

Submission date: 02/05/2020

Accepted date: 05/8/2020

**EXPLORING REASONS WHY PARENTS USE WHITE LIES
TO GOLDEN AGE CHILDREN IN AL GHAZALY KINDERGARTEN*****Mengetahui Alasan Mengapa Orangtua Menggunakan White Lies
kepada Anak Usia Golden Age di TK Al Ghazaly***Rika Nurismah Safitri, Nuriyati Samatan
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Abstract

White-lies are lying with good intentions. Parents sometimes use white-lies in communicating with their children, especially golden age children who are active and curious about many things. This research using cognitive dissonance theory and data is collected by interview. The subjects were five parents of students at Al Ghazaly Kindergarten who have golden age children. The results showed, parents use white lies when children ask lots of questions and explore new things. Children curiosity sometimes makes parents uncomfortable; the way parents reduce their discomfort by using white-lies. Suggestion for the next researcher is to divide more specifically parents uncomfortable.

Keywords: white lies, parents, golden age, Al Ghazaly Kindergarten.

Abstrak

White lies atau kebohongan putih adalah berbohong dengan tujuan baik tanpa menyakiti orang lain. Orang tua terkadang menggunakan *white lies* dalam berkomunikasi dengan anaknya. Hal ini sering terjadi pada anak usia *golden age* yang aktif dan selalu ingin belajar banyak hal. Teori yang digunakan pada penelitian ini adalah teori disonansi kognitif dengan metode kualitatif. Pengambilan data dilakukan dengan cara wawancara. Subjek dalam penelitian ini merupakan orang tua murid di TK Al Ghazaly Bogor. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa orang tua menggunakan *white lies* ketika anak banyak bertanya dan menjelajahi hal baru. Proses keingintahuan anak terkadang membuat orang tua tidak nyaman sehingga cara orang tua mengurangi

rasa tidak nyaman itu dengan menggunakan *white lies*. Alasan orang tua menggunakan *white lies* beragam, yakni karena ingin cepat saja dalam menjawab pertanyaan anak, karena adanya rasa cemas, dan karena menurutnya anak belum saatnya untuk mengetahui jawaban yang sebenarnya. Orang tua mengaku mengetahui *white lies* karena pernah diterapkan oleh orang tua nya dulu ketika kecil. Saranan untuk penelitian selanjutnya adalah untuk membagi dan menjelaskan lebih dalam perihal rasa ketidaknyamanan orang tua.

Kata kunci: white lies, orangtua, golden age, TK Al Ghazaly.

INTRODUCTION

Children are entrusted as well as gifts given by God to parents. Every parent wants their children to become good children and succeed. Parents have different ways of caring for and educating their children. Children have the rights of children regulated in Law 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection article one paragraph 12. Child rights are part of human rights that must be guaranteed, protected, and fulfilled by parents, family, community, state, government, and local government. Then in Law No. 35 of 2014 it is said that every child has the right to survive, grow and develop as well as the right to get self-protection from violence and discrimination.

Under this law, parents have a major role in fulfilling children's rights and needs. The development of children from an early age must be highly considered, because there is a golden age of the child's development, which is an important time to optimize the child's growth and development.

Prasetiawan (2019) said that the golden age only occurs once, it is very important to stimulate the growth of a child's brain through attention, children's health, provision of adequate nutrition, and educational services at this time. Golden age is one part of human psychological development. It is said that the golden age is because of the periods where the brain's ability to absorb information is very high, any information provided will have a strong impact on the child in later periods. Golden age children are interested in everything and tend to explore things that are sometimes considered by parents to be harmful to children, so that, anxiety is often felt by the parents.

With this kind of character, children need the guidance of those closest to them as role models and living libraries to become references and sources of answers regarding events and objects experienced. Parents should be aware and provide good experience and learning because this first experience will be embedded in the child's memory. All parental behavior is recorded in the child's memory so that it will be applied or

followed by the child later. Therefore, parents must set a good example for their children.

Sometimes parents are forced to lie to make their children know good things and stay away from bad things. Unconsciously parents use "white lies". White lies may be a form of advance work, which states that people is motivated to act in ways that allow social interaction to occur smoothly by avoiding disputes that can damage a person's image or pride (Brown & Levinson, 1978; Cupach & Metts, 1994; Bryant, 2008).

Parents who are willing to budge or take information that might be questioned, stressed, or embarrassed or struggling with other people's expectations (Bryant, 2008). Based on that expert's definitions researcher see that parents use white lies to their children for hiding untruthful facts in case to protect the children and lessen the uncomfortable feeling that is felt by parents.

