

ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of interfaith marriage in Indonesia is increasing yearly, reflecting the high level of tolerance and openness between individuals with different religious backgrounds. Therefore, the researcher examines identity negotiation in married couples of different religions in their efforts to maintain their marriage relationship. This research was conducted using a qualitative research method with a phenomenological approach. Data collection was conducted from March 2024 to June 2024 through in-depth interviews with three key informant couples and several supporting informants selected based on purposeful sampling. The data is supported by observations that have been made by seeing the couples' daily lives in several religious activities and seeing the couples' interactions during the interviews. The research findings show that the three couples have different relationship conditions. There are two out of three couples who understand the knowledge of identity obtained from the experience of interacting with people who have different religions including religious experts. Two of the three couples have also felt a high awareness and acceptance process of religious differences in their marriage because of the knowledge they have so that it becomes a guideline for them to maintain their marriage. After going through these two processes, two of the three couples successfully negotiated identity and reached a common understanding in their marriage. Meanwhile one of the three couples had a different condition because from the beginning they did not understand their partner's religion and only focused on themselves.

Keywords: *Identity Negotiation, Interfaith Marriage, Married Couples.*

