PERCEPTION AND ATTITUDES ON MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE OF FEMALE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCED PARENTAL DIVORCE.

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A RESEARCH PROJECT

SUBMITTED IN

PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR

THE BECHELOR OF COMMUNICATION (HONS) PUBLIC RELATIONS

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

UNIVERSITI TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN

JANUARY 2018

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 <u>Research Background</u>

Marriage is considered a lifelong partnership (Shukla, Deodiya, & Singh, 2013). In the same study also said that it is the foundation stone on which a family was formed. Basically, marriage is a social and legal contract, it is a crucial and sacred bond between two personalities merging into one for ideas, attitudes, habits and likes and dislikes. In olden days, marriage used to be decided by the elders but now changes have been reflected both in the acts and thoughts (Shivalli, Chitagubbi, & Devendrappat, 2012). Alice & Florence (2015) study conducted that African society, they have high regard and expectation for marriage and always had positive perception and attitude about it. Thus, they take marriage as a rite of passage. On the other hand, western people are view that marriage is just a temporary contract for couple to love lasts. What if the relationship is not personally fulfilling or there is loss of love in marriage then better end up the relationship. As the society in Malaysia, marriage is held in the highest regard in the past and it was used to be one of the life's essential goal and a finishing line that everyone needs to reach because it symbolise the continuity of our bloodlines and represents the happiness (Alfian, 2017). However, Malaysian youths today have developed into a generation that does not hold marriage and domestic life in the same vein of importance they used to be.

Over the past fifty years, there were a huge changes in marriage and divorce patterns around the world, for example, people in western countries spend most of their life living together outside a formal marriage (Alice & Florence, 2015). In addition, the increasing number of dramatic changes in American families like divorce, domestic violence has lead people to go for alternatives family life or marriage such as trial marriages, single parent families, progressive marriages, gay marriages, and cohabitation. On May 24, 2017, Taiwan was become the first country in Asia to legally recognize same-sex marriage (gay marriage). Taiwan's Constitutional Court ruled that the marriage only between a men and a woman law was invalid (Banyan, 2017). The study also found that, the social

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acceptance of gays in Taiwan has grown quickly in recent years. The same study said that in 2001, that nearly three-fifths of Taiwanese were against same-sex marriage, but after today the polls suggest that half support it, besides the another quarter not really support it. According to Liu (2017) study have found out that 60% over 100% of senior high school students approve same-sex marriage, while 83% over 100% university students approve it. Alice & Florence (2015) conducted that policy makers and researchers was interest on the marriage is because it have a strong connection between important action and individuals. For instance, some of the people debate that marriage is just similar as insurance policy, as it offers protection against the health.

Today, the enthusiastic of getting married start reducing especially in youths. They plan to stay single or unintentionally choose to be single parenthood. According study conducted by Azman, Hashimah, & Noraidah, in 2015, two armed forces giving women more independence are education and careers. In addition, education level of women and income are changing the pattern of married, education changes women's expectations. The other main trend changing marriage also come by better education – female employment (Azman, Hashimah, & Noraidah, 2015).In addition, There are more women subscribed to the idea that women's life is never complete without marriage, so they willing to challenge the main social identities. Besides, study conducted by Tey (2017), both men and women who are secondary and tertiary sectors have that opportunities ample job, it is opened by Malaysia's economic development because to follow the rising educational attainment. In the same study, most of the higher educated youths who are working in urban labour market, will leave their parents at the countryside, because youth was enjoy much more independent in decision-making. Furthermore, these kind of changes will give a significant effects on marriages. Once the position of women changed, the ideas of marriage and family are reducing among the young generations will no longer anymore (Osman, 2014)

Other than that, a study conducted by PHD of University of York Women's studies, Zuraini Jamil Osman (2013), found out that generation now have grown-up with modern technologies therefore they got a greater freedom and lots opportunity to choose their career than the older generations. Thus, culture and society have changed specifically in economy and education, this provide a better opportunities for women to be more

independent. In addition, these cultural have been changes but the traditional perception of women's responsibilities and roles in the family are still remain and has not been changed.

Young adults whom experienced and grown-up in single or family divorce might change their views of the family and attitudes toward marriage (Goslin, 2014). In addition, experience can lead to attitudes and expectations on marriage from a perception of reality about relationships. Marital attitudes was positive can affect the behaviour and improve relationships by viewing them as content and successful. Besides that, marital attitudes was negative can move to beliefs concerning relationships and less positive beliefs. The young adults experience divorced families were found to have feeling that fearful, anxious and pessimistic about their future marital status or relationships (Goslin, 2014). In addition, they gained message from their parents, such as impermanent relationships, approach relationship with carefulness and lack of trust in their relationship.

Other than that, religious relationship and religiosity have also been linked across an extensive variety of family fields with greater support for families, particularly marriage, marital stability, disapproval of non-marital childbearing, and support for traditional meanings of marriage (Kaufman & Goldscheider, 2007). Thus, they expect religious participation to be absolutely associated with the importance of marriage for both men and women, especially women.

1.2 <u>Problem Statement</u>

In recent years, the number of marital breakdowns has increased. There has been an increase of 104% in divorce cases over the past 10 years in Malaysia (Law, 2015). According to the statistics provided by Syariah Judiciary Department Malaysia (JKSM), Muslim couples who divorced had increased from 20,916 in 2004 to 47,740 in 2012, and then to 49,311 in 2013, this showed an average of 156 Muslim couples divorced daily (Star Media Group Berhad, 2016). On the other hand, Statistics Department show that the rate of divorces from 3,291 in 2004 while in 2012, the cases increased to 9,020. Obviously, the number of non-Muslim was slightly higher due to the marriages broke down (Boo, 2014). The numbers of divorce petitions have been a steep rise not only come from old couples but also come from young couples of Muslim and non-Muslim (Durai, 2015).

Family is the main platform for individuals to learn about honestly, respect, love and communication on importance of relationship aspects (Goslin, 2014). Larson, Benson, Wilson, Medora and Valerian found that substantial parental conflict and low parental happiness are negative factors and it will caused their children have more negative attitudes towards marriage as cited in Goslin (2014). In addition, young adult's attitudes and experiences on future relationship can be affected by particularly parental distress and divorce. According to Huang & Lin (2014) research said that the perceptions of parental conflict and parental separation have negative impacts on attitudes toward marriage and on courtship progress among college-age students. The researcher also found that, individuals from intact families, referred to family who both parents were married and living together may have different marital attitudes from those who are from non-intact families. Thus, it was concluded that young adults from divorced families will feel more fearfully and less optimistic about marriages due to their experiences of a negative perception of marriage and the witnessing of a failed relationship.

Fagan & Churchill (2012) stated that divorce causes irreversible damage to all involved, specifically to the children. Moreover, divorce permanently weakens the bond between children and parents. It often leads to destructive methods of conflict management, decline of social skills, early loss of virginity, and weakened sense of masculinity or femininity in young adults. This also leads to dating trouble, more cohabit, and high possibility of divorce, greater expectations of divorces later in life, and reduce the desire of having children. Paul Amato (2000), professor of sociology at Pennsylvania State University summed up that divorce lead to "interruption in the parent-child relationship, continuing disharmony between former spouses, and loss of emotional support, financial hardship, and an increase in the number of other negative life events." The support that children from divorced parents receive from home is much lower in rate compared to children who come from intact families, and these negative ratings eventually become more obvious by the time that being when the children went to high school and college (Fagan & Churchill, 2012). Parental divorce affected young men and women views of marriage especially young women. They will feel a need for love, attention and fear of being abandonment; also will be prone to desire and anxiety from their parents (Fagan & Churchill, 2012). Thus, women whose come from divorce families are likely to be impeded

or even overwhelmed by fear while they tend to make decision on marriage (Fagan & Churchill, 2012). Women will lose confidence and commitment towards their relationship compare to men (Fagan & Churchill, 2012).

Shine (2017) stated that young adults have lack of confidence and distrust promise in their own ability to maintain a good relationship with their partner due to them is from divorced families. In the same study also said that, women whom parental divorce was attendant with low relationship of commitment and confidence. On the current finding from the Shine (2014) also suggested that the risk for divorce may rising especially to women because they are from divorce families therefore they might loss confidence and promise towards their future marriage.

Experiencing a parental divorce appears to have a stronger impact on women's than men's desires and beliefs about the future of their own marriages (Whitton, Rhoades, Stanley & Markman, 2009). Parental divorce was associated with lower relationship commitment and confidence for women. Women from divorced family have lower relationship commitment and less confidence in the future of their marriages than women from non-divorced families. Daughters of divorced parents appear to be more ambivalent about committing to a particular partner, not merely to the notion that marriage should be forever generally. Women are socialized to be more relationship-oriented than men; they might be more attuned to their parents' marital dissolution and its lessons regarding the impermanence of marriage (Whitton, Rhoades, Stanley & Markman, 2009). Being primed to be conscious of the fragility of marriage by observing parental divorce may lead women, more than men, to suppress levels of marital confidence and to hold back on their commitment to their marriages.