For example, when children explore new place which has highway and there are a lot of vehicles, parents use white lies to overcome discomfort by saying that there are clowns, because the child is afraid of clowns so the child obeys his parents. Another example is the compilation of active children asking about new things and curious about unusual things, parents prefer to give answers according to the age of children. When the real answer are not inappropriate according to the age, parents choose using white lies. The purpose of this research is to find out the reasons why parents use white lies, how parents know white lies, and examples of white lies they used.

LITERATURE

White Lies

Erin Bryant (2008) White lies are considered as altruistic lies that are trivial, partly true, lacking evil motives, and generally acceptable for use. White lies are falsehoods that do not support hurting anyone and have little moral input. White lie or white lie is the perfect goal without getting hurt by the others. Cambridge Dictionary (2019) a lie that is about a subject that is not very important, or one that is told to be polite or kind.

Based on Biziou-van-Pol (2015) white lie is a lie that benefits another person, generates a moral conflict between two oppositemoral dictates, one pushing towards telling the truth always and the other pushing towards helping others. Some lies are often referred to as white lies, are considered acceptable because they are trivial and can even be used by anyone. This harmless white-lie is called communication competence or "social lubricant" (Saxe, 1991; Bryant, 2008) because it allows people to censor negative thoughts and truths.

Golden Age

Based on (Sujiono, 2009: 5; Pohan, 2018) golden age is the age of a new child counted up to six years is the age of children who experience rapid growth and development. Golden age is an age that greatly determines the formation of character and personality of children. golden age is the age where children experience rapid growth and development.

Meanwhile, Prasetiawan (2019) said that linking the Golden Age era, signed with many questions, often imitating, memorizing the actions or reinforcement of other people who are more mature, can support something quickly, calculate correctly, and strong memorization. Golden age is a golden period which is a part of human psychological development. The reason is called golden age because the periods where the brain's ability to absorb information is very high, any information provided will have a strong impact on children in later periods.

The theory used in this study is the cognitive dissonance theory by Leon Festinger. According to the theory of cognitive dissonance, humans have various kinds of cognitive elements in themselves such as attitudes, perceptions, knowledge, and behavior.

The explanation in (Hutagalung, 2016) states that the theory of cognitive dissonance describes cognitive dissonance as a confusing condition, arising from the result of two conflicting cognitive elements. When someone becomes confused, strange, annoyed, and wants to be angry, those are the signs of cognitive dissonance. This condition occurs because the individual is faced with a situation where there are things that, according to common sense, should not happen but still happen (or vice versa should occur, but did not happen). The main proposition of the theory of cognitive dissonance developed by Leon Festinger is, if there is a conflict in one's consciousness (cognition) then this situation will cause psychological discomfort. When there is psychological discomfort or inconsistency in cognition, dissonance will arise.

Based on Morissan (2013:99) There are two important ideas that form the basis of the theory of cognitive dissonance, namely: (1) the state of dissonance produces tension or stress which causes pressure to change. (2) if the condition of dissonance arises, people will try to not only reduce but also try to avoid. The same thing was stated by O'keefe (2016:78) that there are two board means of reducing dissonance. The first way is by changing the relative proportions pf consonant and dissonance elements. The other way is by altering the importance issue or elements involved. In this study, researchers see the first point is when parents feel anxious about their

children and the second point when parents use white lies to their children as a form of effort to reduce and avoid discomfort.

METHODOLOGY

The method used in this study is qualitative. Based on Kriyantono (2016: 56) qualitative research aims to explain phenomena profusely, not focusing on the number of populations or sampling, and more emphasis on depth or quality. Denzim and Lincoln 1987 in Moleong (2017: 5) state that qualitative research is research that uses a natural setting, with the intention of interpreting phenomena that occur and are carried out by involving various existing methods.

The writing of this research was carried out systematically. According to Samatan (2017: 61) research is called systematic if it follows steps or stages that begin by identifying problems, connecting problems with existing theories, collecting data, analyzing and interpreting data, drawing conclusions, and being able to conclude these conclusions with the ranks of knowledge.

The sampling technique used is purposive sampling, in this technique the researcher makes certain criteria according to the objectives of the study. The purposive sampling technique chosen by the researcher prioritizes the depth of the data compared to generalizable goals (Kriyantono, 2016: 158-159). In this study, researchers took data at Al-Ghazaly Kindergarten, Bogor. Al-Ghazaly Kindergarten is Islamic kindergarten under the auspices of the Al-Ghazaly Islamic Center Foundation which has been accredited A. Al-Ghazaly Kindergarten is located on Jalan Cempaka No.9, RT.01 / RW.08, Kebon Kalapa, Central Bogor District, Bogor City, West Java 16125. Based on the explanation of purposive sampling above, researchers have some criteria that can be used as informants. The criteria is the parents of students at a maximum age of six years in Al Ghazaly Kindergarten Bogor and has done white-lies to their children.

