

Available online at : <http://jurnalantropologi.fisip.unand.ac.id/>

Jurnal Antropologi: Isu-Isu Sosial Budaya

| ISSN (Online) 2355-5963 |



Symbolic Interaction Of Drugs User By Private University Students In Malang City

Muhammad Mukhlis Anshori¹, Alfin Nur Laili², Taufiqur Rohman Muzakki³, Bambang Soepeno⁴, Sukidin⁵

¹ FKIP, Universitas Jember, Indonesia. E-mail: muhammadmukhl587@gmail.com

² FKIP, Universitas Jember, Indonesia. E-mail: alfinnurlaili1219@gmail.com

³ Master of Education Management, University of Malang. E-mail: rohmanmuzekki@gmail.com

⁴ FKIP, Universitas Jember, Indonesia. E-mail: bambangsoepeno@unej.ac.id

⁵ FKIP, Universitas Jember, Indonesia. E-mail: Sukidin.fkip@unej.ac.id

ARTICLE INFORMATION

Submitted: 27th April, 2025.

Review: 1st May, 2025.

Accepted: 18th May, 2025.

Published: 10th June, 2025.

KEYWORDS

Symbolic Interactionism, Drug Users, College, Malang City

CORRESPONDENCE

Phone: +62 (0751) 12345678

E-mail: first_author@affiliation.xx.xx

A B S T R A C T

Drug abuse among students, especially in Malang City, has reached a worrying phase. Drug users interact with certain symbols to disguise their activities. Despite many previous studies, there is still a lack of data on symbolic interactions in the environment of drug users. This study focuses on the reasons why students at Private Universities in Malang City use drugs, the symbols they use, and how these symbols are communicated. The method used is qualitative descriptive research with observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The results of the study indicate that the reasons for drug use are influenced by internal factors, such as emotional pressure and curiosity, as well as external factors, including the influence of the friendship environment. Symbols in the interactions of drug users reflect meanings formed through social processes, such as the terms SS and Micin for crystal meth, as well as physical symbols such as prohibition posters and bottles of liquor. Communication among students also involves social media, such as WhatsApp. Certain patterns in disguising drugs, such as the use of plastic clips and wrapping cigarettes, reflect organized collective action, the result of shared experiences in the user community.

A. INTRODUCTION

Drug abuse in Malang City has now reached an alarming level, because as reported by kompas.com on 06/09/2023, the Malang City Police have arrested 26 suspected drug dealers in the Malang City area. These dealers are inseparable from the demand from drug users in Malang City. One of the users who is most in the spotlight is students studying in Malang City.

Head of General Affairs of the Malang City BNN, Benny Trianto, in his interview on September 11, 2024 emphasized: "Drug abuse in Malang does not only target

students, but has also spread to students. This is very concerning for the future of the Indonesian nation". Currently, the dangers of narcotics in Malang City have become a very serious problem to eradicate (Dwi Yanto, 2020).

The statement is also supported by the results of an interview with WD as a student who is studying at one of the campuses in Malang City who said: "Some students in Malang use narcotics in their daily lives to provide a sense of calm and pleasure, and abuse by students is increasing". In this case, the Head of the Drug Investigation Unit (Satreskoba) of the Malang City Police, Ipda BH, said that cases of student involvement in drug problems are quite high. Based on the data, around 10

percent of students from various campuses in Malang City are indicated to use drugs. "Some of them were found to have, store, give orders, and some even act as dealers," he said while attending an event at the National Institute of Technology (ITN) Malang. BH said that the type of drug most often consumed by students is marijuana. The handling of this case refers to Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics. Article 127 stipulates that users must be rehabilitated, while reported users can be charged with Article 112. This article stipulates a prison sentence of 4 to 12 years for anyone who without the right to possess, store, control, or provide Class I Narcotics other than plants.

Drug abuse among college students is a serious threat to the progress of the nation. College students, who should be agents of change and social monitors, are actually trapped in destructive behavior. Instead of utilizing their potential to make a positive contribution to society, they fall into a dependency that destroys the future of individuals and the nation. This weakens the strategic role of college students in fighting for social justice, change, and sustainable development.

In anthropological studies, the phenomenon of drug abuse is understood as a construction of meaning related to social symbols and cultural practices in the user community. This study highlights how students form meanings related to drug use through social interactions and the symbols they use. Thus, drug abuse is not only seen from an individual perspective, but also as a reflection of the social and cultural dynamics that influence their behavior, identity, and social relationships.

Drug abuse triggers various social problems, such as suicide, fraud, theft, and social unrest, and can damage family relationships and reduce human resource productivity. In the context of national stability, drug abuse threatens the sustainability of the state. The use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illegal drugs, can cause a dangerous dependency syndrome. Students are a high-risk group for the consumption of psychoactive substances, so it is important to study the patterns of symbolic interaction among drug users. Symbolic interactionism theory is very relevant here, because it emphasizes how individuals form meaning through social interactions and the symbols around them. Students, who should be agents of change, are often influenced by symbols related to drug use, such as peer images and social norms.

Symbolic interactionism helps understand how students construct their identities as drug users and how they interact with the social environment that supports or opposes this behavior. Thus, the phenomenon referred to as narcotics is not only the responsibility of the individual, but also a shared responsibility of educational institutions, religious institutions, and family institutions. These three institutions have an important role in forming norms and values that can influence students' decisions in dealing with social pressure and temptation to use drugs.

Several previous studies that are used as literature in this study include research by Edison Hutapea et al. (2022), which examines how drug user communities create symbols according to their environment and understanding, as well as how the

process of spreading individual physical and mental activities in that context. Research by Ritanti et al. (2022) examines the relationship between adolescent characteristics and risky behavior that triggers narcotics and addictive substances (Napza) in early adolescence. Suriawan et al. (2022) discuss that the circulation and distribution of illegal narcotics are influenced by internal and external factors; internal factors come from within the individual, while external factors are related to the influence of the surrounding environment.

The phenomenon caused by narcotics among students in Malang is increasingly widespread. One of the drug users, namely RM, MZ, WD, and MHS, is a student who continues his studies in the Malang city area. RM, in his daily life, often uses narcotics, especially Dextromethorphan Hydrobromide (DMP), marijuana, and crystal methamphetamine. In his daily activities, he interacts socially with fellow drug users. They use certain languages in these interactions, such as the term "beras" for Dextromethorphan, "turmeric" for the yellow one, and "suwek" for Trex Pills, as well as other terms. The use of this special language indicates that drug users are trying to keep their interactions confidential, while also creating a group identity among them.

