

RELATIONAL DIALECTICS IN INTERCULTURAL LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIPS: A CASE STUDY OF A BELGIAN-INDONESIAN COUPLE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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ABSTRACT

A relationship cannot be limited by territorial or cultural boundaries. However, it must be recognised that the challenges in establishing intercultural relationships are also great, especially in phenomena such as COVID-19. The initial tension in relational dialectics is mostly triggered by changes in situations that become "out of normal" or unusual, because society needs to adapt again. One of them was experienced by an interstate couple domiciled in Indonesia and Belgium. Based on this phenomenon, this research was aimed to discuss how the relational dialectic of interstate pairs occurred. The purpose of this study is to find out the strategies of inter-country couples with dialectics in their relationships to maintain intimacy, even in the midst of restrictions. The research method used is descriptive qualitative, with data collection methods in the form of interviews. The results of the study show that the interstate pair devised a strategy so that the three main tensions, autonomy-connection, openness-non-disclosure, and predictability-newness can still be passed smoothly. Relational dialectics have already led to the stage of co-creating. Co-creation needs to be done to redefine the kind of relationship they want, as well as to develop a joint mission for the future.

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1. Introduction

Today the world is experiencing significant changes due to the development of communication technology. People are now more willing to establish relationships with people from different countries because of the support of communication technology. It allows people around the world to easily connect through voice and text messages, and enables people from different cultures to interact even when they are far away from each other and using different languages (Shahreza et al., 2018). But a relationship with a partner from a different country has its own challenges. Differences in time, culture, physical distance, and even extraordinary phenomena can put obstacles in the way of a relationship. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, the world was faced with a new disease that is now known as COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease 2019). COVID-19 is a highly contagious disease, requiring those infected to avoid contact with others. This has led many countries to close borders and restrict human contact to prevent further transmission. (Teguh & Arviana, 2020).

In the face of the urgency of transmission of this disease, until a suitable vaccine and drugs were found, governments of various countries had found no other way than to restrict contact between one human and another. It started with quarantine of infected people, then escalated to lockdowns, and finally to the closure of borders between countries. The United States and European countries began closing their borders in March 2020, which was followed by various countries around the world. This border closure was done to suppress physical contact from citizens between countries, because it is possible for citizens from infected countries to carry variants of the virus to other countries, which makes this disease even more difficult to treat. However, this temporary solution must be recognized as bringing impacts to the world community. The most pronounced impact is of course the economic impact, where people between countries have difficulty conducting transactions in various fields. But the social impact is no less great. Someone who lives in a different country with their family or partner becomes very difficult to meet each other. One of them is a couple in Germany and Switzerland. They are forced to meet only in front of the construction fence that marks the closure of the border (Mein & Pause, 2021).

This also happened to many couples around the world. During the time when borders were closed, they were unable to see each other. But even after the pandemic, the border rules between countries still made it difficult for them. Many couples continue to have difficulty meeting due to the constantly changing border regulations between countries. This has led to the emergence of a movement from people around the world who are experiencing similar problems called Love is not tourism. Love Is Not Tourism is a global grassroots movement dedicated to reuniting couples and families from different countries who have been forcibly separated by travel and border restrictions (loveisnottourism.org, 2022). The movement was initially a support group for people who wanted to support each other in similar conditions, which was spread through social media. However, over time it developed into an awareness building movement for the public and the government. The demand of this movement is to petition the government to support the reunification of couples and families from different countries, including short-term visits (Lalisse-Jespersen, 2020). The movement became quite popular among inter-country couples because they experienced a lot of difficulties with their partners.

One couple who also had difficulty meeting their spouse due to restrictions between countries were Felicia and Cedric. Felicia is an Indonesian citizen who lives in Surabaya, while Cedric is a Belgian citizen who lives in Merchtem. Just like most international couples, Felicia and Cedric experienced many problems due to the border restrictions. Even though they are a young, tech-savvy couple, they still felt a tremendous impact on their relationship during the pandemic. It is important to understand that research on people who only communicate mediated through screens shows a change in communication behavior. People become more easily stressed when communicating only through screens, so they can become more tense and intimidating towards their interlocutors (Fajar, 2020). Therefore, Felicia and Cedric still try to have face-to-face meetings to maintain their relationship. But unfortunately, they have difficulty scheduling meetings due to the restrictions of each country. This is why Felicia also joined the Love is not tourism movement. She wants people, especially the government, to realize that in the case of couples from different countries, meeting up with their partners is not just a meaningless recreational act. For couples in serious relationships like herself and Cedric, meeting in person is crucial in maintaining the dynamics of their relationship. They do not hesitate to set aside their income just to be able to meet. But the restrictions and government regulations, can led to the high costs that prevented them from meeting, made them miss out on many precious moments. Therefore, facing this condition, Felicia and Cedric must carry out intense interpersonal communication in order to maintain their relationship despite the pressure of restrictions.

