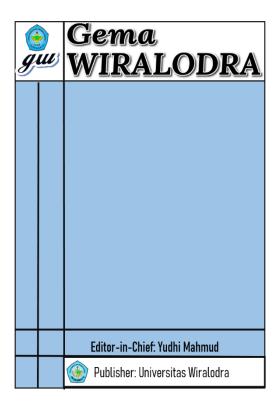


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Interpersonal communication of young married couples in maintaining their households

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## Interpersonal communication of young married couples in maintaining their households

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#### **Abstract**

Building a household at a young age can be challenging due to unstable emotions and strong egoism, which can cause conflicts between couples. These conflicts often arise from differences of opinion, making communication crucial for couples when facing conflict. In Ajallasse Village, some children under the age of 19 have married, which can exacerbate these challenges. It is important to approach these situations with objectivity and a balanced perspective, avoiding biased or emotional language. Researchers are interested in examining the interpersonal communication of young couples in resolving household conflicts in Ajallasse Village, Cenrana District, Bone Regency. The aim is to investigate how young couples communicate to resolve household conflicts. The research method used in this study is qualitative, using data collection techniques such as interviews and documentation studies. Data was collected through direct observation, interviews, and documentation of five young married couples in the village of Ajallasse in the district of Cenrana Bone Regency. After that, the data underwent a methodical analysis that involved condensing, presenting, and validating the findings. The results showed that the form of communication of young couples in resolving household conflicts in Ajallase Village is a linear model. This linear model is a communication process that is said to be sufficient if one person sends a message and another person receives the message. The obstacles faced by young couples in Ajallasse Village, Cenrana District, in overcoming household conflicts are egoism and low economic factors. The solution for young couples in resolving household conflicts in Ajallasse Village, Cenrana Subdistrict, Bone Regency is to try to build deeper (intimate) relationships with their respective partners, always open to their partners (communicate).

**Keywords:** Interpersonal communication, young couples, couple conflicts

## 1. Introduction

As social beings, humans require interaction with others to fulfill their needs for communication, expression of feelings, will, and ideas. Objective and clear language is necessary to convey information effectively. It is a new experience to interact and communicate with people from different groups, races, ethnicities, or cultures. Communication is a common daily activity that must be carried out in human associations. Communication involves social interaction between individuals, facilitating the development of a shared understanding that promotes compatibility.

Interpersonal communication is a direct, face-to-face interaction between two or more individuals. The sender conveys the message directly, and the recipient can receive and respond directly as well (Hardjana, 2007). Wayne suggests that interpersonal communication is a communication process that takes place between two or more people face-to-face, where the sender can convey the message directly and the recipient of the message can receive and respond directly (Cangara, 1998). Interpersonal communication is the process of exchanging information and transferring understanding between two or more people in a small group. It involves various effects and feedback (Widjaja, 2002). The purpose of interpersonal communication is to enhance human relationships, prevent and resolve personal conflicts, decrease uncertainty, and exchange knowledge and experiences with others (Cangara, 1998). De Vito explains that the characteristics of interpersonal communication include: (a) openness; communicators and communicants express ideas and problems openly without fear or shame; (b) empathy; both parties respond with full attention to all interests communicated; (c) supportiveness; every opinion, idea, or idea conveyed receives support from the communicating



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parties; (d) positiveness; communicating parties avoid suspicion or prejudice that can interfere with interpersonal communication; (e) equality; communication becomes more intimate and personal ties become stronger if there are certain similarities (Devito, 1997).