In relation to this, the researcher is interested in identifying and analyzing more deeply and pouring it into a scientific paper in the form of a thesis entitled "Symbolic Interaction of Drug Users by Private College Students in Malang City"

B. METHOD

This research method uses a descriptive qualitative approach with observation techniques, in-depth interviews, and documentation, which are analyzed descriptively using the Miles and Huberman interactive model. The analysis process includes data reduction, where researchers organize and filter data to draw verifiable conclusions. Data presentation is done after reduction, with synchronization of interview results and supporting documentation. Researchers draw conclusions with an open and skeptical approach, ensuring that the data collected has a relevant relationship to answer the problems raised. The location of the study is in the campus area in Malang City. Researchers have reasons for choosing this research location because Malang City is one of the largest cities in East Java where cases of arrests of students who use narcotics often occur, causing unrest for the people of Malang City. The study was conducted from November 2023 to 2024. Informants MZ and DD have the same age, namely 22 years old, while WLD, MHS, and SPL are 24 years old. MZ, DD, SPL, and WLD are students majoring in engineering, while MHS is a student majoring in nursing.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The participants used in this study were students who were studying in Malang City and alumni informants of students in Malang City. Informants MZ and DD were the same age,

namely 22 years old, while WLD, MHS, and SPL were 24 years old. The critical age for the onset of drug contributions is during adolescence aged 18-25 years (Nawi *et al.*, 2021). All informants were people who were not from Malang City, but they were people from other countries who were studying in Malang City. All informants were students from private campuses in Malang City. All informants were cigarette addicts and alcohol consumers. An alcoholic tends to have a higher chance of using narcotics than someone who is not an alcoholic (Tam & Foo, 2012). All informants also had similarities in terms of liking clubbing with alcoholic drinks, because at the club location they were more free to drink alcohol and use drugs. Here is WLD's statement:

"I often go to clubs in Malang, regularly every half month with friends. My favorite club because it is free to do activities and security is maintained" (WLD: 2024)

Clubs are places frequently visited by DD informants. Malang students are inseparable from entertainment venues, such as clubs, which are frequently visited to reduce stress and boredom due to academic pressure. A similar thing was conveyed by DD informants in their statement:

"Sometimes once a month or twice I go to clubs in Malang, that adjusts to pocket money and also depends on friends' invitations". (DD: 2024)

The decision to visit a club at the invitation of a friend shows the influence of social groups on individual behavior. This shows that social relationships play an important role in shaping a person's activity patterns, including the choice of entertainment venues such as nightclubs. Although clubs are part of social life in Malang, not all individuals have the same access or continuity to these places.

The types of drugs that students in Malang City use vary greatly, some use marijuana, crystal methamphetamine, and the ones they use the most are Double L Pills and Dextromethorphan. DD also said that he often consumed Komix and Antimo drugs excessively, which caused hallucinations and unconsciousness. This had been done when the informant was still in junior high school. Here is his statement:

"At first I still used Komix drugs when I was still in junior high school, because at that time I was still afraid to use drugs, so my alternative was to use that and it was easy to get". (DD: 2024)

This abuse of Komix Cough Medicine was done intentionally to get the effect of being drunk, Ngefly and following the style of friends (Salim *et al.*, 2020). knowledge about over-the-counter cough medicine is limited because adolescents do not know what is meant by limited over-the-counter medicine (Alhidayati *et al.*, 2022).

1. Reasons for Being a Drug User

Drug users often have certain motivations that drive them to use the substance, one of which is the influence of friendship. The social environment, especially peer groups, can play a major role in shaping an individual's decision to try or use drugs.

"Friendships at home who are used to drinking alcohol and using drugs, especially Koplo pills." (MZ: 2024).

MZ highlighted the role of friendships in the home environment as a significant factor in drug use. The habits of his friends who are used to drinking alcohol and using drugs, especially Koplo pills, are a major influence that encourages him to start trying the substance.

"Because of the friendships on campus, especially the free association in Malang". (SPL: 2024)

SPL explained that friendships on campus, coupled with the culture of free association in Malang, are factors that encourage drug use. The social environment on campus is often a place where interactions between individuals take place intensely, thus creating a significant social influence. The culture of free association in Malang, which may be manifested in activities in entertainment venues, hangouts, or communities. Informant DD has the same opinion as SPL.

"I use drugs because I am influenced by my home environment and free association in Malang." (DD:2024)

DD stated that the environment in which a person is located can influence an individual's behavior. In this case, the home environment and free association in Malang have a significant impact on a person's decision to use drugs. This shows that social factors have a major influence on this behavior.

"My decision to use drugs started from being involved in an environment that likes to get drunk, then from that I started using Double L Pills. The biggest factors in my use of Double L Pills are parental pressure, campus pressure, and physical needs, if I don't use it, I feel like something is missing". (MHS: 2024)

MZ explained that his initial decision to use drugs was influenced by a social environment that likes to get drunk. In addition, he mentioned three main factors that influence the consistency of use, namely pressure from parents, academic demands on campus, and physical needs that make him feel incomplete without using Double L Pills.

"The decision to use drugs started in high school, it was done to relieve my stress and boredom". (DD: 2024)

DD revealed that the decision to use drugs started in high school as a form of relieving stress and boredom. Different factors that drive drug use by other informants. "Want to know for yourself, want to know what it feels like". (WLD: 2024).

The explanation describes the motive for personal exploration that appears among individuals, especially among students who may feel compelled to seek new experiences or overcome curiosity regarding the effects of drug use. Drug abuse by students in Malang City is caused by several factors, including bad associations in the environment, a free lifestyle in Malang, efforts to relieve pressure, and motivation from within.

2. Symbols of Drug Users

Symbols used by drug users in their interactions with other users. These symbols can be objects, actions, or certain behaviors that have special meanings in the drug

user community. For example, communication style, drug user tools and liquor bottles that often represent identity or status among users.