Based on the phenomenon described above, the problem formulation of this research is how relational dialectics are formed in the relationship of intercultural couples during pandemic restriction? This research will further explain how relational dialectics between couples from different countries who have difficulty communicating, especially due to the restrictions of

borders between countries. Relational dialectic is part of interpersonal communication. Interpersonal communication can occur either face-to-face, or mediated by technology (Rahayu et al., 2022). The theory used to discuss this phenomenon is the relational dialectics theory proposed by Leslie Baxter and Barbara Montgomery. This theory describes human relationships as a constant movement. In the relationship, the people involved in it will feel a continuous push and pull, caused by the desires of each party. It is not uncommon for these desires to conflict, causing a dialectic to emerge in a relationship. There are several main ideas in this theory, the first of which is that a relationship is not linear. Second, there are changes that mark the life of the relationship. Third, the occurrence of contradictions is a fundamental fact in a relationship. Fourth, in negotiating contradictions and managing relationships, communication is key (Fataraya & Rakhmad, 2018).

This theory also emphasizes three dialectical tensions. The first is autonomy-connection, which is a condition where individuals have a simultaneous desire to be independent on the one hand, but also still want to build intimacy with the people with whom they are in relationships, be it family, partners, and others. This first dialectical tension is the most important tension compared to the other two that will be explained next. In this tension, relationships are stated not to form if one does not have individual autonomy apart from the people in the relationship. This autonomy is needed to assert individual entity. However, if the autonomy is too great, then the relationship will also be damaged because there is no connection that is important for the formation and maintenance of identity. The second tension is openness-closedness, which is when individuals are conflicted about being open about themselves to the person in their relationship, but also feel vulnerable about revealing their personal information. In a relationship, openness is needed to build intimacy. But on the other hand, this openness makes individuals vulnerable, as their privacy may be compromised. The third tension is novelty-predictability. In this tension, relationships can be affected by the conflict between the comfort or stability of the individual and the desire for change. In relationships, people can get caught up in excessive stability that makes interactions rigid, so novelty is needed to stimulate the relationship. But there are times when these new things disrupt the comfort that has been formed, so communication is needed to maintain a balance between routine things and things outside the routine (Putri et al., 2021).

This study offers a novel contribution by exploring how relational dialectics theory (RDT) manifests uniquely in intercultural romantic relationships during a period of global crisis. Although relational dialectics theory has been applied to both intercultural communication and crisis contexts separately, there is a significant gap in literature that integrates these dimensions. This manuscript will further discuss the relational dialectics that occur between couples from different countries who experience communication problems due to interstate restriction. It is hoped that this study will enrich the study of interpersonal communication, especially regarding relational dialectics. In addition, this study can also be a reference for people who experience similar cases to build their relationships. For organizations that are fighting for easier policies for couples from different countries, this article can also be used as input for the case being raised.

2. Method

The type of research used in this research is descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive qualitative research can be done by entering certain social conditions, then interacting with informants who are relevant to the research topic. The form of interaction can be in the form of interviews with informants who meet the criteria. This type of research was chosen to describe a social phenomenon, both those that occur naturally and those that occur due to human actions (Winarni, 2018). To answer the problems in this research, the case study method will be used as a research method. A case study is a method that is specifically designed based on a particular case, so it has flexibility according to the phenomenon to be discussed. The purpose of using the case study method in this research is to capture the complexity of one or

several collective cases. This makes the results of research with the case study method not looking for generalizations of a scientific problem (Hyett et al., 2014).

