

ABSTRACT

This research aims to determine the perception built by teenagers from broken home families against the presence of a stepmother and also to determine the understanding of its significance in the respect of the stereotypes that has emerged in the society. This research is using a qualitative method with phenomenological approach which identifies the nature of the human experience of a particular phenomenon. The data collection techniques of this research are observation and interview with the subjects of three teenagers aged within 18-22 years who came from divorced families and have been living with a stepmother for at least three years. The results from this research are there are differences between teenagers' perception and significance against the stepmother stereotypes. The first perception of teenagers to the stepmother is negative which influenced by negative stereotypes about stepmother that has emerged in the society. However, after the teenager went through a series of direct experience of knowing and living with a stepmother, the teenagers showed a positive perception. The transformation process of this perception includes the significance of the stereotypes that has emerged in the society, the adaptation through interpersonal communication, as well as a series of direct experiences and interactions of the teenagers with the stepmother.

Keywords : *the significance of stereotypes, stepmother stereotypes, perception*