"In my friend's environment, I prefer to use Malang language, namely walikan language such as: Shabu: Ubas or Pil Double L with the color white I call Hitup. I first understood the walikan language in Malang, when my MHS friends used walikan language such as White: Hitup I immediately understood what my friend meant." (DD: 2024)

The interaction used by DD in communicating with fellow drug users is by using walikan language. The Malangan walikan language is a typical communication symbol among drug users in certain environments. Linguistic symbols such as "Shabu" which is called "Ubas" or "Pil Double L" which is called Hitup are used to disguise the original meaning and create understanding between users. Different from informant SPL.

"I sometimes send photos with the same color as the drug, such as the yellow Double L Pill, I will send photos of yellow clothes or other items that have the same color. While the white Double L Pill I will send photos of items that choose white such as walls, pants, and others. But what I often use is the term cat for the Double L Pill". (SPL: 2024)

Drug users use visual symbols, such as color, to communicate the type of drug used. For example, for the yellow Double L Pill, he sends photos with similar colored items, such as clothes or other objects. The term cat is also communicated by informant WLD.

"If the white pill that I use has the letter Y, if it is used as a pseudonym, it is considered a joke, sometimes a cat for the Double L Pill, At first it was just a joke and continued. The beginning was a joke using the term cat, which continues until now". (WLD:2024)

The use of terms such as "cat" can function to hide the original meaning from outsiders, thus providing a sense of security in communicating while strengthening solidarity within the group. In addition, this phenomenon shows how humor or jokes can be a mechanism that reduces the pressure or stigma attached to drug use behavior. Informants have other terms besides cat. Here is the explanation:

"In my interactions with my friends, I use the term hitup for white, while for shabu-shabu I usually use the term micin, this symbol is used because the shape of shabu-shabu has the same similarity as the cooking spice micin. Sometimes besides hitup, I use the term rice. The use of this symbol is due to the similarity of the same color, while for Double L Pills with the yellow color, I use the term turmeric.". (MHS:2024)

The use of this term is not only intended to disguise the identity of the substance from outsiders (such as family or law enforcement), but also becomes a form of communication in itself that strengthens group cohesion. In the perspective of symbolic interaction, these terms are examples of how social meaning is created through interactions between individuals, where symbols are chosen based on visual associations (similarity of shape or color) and meanings that are relevant to the community.

Informant MZ has other terms besides live, white, yellow, rice, turmeric. Here is his explanation:

"Usually I use several terms, such as Pil Double L = lele, Pil dextromethorphan = Kuningan, while if I mention shabu-shabu, I immediately say SS. Pil Double L I say white, sometimes lele, I mean lele because the shape of the pill has the letter LL while putih is because it has a white color". (MZ: 2024)

Pil Double L has a white color and the shape of the letter LL informants use the term lele in their interactions. There are also white pills with a Y shape, but the effects felt are different.

"The effects of the white pill with the shape of Y and L have different effects on the body, Y is more pleasant because using Y is the same as L, and also sometimes if it doesn't suit you using L it can cause itching". (MZ:2024)

There is a difference between the white LL-shaped pill and the white Y-shaped pill, although both are often considered to have similar effects. Users feel that the Y-shaped pill is more comfortable and provides better effects, while the LL pill can cause side effects such as itching if it is not suitable.

Informants often use certain symbols in their interactions, either in the form of objects, actions, or behaviors that have special meanings. For example, in the user community in Malang, terms such as "Ubas" for shabu-shabu and "Hitup" for Double L Pills are used. Other terms such as "kucing" for Double L Pills and "micin" for shabu-shabu are also common.

Visual symbols, such as the color of clothing or yellow walls that refer to the yellow Double L Pills, become a way of implicit communication. The physical form of the pill, such as the letter "LL" associated with "catfish," also creates its own terms. In addition to the symbols of drug items, users tend to have rooms with minimal lighting and posters that reflect their identity as drug users.

Figure 1
Poster decoration in DD room



Figure 1, obtained from informant DD, The poster used in DD's room has a meaning in his life that he has a closed nature and does not like a prohibition, such as a prohibition on free sex, smoking, playing with a cellphone. However, there is one poster that shows the words "Prohibited Prohibition". Figure 4.1 shows the meaning that DD has carried out all the prohibitions that have been displayed in the room.

"I collected the poster because it was cool, I put the poster up to show that I am free and don't want to be prohibited

by anyone, I also collect bottles of liquor in my room". (DD: 2024)

Based on observations made, informant DD's room has a poster shown in Figure 4.1, and there are used bottles of liquor that have been consumed. A similar thing was also found in informant MHS's room, who collected bottles of liquor that were placed on top of the cupboard.

Figure 2



Liquor Bottles in MHS Room

Figure 2 is MHS's room. The room raises the researcher's interpretation, by displaying alcohol bottle accessories indicating that the person who owns the room is an active alcohol drinker. Coupled with the slightly gloomy room lighting, it shows that MHS is someone who does not like places with a lot of lighting. Based on an interview with MHS, he said:

"I tend to prefer a room model that I think is cool, by collecting used liquor items and a dimly lit room because, when using drugs, it is better in slightly dark places". (MHS: 2024).

Figure 3



Liquor Bottles in WLD Room

Looking at the MHS informant's explanation, people who use drugs tend towards something that is considered beautiful and cool. This is the same as in Figure 4.3 of the WLD room model who likes to collect bottles of liquor.

"Collecting this drink is common, usually after drinking events with the kids, sometimes buying it myself and then displaying it". (WLD: 2024)

A similar phenomenon is also seen in the behavior of collecting bottles of liquor by WLD informants, who consider the bottles as symbols of a certain lifestyle. This habit not only reflects behavioral

patterns, but also shows how symbols such as liquor or drug use are used as part of identity and expression. The types of drugs consumed by students in Malang City have various variations. One that is often used is the Double L Pill.

"The Double L Pill is what I use, because when I use it it is not very obvious to people, but for shabu-shabu I rarely use it, because the price is quite expensive and it is a bit difficult to get it". (MZ:2024)

Based on MZ's statement, drug abuse is also seen from the effects caused and the financial condition of the informant. Double L pills were chosen because they have effects that are considered more "hidden" or not easily detected by others, so users feel more comfortable consuming them in certain social environments. Economic factors not only influence the choice of drug types, but also indicate that financial ability plays an important role in consumption patterns. Informant MHS said something similar.