In this study using interview data collection methods. Interviews are conversations between researchers and informants, are expected to get information and informants have important information about an object (Berger, 2000; Kriyantono, 2016: 100). The type of interview conducted is a semi structured interview, according to (Kriyantono, 2016: 101) semi structured interview means the interviewer has a list of written questions but can ask other questions freely related to the problem. Interviews were conducted by researchers through chat and telephone on the WhatsApp application.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Informants in this study were five people whose names were disguised, because the object of this study was underage children. The following is a general description from the informants:

TABLE 1: Table General Description Informants

Description	Informant 1	Informant 2	Informant 3	Informant 4	Informant 5
Name Is Obscured	GG	SN	NN	LC	SS
Age Of The Child	4 Years 3 Months	6 Years	6 Years	4 Years 9 Months	4 Years 9 Months

Source: Researcher

Children who were the object of this study were golden age children. Pohan (2018) said that children aged 0-6 years who experienced rapid growth and development in the formation of character and personality of children in the golden age. At this golden age, the child's development is very rapid and active. The following is the statement of the five informants about the activity of children, among others:

Yes, he is very active, he likes to know, lots of questions. Every time we go out there are always a simple thing that he asks, sometimes is confused to answer. Once he asked "Where is Upin Ipin's mother and father, when I watched Upin Ipin, there were no mother and father." I replied, "mother and father of Upin Ipin are died", then he asked "what is dead?" I replied "died is already back with Allah SWT", he asked more question "What is Allah?", I replied "Allah is who created the heavens, us, animals, we have to pray a lot with Allah", he continued to answer, "oh yes, my teacher once said that God created animals and people". (Informant 1 GG)

Yes, my child always wants to know what he just saw. When he looks at flowers, he asked "why flowers are colorful unlike leaves that are green?" I answer "because the flowers and leaves are from different branches". (Informant 2 SN)

Yes. He likes coloring, curious to be able to color gradations until he can. Once he asked "why adult women should wear hijab?" I answer "because the law in Islam must cover the aurat". (Informant 3 NN)

Yes, he asked a lot and always curious. Once he asked "why mom and dad always go early in the morning and back home in the afternoon, don't you love me?" I answer that "mom and dad are looking for money to buy you needs". (Informant 4 LC)

My son is active and likes to explore. One day at home he saw his grandmother make a cake and holding a mixer, he also tries to mix by using a mixer. When we are outside the house he likes to talk with new people. He really likes to ask and very talkative. If I don't answer, he keeps asking. For example, he seen my wedding photos and he asked "where am I mom? How come there's no me in this photo". I answer "Because you are born after mother and father married", then he kept quiet and he didn't ask anymore. (Informant 5 SS)

The five informants have been interviewed and stated that their children are children who are active in behaving, exploring new things and asking many unknown things. The statement of the five informants is in line with golden age definitions that always active and having curiosity with many questions. On a previous study Prasetiawan (2019) explain about development golden age children, that in line with this study. Both of the study result showed that golden age children is golden period of development children.

The following is the elaboration of the interview results obtained to answer the objectives of this study.

The Reason Parents Use White Lies to Their Children

Parents have various reasons in using white lies to their children. From the activity of children, sometimes parents feel anxious and uncomfortable. There are cognitive discrepancies that are felt by parents. The statements of the informants regarding the reasons for using white lies to their children are as follows:

Sometimes I am confused to answer his questions so he will understand, sometimes the answers are not comforting, or sometimes keep him feelings and claim that it is good for him, all sorts of things. Sometimes just spontaneously answer and to make everything simple and quick. He likes to make me anxious, running when he climbs stairs, climbing gates, running until he bumps the table and got swollen on his forehead, likes to play with his cousins that cause harm. But sometimes if he is hard to be told, I just let

it go, so that if he falls, he will feel the pain, and he finally will just be quiet after that. (Informant 1 GG)

If he asks to buy a toy I am used to lie. The reasons why me lying to him because if we don't have enough money, then he already knows the reasons why we don't buy it. Sometimes children don't understand whether parents have money or not. (Informant 2 SN)

Lying for good purpose, I think it is not yet the age when he knows about it, because he is not old enough. (Informant 3 NN)

The reason is for good purpose to the child, protect for the child, and he is not old enough to know. (Informant 4 LC)