In an effort to obtain the necessary data, interviews were used as a data collection method in this research. Specifically, the type of interview chosen by the researcher is an in-depth interview, with a semi-structured interview form. Semi-structured interviews use open-ended questions but with themes that have been limited in accordance with the theory used. There are guidelines in conducting interviews as a benchmark for the flow of the interview with the aim of understanding the research problem without making the interview process widen. The advantage of this type of interview is that the time is predictable, controlled, but also flexible (Herdiansyah, 2014). The data source of this research is an Indonesian-Belgian couple with the following personal data

Table 1.
Data of informants

Category	Informant Personal Data
Female Partner	Name: Felicia Audrey Nationality: Indonesian Occupation: Writer
Male Partner	Name: Cedric Deckmyn (Davai Lama) Nationality: Belgian Occupation: Pro-Gamer

Source: Obtained by researchers, (2023)

Data analysis in this study uses several steps. First, data collection is the process of collecting data using the interview method with informants who match the criteria and are supported by documentation. The results of data collection will become a concept. Second, data reduction is done by combining and homogenizing all data obtained from interviews, namely verbatim interviews and documentation, namely document analysis scripts. Third, data presentation which is a semi-finished data processing process, which is done by arranging the flow so that conclusions can be drawn. Finally, conclusions are drawn from all the results of the description of the theme subcategories.

In order for this research to be assured of quality, data triangulation was carried out as an effort to ensure the validity of the research. Data triangulation is a process where data taken during research is combined from different sources (Zamili, 2015). In maintaining ethics during the research process, the researcher conducted informed consent, in which the researchers provided clear, complete, and easy-to-understand information to participants about the research being conducted. This information includes the purpose of the study, the procedures that the informants will undergo, the potential benefits (for the participant or the wider community), the participant's right to refuse to participate or withdraw at any time without consequences, prevention of data misuse, and the researcher's contact for further questions.

3. Results and Discussion

Early Dialectics: Relationships During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Dialectics shape communication in all kinds of human relationships, especially in the context of interpersonal communication. In this case, it is represented by couple relationships, which began when the world was facing the Covid-19 pandemic. Dialectical tendencies in couple relationships can reflect the complexity of the perspectives and desires of the humans who carry out these relationships (Hart et al., 2019), like the one between Felicia and Cedric. The relationship formed between the cross-country couple, Felicia and Cedric, has started since August 2021 until December 2021 when this research was conducted and has been running for four months. So it can be understood that the relationship between this couple is a relationship that was formed in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, which spread to various countries, including the home countries of these two people, Indonesia and Belgium. In the phenomenon of dating or relationships between countries, technology has not escaped the focus of this couple because from the beginning they knew each other from an online dating application, OkCupid. Unlike other dating apps, OkCupid allows us to set our location anywhere, so Felicia set her location to be in the Netherlands. From there, they matched because they swiped each other to the right. Cedric said that what impressed him the most and wanted to know more about Felicia was the writing in her profile bio. Cedric thought Felicia was funny and smart, and Felicia was amazed by Cedric's achievements as a professional gamer. When the time was right, the two decided to have a video call to chat further. Since then they have communicated with each other every day until they decided to officially date, even though they have never met face-to-face. There is something called dialectics in action in human relationships (Hart et al., 2019), in a situation of introduction and further familiarization, both Felicia and Cedric show each other what they want and the actions they take to fulfill those desires. As the relationship grows closer, the two individuals in this interpersonal relationship come to understand each other's personas and desires.

From the process of getting to know each other, they decided to move on to a more serious stage. Felicia had expressed her desire to visit Cedric in Belgium. Since then, she has seriously researched traveling to Belgium; starting from how to get a visa, tickets, and accommodation. However, due to international mobility restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic, travel restrictions were imposed in many countries, so they both decided to meet in a location that mediated their long distance, namely Turkey. The mobility restrictions experienced by this interstate couple were particularly impactful as Belgium in 2021 had already banned travel, while Indonesia required visitors traveling abroad to have a business visa or KITAS and implemented a quarantine period in Jakarta. The Covid-19 pandemic is quite central to this interstate couple because virtual meetings dominated the beginning of their relationship, from getting acquainted to officially dating, until before meeting in Turkey. Planning to meet up in Turkey also needs to go through "appointments" and online conversations. The things that the two of them talked about included informing vaccine updates so that they could fly and be protected from Covid-19, as well as other requirements for foreign visits, including the requirements set by the Turkish government itself. However, they both agreed to avoid the daily Covid-19 news that records the increase in Covid cases, because the news makes them paranoid. Talks about health protocols are also tucked away. For them, the most crucial thing is the discussion of government regulations, especially for LDR (long distance relationship) couples, both married and with nonmarital status. It is important for them to know whether regulations change suddenly, what triggers the failure of departure plans to Turkey, what documents are needed, or whether there is a possibility of borders being closed, and other changes at any time in the midst of a pandemic. All of this affects the state of their relationship at the time.