"Sometimes white pills, if yellow ones are rare, sometimes it's shabu-shabu-shabu, sir, depending on finances". (MHS:2024)

The choice of drug types used by informants is greatly influenced by their financial condition. The choice between "white pills," "yellow pills," or "shabu-shabu" is not only based on personal preference, but also depends on the user's economic ability at a particular time. This shows a close relationship between economic factors and drug consumption patterns, where users are more likely to choose more affordable substances when their finances are limited. Informant SPL also has the same opinion as MZ and MHS who think about their economic conditions.

"Sometimes Y, sometimes Tramadol, Sometimes suwek. Many, depending on the contents of the wallet and the availability of narcotics. Sometimes if I have more money I buy shabu, but if I run out of money I will choose to buy the white double L". (SPL: 2024)

Based on MZ's statement, drug abuse is also seen from the effects caused and the financial condition of the informant. Informant WLD said.

"Double L or cat pills, for other types of drugs I'm a bit afraid, and never have" (WLD: 2024)

Informant WLD felt sorry when he was going to consume shabu-shabu and preferred to consume Double L pills. The preference for drug use by students in Malang City is influenced by economic conditions and the availability of goods. Double L pills or what are known as "cats" are the main choice because they are affordable, easy to get, and not conspicuous when used, so they are considered safer.

In addition, the economic conditions of users also play an important role in determining the type of narcotics used. Double L pills are the main choice because they are affordable and easy to obtain, while other narcotics such as shabu, Y, and Tramadol are only used when finances support. These factors indicate that narcotics use in Malang City is greatly influenced by a combination of the availability of goods and the financial capabilities of users.

"Usually I get it from friends who are narcotics dealers, sometimes I bring it from home when I go back to my hometown". (DD: 2024)

DD obtained narcotics through two main sources, namely friends who acted as dealers and brought them from home when returning to her hometown. This shows that there is quite easy accessibility both through friend networks and through sources outside the city. Informant WLD said something similar to DD.

"From friends who hang out, sometimes I ask friends from Probolinggo to go to Malang". (WLD: 2024)

WLD took advantage of relationships in the hangout environment to get narcotics. In addition, he also used the method of asking friends who were traveling from outside the city, in this case Probolinggo, to supply goods to Malang. This shows a cross-city distribution pattern. Informant DD said something similar to WLD. "Usually I ask friends or bring them from home". (DD: 2024)

Informant DD got narcotics from college friends or brought narcotics from outside Malang City. Meanwhile, informant SPL said:

"If the goods can be entrusted to you, if from Malang city itself it is dangerous, if entrusted to a friend it is possible, it can also be packaged". (SPL: 2024)

SPL explained a more varied method, namely through direct entrustment to friends or delivery via package. He also mentioned the risk of getting goods directly from Malang City, so he chose a safer way through an intermediary. "I got the goods from a college friend". (MHS: 2024)

MHS relies on college friends as the main source for obtaining drugs. This highlights the existence of a distribution network that involves the academic environment. Meanwhile, informant MZ said he got drugs from both college friends and friends in the residential environment (boarding house). "College friends, or friends in the boarding house where I live". (MZ: 2024)

Based on interviews, drug distribution and access among Malang students are highly dependent on social relationships and informal networks. Most informants obtain drugs through friends from campus or social circles. Some also use delivery through friends from out of town or parcel services, which are considered safer. Other informants bring drugs from out of town when they return home, indicating continued access even outside of social circles. Thus, drug distribution is highly influenced by the strength of social networks.

3. Symbolic Communication of Drug Users

The concept of social interaction is related to the method of communication used by drug users by students in Malang City.

"As usual, I communicate with friends, usually in the boarding house, they first contact via WhatsApp, they WhatsApp usually directly ask whether the goods are there or not. Usually tucked into a cigarette pack". (DD: 2024)

DD said that communication with friends about drugs is usually done via the WhatsApp application. In this communication, they immediately ask about the availability of goods before proceeding to the next step. The main location of interaction mentioned is the boarding house, which is a place to gather to talk and exchange goods.

"I go straight to the next room, because my boarding house friends are also drug users. But sometimes I WhatsApp my friends if my boarding house friends don't have any drug goods. Sometimes the pills are wrapped in candy". (MZ: 2024)

MZ revealed that he often went directly to the boarding room of his next door friend because the friend was also a drug user and used candy wrappers as a place to put the double L pills. However, if the items were not available in the boarding house, he used WhatsApp to contact other friends.

"Communication via WhatsApp, then if the items were available I immediately took them. As for the packaging, sometimes it was tissue, sometimes plastic clips, cigarette packs" (WLD: 2024).

Figure 4



WLD Using Plastic Clips

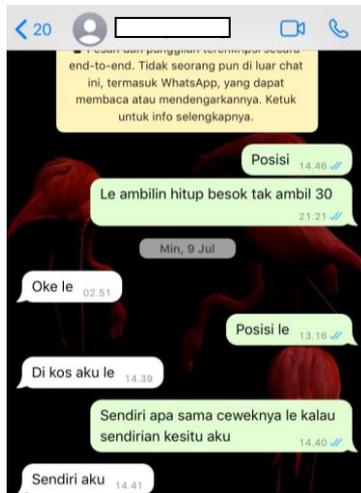
Figure 4. shows the use of flip plastic to wrap double L pills. Based on interviews with WLD, communication related to narcotics is done via WhatsApp to ensure the availability of goods. If the goods are available, he immediately takes them. WLD also explained that narcotics are often packaged in various forms, such as tissues, plastic clips, or cigarette packs. Informant MHS said the same thing as WLD.

"Sometimes I go directly to friends, sometimes via WhatsApp first. The books are usually cigarette packs, sometimes plastic is usually". (MHS: 2024)

From the informant's statement, it can be concluded that communication to obtain narcotics among students in Malang City is done via social media such as WhatsApp and direct interaction. Narcotics are often packaged in tissues, plastic clips, or cigarette packs to disguise their existence. Informant SPL said that narcotics are usually sent via packages.

"I usually WhatsApp first, sometimes I can go to my boarding house friends, sometimes I am sent via packages, I don't always do that" (SPL: 2024)

Figure 5



MHS Whatsapp SS Evidence

Based on Figure 5. Interaction between MHS and DD, they communicated via WhatsApp. The use of the Malangan language used by MHS to DD.

Social interaction also involves signs or communication behavior shown by drug users, both when using and not using drugs.

“Maybe from their movements, sometimes you can see how emotional they are”. (MHS: 2024)

MHS identified his friends when they were using drugs or not, things that were seen from their body gestures that showed easily provoked emotions. Informant MZ said.