Trust, supportive attitudes, and open attitudes are interpersonal factors that foster good communication relationships (Rakhmat, 2009). The three types of models are as follows: (a) a linear model in which there is only one sender and one recipient; (b) an interactional model in which both parties encode and decode the message; and (c) a transactional model in which there are changes in both the sender's and the recipient's roles and time (Budyatna & Ganiem, 2011). De Vito suggests that interpersonal communication relationships are developed through stages of contact, involvement, familiarity, destruction, and termination (Devito, 1997). Obstacles can be interpreted as challenges or difficulties experienced. In the context of communication, there are also known disruptions (mechanical and semantic). These disruptions are considered communication barriers, and the effectiveness of communication will depend on how much these barriers occur (Effendy, 1993). Emotional attitudes can worsen the communication process for individuals in certain situations. If emotions are addressed, it may hurt the communication process by strengthening the individual's ego. Two things can obstruct interpersonal communication: (a) Situational factors can affect the perception of situations that will create pleasant communication and lead to good perceptions as well. According to Krech and Cruthfield, perception is functionally selective; objects that get pressure in our perceptions are usually objects that fulfill the goals of the individual doing the perception (Ardianto et al., 2007). Some examples are factors of need, mental readiness, emotional atmosphere, and cultural background in perception, and biological factors also cause different perceptions. Structural factors are the second; they are derived from the nature of physical stimuli and the neural effects they have on an individual's nervous system (Sahadily, 1983); (b) the influence of self-concept; social factors and habits where each person gives judgment to influence the formation of self-concept; a good communication process will affect a good self-concept as well. And vice versa, if the self-concept has been formed with things that are not good, then it will hinder interpersonal communication.

Interpersonal adjustment in communication encounters is connected to Howard Giles and colleagues' 1973 idea of communication accommodation. The theory is based on Giles' thoughts on the 'accent mobility' model, which considers the various accents that can be heard in an interview situation. According to Stephen Worchel, social psychology discussions typically focus on identifying the consequences of behavior and the causes of those consequences within social interactions. One key concept in social psychology is identity. According to Howard Giles, Jessica Abrams, and Joan O'Cronnor, accommodation is a crucial component that has a big impact on identity construction. Convergence and divergence are two forms of adaptation in communication. Convergence is based on the speaker's perception of the other person and involves changing one's communicative behavior to match the other persons. Divergence, on the other hand, occurs when the speakers intentionally highlight their differences. However, divergence does not necessarily mean negating the interlocutor's response, but rather trying to make the interlocutor feel understood (Widjaja, 2002).

Social penetration theory is based on the results of Irwin and Dalmas Taylor's research in 1973. Everyone has different types of relationships with each other. A person's type of relationship sometimes feels very unfamiliar, close to familiarity, familiar, and even very familiar. This theory identifies the stages in developing relationships, namely orientation, exploration-affective, effective, stable, and depentration (Nurdin, 2020). According to the authors, self-disclosure can reveal aspects of one's self in relationships. They use the metaphor of an onion to illustrate how each person has multiple layers of opinions, beliefs, prejudices, and feelings. As individuals become more acquainted, they may reveal deeper layers and more

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fundamental emotions. They use the metaphor of an onion to illustrate how each person has multiple layers of opinions, beliefs, prejudices, and feelings. This layer covers various topics that are pervasive in people's lives. The amount of information available on each topic is referred to as its level of depth. The outermost layer refers to the degree of openness of the information conveyed, while the deepest layer provides a detailed description of a person's life, feelings, and thoughts (Revaldesnita, 2020).

According to Article 1 of Act No. 1 of 1974, marriage is an inner, innate bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife, to form a happy and eternal family based on the One Divinity (Hefni, H. 2015). Prof. Dr. Sarlito Wirawan argues that early marriage is a name born of a strong moral and scientific commitment as an alternative solution. Dlori argues that early marriage is a minor marriage whose goal has not been said to be maximum physical, mental, or material preparation. For this reason, an early marriage is called a hasty marriage, for everything has not been prepared (Sugiyono, 2014). According to Act No. 16 of 2019, which came into force on October 15, 2019, the minimum age for marriage is 19 years for both men and women. This is by Law No. 35 of 2014 on the protection of children. In that rule, it is stated that the category of children is those who are under the age of 18 (Littlejohn & Foss, 2009). In Ririn Karlina's manuscript entitled "Factors Causing Young Marriages in the Queen's State Village of Ngambur, Ngambur district of the West Coast," Pardoko argues that the causes of young marriages are: (a) lack of awareness of the marriage laws that guarantee women's rights and ethnicity; (b) the low socio-economic status of the elderly tends to marry their daughters at a young ag (Mutmainna, 2022).

Conflict in marriage is the difference that occurs between a husband and a wife about problems in a marriage that affect their household life. Marriage conflicts are differences in perceptions, attitudes, and expectations that arise in the couple. These problems relate, among other things, to different backgrounds of experience, needs, views, and thinking and to making decisions about marriage bonds. The causes of conflict are (a) differences between individuals; (b) cultural differences; (c) diversity of interests; and (d) social change (Kasmianti, 2022).

