

## COMMUNICATION DYNAMICS BETWEEN COSPLAYERS AT COSPLAY EVENTS IN BANDUNG CITY

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### ABSTRACT

*Communication is essential in human life, playing a major role in social interactions, including among cosplayers in Bandung City. This cosplay community is growing with many of 'Jejepangan' events that attract many participants and create a festive atmosphere. This research explores the communication and interaction dynamics of cosplayers at cosplay events in Bandung using a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. Data collection techniques include observation and interviews to understand the interactions and communication between cosplayers. The research subjects were active cosplayers in cosplay events, selected through purposive sampling technique. The results showed that cosplayers in Bandung have a high sense of family, are helpful to each other, and are open to exchanging information about costumes and experiences, emphasizing the harmony of verbal and non-verbal language. They are often themselves when communicating at cosplay events. Their interactions are characterized by high solidarity and mutual help, both in practical and social aspects. The decision to interact with new cosplayers is influenced by the individual's personal preferences, comfort level and experience in cosplay.*

**Keywords:** *dynamic communication, cosplay, cosplay event, social interaction.*

### INTRODUCTION

Communication is an absolute thing done by every individual to be able to maintain his life. Communication has big role in human life, its existence is likened to a root in a tree, where the root is used as a basic support to be able to grow [1]. As social creatures, humans will always be involved in social relations, have relationships and so on. Because human always spend most of the time just to communicate. An individual in daily life, often they interact with others to fulfill their needs. Some individuals get together and from relationships, which in turn form groups. Similarly, the interactions that occur between members in a group context are very important for creating togetherness and productivity. Group members are connected through dynamic in communication. This can certainly happen with cosplayers.

In this modern era, there are many developments in the types of hobbies that Indonesian people are engaged in. One such hobby is being a cosplayers. The name of the activity are "cosplayers". One of the cultures that entered Indonesia is Japanese culture. The variety of Japanese culture that is popular in Indonesia includes many forms including anime, manga / comics, music, movies to fashion [2]. Japan is famous for its unique and distinctive fashion culture, which is called J-Style or J-Fashion. This J-Fashion was later adopted by the wider community in other countries, as cosplay. One of the activities carried out by cosplayer is wearing or using a cartoon costume with the character they like. In addition, there are many other activities carried out by cosplayers, namely capturing their appearance with photos or videos and then sharing the results through social media so that they can enjoyed by many people.

Communication can also be established between fellow cosplayers. Communication among cosplayers can also open the door for wider discussions about the cosplay world itself. They can talk about the latest trends, favorite characters, and the creative aspects of creating costumes. Not only that, with his communication, they can exchange ideas, tips dan tricks to improve the quality of their cosplay costumes. Thus, the importance of communication between cosplayers can also enable them to collaborate. Cosplayers can plan a skit show, or even create a cosplay group with a specific theme. All of these require effective communication in order to maximize the results.

Communication between cosplayer is not only a means to interact, but also the foundation for the formation of a solid and harmonious cosplay community. One of them is the Cosplay Community which is a forum for lovers of Japanese cartoon costumes or they are often referred to as Cosplayers, who in the group will form or carry out activities or activities related to the hobby. The number of cosplayers who are members of the Bandung Cosplay Community is increasing every year. With this community, cosplayer have opportunity to learn from each other, inspire and support each other in pursuing their passions. With discussions and collaborations within the community, they not only develop their cosplay skills, but also create more meaningful experiences and deepen the sense of brotherhood between them. The social life of the cosplay community is not only about how members participate in activities or events in Japanese cartoon costumes, but how members of the cosplay community interact with fellow lovers of Japanese cartoon costumes, interact society, which then forms relationships and communication dynamics. Cosplayers certainly have different communication style when they are in particular community. They can initiate their role as a cosplayer when they gather with others.

Including in Indonesia, Cosplay is one of the activities that are in great demand by young people in big cities, one which is Bandung. With many Jejepangan events held by communities in Bandung, Jejepangan events are quite dense and have many enthusiasts. Cosplayers can not only communicate with each other, but their interactions are very diverse and numerous. This diversity creates a lively and creative atmosphere at each event, which enhances the experience for the fans and all cosplayers in attendance.

Bandung, as one of the most popular cities in the world of jejepangan events, continues to attract attention with the continuity of various event every week. In 2023, there were more than 1.400 successful Jejepangan events held in Bandung. One of the striking events was "Halloween Yogya Kepatihan Birthday with Cardinal" held on October 29, 2023 by Ayafest and Wibu The Fantasy. This event became one of the places of diversity in activities such as Coswalk Competition, Cover Song Competition, Band Performance, Idol Performance, and many more. With the participation of around 3000 to 5000 people, not only cosplayer who enlivened, but also visitors from Bandung and surrounding cities. This event managed to create a festive atmosphere and make it a fun event.