“Speaking irregularly, walking unsteadily, likes to do strange things like wanting to fish, want to go for a walk, and others. If they are not using, their communication is like a normal person”. (MZ: 2024)

When using drugs, their behavior can become uncoordinated, such as unclear speech, unstable movements, to impulsive actions such as the desire to fish or go for a walk for no apparent reason. However, when the effects of drugs wear off, they can behave like normal people.

“When friends use drugs, for example Double L Pills, they prefer to talk nonsense, and they also find it difficult to stay still”. (DD: 2024)

This statement explains certain effects of types of drugs such as Double L Pills which make users hyperactive verbally (talk nonsense) and physically (have difficulty staying still). Several other informants have different opinions from informants MHS, MZ, and DD. SPL said that drug users do not experience changes in their interactions.

“It can't be predicted, but if it's still early on, it can be predicted, it can be identified from being quick to get angry and selfish”. (SPL: 2024)

SPL stated that recognizing users, both when using and not using, is difficult unless the user is a new user. “If it's like that, it depends on the individual and is difficult to predict”. (WLD: 2024)

WLD emphasizes that a person's response to drugs depends on their innate personality or background, so it is difficult to generalize.

The social interactions of drug users reflect various observable behavioral changes, both when using and when not using. Several informants identified certain signs, such as body movements that indicate easily provoked emotions, irregular speech, staggering walking, and impulsive behavior. The type of drug used also affects social behavior; for example, Double L Pills cause verbal and physical hyperactivity, such as talking without direction and having difficulty remaining still. However, after the effects of the drug wear off, most users can return to communicating and behaving normally.

Behavioral changes due to drugs vary depending on the stage of use and the individual's personality. In the early stages, behavior such as being quick to anger and selfish is more visible, while in the later stages, changes are difficult to predict. Individual genetic factors also influence the response to drugs, so not all users show the same signs.

4. Background of Drug Users

Drug abuse is often influenced by various factors, both external and internal. One of the most influential external factors is the influence of the social environment, especially in friendships. Informant MZ showed a similar background in drug use, namely being influenced by their social environment. In this case, the social environment plays an important role in encouraging individuals to engage in drug abuse (Hastiana *et al.*, 2020). Informant SPL has the same background as MZ regarding drug use. The college environment and social environment in Malang are the biggest factors for using drugs. drug influence from friends on campus (Attas *et al.*, 2023). For example, a peer environment that is accustomed to drinking alcohol and drug use can encourage individuals to follow similar behavior.

In addition, internal factors also make a significant contribution. MHS informants, for example, revealed that social pressure and stress were the main reasons they used drugs. The decision to use drugs is often based on physical needs, emotional pressure, or an effort to cope with stress (Savega & Suraya, 2024). Many users revealed that they started using drugs as a way to relieve pressure from the family environment, academic demands, or other emotional needs. The identity crisis felt by the current generation encourages drug abuse to eliminate problems instantly (Mahmud, 2024).

Informant DD uses drugs to relieve stress and boredom. Drug abuse factors can relieve stress, have fun, or socialize with others (Suriani Suriani *et al.*, 2024). Another factor is to relieve boredom, saturation (Lukman *et al.*, 2022).

In addition to environmental pressure and external influences, the urge to explore also emerged as a motive for drug use. WLD informants felt compelled to

try drugs because of curiosity and a desire to seek new experiences. This can be seen in adolescents who often have difficulty refusing offers, with the desire to be accepted in a friendship group being a motivating factor for them to try drugs, even though they did not initially intend to (Alfazzen Harahap, 2023). This motive is commonly found among students who are in the exploration phase of life, where they want to try new things even though they are aware of the risks.

Data on the background of student drug users in Malang are in line with Herbert Blumer's self-concept, who sees humans as beings who actively form meaning through social interaction (Yutanti, 2022). Social symbols such as peer habits, family pressure, and social norms create meaning that is internalized by individuals. Thus, the decision to use drugs is the result of an individual's interpretation of their social situation, where these symbols provide a framework of meaning that drives certain behaviors.

5. Symbols of Drug Users

The symbols used by drug users include certain terms, body movements, appearance, and speaking style, which are characteristic of their interactions (Rifqi & Yusuf, 2024). The symbols used by informant DD use Malang language in interactions between users. The use of linguistic terms such as the typical Malang *walikan* language is one form of communication that is commonly used. The *walikan* language is a typical dialect of the Malang community which can be considered a form of slang (Fiaji, 2021). Students refer to Double L pills as "rice" and Trihexypenidyl pills as "turmeric", based on the color of the pills. The white Double L pills are called "rice", while the yellow Trihexypenidyl pills are called "turmeric". Tramadol and Hexymer are also known as yellow pills (Polri, 2023). The term "micin" is used to refer to shabu-shabu based on physical similarities. The use of this verbal symbol does not only occur in Malang, but also in drug user communities in other areas. For example, the shabu user community in Kampung Ambon uses the term "putih" to refer to white items (Edison, 2015). Hexymer, which is an anti-Parkinson drug, is known as the yellow pill (Rahma Lillahi, 2016).

SPL uses visual symbols in the form of object colors associated with certain types of narcotics. For example, the yellow color of the Double L Pill is symbolized by yellow objects, such as clothes or walls. On the other hand, WLD uses the term "cat" in communication with SPL. This "cat" symbol emerged from jokes in everyday life without any specific reason behind it. The interaction symbols used by SPL and WLD cannot be found in various secondary sources, such as journals, books, theses, or other references.

Symbol preferences are also influenced by the physical form of the drug. Informant MZ called the Double L pill "lele" because of the shape of the letter "LL" on the pill, while the pill shaped like the letter "Y" was chosen based on color. The shabu-shabu type of drug is called "SS," a term also used by adolescent drug users in Medan (Nasution *et al.*, 2024). The Double L pill was given this title because there are two capital L letters in sequence on each pill (Pratama, 2023). Drug users often use

abbreviations in interactions, such as "CK" which means looking for friends (Fernando & Erianjoni, 2021).

Data from informants show that these symbols are in line with Herbert Blumer's concept of objects, which sees humans living amidst objects that are given special meaning through social processes (Yutanti, 2022). For example, the association of white clothes to refer to white pills or the term "cat" from jokes in their environment shows the formation of meaning. The use of terms such as "SS" for shabu-shabu reflects a shared understanding process that can only be interpreted in certain social interactions. This shows how objects and social interactions shape understanding and communication among students.