1.3 <u>Research Objectives</u>

The purpose of this study is to explore the perception and attitudes on marriage of female university students who experienced parental divorce, and further, to begin to describe the effect of their perception and attitudes towards commitment to marriage and divorce. The steep rise of divorce in Malaysia might shift how young people view marriage. Professor Gavin Jones of the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore mentioned that divorce rates throughout East and South-East Asia is increasing

since 1980s, partly due to reduced stigma of divorce (Abirami, 2015). Goslin (2014) also mentioned that changes parental distress and divorce could affect young adults' future relationship attitudes and experiences. To explore about this issue, we will conduct a qualitative study involving 6 female students studying in a local university, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Kampar Campus, Perak.

1.4 Research Questions

The study is guided by two research questions

- *RQ 1:* What is the meaning of marriage and divorce for female students who experienced parental divorce?

- *RQ 2:* How this meaning of marriage affects their attitudes towards commitment to marriage and divorce??

1.5 Research Significance

The findings of this research can provide an understanding on perception of marriage for female university students who have experienced parental divorce considering that the steep rise of divorce rate in Malaysia. Past study by Huang & Lin (2014) stated it is very important to study the perception of university students because it may directly affect the rates of birth, marry delayed and rates of divorce as they reach marriageable age in Malaysia.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 <u>Marriage</u>

The purpose of marriage has changed from time to time. In the mid-1800s, the purposes of marriage were for social, economic and political reason but after the industrial revolution, purposes of marriage changed into love and personal fulfillment (Manap, Kassim, Hoesni, Nen, Idris & Ghazali, 2013). Besides that, this research also found that there are three motives held by single youth in Malaysia towards the purpose of marriage. These motives are religious motive, biological motive and socio-psychological motive.

Religion is one of the main purposes of marriage as it provides guidelines for young couple to perform a legal relationship. For example, Muslims couples who have achieved certain criteria like having physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual maturity should plan to go for marriage so that it help and protect each other from religion punishments. Muslims have to perform certain religious duties or play their special role as a husband, son in law and father or in opposite gender when they get marriage in order to develop a strong relationship and smart partnership. In Islamic religion, marriage is seen as a devotion to God. The benefits of marriage do not only exist in lifetime but also extend even to the afterlife. For Muslims, religiosity becomes one of the most important criterions in choosing their lifetime partner.

Biological motives are the second motive of marriage. Men and women getting married to fulfill human nature to be in pairs, creating a family and giving birth to a child so that human legacy can be continued. Sexual desire is human nature and marriage is seen as the only way to fulfill sexual desire that also serves to preserve human well-being and dignity (Manap, Kassim, Hoesni, Nen, Idris & Ghazali, 2013).

Thirdly, the mutual love, friendship and happiness between couples in the marriage come from the socio-psychological motives. Love is another dominant force of marriage, single youths express their intention to their love one and get married and live together.

Through marriage, couples can prove and show their love through legal relationship. Besides from love, friendship becomes another purpose of marriage. Loneliness is often related with stress and depression, human will feel lonely and afraid when they are alone therefore they want to avoid loneliness in life especially when they are old. Men and women become an official legal life partner by getting married. After getting marriage, they can freely plan and do many activities together such as vacation, recreation and hobby without worrying about social stigma and prejudice. Marriage is also seen as a platform to get happiness, harmonious life, and blessing. Single youths aim to build a happy family and live a happy life (Manap, Kassim, Hoesni, Nen, Idris & Ghazali, 2013).

Besides from religion, biological and socio-psychological motives, cultural factors can also be one of the motives of marriage. Marriage is a norm in both South Asia and Southeast Asia. However, Netting (2006) stated that this norm had changed because of globalization, modernization, urbanization as well as exposures to different cultures (Sivalogananthan, 2014). According to Tsuya (2001) and Caldwell (2005), perceptions on marriage by younger generation people might be different compare to the older generation because of the process of globalization, modernization and urbanization. Arranged marriages were once a popular norm in Asian countries in the past, but today arranged marriages has been replaced by romantic relationship (Sivalogananthan, 2014).

Global culture is the cultural elements that change the original way of living of human communities to popular way of living through globalization process. Globalization can sometime bring negative and undesirable impact to the human communities. For example, the changing patterns of sociocultural institutions like religion, language and family due to the effects of global culture. Globalization has breakdown family relationships and values. According to Harun (2000), Malay societies are eroding today because of the rapid social changes and western influences that spread through media. Industrialization and urbanization had made Malaysian family to face significant changes and transition (Razak, 2009). As stated in Berita Harian (2006), the strong nature of national economic progress and huge changes in mainstream development has affected on the structure, size, system, values and family relationships that influence marital and family harmony (Razak, 2009). Lifestyle practices in Malaysia have changed dramatically and

evolved differently due to new processes of socialization (Razak, 2009). As a result, family ties are seen to be less intimate due to the development of luxurious lifestyles and prosperity. Additionally, Zaidi (2006) mentioned that this is seen to be associated with individuals seeking professional and career benefits and paying less attention to family life (Razak, 2009). The changing context of the world order has generated a diversity of marital and family life all around the world and in Malay society. The era of globalization has consequences and impacts on all aspects of human life and adjustments must be made to cope with the changes brought about these phenomena. Traditionally, women were generally married at early stage of age in the Malay Muslim population of Southeast Asia. Traditional Malay culture finds difficulty in entertaining the idea of non-marriage or delayed marriage as a life option, and Malays take this matter very seriously. Saad (2003) said that couples today are exposed to a more open environment and the suggestion is that the family institution is becoming fragile as a result of socioeconomic changes such as the presence of a large number of women in workforce (Razak, 2009). The perception of the institution of marriage as a very sanctified, highly valued and significant entity suggests that individuals who want to get married need to be well prepared, not just mentally, emotionally and physically but even financially.

2.1.1 <u>Attitudes toward Marriage</u>

Young adult's attitudes toward marriage can be associated by few salient factors, for example parental conflict, family structure, and individual gender (Huang & Lin, 2014). According to Weigel (2007), young adults from divorced families mostly believed that there were no permanent relationships (Cui, Fincham, & Durtschi, 2010). According to Huang & Lin (2014) explain that intact family is the family that have a complete family members, parent were married and live together. In the same study, lots of the researcher have argue there have a relationship between attitudes toward marriage and their family structure, especially individual from complete family will be different on marriage compare to those from incomplete family. Yu & Adler-Baeder (2007) found that young adults from intact families have a tendency to have more positive attitudes towards marriage compared to whose from divorced families (Collardeau & Ehrenberg, 2016). Fagan & Churchill (2012) stated that young women also have a longing for love and caring,

even from divorced families, but they are also afraid to be discarded. They will also tend to both crave and anxiety. They know what to do when it comes time to make decisions about marriage, but because of their family background they are more likely to show anxiety in decision making. Miles and Servaty-Seib explored 310 traditional college-aged students from Caucasians, African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic, Latinos, Native Hawaiians, American Indian, biracial students, and international students, to measure their supposed level of obligation to a future marriage and their like hood to divorce should such a marriage become indecisive (Huang & Lin, 2014). The result from the study show that individuals who from divorce family have a lower level of marital commitment and also get a higher pro-divorce attitudes than an aristocracies that from a complete families. Alqashan and Alkandari also get the same result on his study on Kuwait undergraduate students; they suggested that individuals that from intact marriages more positives attitudes toward divorce compared with just few positive attitudes toward marriage (Huang & Lin, 2014). In the same study, Wallerstein and Lewis's findings agree that individual who from divorce family are more likely to get divorce themselves than those individuals whose parents did not divorce. Furthermore, Kirk's research concluded that fearful and less optimistic about marriages can be found on those young adults from divorced families, she explain that those negative experiences will lead to negative attitudes and fear toward marriage and get a failed relationship. In addition, they also fear to repeat the same mistake like their parents and also getting divorce themselves.

According to study conducted by Huang and Lin, attitudes regarding marriage among college-age students had become a serious social concern. It is very crucial for the young adults to understand the importance of their attitudes towards marriage as it might lead to decrease birth rates, postpone of marriages, and enhance divorce rates. In their study, they stated that parental relationship is an important key factor which is very influential in shaping young adults' attitude on marriage. Lack in interaction will occur when a family was incomplete with both parents and will cause negative social behavior (Alqashan & Alkandari, 2010).

A study conducted by Sodermans, Bastaits, Vanassche, Matthijs & Peer found out that parental divorce and parental conflict have negative influence on young adults' marital

and divorce attitudes towards marriage. Children from the divorced family tend to have fear on marriage because they afraid of repeat their parents' path (Alqashan & Alkandari, 2010). They are no longer willing to engage in marriage and divorce is slowly becoming ordinary for them.