With this background, the purpose of this study is to explore the dynamics of communication and interaction between cosplayer at cosplay event in Bandung. As it is a city of active anime lovers dan has many cosplayers, this research will concentrate on Event Cosplay in Bandung. It is hoped that this research will discover more about the way cosplayer communicate and interact at Bandung Events Cosplay.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Dynamic is something that implies strength, is always moving, developing and can adapt adequately to the situation. Dynamic also means that there is interaction and

interdependence between group members and the group as a whole. Communication Dynamics is what, what it looks like, and how communication that occurs between two or more people occurs. Important details both verbal and non-verbal, situations, emotions, and other things that influence the occurrence of a communication. The dynamics can be an obstacle or even support the quality of a communication [3].

Communication dynamics can also occur in a group or community. By explaining that group communication is a group of individuals who can influence each other, by obtaining some satisfaction from each other, interacting for some purpose, taking a role, being bound to each other, and communicating face-to-face (Shaw, 1976, p.182)

Group communication includes not only data exchange, but also interpersonal elements that enhance group interactions. In the case of cosplay, the basic concept come from the combination of two English words “costume” and “play”, which literally means “to play costumes” or can be interpreted as “to wear costumes”. Cosplay means the hobby of wearing clothes along with accessories and makeup as worn by characters in anime or manga. Cosplay are called cosplayers. By combining these two concepts, we can understand that interaction and influence between individuals is essential to achieve group goals and satisfaction [5].

The behavior of the Cosplay community which has a communication pattern with a special language also certainly affects their communication behavior, both verbal communication and non-verbal communication. Communication behavior that takes place, almost always involves the use of verbal and non-verbal symbols together [6].

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This study uses qualitative research methods that will center on social phenomena, namely to bring research depictions closer to the dynamics of Communication between Cosplayers at Cosplay Events in Bandung. Describing a person’s lived experience of an event described by the source or subject itself. To gain a broader understanding of the subject that the researcher determines in the under-researched area, the researcher uses a phenomenological approach.

Littlejohn explains that phenomenology is a study of understanding based on a person’s consciousness, or can interpret an object or an event that is experienced consciously [7]. Data collection techniques in this study will be carried out by means of observation on interviews.

This research focus will be placed on the Bandung Cosplay Event. The purpose of this research is to gain a better understanding of the way cosplayers communicate and the dynamics that occur within these events. Therefore, it is hoped that this research will provide new information about the communication aspects of cosplay in Bandung.

### **Research Subject**

The subjects in this study were cosplayers at Cosplay Events in Bandung. By using purposive sampling technique, this research was selected based on the criteria of new and long-time cosplayers and competent in providing, exploring and articulating their experiences consciously. To determine the research informants must be truly representative, which is able to represent to be able to provide complete and accurate information. The selection of informants was carried out with the aim of helping researchers during the research process so that in a short and predetermined time, informants could provide as much information as possible.

## RESULTS

From direct observation and interviews, researchers can see that they help each other and have a high sense of kinship. Researchers also realized that the communication dynamics that existed between cosplayers at each event could affect the quality of communication. This can be seen in the openness of cosplayers whenever there are visitors who want to take pictures or cosplayers who at event form similar cosplay groups, one anime title or similarity in a game. But that does not mean that there are no cosplayers who close themselves not to interact with unfamiliar people.

Dynamics which means that the behavior of one cosplayer can directly affect other cosplayers reciprocally. Dynamic means that there is interaction and interdependence between members of one group and members of the group as a whole. There is an interaction where one cosplayer and another cosplayer influence each other, which in the context of this research is the interaction between cosplayer at cosplay events in Bandung.

The results show that in the context of cosplay events in Bandung, interactions between cosplayers emphasize the importance of harmony between verbal and non-verbal language. Although costumes, body movements, and facial expressions play a dominant role in their characterizations, verbal language also plays a crucial role in the practical coordination and exchange of information between them. Cosplayers use costumes as a strong visual expression of character identity, while body movements and facial expressions are used to reinforce the emotional dimension and personality of the represented character. The non verbal nature of communication among cosplayers not only serves as a visual expression, but also acts as a means to reinforce identity and strengthen social relationship within the cosplay group. In addition, verbal language is used to interact directly, coordinate activities such as group photo sessions or performances, and to exchange information related to characters, anime/manga series, and strategies in winning cosplay competitions.

Respondents in this study were active cosplayers in Bandung. The following are the characteristics of the research respondents, described by gender, and length of time as a cosplayer. To maintain privacy and misuse of real identities, there are some names of respondents' real identities that are kept confidential.