The symbols found in drug users' rooms reflect their identity and lifestyle. For example, DD's room is decorated with prohibition posters, such as prohibitions on free-ranging and smoking, which reflect his closed nature and tendency to violate the prohibition. In line with the concept of objects in Herbert Blumer's symbolic interaction theory, which states that objects or symbols function to convey meaning in social communication.

A similar phenomenon can be seen in MHS's room, which is decorated with alcohol bottles and dim lighting. MHS feels more comfortable using drugs in a dark room, indicating that drug users often damage the aesthetics of their rooms with a self-image that is considered "cool." WLD, who also collects alcohol bottles, stated that his collection is part of his lifestyle after drinking events with friends.

The collection of bottles owned by Informants DD and MHS, as well as other informants, reflects drunken behavior that is inseparable from drug (Setyani & Swandi, 2019). These symbols, both in the form of physical objects and aesthetic choices of the room, function to express themselves and form identity. These data show conformity with Blumer's concept of objects, which emphasizes that humans live among objects that have certain meanings. In this context, the symbols in drug users' rooms, such as prohibition posters, alcohol bottles, and dim lighting, function as objects that convey meaning and reflect their identity and lifestyle.

Users of the type of drug in Malang City are greatly influenced by economic conditions and the availability of goods. Informants DD, WLD, and SPL obtained narcotics, especially Double L pills, often bringing them from homes outside Malang City. Double L pills are the main choice because they have been found. Based on the results of Agung Pratama's research (2023), Double L pill abuse occurs because the drug is freely available on the market (Pratama, 2023). Meanwhile, informants DD and MZ usually get narcotics through social networks, such as hangout friends, boarding house friends, or college friends. In boarding house or friendship environments, there are often individuals who become addicts or users of narcotics (Ciek Julyati Hisyam *et al.*, 2023). Drugs are easy to get so that many people are influenced to consume drugs (Hastiana *et al.*, 2020). Double L pills are sold freely on the market (Pratama, 2023). The type of narcotics that is often used by all informants is Double L pills, this is because the price is affordable. Koplo pills are relatively cheap and affordable

for all groups (Zidan Batutah & Legowo, 2022). While other types of narcotics, such as shabu or Tramadol, are only used when financial conditions allow. Shabu-shabu has a high price compared to other narcotics (Fernando & Erianjoni, 2021).

6. Symbolic Communication of Drug Users

Communication used via WhatsApp or direct interaction is an important symbol that has a certain meaning for drug users. From the statements of all informants, it can be concluded that communication to obtain drugs among students in Malang City is carried out via social media such as WhatsApp and direct interaction. The use of the WhatsApp application is often misused for drug transactions (Ruslan *et al.*, 2023).

Communication patterns of student drug users, where the methods and forms of their interactions can change depending on the situation, social relationships, or level of trust between them. For example, DD uses cigarettes to wrap the drugs to be used. Sometimes users use used cigarette packs (Ya & Megawati, 2023). While MZ uses leftover candy plastic to wrap Double L pills. This is done to disguise Double L pills. Candy is often used to wrap drugs (Sabri *et al.*, 2020).

WLD informants use certain packaging as a way to disguise goods (with tissue, plastic clips, or cigarette packs) is the result of a symbolic agreement formed through shared experiences. Narcotics are often wrapped in clear plastic clips (Yantika, 2022). Sometimes users use used cigarette packs (Salem & Indara, 2023). MHS informants have similarities in wrapping the drugs that will be used. MHS uses cigarette packs and regular plastic. The use of plastic clips and cigarette packs is often used to wrap drugs (Pahlevi, 2022) (Karmana *et al.*, 2023) (Manurung *et al.*, 2022). SPL gets goods from friends and sometimes sends them via expedition packages. This is done to make it easier for SPL. Drug smuggling via packages (Zhoohirin & Yuska, 2023). delivery of drugs using shipping expedition services (Prayuda, 2020).

Based on the data collected, this information is relevant to Herbert Blumer's concept of objects. Drug users among various objects have certain symbolic meanings. For example, the use of cigarette packs, candy plastic, tissues, or plastic clips reflects how they interpret these objects as tools to disguise illegal goods. In this context, meaning does not come from the object itself, but comes from social interactions that occur in everyday life, so that objects are not only seen as physical objects, but also as symbols that are understood collectively by their community. (Khamimiya & Sudrajat, 2023).

This data is also in line with Blumer's concept of Collective Action. Certain patterns in disguising drugs, such as the use of plastic clips or delivery services, are the result of organized collective action, not emerging individually, but from shared experiences and adjustments in the community.

Signs of communication and behavior of drug users vary, both when using and not. Informant MHS can identify his friends who use drugs through body movements that show easily provoked emotions. The use of this substance also affects behavior, emotions, and awareness (Purbanto & Hidayat, 2023). Informant MZ

stated that the characteristics of friends who use drugs can be identified through social interaction patterns characterized by irregular communication and strange behavior. Some of the effects of consuming Double L pills include shortness of breath, dehydration, light-headedness, hallucinations, being easily startled, body tremors, and emotional instability (Pratama, 2023).

Informant DD explained that the effects of drugs such as Double L Pills make users hyperactive verbally (speaking incoherently) and physically (having difficulty staying still). Use of this drug can cause physical and emotional problems, such as headaches, fatigue, weight loss, unstable emotions, and difficulty interacting socially (Mustofa, 2023). Drug abuse is dangerous because it can interfere with the nervous system, trigger addiction, and cause dependence. Informant SPL added that user behavior cannot always be ascertained; behavior can be identified through emotions, with new users tending to have more difficulty controlling themselves than old users. Informant WLD agreed that user characteristics are influenced by individual conditions and levels of use, including physical factors and the type and amount of drugs used.

Observation results showed that informants often had difficulty communicating well during interviews, often requiring repeated questions to get clear answers. In addition, body movements that were difficult to stay still also showed that drug use, especially Double L Pills, could be identified through user behavior.