Journal written by Setiawan (2020) with the title "Interpersonal Communication on Couples of Young Wives whose Wives Keep Working" Program of Communication Studies of the Faculty of Economics and Communication of the University of Bina Nusantara Jakarta. Based on research, the process of interpersonal communication between newlywed couples is very important. Nowadays, it's an objection to wives still being able to work as something relative, depending on each individual. There is nothing that states that a wife working is the wrong thing. In response to this, three things can be done to maintain the quality of interpersonal communication, namely: (1) understand and live their respective roles in the family; (2) set priority order for the activities that will be the responsibility of their family; and (3) develop an interpersonal communication strategy after both agree on the forms of activity, such as what will be undertaken during the lifetime of living in a staircase (West & Turner, 2008). The difference between the previous researchers and the researchers lies in the focus of the research, with the earlier researchers looking at interpersonal communication among young spouses whose wives remain at work, while researchers focus on interpersonal communication between young married couples, while the similarity is that they both look at communication in early marriage couples.

#### 2. Method

The location of this research is in the village of Ajjalasse, Bone district, South Sulawesi, Indonesia. The researchers wanted to do the research in the town of Ajallasse, Cenrana district because in that village there are children who are still underage but have been married. The researchers use qualitative descriptive research because the research describes or decomposes

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a fact, in this case, the interpersonal communication of young couples in solving domestic conflict in the village of Ajallasse in the Cenrana district of Bone. Qualitative description research is a study whose results are written or oral facts about the object observed or in detail described (imaging or decomposition) (Riskawati, 2022). As for the approach used by the author in this study: (a) (Sugiyono, 2014) a sociological approach is an approach that studies the order of life together in a society and investigates the bonds between human beings who work their lives to make it easier to understand the situation and socialize with the source; (b) (Rakhmat, 2009) a psychology approach is the science that studies about the soul/spirit of a person by observing the symptoms of attitude or behavior to more easily understand human behaviour in particular in young married couples in the village of Ajallase district of Cenrana Bone District; and (c) communication approach is a process of communicating information, ideas, skills, emotions, and others using symbols such as images, words, numbers, and so on to establish relationships and obtain information from the source.

As for the source of this research data, five young married couples in the village of Ajallasse in the district of Cenrana Bone were drawn purposefully. To collect data to support this research, researchers use the following techniques: (a) observation is a technique or way of collecting data through observation of an ongoing institution; (b) interview is a process of questioning or oral dialogue between the interviewer and the respondent to obtain the information required by the researcher; and (c) documentation is the collection of data carried out by analyzing the contents of the document related to the problem being studied. This technique is used to gather data already available in the document records, such as the theoretical concepts relating to the variable being investigated. To produce good-quality and accurate research results, data analysis becomes a separate parameter that requires attention from researchers. However, before the data is analyzed, data processing is carried out with the following steps: (a) data reduction; (b) data display; and (c) conclusion drawing.

## 3. Results and Discussion

# Interpersonal Communication of Young Couples in Ajallasse Village, Cenrana Subdistrict, Bone Regency

Good interpersonal communication between spouses will minimize disputes, despite the many conflicts or problems in the household. Moreover, good interpersonal communication will minimize obstacles to resolving the conflict that occurs.

Marriage must be filled with quarrels or conflicts. It is this quarrel or conflict that becomes a sense in the household, so that it becomes more and more harmonious. Harmony in a household depends on how one treats conflict in the household. As a researcher's interview with Mutmainna, who is a young married couple in the village of Ajallasse Bone district of Cenrana Prefecture stated:

"That is, I choose to be patient and communicate by asking what I want so that the ongoing domestic conflict can be resolved" (Rahmat, 2000).

The same thing was told by Kasmianti:

"It is my attitude when there is a conflict in the house to be patient, to listen to what is said, and then to seek the solution to the problem" (Rahmat, 2000).

Next is a research interview with Herni:

"The attitude I take is to be patient, communicate problems using soft language well, and use soft language so that conflicts can be resolved" (Herni, 2022).

Next is the opinion given by Riskawati:

"That is, by communicating each other's opinions with cold heads and without emotions, the conflict that occurs in the household can be resolved" (Setiawan, 2020).

While another researcher's interview with Agustina:



"The attitude that I take when there is a conflict in the household is that of surrendering and exchanging minds so that the problems that have occurred can be resolved" (Agustina, 2022).

Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that the attitude towards the spouse in cases of conflict in the household is to be patient and communicate with each other to express opinions in soft language and without emotion so that the problems that occur can be solved. This linear model is a communication process that is said to be sufficient when one person sends a message and the other person receives it. It's seen when informants solve their conflicts by building communication when anger begins to fade and then communicating their opinions with their cold heads and using soft language to solve domestic conflicts. This is also in line with the theory of accommodation, which explains that communicating requires the ability to adapt, modify, or regulate a person's danger when responding to other people's communications or behavior. It's seen when the informants begin to adapt to building communication when the anger begins to fade and then communicate their own opinions.

# Household Conflict among Young Couples in Ajallasse Village, Cenrana Subdistrict, Bone Regency

Household life is never free from conflicts or problems; both small and large conflicts can trigger quarrels and even the separation of husband and wife if both are unable to resolve them properly. These conflicts are what make and strengthen the relationship between husband and wife if handled properly.

In households, especially young couples, it cannot be separated from conflict. But in every conflict that occurs, there must be something that triggers a conflict. As the researcher interviewed Mutmainna, who is a young married couple in Ajallasse Village, Cenrana District, Bone Regency, she stated that:

"That is the economic problem that makes my household often experience conflict because the needs in the household cannot be met, which triggers the emergence of a conflict" (Rahmat, 2000).

#### Kasmianti also expressed the same idea:

"What triggers a conflict in my household are economic factors and needs that do not match income, so that it often becomes an argument or conflict in the household" (Nata, 2003).

## Furthermore, the results of the researcher's interview with Herni:

"The trigger for a conflict in my household is the needs that are sometimes not met, so that conflicts often occur, which result in disharmonious relationships in the household" (Herni, 2022).

## Next is the opinion given by Riskawati:

"There was a conflict in my household, and there were differences of opinion, so that there was no one willing to give up, and so there was conflict" (Setiawan, 2020).

## While another researcher's interview with Agustina:

"What caused a conflict in my household was the interference of the family, who sometimes caused conflicts in the household" (Agustina, 2022).

Based on the above statement, it can be concluded that the things that can cause a conflict in the household are differences of opinion, a low economy so that basic needs are not met, and the intervention of the family that does not like the existence of such a marriage. Conflict in the household must always happen. Household conflicts are big and small, depending on how you treat them. In every conflict that occurs, either a big or small conflict must be resolved. As a researcher's interview with Mutmainna, who is a young married couple in the village of Ajallasse Bone district of Cenrana Prefecture stated:

"The biggest conflict that's happening in my household is the economic problem. Economic problems are a big problem in household affairs because to meet everyday needs, whether it's food or drink, it all takes money. However, all these things can be solved" (Rahmat, 2000).

## Kasmianti also expressed the same idea:

"The biggest conflict that happens in my household is the economic conflict. Because in order to meet everyday needs, pay for electricity, buy skin care, and eat and drink, it takes money. But all these conflicts can be resolved well" (Nata, 2003).

#### Furthermore, the results of the researcher's interview with Herni:

"Economic problems have become a big problem in my household affairs. Because all the everyday needs are money, and if there's no money, then the need will not be met. But any conflict that occurs can be resolved well".

## Next is the opinion given by Riskawati:

"The greatest conflict in my household is the difference of opinion. But this conflict can be solved well".

## While another researcher's interview with Agustina:

"The greatest conflict that happens in my household is with the brother of a parent who does not strive to build a household because he feels unable or unable to run a good household. However, the conflict can be avoided by avoiding it when the sister of the parent comes home".

Based on the above statement, it can be concluded that the biggest conflict that occurred in the households of young couples in the village of Ajallasse Prefecture in the Cenrana district of Bone was the conflict about the economy and the presence of interference from the family that dislikes the existence of such a marriage.

## Interpersonal Communication of Young Couples in Resolving Household Conflicts in Ajallasse Village, Cenrana Subdistrict, Bone Regency

Everybody's going to want his house to have a quiet and peaceful life. For that, every couple must give each other happiness and create a harmonious relationship. Creating a harmonious relationship requires good means of resolving the conflict. Harmonious relationships are created when conflicts are solved in the right way. Behind a well-finished conflict must be the solutions that each couple applies to keep their homes harmonious and happy.