2.2 Divorce

The divorce rate in Asian countries has been rising due to modernization. According to Goode (1993) and Jones (1994), before modernization and industrialization process happen, countries such as Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia & Taiwan has a moderately high pattern of divorce (Hirschman & Teerawichtchainan, 2003). However, according to Jones (1997), these countries have climbed up to the level just a level below those countries in the Western because of the education in modern society, urbanization process, changed laws and social norms and new perceptions about role of marriage and divorce rates (Hirschman & Teerawichtchainan, 2003). The economic and social characteristic of women had changed since modernization start to spread around the world (Hirschman & Teerawichtchainan, 2003). In Southeast Asia, the levels of marital breakdown can also affected by ethnicity. The breakdown of traditional family and values, a lessened stigma associated with marital dissolution, and the liberalization of laws that have made it easier to dissolve marriages (Sivalogananthan, 2014). In the modern era, the decline in marital stability is closely associated to the processes of industrialization, urbanization, and increasing individual freedom (Hirschman & Teerawichtchainan, 2003).

For East Asian countries, the divorce rates have been increasing in all countries since 1980s (Dommaraju & Jones, 2011). Although there have been temporary decreases in some years but the general pattern suggests that the divorce rates hit the peak in early 2000 and decline or remain the same afterwards. In the same research also found that, South Korean, Taiwan and Hong Kong have the highest divorce rates in this region now. The results of survey data from Taiwan, Korean and Japan show that many women do not consider it is necessary to get marry for the sake of children. This proves that there is a significance departure from traditional attitudes towards marriage in women in these countries. Besides that, in the Southeast Asian countries like Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Southern Thailand & Southern Philippines, the divorce rates were traditionally

high and decline dramatically in the mid-20th century as the region go through modernization process. However, this trend has reversed and the divorce rates once again increase (Dommaraju & Jones, 2011).

In Malaysia, the divorce case rise from 29373 cases in 2008 to 38273 cases in 2012 (Yaacob, Fam, Mukhtar & Arshat, 2016). Muslim families have a higher divorce rate compare to non-Muslim family. From 2008 to 2012, Muslim families' divorce rate is between 17.40% and 20.68% whereas non-Muslim families' divorce rate is between 10.14% and 15.11%. This indicates that Malaysia Muslim families are at higher chance to affect by divorce.

2.2.1 <u>Parental Divorce</u>

From the research conducted by Yaacob, Fam, Mukhtar & Arshat, inter-parental conflict will produce negative impact on the attitudes of adolescents from divorced families towards marriage. In Malaysia, adolescents are those who aged 11 to 17 years old. Adolescents in our country always have high desire to get marry and always confident on their married life in the future time. 90.8% of adolescents said that it is crucial for them to get a fantasy marriage and lovely family. This signifies they are confidence on marriage. However, those who have gone through parental divorce will not have the same opinion as the experience will destroy their imagination on married life. Parental divorce is like a disease, it can be transmit from one generation to another. Adolescents from incomplete family will show negative attitudes towards marriage and have higher chance of divorce in the future but adolescents from complete family will have opposite view. It is painful for an innocent adolescent to experience parental conflict and parental divorce. As a result, adolescents will have bad impressions and fear towards marriage (Yaacob, Fam, Mukhtar & Arshat, 2016).

Research also found out that parental divorce has bad influence on marital commitment and confidence of their children (Whitton, Rhoades, Stanley & Markman, 2009). Cohen (2002) found that children from divorce families might experience more internalizing and externalizing behaviours due to experiencing on going parental conflict and discord than children from intact families. A study conducted by Sodermas, et.al (2008) stated that children staying in non-intact families seized more negative attitudes toward

marriage, they believe divorce is the only way to them to end a bad marriage compare to children from intact families. Another study conducted by Rebecca Bivona (2013) stated that young adults especially women may lack of confidence in their future marriage and will see marriage as potentially temporary due to their parents have divorced compare to women who come from intact families. According to Marripedia, women whom parents' divorce will get lower relationship commitment and confidence but not in men (Marripedia, n.d.). Thus, parental divorce might give young adults a feeling of unreliability within their relationships and have more negative attitudes towards marriage (Moats, 2004). People raised in divorced families are not too possible to believe that marriage is permanent. Thus, they are less likely to adhere to the promise of lifelong marriage. They don't even think positively of themselves as parents. Many of them fear that they may not have the chance to possess a happy marriage in the future (Fagan & Churchill, 2012). Based on the finding by Sassler, Cunningham and Lichter (2009), youth who grew up with divorce parents tend to have lower satisfaction in romantic relationship and they mostly possess belief that their relationship would end (Cui, Fincham, & Durtschi, 2010). Low trust among children are often leads by parental divorce, and it also will affect young adults own romantic relationship (Marripedia, n.d.). Children will lose confident to go for a date and romance when they faced parent divorce in their adulthood because they are afraid of being rejected by their partners. (Marripedia, n.d.). Children know that marriage can be non-long lasting through the experience from their separate and divorce parents. The ability of children to perceive happy and long lasting marriage may also ruined by parental divorce. Children from divorced parents do not see marriage positively and they are less favourable about the long-lasting and healthy marriage. At the same time, they also give less commitment on their personal relationship and they are less confidence in their own ability to maintain a happy marriage with their partner (Whitton, Rhoades, Stanley & Markman, 2009). Children from divorce family considered marriage is no longer important to them. Compared with children of married parents, children of divorced parents tend to treat marriage negatively. This attitude of marriage may leads to decrease commitment to romantic relationships and lower the quality of relationship. Divorced families young adults assume that their future relationship will be fail as they believe couples are lack of ability to solved marital problems, they also worry that they will repeat their parents'

mistakes. According to Wolfinger (2003a), individuals from divorced families might marry partner who have the same experience of parental divorce and their marriage might ended in divorce (Collardeau & Ehrenberg, 2016).

2.2.2 <u>Attitudes toward Parental Divorce</u>

Shurts and Myers (2011) stated that young adults' attitudes develop based on variety of experiences such as messages received from media, religious values, family and friends. Children will have trauma and problem if their parents have been divorce and separation (Goslin, 2014). The negative side of marriage may influence attitudes of children toward marriage and they might tend to have gap in the relationship with their parents and conflict in future marriage (Alqashan & Alkandari, 2010). Amato argued that young adults are more tend to problematic, conflict, unstable relationships and lack of trust in their relationships due to their parents divorced. Based in the finding by Cui and Fincham (2010), parental divorce caused individuals to have positive attitudes toward divorce but lower in both relationship commitment and relationship quality (Cui, Fincham, & Durtschi, 2010). Dennison and Koerner suggested that anxiety, awful and pessimistic about their own future relationships and marital status will be easily fond on young adults from divorced parents because they scared of being hurt from their relationships and concerned about broke up of their future marriages (Goslin, 2014). Social and psychological problem will exist within the young adults and might continue in their adult life later on (Alqashan & Alkandari, 2010). This is because young adults observed their parents divorced since they are children therefore they will follow whatever their parents' marital status. According to study conducted by Goslin, social learning theory forecasts that individuals reflect the behavior and actions of their parents, and also found out that family is the most affected to an individual, by controlling what the children are subjected to and what they observe towards parental divorce. Shurts and Myers argued that this can restrict the impact, negative attitudes and perceptions of a young adult on their relationships and future marriage status.

2.3 <u>Social Learning Theory</u>

Observation, imitation, and modelling from a person to another is defined as social learning theory. Imitating the behaviours and attitudes of others is the significance of this theory. Based on social learning theory, children will intimate their family members' attitudes and actions (Sodermans, Bastaits, Vanassche, Matthijs & Peer, 2008). Children accept the attitudes from their parents directly from the communication of attitudes and also indirectly from observing it. For example, Parents play an important role to young adults. Young adults tend to observe their parents' behaviour and learn about how marriage and family life should be by observing their parents' marital relationship since from young (Moats, 2004). Young adults will begin to think of marriage and long-term relationships after witnessing the relationship of their parents during their childhood (Collardeau & Ehrenberg, 2016). Young adults might also learn that separation is the best way to bring an end to marriage.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 <u>Qualitative Research Method</u>

Qualitative research is a method of scientific research. It uses predefined set of process to answer question systematically. Also, in order to generate findings that were not found in any literature or journal and that can be applied in study, evidence collection is necessary in qualitative research (Family Health International, n.d.).

A research has a set of standard procedure and steps that should be followed. Getting an accurate statistics result can be done through research process. In the methodology part, qualitative research method is chosen to conduct our research topic which aims to study the perception and attitudes on marriage and divorce of female university students who experienced parental divorce. Qualitative research method enables us to have interaction with the samples and involve the actual experiences of the samples (Creswell, 2009). Therefore, it is very important to study their perception and attitudes on marriage and divorce because it might causes birth rates dropped, delayed marriages, and divorce rates goes up (Huang & Lin, 2014). Moustakas (1994) stated that phenomenological study is a study which researchers identify and understand the life experiences of a phenomenon of the individuals (Creswell, 2009). In our study, we hope to explore the perception and attitudes towards marriage and divorce and how this perception influence their attitudes.