D. CONCLUSIONS

The results of this study indicate that the background of drug users on private campuses in Malang City is influenced by two main factors, namely internal and external. Internal factors include emotional pressure, stress, boredom, and curiosity. Meanwhile, external factors include the influence of the friendship environment, both at home, on campus, and in free association in Malang City. The symbols used in the interactions of drug users in Malang reflect certain meanings that are formed through social processes. Terms such as "SS" and "Micin" for crystal meth, as well as the symbolization of trihexyphenidyl with cats, life, white, and rice, indicate an understanding that is only possessed by the social environment of drug users.

Physical symbols, such as prohibition posters, collections of liquor bottles, and dim room lighting, are not only part of the physical environment, but also reflect the identity, lifestyle, and self-expression of users. These objects function as a means to convey messages about the self-image they want to display. Communication among students in Malang is also inseparable from social media, such as the WhatsApp application, which is the main communication channel. In addition, the communication patterns built by drug users in Malang include certain ways of disguising drugs, such as the use of plastic clips, cigarette packaging, candy wrappers, or expedition services, which are forms of organized collective action. These patterns do not arise from individual initiatives

alone, but are the result of shared experiences and adjustments within the user community.

Given the seriousness of this problem, it is recommended that further research be conducted to explore more deeply the social and cultural dynamics behind drug abuse. In addition, more effective social policies need to be formulated to address this problem, including prevention and rehabilitation programs involving communities and educational institutions.

REFERENCES

- Alfazen Harahap, O. 2023. Penyalahgunaan Narkoba Semakin Banyak Digunakan Oleh Kalangan Remaja. *Jurnal Multilingual*, 3(4): 1412-482.
- Alhidayati, Syukaisih, Gloria, C.V. & Despriansyah, R. 2022. Perilaku Remaja Dalam Penyalahgunaan Obat Batuk Bebas Terbatas Di Desa Bente Kecamatan Mandah Kabupaten Indragiri Hilir. *Journal of Hospital Management and Health Sciences*, 3(1): 20-38.
- Attas, H., Mursyid, M., Zahran, I. & ... 2023. Pencegahan, Pemberantasan Penyalahgunaan dan Peredaran Gelap Narkoba (P4GN) di Lingkungan Universitas Muhammadiyah Palopo. *EPIC: Jurnal Pendidikan* Tersedia di <https://journal.umpalopo.ac.id/index.php/epic/article/view/265%0Ahttps://journal.umpalopo.ac.id/index.php/epic/article/download/265/166>.
- Ciek Julyati Hisyam, Aisyah Aisyah, Defano Tanur, Diah Lestari, Marsya Nisa Razita & Nadia Dwi Nur Aufa 2023. Teori Belajar Sosial Sebagai Kerangka Analisis Motif Penggunaan Narkotika. *JISPENDIORA Jurnal Ilmu Sosial Pendidikan Dan Humaniora*, 3(1): 01-15.
- Dwi Yanto, A. 2020. Pemberantasan Tindak Pidana Penyalahgunaan Jenis Tanaman Narkotika Oleh Kepolisian Kota Malang (Studi Di Polresta Malang). *Dinamika, Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Hukum*, 26. Tersedia di <https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:BDsuQOHoCi4J:https://media.neliti.com/media/publications/9138-ID-perlindungan-hukum-terhadap-anak-dari-konten-berbahaya-dalam-media-cetak-dan-ele.pdf+%&cd=3&hl=id&ct=clnk&gl=id>.
- Edison, B.H. 2015. Representasi Simbol-Symbol Komunikasi Menjadi Realitas (Studi Interaksionisme Simbolik Komunitas Pemakai Narkoba Di Dki Jakarta). *Jurnal Magister Ilmu Komunikasi*.
- Fernando, A. & Erianjoni, E. 2021. Penggunaan Bahasa Simbol dalam Pola Interaksi Sosial Antara Pengedar dan Pemakai Narkoba (Kelurahan Dadok Tunggul Hitam , Kecamatan Koto Tengah , Kota Padang) Pendahuluan Manusia adalah makhluk ciptaan Tuhan yang berakal dan berfikir yang membedakan man. *Jurnal Perspektif*, 4(4): 670. Tersedia di <http://perspektif.pjj.unp.ac.id/index.php/perspektif/article/view/448>.
- Fiaji, N.N. 2021. Eksistensi Bahasa Walikan Sebagai Simbol Komunikasi Pada "Gen Z" Di Kota Malang. *PENSA : Jurnal Pendidikan dan Ilmu Sosial*, 3(3): 378-385. Tersedia di <https://ejournal.stitpn.ac.id/index.php/pensa>.
- Hastiana, Syarifuddin Yusuf & Henni, K.H. 2020. Analisis Faktor Penyalahgunaan Narkoba Bagi Narapidana Di Rutan Kelas lib Sidrap. *Jurnal Ilmiah Manusia Dan Kesehatan*, 3(3): 375-385.
- Karmana, S., Agung, A., Dewi, S.L. & Suryani, L.P. 2023. Implementasi Restorative Justice Bagi Pelaku Penyalahgunaan Narkotika di Direktorat Reserse Narkoba Polda Bali. *Jurnal Interpretasi Hukum*, 4(1): 68-73. Tersedia di <https://www.ejournal.warmadewa.ac.id/index.php/juinhum/article/view/5805>.
- Khamimiya, A.R. & Sudrajat, A. 2023. Jurnal Antropologi: Isu-Isu Sosial Budaya |. 02: 271-282.
- Lukman, G.A., Alifah, A.P., Divarianti, A. & Humaedi, S. 2022. Kasus Narkoba Di Indonesia Dan Upaya Pencegahannya Di Kalangan Remaja. *Jurnal Penelitian dan Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat (JPPM)*, 2(3): 405.
- Mahmud, A. 2024. Krisis Identitas di Kalangan Generasi Z dalam Perspektif Patologi Sosial pada Era Media Sosial. *Jurnal Ushuluddin*, 26(2): 279-311.
- Manurung, A.R., Ablisar, M., Yunara, E. & Ekaputra, M. 2022. Analisis Atas Konsep Disgorgement dan Disgorgement Fund. *Locus: Jurnal Konsep Ilmu Hukum*, 2(March).
- Mustofa, A.A.S. 2023. Pengalaman Individu yang Menggunakan Narkoba sebagai Koping Experiences of Individuals Using Drugs as Coping Abstrak. 10(03). *Psikologi, P. S., Pendidikan, F. I., Surabaya, U. N., Psikologi, P. S., Pendidikan, F. I., & Surabaya, U. N.*, 10(03): 216-231.
- Nasution, A.S., Azzahra, T.M. & Sari, R.I. 2024. FENOMENA PENYALAHGUNAAN NARKOBA DI KALANGAN REMAJA BERDASARKAN TEORI INTERAKSIONISME SIMBOLIK DI KOTA MEDAN. *Journal, Community Development*, 5(1): 197-201.
- Nawi, A.M., Ismail, R., Ibrahim, F., Hassan, M.R., Manaf, M.R.A., Amit, N., Ibrahim, N. & Shafurdin, N.S. 2021. Risk and protective factors of drug abuse among adolescents: a systematic review. *BMC Public Health*, 21(1): 1-15. Tersedia di <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/article/s/10.1186/s12889-021-11906-2>.
- Pahlevi, M.R.Z. 2022. Analisis Alasan Mahkamah Agung Membatalkan Putusan Judex Facti Dalam Kasus Penyalahgunaan Narkotika (Studi Putusan Nomor 104k/Pid.Sus/2018). *Jurnal Verstek*, 10(1): 186-195.
- Polri, M. 2023. 1.600 Butir Pil Kuning Diamankan Polres Metro Tangerang Kota. Media Hub Humas Polri. Tersedia di <https://mediahub.polri.go.id/image/detail/6636-1600-butir-pil-kuning-diamankan-polres-metro-tangerang-kota>.
- Pratama, A. 2023. Penyalahgunaan Obat Di Kalangan

