



UNIVERSITAS GADJAH MADA

# Empowering Deaf Youth to Counter Deafness-related Stigma Through Deaf Art Community in Yogyakarta, Indonesia



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# Introduction

- The social perspective of disability develops from the idea that disability is the environment that incapacitates people with disability.
- In Indonesia, the study of the Deaf community as a linguistic minority is not yet rigorously studied.
- In Yogyakarta, it is found that stigma and negative attitudes towards Deaf community persevere and result in the tendency of Deaf people to be disengaged.
- DAC is a community where the members and community leaders consist of Deaf people ranging from young to old and using the arts to fight for Deaf rights and promoting Deaf culture.



Why the study of disability art is important in reducing the stigma towards stigmatised people with disability?

- Disability art is about strengthening identity, communication, and empowerment.
- Deaf art has contributed not only to Deaf themselves, but also society in general.

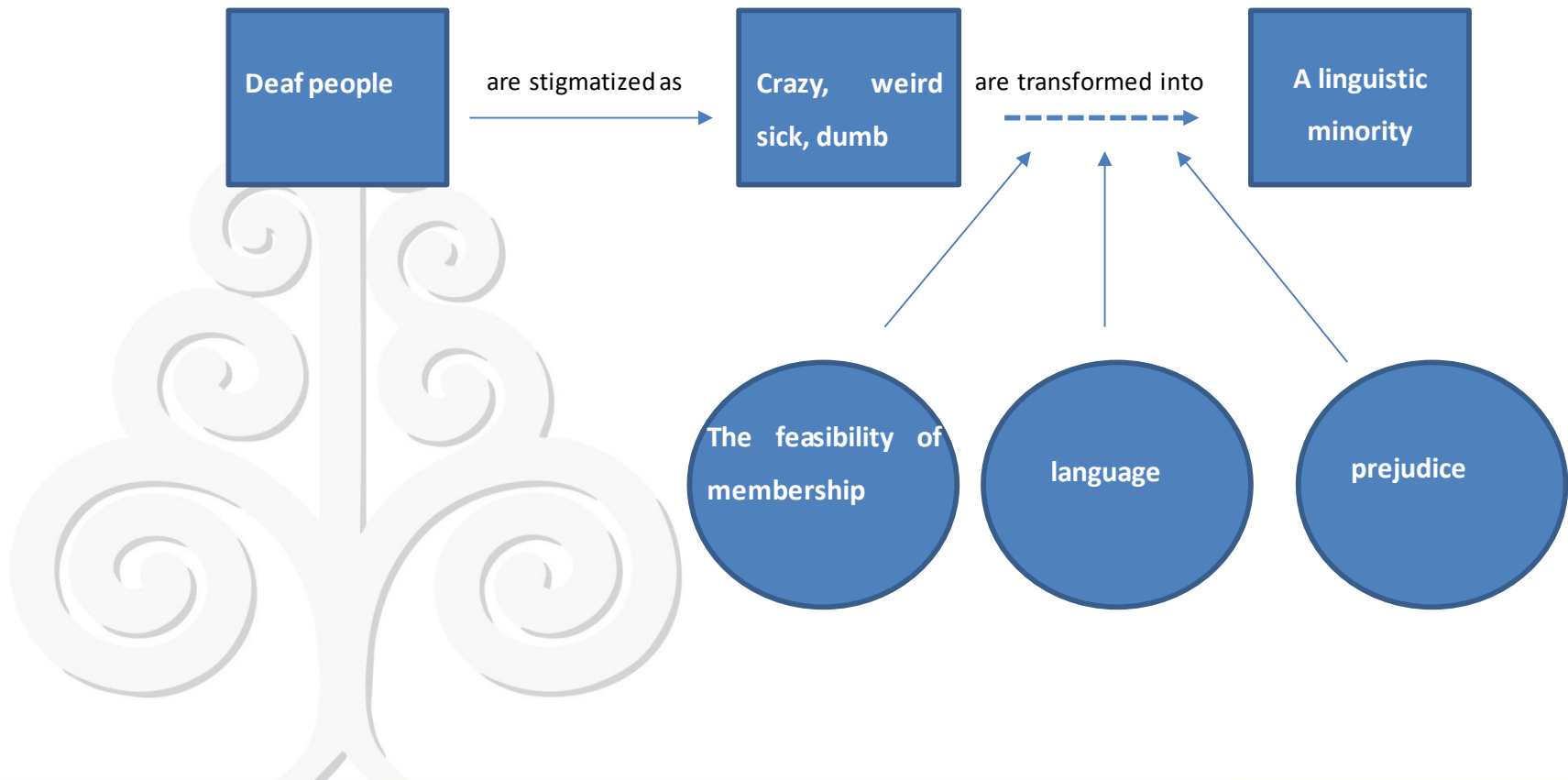


# Methodology

- Ethnography approach to understand Deaf culture through portraying the lives of Deaf Youth in the DAC, including their feelings, views, and perspectives.
- This approach is supported with secondary data.



# Why does Deaf youth move from general society to Deaf community?



# DAC helps the Deaf youth strengthening their identities



- In DAC, there is no specific program set by the organization committee (the founder and the hearing volunteers), but decided by the Deaf youth.
- DAC collaborates with experts to facilitate the Deaf youth in enhancing their capacities and passions.
- The long process the Deaf youth spend to learn, work, and share experiences together, build a new identity that they are proud of and make them more powerful.

# Interpersonal communication between the Deaf youth and volunteers in DAC



- The volunteers help the Deaf youth in preparing for the upcoming performance, or just simply as a friend for them to listen to their problems, share information, and motivate them.
- This results in the Deaf youth becoming more confident in expressing themselves in mainstream culture and society.

# Before and After the Deaf Youth joining the DAC



	Before	After
Stigma	All the Deaf youth in the DAC often experience negative attitudes from people they encounter.	Performing in front of the public increases their confidence and experiences
	Most of them did not get support from their families	The DAC offers the Deaf youth the chance to improve their language through learning Indonesian and sign-language class
Self Stigma	being stigmatised results in social and psychological risks.	Joining the DAC can enhance the knowledge of the Deaf youth about art performance
	Lack of confidence	





# Conclusion

- The most crucial and important thing in DAC is their Deaf-centered decision making.
- DAC as a Deaf community is perceived as a common space, rather than a rehabilitation centre for the Deaf youth.
- DAC builds interpersonal communication among the Deaf youth and also with hearing people to avoid a sense of isolation.
- The Deaf youth in DAC are prouder to identify themselves as a Deaf rather than people with disability or be as normal as hearing people because they see themselves a linguistic minority.
- However, sometimes they still want to be looked at and treated in the position of people with disability.





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