Tabel 1. Respondent Identity

Name	Gender	Becoming a Cosplayer	Time Range
Chizu	Male	1.5 years	2023-present
Nicholas	Male	3 years	2023-present
Kie	Male	1.5 years	2023-present
Fan	Male	1.5 years	2023-present
Karmila	Female	2 years	2023-present

### Initial Stage: Cosplayer's Assessment Before Communicating with Other Cosplayers

In the initial stages of cosplayers assessment before establishing communication with other cosplayers, the key questions asked include the importance of establishing communication with cosplayers who are unfamiliar at events, the groups of people who tend to befriend new cosplayers, the fear of initiating communication, and the importance of looking at cosplayers attitudes in initiating communication. The discussion has been designed to understand the factors that influence cosplayers decisions to initiate interactions and build communication networks between them.

At this early stage, Chizu is an individual who does not feel it is important to communicate with new cosplayers at events. He prefers to be with friends he already

knows. Chizu also has fear when communicating with cosplayers, for fear that there will be other intentions such as drama or cases of kidnapping and harassment. Chizu knows that there will be a risk of hassle, such as the cost of returning home or borrowing costumes, because it can be detrimental too.

Nicholas, on the other hand, usually prefers to have fun first when attending events without having to make introductions, unless there is an opportunity with a character of the same fandom. When Nicholas meets cosplayers of the same character, communication starts with compliments about their costumes, then asking for their names and social media accounts. Establishing friendships from these initial encounters may bring benefits at subsequent events or in everyday life, but Nicholas feels that it is not always necessary to make friends at every event. For fear, if there is anything suspicious about the cosplayer, then Nicholas will not continue the communication. Seeing the cosplayer's demeanor is important, as they vary attitude and personality. Ideally, Nicholas chooses to find friends who are friendly because it is a priority, although not all can become friends, but generally people have the potential to become friends if they try optimistically.

According to another respondent, Kie doesn't think it's too important, because he usually goes to events with friends either from real life or mutual friends. However, if you only know someone through direct messages, there is no problem going with them. Kie has no fear, but is more cautious if there are things about the person that bother her. Tends to observe first before making a decision, either through direct message or at an event. Kie is not a very open or closed individual, but tries to avoid unwanted situations. It's important to pay attention to one's demeanor, just like when meeting new people in real life, such as when first working or befriending a new classmate. Kie also doesn't think too far ahead at first, preferring to observe how the person speaks and their likely nature. Kie considers it important when starting a conversation whether it is a good fit or not. Making friends and getting along is a match made in heaven. Although sometimes there is a need to be together, such as in group work, one should still consider whether or not they are interested in cosplay.

Respondent Fan finds it important to consider social circles when interacting in the cosplay community. Although initially open to making acquaintances with anyone, once he finds a circle he is comfortable with, he tends to stay in it. His extroverted personality makes him bolder in seeking new experiences and new friends at events. It is important to be bold in expanding your social circle in order to gain valuable experiences and friendships. It is also important to understand one's character before communicating in order to adjust and build a more comfortable and smooth relationship, especially in the context of communication with other cosplayers at cosplay events.

Similarly, respondent Karmila stated that building relationships and connections is very important. Although there are some people who see cosplay as a weird or obscure hobby, it is actually important to build relationships. Because at events, you can meet people who have potential as influencers or entrepreneurs. Based on Karmila's experience, she dared to volunteer at the event and got to know some important people such as the CEO and owner of the sponsoring company. Even if it's just a few people, it's very important. Communicating or getting to know cosplayers, even just as a casual visitor, is also important because you never know what will happen in the future. Building good relationships is crucial, especially with fellow cosplayers, as it could lead to collaborative projects that result in creative work and even income. Karmila feels that fear is inevitable, the most important thing is to know when to stop if there is something

wrong. The attitude one must have in communication, whether in a formal, informal, or friendly setting, is crucial in building mutually beneficial relationships in the future. Therefore, Karmila emphasized that it is important to pay attention to the feedback from the other person to enhance more affective and productive interactions.

Tabel 2. Initial Stage Results

Name	Early Stage Results
Chizu	It is not too important to establish communication with new cosplayers.
Nicholas	Have fun in advance while attending the event without having to get acquainted with new cosplayers.
Kie	It is not that important to make friends with new cosplayers.
Fan	It is important to consider your circle and social circle when interacting at cosplay events.
Karmila	Having good relationships and networking at cosplay events is important.

### **Introduction Stage: Reasons to communicate and make friends with new cosplayers**

This introductory stage discusses the reasons for initiating communication with cosplayers and the importance of considering their experiences in making friends, as well as exploring how different experiences can affect the quality of communication.