- Remaja Dari Pil Double L Ke Sabu (Studi Kasus Di Polres Madiun Kota). *Jurnal Darma Agung Volume*; 31(5): 228-239. Tersedia di <https://dx.doi.org/10.46930/ojsuda.v31i5.3682>.
- Prayuda, R. 2020. Kejahatan Transnasional Terorganisir di Wilayah Perbatasan: Studi Modus Operandi Penyelundupan Narkotika Riau dan Malaysia. *Andalas Journal of International Studies (AJIS)*, 9(1): 34.
- Purbanto, H. & Hidayat, B. 2023. Systematic Literature Review: Penyalahgunaan Narkoba di Kalangan Remaja dalam Perspektif Psikologi dan Islam. *Al-Hikmah: Jurnal Agama dan Ilmu Pengetahuan*, 20(1): 1-13.
- Rahma Lillahi, S. 2016. *April: Fenomena Kembalinya Pil Kuning yang Disalahgunakan Sebagai Narkoba*. detikhealth. Tersedia di <https://health.detik.com/berita-detikhealth/d-3108906/april-fenomena-kembalinya-pil-kuning-yang-disalahgunakan-sebagai-narkoba>.
- Rifqi, M. & Yusuf, B. 2024. Desosialisasi Remaja Pengguna Narkotika Dalam Memahami Generalized Others (Studi Kasus Remaja Di Kabupaten Aceh Tamiang). *Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa FISIP USK*, 9(1): 1-17.
- Ruslan, T., Riadi, I. & Sunardi, S. 2023. Analisis Forensik Digital Pada Whatsapp Dan Facebook Menggunakan Metode NIST. *Jurnal Fasilkom*, 13(02): 286-292.
- Sabri, F., Zurnetti, A., Magister, P., Hukum, I., Fakultas, P. & Universitas, H. 2020. Penanggulangan Bahaya Narkoba Dan Kenakalan Remaja Di Wilayah Kejaksaan Negeri Sijunjung. 3(1): 76-83.
- Salem, R.A. & Indara, R. 2023. Pertanggung jawaban Pidana Dalam perspektif Undang-Undang. *Jurnal Ilmu Hukum Prima*, (1): 289-302.
- Salim, A., Maryati, T. & Wirawan, I.G.M.A.S. 2020. Penyalahgunaan Obat Batuk Komix Sebagai Fenomena Perilaku Penyimpangan Sosial Di Kalangan Remaja Desa Sapeken, Sapeken, Sumenep Dan Potensinya Sebagai Sumber Belajar Sosiologi Di Sma. *Jurnal Pendidikan Sosiologi Undiksha*, 2(1): 73-84.
- Savega, C.P. & Suraya, I. 2024. Studi Kualitatif Penyalahgunaan Ganja Dikalangan Mahasiswa Di Jakartaselatan Tahun 2023. *Jurnal Pendidikan Kesehatan*, 4(1): 21-32.
- Setyani, I.G.A.P.W. & Swandi, N.L.I.D. 2019. Kebutuhan psikologis pada pecandu narkoba (Tinjauan kualitatif dengan teknik journaling sebagai metode penggalan data). *Jurnal Psikologi Udayana*, 6(02): 406.
- Suriani Suriani, Cici Rahma Alia, Hikmah Ramadhani, Muhammad Fatwa Sitorus & Muhammad Idham 2024. Sosialisasi Hukum Bahaya Narkoba Bagi Remaja SMK Negeri 2 Kota Tanjungbalai. *Compromise Journal : Community Professional Service Journal*, 2(1): 67-74.
- Tam, C.-L. & Foo, Y.-C. 2012. Contributory Factors of Drug Abuse and the Accessibility of Drugs. 4: 1621-1625.
- Ya, M. & Megawati, W. 2023. Penerapan Sanksi Pidana Terhadap Residivis Pada Penyalahgunaan Narkotika Di Kabupaten Batang (Studi Putusan Nomor 44 / PID . SUS / 2023 / PNB TG). 6(1): 1068-1079.
- Yantika, M.T. 2022. Penerapan Hukum Pada Tahap Penyidikan Terhadap Anak Sebagai Kurir Dalam Tindak Pidana Penyalahgunaan Narkotika. *UNES Journal of Swara Justisia*, 6(2): 156-168.
- Yutanti, W. 2022. Makna Simbol dan Identitas Travesti dalam Tari Gandrung Marsan Banyuwangi. *Jurnal Partisipatoris*, 4(1): 131-145.
- Zhoohirin, Z. & Yuska, S. 2023. Strategi Pemutus Rute Penyelundupan Narkoba di Rumah Tahanan Negara Kelas I Bandar Lampung. *Jurnal Intelektualita: Keislaman, Sosial dan Sains*, 12(02).
- Zidan Batutah, M. & Legowo, M. 2022. Pengalaman Remaja dalam Penggunaan Narkoba Di Kampung Bratang, Surabaya. *Paradigma*.