Apart from regulations, administrative matters were also quite challenging for this cross-country couple. Felicia didn't really mind the sudden change in July 2021, when the government required everyone traveling (whether by air, land or sea) to have at least the first dose of vaccine. However, there was an incident that made Felicia upset and cry at the airport. This was prompted by a PCR lapse before arriving in Turkey that required her to retest and even rent a capsule hotel overnight due to rescheduling, a condition she had not expected at all. With this emphasis, Felicia and Cedric realized that even their mental state could be affected by the uncertain and vigilant conditions in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. As an interstate couple, the distance difference of more than 11,000 km between Surabaya, Indonesia and Merchtem, Belgium coupled with the Covid-19 pandemic crisis demands that both of them are in prime and stable physical and mental condition. The main reason why both Felicia and Cedric are still traveling despite the pandemic is because they are happy with their relationship and have plans for the future.

Felicia and Cedric's specific pandemic-related practices were to run a vaccination program first, because that's how they were able to fly and meet in Turkey. This was important because they didn't want the plan to fail. Luckily, at that time Turkey was open for tourism and did not close its borders including for the two countries of origin, Indonesia and Belgium, so it became a savior for the LDR couple as Felicia said. While in Turkey, they always carry masks and using them in crowds has become a way of life, even hand sanitizers, wet wipes, and dry wipes. Cedric has a pointy chin so regular medical masks were always difficult to cover his nose and mouth, so Felicia gave him a KF94 mask, and always carried extra masks in her bag. In their temporary residence, Felicia also diligently cleaned every room with disinfectant and always washed her clothes when returning from outside activities. Not only that, both Felicia and Cedric, still required PCR tests as a condition of flight both from each country (Indonesia and Belgium) at that time, when returning from Turkey, and when arriving in our countries again. When they both arrived back in our respective countries, they were also required to quarantine. Indonesia had a maximum quarantine of 8 days in a government-appointed hotel in Jakarta, while Belgium had a 10-day self-isolation quarantine at home. For Felicia, she had to quarantine first in Jakarta, then she could continue her journey back to Surabaya.

When looking at the three main tensions in the relational dialectic, namely autonomy-connection, openness-openness, and novelty-predictability, we can see that there are three main tensions (Putri et al., 2021), then this interstate couple experiences all of them but added with other tensions due to changes in the surrounding environmental situation and regulations during the Covid-19 pandemic. To manage the new tensions that arise due to the pandemic situation, it can be seen from Felicia and Cedric's relationship, both of them seek what is called reframing because both of them transform their perception of the pandemic situation as a challenge that must be faced together for one goal, namely a face-to-face meeting in Turkey. Reframing in West and Turner (2021) emphasizes the process of reframing the pandemic situation, which is seen from the way interstate couples communicate who rely on mediated communication, how they deal with changes in cross-border travel regulations that can change at any time, as well as two individuals who recognize each other's personalities more deeply through this condition. This reframing is a pattern of negotiating the three main tensions that are always encountered by both of them, three main tensions in order to improve the quality of the relationship they live.

Dialectics When Relations Between Countries Are Already Established

The introductory period and the dating period were spent with mediated communication through online media and features. At the beginning of their introduction until the second year, the Covid-19 pandemic had not yet ended, so Felicia and Cedric were very accustomed to communicating through video calls and chat applications. Through mediated communication, this couple always tries to be open with each other even in private matters, in order to keep them away from trust issues. However, there are circumstances where face-to-face communication remains the most powerful instrument to affirm the relationship between them and help them get to know each other better. This incident was recalled by Felicia during their face-to-face meeting in Turkey. It was very hot, Cedric was sunburnt after diving in the sea, his skin was very sensitive to hot weather and he developed a red and itchy rash, from which Felicia learned that they needed to provide skincare items, such as moisturizers and sunscreen. In the absence of face-to-face meetings, the couple's relationship between countries cannot reach such a private point - the physical condition of a person, special health-related needs and their treatment, as well as the management of their emotions when they meet. The Covid-19 pandemic further urges couples to revisit how they co-create their intimacy (Rubinsky et al., 2022), moreover, there are risks due to distance, in the case of Felicia and Cedric who are from different countries, including the risks brought by the pandemic situation itself. In this situation, couples can strategize the creation of their intimacy, such as how they recognize each other's comfort and discomfort during the pandemic, how they communicate their needs in relational situations, and also redefine the intimacy they live in the midst of relations between countries during the pandemic. The re-creation of intimacy represents the interplay of centripetal and centrifugal discourses in relational dialectics. Centripetal explains that the interstate couple's relationship is based on normative patterns and rules, both culturally and socially; while centrifugal organizes their intimate relationship with new patterns or rules that show dependence on each other.