A semi-structured interview question will be used in collecting the data. A semi-structured interview is a formal interview between the interviewer and interviewees (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2008). The applicability of interview technique for this study was agreed by Glesne and Peshkin (1992), Denzin and Lincoln (1994) and Patton (1990) (as cited in Ibrahim & Hassan, 2015) who stated that "We interview people to find out things that we cannot directly observe such as feelings, thoughts and intention". Interviewer may prepare a list of questions and topic that need to be covered during the interview. Questions developed are based on theories and broad knowledge based on our

research topic. During the interview session, open-ended questions will be ask allowing for a discussion with the research participants rather than a straightforward question and answer format. Also, whenever questions are given to them, they are encouraged to share their experience and opinion sincerely (Creswell, 2009). This will helps us to obtain the most accurate results for our study. The reason why we choose to use semi-structured interview is because questions can be prepared in advance. Thus, semi-structured interviews allow informants to express their views freely in their own terms and provide reliable and comparable information (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2008). This will be more flexible as we may not necessary to follow the all the question listed, we may change the question on the spot which is related with our research topic. The interview will be carry out one by one and usually cover the duration of minimum 60 minutes to 2 hours, and it also will only be conducted once for each individual. We will choose 6 female students as our research participants to do the semi-structured interview.

3.2 **Purposive Sampling**

Purposive sampling is a technique used for identify and select individuals or groups of individuals with relevant knowledge or experienced with a phenomenon of interest (Palinkas, Horwitz, Green, Wisdom, Duan & Hoagwood, 2013). For our research, as mentioned above, six Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) female students who have experienced parental divorce will be selected for in-depth interview. This is because women seems to be more affected after experiencing a parental divorce when compare with men (Whitton, Rhoades, Stanley & Markman, 2009). We will try to approach the research participants which are from different races in order to make our research more flexible and meaningful.

In order to get sufficient research participants for our study, snowball sampling method will be used. When a study requires participants to recruit additional participants to participate in the research program, this method is called snowball sampling (Glen, 2014). This method will be used because our potential participants which are female university students from divorce family are difficult to find. Chain referral is the working principle of this type of sampling technique. Researcher asks for assistance from the first subject to help identify people with a similar background after the observation and

interview between themselves. This process is like asking your subjects to nominate another person with the same trait as your next subject. After that, the researcher observes the nominated subjects. Before obtaining sufficient number of subjects, researcher will continues with the same procedures (Glen, 2014). First of all, we will get one of the research participants who are from divorce family and start our semi-structure interview with her. After we done the interview, we will request her to help us to get the other potential research participants. Through this method, we hope to get more individuals who are willing to participate in our study. We will give priority to our own circle of friends. We assume that they will be more approachable and comfortable when we approach them.

Beside the way we mention above, we will write a notice about our research topic, list out the requirements of our research participants and pin it at each block within the campus. However, this method might be difficult to us as the students may not aware of our notice. Also, we will make use of the power of social media. We try to post the notice on social media like Facebook. This is because social media nowadays is quite powerful to get information. We will ask them to private message us if she willing to help us. This is to ensure that her personal information will be kept confidential.

On the other hand, we tend to conduct the interview in our research participants' hostels, this is because we assume that is the environment where they will feel comfortable and do not feel restricted or uncomfortable to share information when undergo interview with us. Before that, we have to get permission from them first. Empty classrooms at UTAR will be contingency plans if they do not approve our request. They may suggest us the most suitable site for them to conduct the interview.

3.3 <u>Interview Protocol</u>

We will use an interview protocol for data recording. Interview protocol is an interview guide outlining the procedures and methods for conducting the interview. During the interview the research participants may expose many information but by using this guide we can focus on what we need to explore (Bhatnagar, 2009). Moreover, it is very hard to record everything with hand-written notes during the interview therefore we are suggested to use electronic device for voice recording. We will record the information

provided by our research participants through hand-written notes and audiotaping (Creswell, 2009). Therefore, there will be two of us interview a respondent, one will be act as the interviewer and the other one will observe and record the interview session. Before the interview start, we will request the research participants to sign the consent form. This is to ensure that they understand what they are involving, decide to continue the interview or not and data they provided will be kept in strict confidence (Bhatnagar, 2009). After that questions will be ask to the research participants, at the same time, probes for the questions to ensure they elaborate their ideas in richness and more detail (Creswell, 2009). After the interview, the recording documents will be transcript word by word (verbatim) and it may be time consuming as we have to listen to the audio again and again in order to get the closest to the original information. We also will separate into two groups and listen to the same recording to avoid missing of some important points (Haregu, 2012).

3.4 <u>Data Analysis</u>

Qualitative data consist of words, observations, pictures, and symbols. The range of processes and procedures where we move from the collected qualitative data into some form of explanation, understanding or interpretation of our research participants is known as qualitative data analysis (Haregu, 2012).

Data analysis can be conducted simultaneously with data collection, while interview is in progress (Creswell, 2009). For example, as what mention above, we will using audiotaping as our data recording. After we done with the first interview we will listen back to what we recorded to make an interview transcribe. At the same time, some of our group members might be interviewing the other research participants. Therefore, the process of data analysis and data collection actually can be conducted simultaneously. We also will separate into two groups and listen to the same recorder to avoid missing of some important points. This process is different from quantitative research in which the researchers collect data first and then only analyse the collected data (Creswell 2009).

Once we have completed all the transcripts of the data, we will move on to coding process to conduct detailed analysis. Coding is process of categorising and labelling of the collected data to make it more organised (Creswell, 2009). After identify the themes for

the each data, description and interpretation will be further explain our findings (Creswell, 2009).

3.5 <u>Ethical Consideration</u>

Ethics are the codes of conduct that differentiate between right and wrong. They help to determine the differences between what researchers can accept and what they do not. There are many professional associations and agencies have adopted codes of ethic and policies that summarise ethical behaviour such as honesty, objectivity, and respect for intellectual property, social responsibility, confidentiality, non-discrimination and many others due to ethical considerations are so significant in research. In qualitative research, ethical principles are primarily focus on protecting research participants (ProProfs Quiz, n.d.).

As we collect the data from our research participants, we need to respect them. Therefore, before we start the interview with the research participants, we have to develop an informed consent form for them to approve and sign (Creswell, 2009). The guidance of the consent form must be stated clear and understandable. Also, a description of how are we going to use the collected data must be included in the consent form. This step is very important because we have the responsibility to protect and keep their personal information confidential. Other ethical procedures during data collection will be getting the permission of the research participants to provide research sites (Creswell, 2009). For example, if we get the approval of using their hostels as our research site, we have to make sure that we left undisturbed after the interview as qualitative interview is time consuming. During the interview, we need to anticipate the possibility of harmful or intimate information being reveal. Our research participants may discuss and reveal some confidential information with us during interview (Creswell, 2009). Therefore, when we are facing this circumstances, we have to protect the privacy of all individuals who participate in our study.

Interview questions:

RQ1: What is the meaning of marriage for female students who experienced parental divorce?

RQ2: How this meaning of marriage affects their attitudes towards commitment to marriage and divorce?

No.	Question
1	What marriage means to you?
2	Marriage is forever. What's your view on this? / Do you believe in the institution of marriage, being committed to one person for the rest of your life?
3	What is the purpose of marriage?
4	What your view on divorce?
5	Do you think divorce solves marital problem?
6	What do you think about the requirements that a relationship must have?
7	Do you believe that permanent relationship in marriage exists?
8	Do you think that divorce is the only solution for a broken down marriage?
9	What does your culture says about marriage? / What is the definition of marriage in your culture?
10	What does your religion says about divorce?
11	How important is marriage to you?
12	How optimistic are you towards marriage?
13	How confident are you towards men? / Do you have trust issue?
14	How do you react when someone asked or propose to you to begin a relationship?
15	What are you afraid of in a marriage?
16	How old were you when your parents divorced?
17	How does your parental divorce affect your view on marriage?
18	How does your parental divorce affect your relationship with others (romantic relationship)? Probe: Are you afraid of being hurt?
19	If your parents have never been divorced, could your perception toward marriage changed?

Informed Consent Form

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this study which will take place from January 15, 2018 to April 22, 2018.

Our discussion will be using audio taped to help us to record the interviews or conversation of your answer. However, if you feel uncomfortable with the recorder, you may ask to stop it or turned it off at any time.

Also, you have the rights to revoke from the interview any time when you feel embarrassed or uncomfortable. We will destroy all the information that you provide including the tape.

The researcher and research participant should keep one copy of consent form which has been signed by the researcher and research participant as a record.

Participation consent form

Perception and Attitudes on Marriage and Divorce of Female University Students Who Experienced Parental Divorce.

- I _____ agree to participate in this research study.

- I understand that all the information that I provide such as name, contact number, address will be confidentially by the researcher.

- I understand that even if I agree to participate now. I can reject or revoke to answer any question at any time or withdraw from the interview.

- I understand that I will not get any benefit from participating in this research.

- I agree being use audio taped to my interview.

- I understand that original audio recorder and signed the consent forms will be maintained in the research.

- I understand to seek further information and clarification about the research. I am free to contact any person that involved in the research.

