that parent-child and peer attachment variables have a significant effect on adolescent aggressive behavior. The findings of this study have a major impact of parent-child attachment and peer attachment on aggressive behavior in adolescents. Therefore, this study identifies the variables of parent-child attachment and peer attachment are able to be predictors of aggressive behavior of an adolescent.

This study is in line with previous findings conducted by Guedes (2018) found that parent-child attachment and peer attachment have a significant influence on adolescent aggressive behavior, the results of this study reveal that peers among adolescents are related to a teenager's self-adjustment to aspects of life and the behavior that appears in adolescents also has an influence on the relationship with perceived security in parents. Rahimovna (2022) said that aggressive behavior carried out by adolescents is carried out intentionally and unintentionally, on aggressive behavior raised by adolescents is caused by parental factors. Therefore, the results of this study support the results of this study which found that there is an influence of parent-child attachment and peer attachment on adolescent aggressive behavior.

In a study conducted by Ban et al., (2023), the existence of high parent-child attachment can create a sense of emotional security in adolescents so that it will not lead to negative behavior. Secure attachment provides a solid foundation for children to determine life goals and what to do (Özyürek & Çetin, 2022). Furthermore, another case revealed that parent-child attachment has an effect on adolescent aggressive behavior (Uzochukwu & Ifeoma, 2020). Therefore, communication and trust are key in forming a good attachment between parents and adolescents (Purwaningtyas, 2021). The family is the initial place for child development, instilling behavioral values that will appear in children and children's life patterns when from childhood to adulthood are the responsibility of parents (Delgado et al., 2022).

Adolescents who are provided with secure attachments feel accepted and supported by their parents, are more likely to talk about their experiences, feelings, and considerations (Lim, 2021). Healthy attachment can provide a strong foundation for adolescents in making decisions. Adolescents who feel close to their parents tend to be better able to make good decisions and assess risks, by increasing good communication with their parents (Azunwena et al., 2022). Conversely, insecure parental attachment in adolescents will have a negative impact on adolescents (Benzi et al., 2023). Insecure parent-child attachment can lead to aggression behavior in adolescents (Fuentes-Balderrama et al., 2023). Therefore, parental attachment from childhood to adulthood plays an important role in the behavior of an adolescent.

Peers also play a role in the social development process. Adolescents tend to model peer behavior, if their peers engage in aggressive behavior, adolescents may feel pressure to follow the example in order to be accepted in the group (Delgado et al., 2022). Peer attachment can influence how they manage emotions, especially if the group encourages the expression of emotions through aggression, adolescents will also display aggressive attitudes, but if peers display good behavior, adolescents will also display good behavior (Farrell et al., 2017). Therefore, peers can shape attitudes and behaviors for further development (Essiz & Mandrik, 2022). Adolescents who are not supported by peers and do not get trust will tend to display aggressive behavior (DeLay et al., 2022). These findings are in line with this study, namely peer attachment can be one of the predictors of the emergence of aggressive behavior in adolescents.

Conclusion

The conclusion of the research above was that the descriptive value of the parent-child attachment variable (X1) obtained a minimum value of 63.72 while the maximum value was 94.12, the average value was 84.6906 and the standard deviation value was 6.51847. The peer attachment variable (X2) obtained a minimum value of 46.00, a maximum value of 82.00, an average value of 71.2478 and a standard deviation value of 8.51105. then for the aggression variable (Y) the minimum value is 39.00, the maximum value is 103.00, the average value is 84.6903 and the standard deviation value is 14.60130. Furthermore, this research shows the influence of parent-child attachment and

adolescent attachment on adolescent aggressive behavior. The contribution of parent-child attachment and peer attachment is 82.1% towards aggressive behavior.

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