Regarding boundaries, for example, both Felicia and Cedric realize that long distance relationships are not easy, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, so it requires extra attention for both parties. In the aspect of communication, this couple applies a commitment to always be open, careful in conveying their intentions, but also relaxed enough not to get carried away by negative emotions to respond to miscommunication. In addition to learning boundaries, both Felicia and Cedric also negotiate in their relationship, especially because they have different personalities, Felicia tends to be introverted and shy, while Cedric is outspoken. In other matters such as work, they also set rules; for example, if Cedric needs to focus on competing and especially needs time alone after a losing game, Cedric sets specific or fixed times, unlike Felicia who is quite flexible. Conflict in a relationship is inevitable including relations between countries, negotiation is also shown when each individual has their own activities, Felicia will provide personal space for Cedric when needed, especially when tilted, Cedric at other times will not linger on the phone if Felicia is doing activities outside the home. Their social reality as a couple is composed of the tensions they experience on a daily basis, which are dialectical with each other (Baxter & Braithwaite, 2008). The movement of a relationship shows the social reality that is formed, in this case a relationship does not experience stagnation. In this case, relationships in the interpersonal context become more special to be explored because interpersonal communication contains discourses not only on openness, certainty, relatedness, but also non-disclosure, unpredictability, and autonomy. Relationship has been the focus of study in interpersonal communication since the 1960s given that communication itself is a social event that is situated in the 'locus' of the perpetrators (Nasrulloh, 2019).

Conflict resolution is also necessary for this couple. When they disagree, get upset, or angry with each other; they have agreed not to use high tones in speaking. If they don't feel like talking, at least let their partner know so they don't worry. This settlement is necessary because some events have happened and may happen in the future, such as the past, family problems, and also related to their own relationship. Another adjustment agreed upon is that as an LDR couple and when they are back in a long-distance relationship (when they don't meet) they constantly inform each other's activity hours, especially during busy times. This is done so that both know when to communicate again and do not seem to disturb each other's working hours. The most frequent activities after returning from vacation together in Turkey, they often video call and virtual dating such as cooking and watching movies together. According to Bakhtin, as quoted by Nashrulloh (2019), dialectical conditions in a couple relationship are needed because a person's identity is also formed by the presence and involvement of other people, other parties such as partners also develop ideas about self. Dialogical relationships between self and other can build awareness of each other. In this case, self and other do not exist separately, but co-exist (becoming) for each other. As time goes by, relational dialectics encourages couples to identify their current and past relationships, in this case Felicia and Cedric who are already in their second year. According to Baxter and Braithwaite (2008), dialectics can arise synchronically, starting from moments (the present) and diachronically which pass through a certain period.

Relational Dialectics in Interstate Couple Relations During the Pandemic

Relational dialectics shows special meanings that are socially constructed, even in interpersonal relationships, especially if the two come from different countries, considering different cultural backgrounds. The couple's dialectical relationship between countries is articulated and maintained in their daily communication and activities. This condition leads to the goal of relational dialectics, namely the meaning of Felicia and Cedric which is situated 'locally', in the sense of those who experience it interpersonally, rather than a universal meaning. The dialectical positions in the table below, which are further referred to as discourses in human relations, play an important role, because of these ten positions, the interpersonal and conditioned discourse of partner relations between countries, always experiences a struggle between opposing or conflicting positions with each other. However, a position like this is not seen as a negation of human relations, in fact relational dialectics shows sensitivity and makes sense (Baxter & Braithwaite, 2008).