_____   _____

Signature of participant   Date

_____   _____

Signature of researcher   Date

CHAPTER 4

FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Research Participant

In our research, we had conducted interview four female university students from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR) Kampar campus. Participant B and C are studying in Foundation in Arts. Participant A is persuading her degree in Bachelor of Communication (Hons) Public Relations and Participant D is persuading her degree in Bachelor of Commerce (Hons) Accounting. All four participants are from Perak. Participant B is from Setiawan and the rest are from Ipoh. Their age range is from 19 to 24 years old. Participant A is 23 years old, participant B is 20 years old, participant C is 21 years old and participant D is 24 years old. All of them had been gone through parental divorce in their life but at different age. Participant A was 17 years old when her parents divorced, participant B was 15 years old, participant C was 21 years old and participant D was around 5 or 6 years old. Despite gone through parental divorce, three out of them are in a romantic relationship, only participant B is single. Participant A is in a relationship for 1 year, participant C is 5 years and participant D is 10 years. At first, we planned to get six research participants but unfortunately we are only able to get four instead of six participants. One of the reasons is difficult to find participants who had gone through parental divorce. Even though we had found participant with such requirement but they had rejected to participate in the interview due to this is a sensitive and private topic that they do not want to share. In our study, we are able to generate four categories of code. There are meaning of marriage, meaning of divorce, requirement in marriage and fear in marriage.

4.2 Coding and Category

It is to codify and to arrange things in a systematic order, to make something part of a system or classification, to categorize (Saldana, 2008). When codes are applied and replied to qualitative data that are codifying (Saldana, 2008). A process that permits data to be "segregated, relinked, grouped, and regrouped in order to combine meaning data

explanation (Saldana, 2008). Below are the four category and some codes that we get it from research participant A:

Meaning of Marriage: love, family, companionship, union is sacred and forever.

Meaning of divorce: complicated and religion bound.

Fear in marriage: betrayal and money pressure.

Felling toward marriage: optimistic.

Meaning of marriage	
[1]Marriage is to be with your beloved, then live together and [2]organize a family. [3]Marriage is to be with your beloved, then live together and organize a family. That means you are not alone in the future life, like either you are happy or not, there is someone who can accompany you. [4]I believe that marriage is a lifetime and I will entrust my life to someone. No matter how I think get a [3]companion to [4]spend the rest of your life and [2]organize the family.	[1]LOVE [2]FAMILY [3]COMPANIONSHIP [4]UNION IS SACRED AND FOREVER
Meaning of divorce	
[5]I think the divorce may not be able to solve all the problems, not to mention if you have a child. [5]So I personally think that divorce is not a solution for all the problems. [6]Divorce is discourage in Christian.	[5]COMPLICATED [6]RELIGION BOUND
Fear in marriage	
[7]What I afraid the most is betrayal.	[7]BETRAYAL

[8]In fact, organization of a family really depends on money. Give birth and take care of children require lots of money, everything also need money. Therefore I think the second thing I afraid is money matter.	[8]MONEY PRESSURE
Feeling toward marriage [9]I am a very optimistic about the marriage.	[9]OPTIMISTIC

From research participant A, we were able to come out with an initial coding frame. After that, another two of our member were conduct the next interview with research participant B, and below is the codes that found out similar with research participant A:

Meaning of marriage [1] It is because love and know each other only willing to give lifelong happiness to him. [2]The purpose of marriage to me is to give birth to next generation and build a family and also is to go on to our next stage of our life. [3]I'm also believed that relying on your life to your lifetime partner. It is because love and know each other only willing to give lifelong happiness to him.	[1]LOVE [2]FAMILY [3]UNION IS FOREVER
Meaning of divorce [4]In my opinion, divorce is not the good solution to solve it.	[4]COMPLICATED
Fear in marriage [5]Even I get confident in my relationships but I still will worry about my partner betray me or I will get hurt in marriage.	[5]BETRAYAL

Feeling toward marriage [6]So far, my view towards marriage is optimistic.	[6]OPTIMISTIC

We also found out some new category and code from research participant B:

Meaning of marriage [7]It is because love and know each other only willing to give lifelong happiness to him. [8]Yes. I believe that if we considerate each other, tolerate, understanding, communication, believe each other. Therefore, our relationships will become long-term relationships.	[7]HAPPINESS [8]TOLERANCE AND CONSIDERATE
Meaning of divorce [9]If divorce happens it will link with two parents and also their children. It also will affect in children's future life and education.	[9]CONSEQUENCES
Requirement in marriage [10]My requirement of partner must be same religion with me.	[10]SAME RELIGION

After the transcript done, we conducted a small meeting to discuss about the relevant code for research participant B, and during the discussion, we were read through both transcript and try to get a new words or phrases run through our mind that relevant with the transcript. We combined both of the coding frame from research participant A and B and make it as a reference on the next interview. This is try to get some new codes from research participant C.

Below is the same coding frame that we get from research participant C:

Meaning of marriage	
[1]I think that couples must love each other and marriage is a lifetime commitment.	[1]LOVE
I think that being marriage for me which means that we have to [3]together for the rest of life and then [2]give birth to the next generation.	[2]FAMILY
	[3]COMPANIONSHIP
[4]I think that marriage is forever.	[4]UNION IS FOREVER
[5]Must be persists then only we have a happy family.	[5]HAPPINESS
[6]As long as couples mutually tolerant and considerate, their relationship must long lasting.	[6]TOLERANCE AND CONSIDERATE
Meaning of divorce	
[7]I think that the concept of divorce solving marital problem is wrong.	[7]COMPLICATED
Fear in marriage	
[8]What I most scare of in marriage is betrayal. [8]Because betrayal is the most deadly damage in marriage.	[8]BETRAYAL
Feeling toward marriage	
[9]I'm very optimistic towards marriage.	[9]OPTIMISTIC

We also get some new codes from research participant C:

Meaning of marriage	
[10]I believe in marriage because when two people know each other in deep and make marriage become a promise then only	[10]PROMISE

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decide to giving all of ourselves to each other.	
Requirement in marriage [11]I think that each other must communicate well, do not neglect each other and trust each other are necessary. [12]I'm very confident because what my current partner promises me and he will achieve.	[11]TOLERANCE [12]TRUSTWORTHY

Small meeting was conducted again, this is because both of the member was came out some different codes, and we need to get the final coding frame for research participant C. After the small meeting we combined three of the coding frame from research participant A, B, and C as reference on the next interview.

Below is the same coding frame from research participant D:

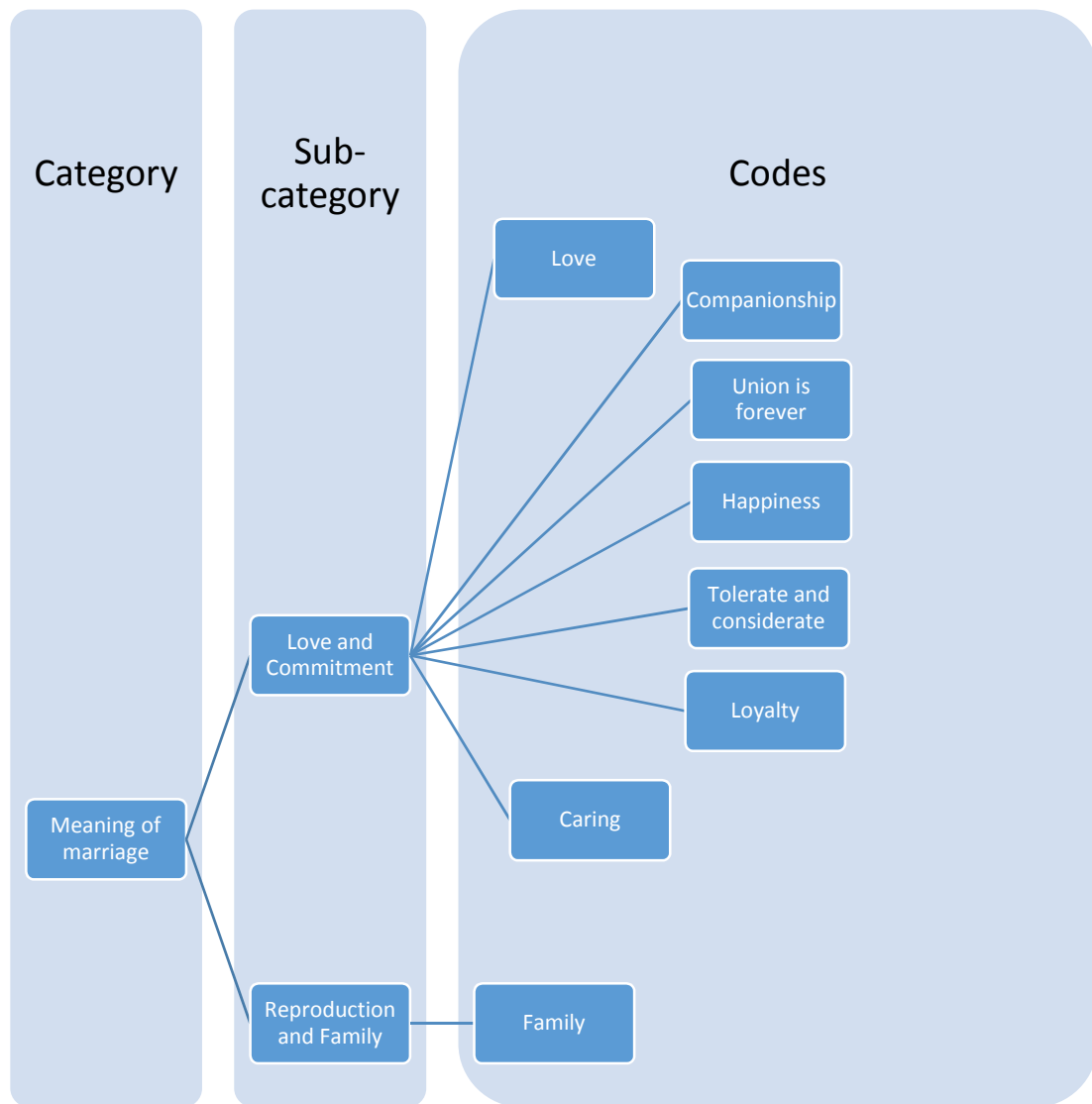|	
Meaning of marriage [1]In my point of view, the purpose of marriage is we decide to take care our partner the rest of the life. [2]Marriage is very important for me as marriage not only relate to our personal yet it relate to our family and maybe our children. [3]It is joining, it is the joining of two people in a bond that relatively last until dead. [4]I think the requirement that a relationship must have is maybe loyalty, caring, loving, tolerant and yet is very important, trust me.	[1]LOVE [2]FAMILY [3]COMPANIONSHIP [4]TOLERANCE AND CONSIDERATE