The reason for lying is because the child perforce and fussy, just wants to be obeyed. I like to worry, for example when he said that he could make warm water from a water heater, well, if I didn't see it, I was afraid he pours out too much hot water or flush his hands. (Informant 5 SS)

The informants have different reasons in using white lies to their children, among others because they were confused, uncomfortable, anxious, felt that the child was not of the right age to know the real answer, and it is a way to protect children. The reasons from the five informants stated implicitly and explicitly that there was a sense of discomfort so that finally using white lies to overcome the discomfort. This is consistent with the contents of the theory of cognitive dissonance. Parents use white lies for good purpose for their children. At point one, parents feel discomfort or tension when the child is active, then parents use white lies as an effort to reduce and avoid the discomfort according to point number two.

Source Parents Know White Lies

Everything has a beginning, so do parents in knowing the white lies that make them use and apply it to the children. Parents' knowledge about white lies is different but has a good purpose for their child. The results of the interview received information about getting to know the beginning of white lies, including:

I think because I like to see other people, but I've also felt that my parents lied for good purpose too. (Informant 1 GG)

Parents apply like that. (Informant 2 SN)

From parents, because they applied it to me once I was a kid. (Informant 3 NN)

From parents as well, it seems like I and my child were similar in attitude so I felt something in common with my child. Because parents use lies for good for me, so I apply it to my children. (Informant 4 LC)

Because usually when a child is already fussy like being lied to and is used to it. If we were in toy store, children will whine if we don't buy any till everyone's attention is on us, we prefer to lie so children will understand. Once I was a kid, I was actually tweaked if I whined, but to my own child I don't do that. (Informant 5 SS)

Informants 1, 2, 3, and 4 say that they know the white lies from their own parents. Because they feel that when the informants were a children they got white lies from their parents, the informants apply back to their children because they feel that there are similarities. Informant 1 also added that he knew white lies because he saw other people. Different answers were obtained from informant 5 who said that it's normal to use white lies to their children, and applied different things that informants 5 felt when she was a kid with their children at this time.

Examples of White Lies Used

After explaining the reasons why parents use white lies and the beginning parents know white lies, the following are examples of lies or white lies used by parents to their children:

He asked me curiously. Sometimes I think so much hard for the answer. For example, he had asked because he saw a Youtube vlog with his cousin, "what was the smell of the ex?" I was immediately shocked, I just replied. "That smells bad" After all, I'm confused about the answer." (Informant 1 GG)

When he wants to buy an expensive toy but still wants to buy, just tell him later to be scolded by the security guard or the police, because he scared of them. (Informant 2 SN)

For example, when we walked in the mall, he saw someone dating, he asked, "have they married?" I answer yes for the good sake. (Informant 3 NN)

He is very active, he likes to leave the house looking for friends, if he has opened a gate, I say he will be kidnapped. Because at home he is taken care by other people (babysitter) so as the way I take care of him like that. (Informant 4 LC)

For example he asks for toys even though there are already many toys he have, the price is cheap but it becomes a habit that he wants to have to buy, so it's a lie to say mom doesn't have money or says buy it later with Dad then he forgets and don't buy it too. But for a long time because it was said that I had no money, it would be okay if you didn't buy it, saying you don't have money in front of people. (Informant 5 SS)

The answers from the five informants showed examples of white lies that had been used by their children. Seeing from the answers above, researchers see that white lies are properly used to reduce discomfort that is in line with the assumptions of the theory of cognitive dissonance and as a form of protection for their children. Parents want their children to know things that are good or that can be understood based on children's age. All the answer in line with white lies definitions that lying for good purpose for others, others in this case is golden age children.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study and exposure to the discussion, it can answer the purpose of this study. For the purpose of this research, we want to know the reasons parents use white lies to their children, where do parents know about white lies, and examples of white lies used.

The reasons parents use white lies for their children generally for good purpose for their children from parents perspective. The reasons are diverse, namely because they are confused, uncomfortable, anxious, feel that the child is not the right age to find out the real answer, so it will be simple and quick and it is a part children protection. These reasons are consistent with the theory of cognitive dissonance by Leon Festinger. When parents feel the discomfort or tension when the child is active due to the golden age, then parents use white lies as an effort to reduce and avoid the discomfort. Parents do not always use white lies to their children, white lies are used only when parents feel a sense of discomfort. White lies are one of the ways and forms of response from parents to answer the activity of children with the purpose of the goodness of their own children and without hurting anyone. This lie is intended for the good of the child or children protection. It can be concluded that parents use white

lies to their children because of discomfort and anxiety when children are actively behaving and asking questions.

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