In human life, it is necessary to socialize, create, and maintain close relationships with others to communicate effectively. Also in the staircase, communication is essential to enhancing family harmony. Behind a harmonious family, of course, there is no escape from conflict. Therefore, interpersonal communication plays a major role in solving domestic conflicts because it is about how to communicate and receive one's thoughts, information, ideas of feelings, and even emotions for mutual understanding when communicating with the communicator.

When you decide to live a household life, it means that you must be prepared for any circumstances and conditions that may arise. Including conflict and quarrels. Both of these things are normal, and you have to get used to them. The conflict that occurs will make households more harmonious when it is handled in a good and right way. As a researcher's interview with Mutmainna, who is a young married couple in the village of Ajallasse Bone district of Cenrana Prefecture stated:

"My way of solving family conflicts is to communicate by asking what you want and finding a way out so that the current family conflict can be resolved" (Rahmat, J. 2000). Kasmianti also expressed the same idea:

"My way of solving a family conflict is to be patient, listen to what is being told, give the couple a break to calm down, and then communicate to find a solution to the problem".



## Furthermore, the results of the researcher's interview with Herni:

"If there is a conflict in the household, then the way I follow is to be patient and communicate problems with a gentle language and with a soft language so that the conflict can be resolved".

## Next is the opinion given by Riskawati:

"That is, by giving a break to the couple and then communicating each other's opinions with a cold head and without emotions, the conflict that occurs in the household can be resolved".

#### While another researcher's interview with Agustina:

"The way I do it when there is a conflict in the house is to give up for good and to avoid it when the family comes into the house so that the trouble may be resolved".

Based on the above statement, it can be concluded that the method used in solving a family conflict is to wait until the anger is cleared and then communicate with each other's opinions in soft language so that the conflict can be resolved. If the conflict is still unresolved in such a way, then we must take the means of surrendering for the common good. A peaceful household doesn't mean that there is no conflict in the household. Every peaceful family must have experienced what's called conflict. It is this conflict that makes every marital relationship harmonious when resolved in the right way. The conflict that happens in households, as well as what we keep secret from our parents, will finally be known too. Then, as a husband and wife, how is the action taken when a household conflict reaches the parents. As a researcher's interview with Mutmainna, who is a young married couple in the village of Ajallasse Bone district of Cenrana Prefecture stated,

"If a dispute comes to my parents, that is, that they should not come to them; but if it comes to them, that it should come to their parents, and they should seek their help". Kasmianti also expressed the same idea:

"If my household conflict comes to my parents, then the action is to try to resolve the conflict in his own house and not want his parents to interfere in his household.

## Furthermore, the results of the researcher's interview with Herni:

"My household conflict If it comes to the parents, then the action taken is to try to resolve the conflict that occurred in the staircase and not expect the help of the parents".

## Next is the opinion given by Riskawati:

"The action I take when a family conflict reaches the parents is to try to resolve a household conflict by communicating to find the bright spot of the conflict that is going on without expecting the help of the parents".

## While another researcher's interview with Agustina:

"If my household conflict reaches the parents, then the action is to try to solve the family conflict on their own by avoiding the family's conflict and not expecting the help of the parents".

According to the above statement, it is concluded that if a family conflict reaches the parents, the only thing to do is try to prevent the conflict from reaching the parents. The way young couples in the village of Ajallasse solve domestic conflicts is by trying to build a deeper relationship with each other, being always open to the couple (communicate), giving the couple a break to calm down, and expressing their wishes and opinions in soft language so that the domestic dispute can be resolved. This is in line with the theory of social penetration. It explains how openness becomes the main mechanism for creating different levels of intimacy in a relationship. It reveals that each relationship is a space for finding mutual understanding. This theory is also described in a slice of onion. One communicates with others by applying the slices of onion; the more often one communicates what one wants or the more intense one is communicating, the smaller the conflict, and, on the contrary, the less people communicate and



the less often one penetrates, the more the conflict becomes bigger. Resolving conflicts in households often has obstacles. It's there so we can better understand what our partner really wants. As a researcher's interview with Mutmainna, who is a young married couple in the village of Ajallasse Bone district of Cenrana Prefecture stated:

"The obstacles that I often encounter in resolving my domestic conflict, that is, the existence of selfish factors and differences of opinion, and between the two sides, so that the conflict that can be quickly resolved finally becomes long resolved".