The ten dialectical positions below also summarize the qualities mentioned by Werner and Baxter, as quoted by Nashrulloh (2019), in the form of amplitude, importance, scale, sequence and pace. Amplitude shows the ups and downs of the couple's feelings and behavior, the importance aspect sees the focus of Felicia and Cedric's relationship on the past, present or future. Then the scale can see whether this dialectical position changes more quickly or persists accompanied by a series or arrangement of events in their relationship. Lastly is the rhythm of steps which looks at the speed in the relationship and the distance between events with each other, whether Felicia and Cedric experience events together over a long or short period of time at a fast or slow pace. Everything that happens in the interpersonal relations of intercountry couples is contained in the table 2 below.

Table 2.
Dialectical positions in the interpersonal relationship of an intercultural couple

NO	DIALECTIC POSITION	EXISTING RELATIONSHIP
1.	Judgement-Acceptance	Acceptance of each individual's limitations in interpersonal relationships, especially the physical and mental health conditions of partners
2.	Subordinate-Equal	Equality in the relationships built
3.	Group-Individual	Individuals continue to carry out their respective activities, especially work-related. Togetherness is manifested in actions (acts of service) as a form of language of affection for each other.
4.	Ordered Activities- Emergent Activities	Many joint activities have been scheduled together, such as big agendas to meet in Turkey and other small agendas, such as traveling and looking for food.
5.	Inclusion-Exclusion	Feeling more involved, especially Cedric involving Felicia in his circle of friends and family.
6.	Acceptable Behavior- Unacceptable Behavior	Unique and 'strange' behavior for couples is accepted, such as Felicia liking to dance in the middle of cooking or joking with each other.
7.	Presence-Absence	Even though there is distance and time due to a long distance relationship, both of them have similarities in showing affection, including providing quality time for both of them, conveying words of affirmation to their partner, and touching; both of them always feel the presence of their partner.
8.	Joy-Grief	Feel more happiness, sadness only appears when there are challenges or obstacles when the desire to meet arises.
9.	Informing-Constituting Identity	Providing information then encourages your partner to act as expected
10.	One Parent-Two Parent Authority	The holder of authority is not central to just one party, as much as possible to be equal.

Source: Obtained by researchers, 2023

4. Conclusion

Through an in-depth explanation of the relational dialectics discussed above, this research shows interesting data findings. Starting with the interstate couple issues and the rise of the grassroots movement Love is Not Tourism, readers can find out about the initial tensions of interstate relationship, which no doubt befell the couple Felicia and Cedric here. The initial tension in relational dialectics is triggered more by changes in situations that become "outside of normal" or unusual, because society needs to adapt again. This situation requires Felicia and Cedric to develop a strategy so that the three main tensions, autonomy-connection, openness-non-disclosure, and predictability-novelty can still be passed smoothly in order to foster an

increasingly intimate relationship between the two of them interpersonally. Not to mention adapting to tensions that arise externally, in the form of changes to regulatory restrictions, as well as new conditions for implementing travel between countries. However, Felicia and Cedric managed to get through this condition so they could enter a stage of intimacy that was more than just initial acquaintance.

Entering a more interstate intimate relationship, the two of them began to know each other more closely and directly, because Felicia and Cedric managed to meet in Turkey. In times like this, relational dialectics has moved further, because it no longer measures the tension of the ups and downs of their relationship, but rather focuses on the stage of joint creation or "co-creating". They need to do joint creation to redefine what they want the relationship to be like, as well as formulate a joint mission for the future. In this situation, the relationship between individuals and each other is a manifestation of the dialogical relationship between self and other; the two are inseparable and with the aim to coexist together and complement each other. Of course, this dialogical relationship will not occur without synchronic and diachronic dialectics in the lifespan of the relationship between the two. The final point of this research is the ten dialectical positions that emerge from the couple's relationship which is local rather than universal, in the sense that Felicia and Cedric themselves experience and interpret interpersonal relationships with their different countries. This research certainly still has limitations in its work, this research has not discussed the critical perspective, the consideration is that the critical perspective is able to shed more light on the case like this. Using risk theory to look at interpersonal human relations can provide a more detailed picture of why human relations are also at risk due to the countries policy and restrictions. It is hoped that this research will provide additional studies for the study of interpersonal communication and intercultural communication. In addition, it is hoped that this research can also be an input for policy makers to consider that human relations are very complex, so that in-depth studies are needed in establishing policies related to human relations.

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