Meaning of divorce [5]If we getting divorce it will affect their (children) mental problem and maybe their attitudes towards marriage. [6]I don't think that divorce can solve marital problem because before getting marry you will have the period of being in a relationship, before getting married husband is a person we are dating for that's why we have to very understand the person then only can proceed to marry, ya.	[5]CONSEQUENCES [6]COMPLICATED
Requirement in marriage [7]I think the requirement that a relationship must have is maybe loyalty, caring, loving, tolerant and yet is very important, trust me.	[7]TOLERANCE
Fear in marriage [8]Being betray by my husband. [8]I think every woman also afraid this issue being betray by husband.	[8]BETRAYAL
Feeling toward marriage [9]I still believe in permanent relationship like others I am the kind of person that never thought of divorce after I get married so I think I am optimistic in this aspect because I will not think of divorce no matter how difficult it will be like everyone before getting married, I mean the perspective.	[9]OPTIMISTIC

Research participant D came out some new codes:

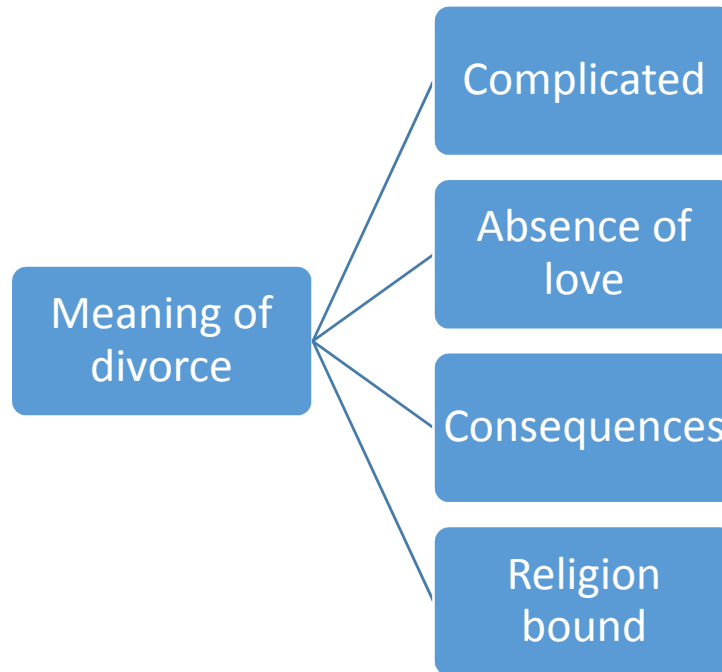|	
Meaning of marriage [10]We have loyal to each other although they have a lot of female colleague in workplace but we have to trust him. [11]In my point of view, the purpose of marriage is we decide to take care our partner the rest of the life.	[10]LOYALTY [11]CARING
Meaning of divorce [12]If they are no love between them then it maybe is a best solution for them.	[12]ABSENCE OF LOVE
Requirement in marriage [13]To be honest financial is a very big problem as well although is a very sensitive issue however is a very realistic.	[13]FINANCIAL STABILITY

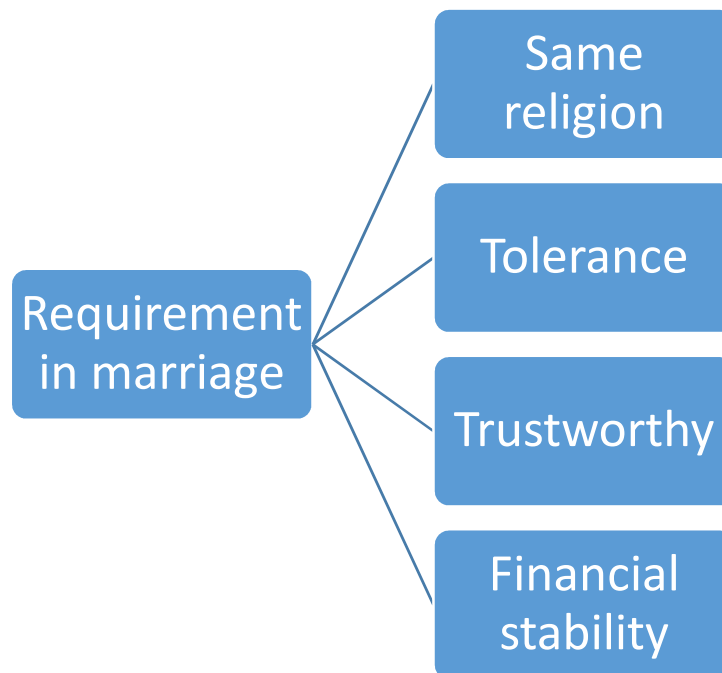Final codes and category from all research participants:
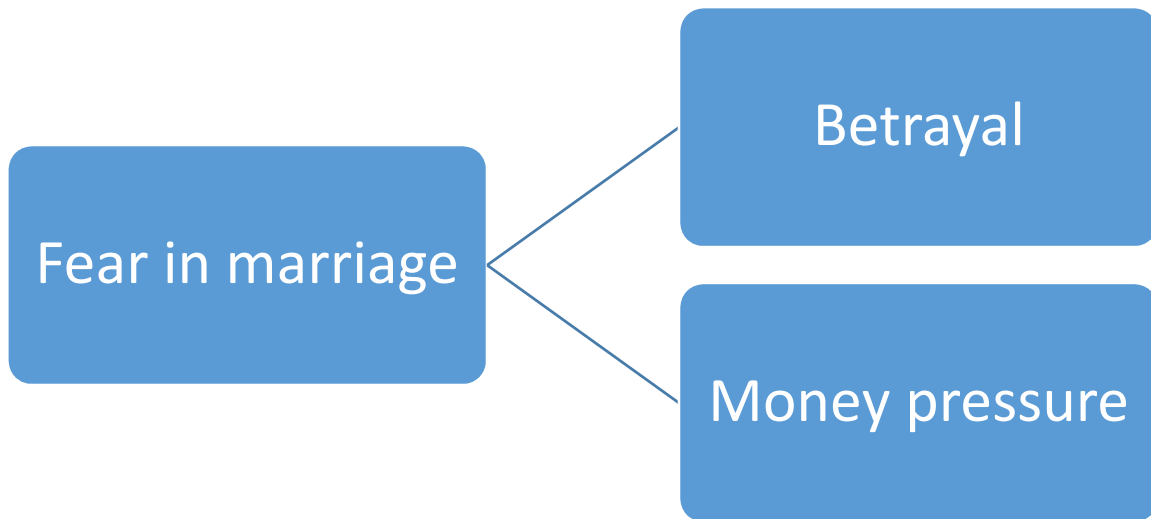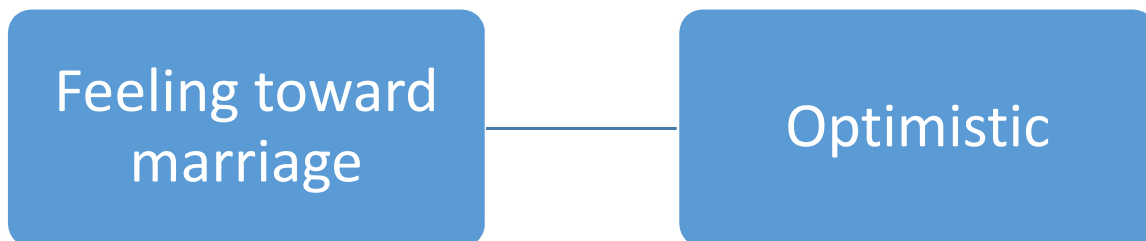

Diagram 1: Meaning of marriage

Diagram 2: Meaning of divorce

Diagram 3: Requirement in marriage

Diagram 4: Fear in marriage

Diagram 5: Feeling toward marriage

CHAPTER 5

DISCUSSIONS AND CONCLUSION

5.1 <u>Discussion</u>

5.1.1 <u>Research question 1</u>

Meaning of marriage

From research question 1: What is the meaning of marriage for female students who experienced parental divorce? The answer from research participants A, B, C and D are categorize into meaning of marriage. In meaning of marriage, there are split into two sub-categories which are love and commitment and reproduction and family. In love and commitment has categorized into different codes which are love, companionship, union is forever, happiness, promise, tolerate and considerate, loyalty, caring. Meanwhile, family is the code categorized in reproduction and family.