## Kasmianti also expressed the same idea:

"Differences of opinion were among the constraints that I often encountered in resolving my domestic conflict. Because of the factors of selfishness and disagreement, this is what has to be communicated so that the differences can be resolved".

## Furthermore, the results of the researcher's interview with Herni:

"The obstacles I encounter in solving domestic conflicts, namely the low economy, are that there are unmet basic needs as well as different opinions and ways of thinking, so they have to communicate so that the differences can be resolved well".

#### Next is the opinion given by Riskawati:

"The obstacles I encountered in resolving domestic conflicts, namely the low economy and the differences of opinion that resulted in a conflict being slowly resolved, So it has to be communicated well in order to be solved".

## While another researcher's interview with Agustina:

"The difficulties that I encounter in resolving the house conflict, that is, a family that doesn't like and does not want to build a household because it feels incapable or unable to run a good household".

Based on the above statement, it can be concluded that the obstacles encountered in solving domestic conflicts are different ways of thinking and different opinions, which result in a conflict being slowly resolved. Conflict is common in a household because, on a staircase, there must be conflict. From this conflict comes a mutual understanding of what is desired. Dealing with conflict must be well resolved so that the problems that occur can be resolved. There must be a sense of anxiety about the problems that have occurred if you want to resolve a domestic conflict. As a researcher's interview with Mutmainna, who is a young married couple in the village of Ajallasse Bone district of Cenrana Prefecture stated:

"I am concerned about divorce if a family is in conflict, for if a divorce is, it is a lack of love for the children".

#### Kasmianti also expressed the same idea:

"Divorce is the thing that worries me most when there is a conflict in the household because of the fear of the consequences of such a divorce, such as feeling lonely, and the changing view of the people who make the divorce".

## Furthermore, the results of the researcher's interview with Herni:

"In the face of the conflict in the household, divorce is the thing that worries me most, because the child will be the victim when his parents decide to divorce".

## Next is the opinion given by Riskawati:

"What I'm worried about is that if a household is in conflict with a divorce, then the impact will spread to the parents. The parents of the divorced couple will be exposed. As parents, they are afraid their children will suffer from divorce or feel nervous with the murmuring of people"<sup>24</sup>.

## While another researcher's interview with Agustina:

"What I'm worried about when a family conflict is going on is a divorce, because they both love each other, and the problem here is that the family wants to separate them because they don't think they can run the household properly".

Based on the above statement, it can be concluded that the concern in cases of domestic conflict is a divorce. Because the impact will be felt by both children and parents. The parents of the divorced couple will be exposed. As parents, they are afraid their children will suffer from divorce or feel nervous about the slander of others. The difficulties faced in solving family conflicts are selfish factors and low economics, so there are basic needs that are not met, and there are family parties that do not support or like the existence of such a marriage because they think they cannot run a good household.

Figure 1. Interview with Herni, the woman who made a young marriage



Figure 3. Interview with Riskawati, the woman who made a young marriage



Figure 2. Interview with Kusmianti, the woman who made a young marriage



Figure 4. Interview with Mutmainna, the woman who made a young marriage



Figure 5. Interview with Agustina, the woman who made a young marriage



#### 4. Conclusion

After the researcher analyzes the data that has been obtained from the field, the researcher will present the conclusions of the research results which are the answers to the problem formulation, the conclusion that can be drawn from the results of this study is the form of communication of Young Couples in Resolving Household Conflicts in Ajallase Village, namely the linear model, this linear model is a communication process that is said to be sufficient if one person sends a message and another person receives the message. This can be seen when informants resolve their conflicts by building communication when anger begins to subside then expressing their respective opinions with a cool head and using soft language so that household conflicts can be resolved. The obstacles faced by young couples in Ajallasse Village, Cenrana Subdistrict in overcoming household conflicts are egoism, a low economy so that there are basic needs that are not met and there are families who do not approve or dislike the marriage because they think they cannot run a good household. The solution of young couples in resolving household conflicts in Ajallasse Village, Cenrana Subdistrict, Bone Regency is to try to build a deeper (intimate) relationship with each other, always be open to

their partners (communicate), give time pauses to their partners to calm down, and express opinions with soft language and patience so that household conflicts can be resolved.

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