

**THE ROLE OF MORAL DISENGAGEMENT ON THE  
PROPENSITY OF COMMITTING RELATIONAL AGGRESSION  
IN EMERGING ADULTHOOD**

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**Abstract**

Previous studies have found that aggressive behaviour is predicted by moral disengagement. The present study explores the role of the four dimensions of moral disengagement, namely cognitive restructuring, minimizing agency, distortion of consequence and victim attribution, towards the tendency to commit relational aggression, amongst emerging adults. A total of 190 participants aged 18-24 years (Male = 41, Female = 149) participated in this study by completing an online questionnaire. Two scales were used in this research: Mechanism of Moral Disengagement Scale to measure the level of moral disengagement and the Young Adult Relational Aggression Scale to measure relational aggression. Path coefficient analysis followed by bootstrapping was executed to examine the effect of moral disengagement towards relational aggression, using the PLS-SEM algorithm. Result indicated that cognitive restructuring and victim attribution significantly increased the tendencies to commit relational aggression. On the other hand, minimizing agency and distorting consequences were not found to have an effect on relational aggression tendencies.

**Keywords:** Cognitive Restructuring, Emerging adults, Distortion of Consequence, Minimizing Agency, Moral disengagement, Relational aggression

## Abstrak

Studi sebelumnya telah menemukan bahwa perilaku agresif diprediksi oleh *moral disengagement*. Studi ini mengeksplorasi peran empat dimensi *moral disengagement* yakni *cognitive restructuring*, *minimizing agency*, *distortion of consequence* dan *victim attribution* terhadap kecenderungan seseorang untuk melakukan agresi relasional pada usia dewasa muda. Sebanyak 190 partisipan berusia 18-24 tahun (Laki = 41, Perempuan = 149), mengisi kuesioner online untuk mengukur agresi relasional dan *moral disengagement*. Dua skala yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah *Mechanism of Moral Disengagement Scale* untuk mengukur tingkat *moral disengagement* dan *Young Adult Relational Aggression Scale* untuk mengukur agresi relasional. *Path coefficient analysis* disertai *bootstrapping* dilakukan untuk menganalisis pengaruh variabel *moral disengagement* terhadap agresi relasional, menggunakan algoritma PLS-SEM.. Hasil menunjukkan bahwa *cognitive restructuring* dan *victim attribution* meningkatkan kecenderungan agresi relasional. Di sisi lain, *minimizing agency* dan *distortion of consequence* tidak ditemukan berpengaruh terhadap kecenderungan agresi relasional.