Research participants A and B mentioned that love and commitment are meaning of marriage and it is very important in marriage.

For example, research participant A said that "The feeling of being love and care is forever." "(…) Then the most important thing is you have to love each other, because love is everything." "For me, he has to love me, care about me, tolerate and trust me." "I believe that marriage is a lifetime and I will entrust my life to someone."

Research participant B said that "(…) It is because love and know each other only willing to give lifelong happiness to him." "Marriage is the lifetime commitment." "I am agreeing marriage is forever because marriage is another stage for everyone to experience on it. I'm also believed that relying on your life to your lifetime partner."

Based on the answer that given by research participants A and B, they agree that love is very important towards marriage and also both of them mentioned that marriage are forever and it is a lifetime commitment to them. This finding is consistent with study by Manap, Kassim, Hoesni, Nen, Idris & Ghazali (2013) had stated that love is another dominant force of marriage, single youths express their intention to their love one and get married and live together. Through marriage, couples can prove and show their love

through legal relationships. Another research study by Shukla, Deodiya, & Singh, (2013) stated that marriage is considered a lifelong partnership. This result shows that our research participants' opinions are similar with the previous study.

Next, research participants A, and C highlighted that reproduction and family consider as one of the meaning of marriage.

For example, research participant A said that "For me, marriage is to be with your beloved, then live together and organize a family." "Married and have children, to organize a family and the continuation of future generations (…)." "I personally think that marriage is very important. No matters how I think get a companion to spend the rest of your life and organize the family."

Research participant C said that "I think that being marriage for me which means that we have to together for the rest of life and then give birth to the next generation." "(…) Must be persists then only we have a happy family." "I'm not afraid, because my view on relationship will not be affected by my parental divorce. Hence, this make me more eager to have a complete family."

Based on the above quotes shows that research participants A and C have same perception and attitudes towards marriage, for them marriage are to build a family and give birth to the next generation. According to the previous study by Manap, Kassim, Hoesni, Nen, Idris & Ghazali, (2013) had stated that men and women getting married to fulfil human nature to be in pairs, creating a family and giving birth to a child so that human legacy can be continued. Thus, in the same study had stated that marriage is also seen as a platform to get happiness, harmonious life, and blessing. Single youths aim to build a happy family and live a happy life. The result show that our research and previous study are quite similar due to they agree that marriage are to organize or build a family and also give birth to a child.

5.1.2 Research question 2

After we done the interview and transcription, we found out that actually there are 3 out of 4 from our research participant are currently in a relationship. Based on the answer they provided, we can clearly know that they trust their current partner very much even though they have gone through parental divorce. So, in order to answer our second research question: How this meaning of marriage affects their attitudes towards commitment to

marriage and divorce? Their opinions are categorized into 4 groups: feeling towards marriage, requirement in marriage, meaning of divorce and fear in marriage.

Feeling towards marriage

Even though they have gone through parental divorce, but they are still believe in marriage and relationship. The code of feeling towards marriage is optimistic towards marriage.

All research participants agreed that they are optimistic towards marriage. Research participant A, C and D currently are having a good relationship with their partner. Whereas research participant B does not have a partner.

For example, research participant A said that "Actually, I am a very optimistic about the marriage. I am the kind of person that never thought of divorce after I get married. So I think no matter how as long as we face and share together there is nothing cannot be solved. So I think I am optimistic in this aspect because I will not think of divorce, no matter how difficult it will be."

Research participant B said "At the moment now, I see marriage is optimistic. Because I excited that can get some surprise, and also can see that in in marriage we help each other and tolerance. So after marriage we can get support from partner. So I think that marriage is optimistic.

Research participant C said "I'm very optimistic towards marriage because we can enjoy different expectations and experience different memories together in marriage. For example, travelling together to build sweet memories.

Research participant D said that "I still believe in permanent relationship like others I am the kind of person that never thought of divorce after I get married so I think I am optimistic in this aspect because I will not think of divorce no matter how difficult it will be like everyone before getting married, I mean the perspective."

According to Huang and Lin, (2014) research concluded that fearful and less optimistic about marriages can be found on those young adults from divorced families, she explain that those negative experiences will lead to negative attitudes and fear toward marriage and get a failed relationship. Therefore, the result shows that our research is inconsistent with previous study because our research participants are still believe in marriage even though they have gone through parental divorce. The past study respondents

are more pessimistic on marriage while our research participants are more positive on marriage. Research participants A, C and D have mentioned that they are still optimistic towards marriage and also they will not make decision to divorce no matter how difficult it will be, they will face the problems together with their partner. Their partners treat them well, for example, research participant C said her partner will achieve whatever he promise her. They believe in love and their partners. Somehow their current partners have influenced their opinion and view on marriage and divorce: they have more positive thoughts than negative. Although research participant B is in a single status right now, but she is still optimistic towards marriage as she hasn't get hurt by men before. She also believes marriage can be forever if she and her future partner believe, understand and communicate well. She think marriage is a matter between the two of them, therefore her parental divorce doesn't affect her much. For Your Marriage (n. d.) stated that the ones from divorce family are more likely to prevent getting divorce with determination. Some people even say that they want to have a better relationship and marriage life than their parents have.

Requirement in marriage

Requirement in marriage is also one of the meaning of marriage affects their attitudes towards commitment to marriage and divorce. The codes of requirement in marriage are same religion, tolerance, trustworthy and financial stability.

In this four research participants, only one of the research participant mentioned that religion influence is important in marriage which is research participant B.

For example, research participant B said "My requirement of partner is he must same religion with me."

According to a study by Ortberg (N.D) stated that marrying a non-Christian might bring satisfaction in the short run but over time though it's most likely to become a source of pain and given that your marriage cannot be centered on Christian. The reason is because if each of them is in a same religion then they can shared belief and shared values in God that define their relationship and family. "Don't become partners with those who reject God." Marriage is certainly a partnership, and when God says "don't" and we do, that's a

sin, Ortberg (N.D). This show that our research is similar with the past study, based on the statement above of research participant B, religion is very important for her in marriage and she has a very strong belief towards her religion.

Research participants A and D have mentioned that tolerance is most important requirement in marriage.

For example, research participant A said that "For me, he has to love me, care about me, tolerate and trust me. I think these are very important, the most important thing is love and tolerance."

Meanwhile, research participant D said that ": I think the requirement that a relationship must have is maybe loyalty, caring, loving, tolerant and yet is very important, trust me."

Based on the research participants have said that tolerance is an important requirement in their relationships. According to study by Okojie (2017) has stated that tolerance in marriage is very significant, couple have to learn to tolerate some shortcomings from your partner and also to avoid frequent argument if you want a peaceful marriage. Another study mentioned that tolerant can help couples to build an efficient communication first when they have different ideas on something. Then it would be easier for them to understand each other, not just misunderstanding each other (Alvin, 2012).

From research participants C and D mentioned that trustworthy is one of their requirement in marriage.

For example, research participant C said that "I think that two people being together must communicate well with each other, do not ignore each other and must trust each other."

While research participant D said that "I think the requirement that a relationship must have is maybe loyalty, caring, loving, tolerant and yet is very important, trust me."

A study conducted by Shine (2017) stated that young adults have lack of confidence and distrust promise in their own ability to maintain a good relationship with their partner due to them is from divorced families. Another study conducted by Marripedia (n.d.) has stated that low trust among children are often leads by parental divorce, and it also will affect young adults own romantic relationship. This shows that our research is consistent with the past study. Our research participant C and D are very trust on their partner, it is because they think that two people being together must be trust each other so that their

relationships will become long term relationship. Trust can let us feel secure because we believe our partner is loyal to us. Also, trust is to builds slowly as we learn about our partner and they become predictable to us. The sense of security and predictability of trust makes us feel good about our partner and believe our relationship has long term potential (Pascale & Primavera, 2017).

Research participant A and D mentioned that financial stability is the requirement in marriage.

For example, research participant A said "Because it is a very difficult to survive in the society if you really do not have much money (…)".

While research participant D said "To be honest financial is a very big problem (…)" "If my partner do not have the financial problem then I think the possibility of divorce will be decreased because my parent will get divorced because of money issue, financial issue."

As Cram websites (2015) stated that financial stability is the most important factor in marriage. Marriages often end in divorce is because of without financial stability. If couples with financial stability will not much affected compare to others because they have enough money to fulfil their family's needs and will not face financial issue in their family. Therefore, in our research, it shows that there are similar with the previous study as research participant D have said that financial is a big problem for her family and also her parents' divorce is due to financial issue. While research participant A said that money is an important to survive, if do not have stable income it cause her difficult to survive in society. Therefore, for them money is very important in their requirement in marriage if in the future when they plan to marriage, their partner must have stable income.

Meaning of divorce

They have their own understanding towards divorce, the codes that we verified for the meaning of divorce is complicated, consequences, absence of love and religion bound.

All research participants agreed that divorce is complicated and has consequences. It does not solve all the problems and get complicated when children is involved.

For example, research participant A mentioned that divorce does not solve all problems unless there's no love, also it gets complicated if child is involved. She said "I think the divorce may not

be able to solve all the problems, not to mention if you have a child (…) so I personally think that divorce is not a solution for all the problems."

Research participant D said "Marriage not only relates to our personal yet it relate to our family and maybe our children. If we getting divorce it will affect their mental problem and maybe their attitudes towards marriage.

According to Sodermans, Bastaits, Vanassche, Matthijs & Peer (2008), study have conducted that children staying in non-intact families seized more negative attitudes toward marriage, they believe divorce is the only way to them end a bad marriage compare to children from intact families. Also, young adults might learn that separation is the best way to bring an end to marriage. From the results of past study, the young adults believed that divorce is the way to solve marital problem. On the other hand, by comparing our research with past study, our results are different. Based on the quotes above, our research participants are agreed that divorce does not solve all the problems. Our research participant mentioned that divorce can be avoided if they face and solve the marital problem together. They said they will try to solve the marital problem through communication between themselves. Divorce will not be the first option for them. Wiggins (2014) stated there are four reasons to stop using divorce as a problem solving tool: stop using divorce as a problem solving method, stop using divorce threats as leverage to extract compliance, stop using divorce as an excuse to not be husband or wife and stop using divorce as an excuse when you think marriage is hard. Wiggins mentioned that stop perceiving divorce as a problem solving method because couples don't solve their marital problem by put an end to it.

Fagan & Churchill (2012) stated that divorce causes irreversible damage to all involved, specifically to the children. Children from the divorced family tend to have fear on marriage because they afraid of repeat their parents' path (Alqashan & Alkandari, 2010). Our research participant worried about divorce will cause significant effects on the children, which is similar with the past study that concluded children from divorce family are tend to react negatively towards marriage. They worried that children will get bad influences in term of mental or education.

Both research participant A and D agreed that divorce is absence of love. It is the last solution to solve marital problem when couple no longer love each other.

For example, research participant A said "But if there is already no feeling of love between each other I think divorce will lead to a better life. So actually is depends on what kind of situation they are facing."

Research participant D said "I can say that divorce is a sad thing for everyone, no one will hold that they will get divorce but it is your life. If they are no love between them then it maybe is a best solution for them."

A study conducted by Sodermas, et.al (2008) stated that children staying in non-intact families seized more negative attitudes toward marriage, they believe divorce is the only way to them to end a bad marriage compare to children from intact families. Alice & Florence (2015) study conducted western people are view that marriage is just a temporary contract for couple to love lasts. What if the relationship is not personally fulfilling or there is loss of love in marriage then better end up the relationship. Study show that children from divorce family perceived divorce as the best or maybe the only way to end a relationship. Also, western people tend to end up their marriage when love is no longer exists. This actually matches with what our research participants said, which is divorce is the last solution to solve marital problem when there is no love between couples. They all believe that divorce in some sort is the only way to end a relationship. Divorce is a better way to end the relationship if they are no longer loves each other. This is what research participant A and D mentioned about. Whereas research participant B and C believe that divorce is not a solution, they prefer solve it together with their partners.

Research participant A mentioned about religion bound.

For example, research participant A said "Divorce is discouraged in Christian. Because before we get married we will have to go for classes (…) so basically we will get married after we gone through that process, therefore we do not encourage divorce."

Research participant A mentioned that Christian prohibits divorce, and she believes this tradition. She may not the person who always read Bible but still, religion is influencing her perception. Jesus explained the relationship between husband and wife as "They are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one

separate" (Miller, 2016). Robertson (n. d.) stated that there is no reason for divorce given in the Bible. Reasons for not divorcing exist on the basis of incompatibility, lack of love, or different career goals. It seems impossible for the two resurrected Christians to serve Jesus Christ to find a reason for divorce. Our research is similar with the past study that Christian actually prohibits divorce to the followers.

Fear in marriage

Even though our research participants are optimistic and believe in marriage, but they still have worries and fear in marriage. They highlighted that what they afraid the most in a relationship or marriage is betrayal and money pressure.

All research participants mentioned that betrayal is what they worried the most. They are afraid of getting hurt even they are believe in marriage

For example, research participant A said "What I afraid the most is betrayal. A third party between us (…)" She repeated few times that she afraid of being betray, "I definitely will afraid of being hurt." "Betrayal is what I afraid (…)"

Research participant D said "Being betray by my husband. I think every woman also afraid this issue being betray by husband." "Because I have the experience for the parental divorce that's why of course is I am also afraid of being hurt like my father and mother."

Fagan & Churchill (2012) stated that young women also have a longing for love and caring, even from divorced families, but they are also afraid to be discarded. They will also tend to both crave and anxiety. They know what to do when it comes time to make decisions about marriage, but because of their family background they are more likely to show anxiety in decision making. According to our research participants, they said that even though they trust their partner and confident in marriage, but still they are afraid of getting betray. One of them also highlighted that betrayal is the most deadly damage in marriage.

Research participant A mentioned that having money pressure to start a family is what she afraid in marriage.

For example, research participant A said "In fact, organization of a family really depends on money. Give birth and take care of children require lots of money, everything also need money (…)"

The Prudential Relationship Index in 2017 found that money was the main source of arguments in Asia, affecting 37% of the couples surveyed. According to the Credit Counselling and Debt Management Agency (AKPK), most of the people who looks for help are married couples because of financial difficulties (Tan, 2018). PhilipCapital Management Sdn Bhd wealth planning director Raymond Tay says some of the financial problems faced by couples today are mainly influenced by the high living cost, stagnant wage increase and debt management challenges (Tan, 2018). Tan (2018) stated that consideration for family formation is the requirement when you are married. You can't spend it like when you are dating. The above study is actually relevant to what our research participant mentioned about. Having sufficient funds is very crucial in family building. Nowadays everything need money, food, education, shelter and so on, all cost a lot. Getting married and family building do require lots of money.

5.2 Conclusion

The study was geared to find out the perception and attitudes on marriage and divorce of female university students who experienced parental divorce. In further, it is also to describe what other factor could have affected their perception on matrimony. Our research participants consist of four female university students from Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), Kampar Campus.

From our research study, the meaning of marriage is affected by love and commitment within couple, and the desire to produce a family. Despite having to go through parental divorce at the age between 5 to 17 years old, they believed that divorce cannot solve all problems and it get complicated when children was involved. Furthermore, religion also prohibited divorce on marriage in Malaysian context. Those female university students believed that religion and trustworthy are important requirements in marriage. However, they also have fear in marriage such as betrayal by partner which might lead to divorce.

5.3 Limitations

Although this research study was carefully prepared, there were limitations that we are still aware of. First of all, lack of number of research participants where we only able

to get four instead of six participants proposed in research methodology. Most of the female university students that we approached refused to participate in our research because they are not willing to disclose about their privacy and family background. However, some of the female university students that we approached are indeed from single family but it is due to one of their parents passed away instead of getting divorce. We generate less number of research participants from snowball sampling because our friends and other research participants doubted if their friends are from single family as parental divorce might be a sensitive issue to be ask. Second, lower accessibility to translation for multi-languages. Our research participants used Chinese language to answer our research questions during the interview so we have to translate those answers and data from Chinese to English in transcription process. Thus, the translation might be inaccurate due to differences in writing styles, strokes in a word and meaning of words between the two languages which Chinese has more than one stroke in a word whereas English only consists of 26 alphabets. Finally, lack of access to technology where most parts in our research study, for example our data analysis were done manually by hands instead of using software such as Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). In addition, manual work is very time consuming.

5.4 <u>Recommendations</u>

For future studies, we recommend researchers to interview more research participants. Try to get more than four research participants to involve in research study. This research should be continued in order to find out more about what are the reasons that caused changes among female university students. The codes found from this research can contribute to new knowledge so this research study should be further in a university as a topic for university students to study about.