At this stage Chizu has a desire to make more friends in the cosplay community regardless of who it is. Having many friends in the cosplay world is considered important by him. However, Chizu himself has never invited unfamiliar people to communicate directly. Chizu often attends events with his friends, and from there he is introduced to new friends by his friends. Chizu is an individual who is open to getting acquainted with anyone, be it cosplayers or event visitors. Chizu also feels it is important to have open communication regardless of experience. Chizu doesn't know if communicating with experienced cosplayers will affect the communication, because Chizu rarely gets to know experienced cosplayers and prefers to make friends with ordinary ones.

In contrast, Nicholas prefers to approach people who are alone at cosplay events and engage them in conversation, as long as the individual is willing and Nicholas is comfortable, what matters is that the person can enjoy attending the event without feeling lonely or marginalized, regardless of their costume or characterization. However, in the context of a competition, the situation can be different. Nicholas often chooses to confide in or discuss with more experienced cosplayers in order to gain insight into competitions and cosplay as a whole. As this experience is very influential in Nicholas' cosplay world, they are usually more understanding of different perspectives, including in terms of makeup, costumes and character understanding. For those who are less experienced, they may not fully understand the meaning of what cosplayers are doing during the event, such as "smoking" or "somersaulting". Experienced cosplayers have their own standards of what makes cosplay more than just physical appearance, but also about getting into character. Nicholas also finds it fun to welcome and get to know new cosplayers, as it allows for the sharing of experiences and knowledge. Nicholas is happy to help those who may be struggling or confused in starting or developing their cosplay career. At the heart of all this is an optimistic attitude and a willingness to communicate with anyone, including more experienced cosplayers in the context of competitions, where sharing knowledge and experience is natural and beneficial.

According to respondent Kie, he enjoys cosplay and meeting new people at events, whether it is a character he likes or not, as long as the cosplay is good, he will ask for a photo. Kie stated that every individual must have a variety of attitudes, some are very friendly and some are more closed, this is said to be natural because everyone has a

different way of interacting. If there is match in the conversation, they will continue to talk about various things, from makeup to costume rentals. Kie feels that experience doesn't really affect his views, as long as the characters in cosplay are interesting, he will appreciate them and invite them to take a picture. Kie's focus is more on the character and personal enjoyment. In general, cosplay affects the way he interacts at events, as it is a place where many random individuals meet. The more you cosplay, the more you get used to the response of people asking for photos or communicating through social media. At first, Kie will feel a little surprised, but as time goes by, he becomes more accustomed to it and begins to loosen his introverted attitude. Kie has no problem meeting and interacting with new people as long as they don't do anything strange and enjoys the fun moments when meeting and talking with new cosplayers.

For respondent Fan, he himself tends to pay attention to the characters of cosplay that he knows and likes, regardless of other things. For example, if a waifu cosplayed, he will definitely ask them for a photo. According to Fan, his experience in cosplay greatly influences the way he communicates among fellow cosplayers. This experience helps him understand how to interact well within the cosplay community, so that people do not easily feel uncomfortable with her presence. Fan tends to approach people in a friendly way and seeks new connections, which can lead to friendships. This experience has also influenced his outlook on communication between fellow cosplayers.

Respondent Karmila is also a cosplayer who is open to communicating with anyone, especially when she is in a good mood. She pays attention to people's gestures to assess whether they are open to talking to her or not. However, Karmila rarely engages in communication with the opposite sex unless there is a specific need such as asking about cosplay. Not everyone Karmila will talk to, as it depends on the situations and mood at the time. Karmila also doesn't look at how long they have been in cosplay, but sometimes she will feel nervous if she has to communicate with those who are experienced. However, if they are friendly and responsive to her questions, then she will feel more comfortable continuing the conversation. Karmila believes that experience can affect the way she responds to cosplay events, the way she communicates, especially in understanding the culture and rules. With Karmila's background in Psychology, she often analyzes a person's character before starting a conversation. It can help her to better understand their preferences and adjust her communication style to be more effective. She also pays attention to how a person's experience and popularity in the community can affect the dynamics of interaction during events, so that she can be more flexible in communicating depending on the situation.

Tabel 3. Introductory Stage Results

Name	Introductory Stage Results
Chizu	To make friends within the cosplay community regardless of age.
Nicholas	Approach people alone at events and engage them in conversation.
Kie	Communicate with cosplayers of the favorite characters.
Fan	Taking photos of cosplayers of the favorite characters.
Karmila	Open in communicating with anyone, according to the condition of the mood.

### **Information Exchange Stage: Discussion of cosplay tips, experiences and ideas**

The information Exchange stage discusses whether the communication between cosplayers involves giving and receiving information, as well as what chats or discussions

are usually carried out when communicating with other cosplayers, including topics regarding cosplay tips, experiences, and ideas.

At this stage Chizu respondents agreed that there is certainly an exchange of information in communication between cosplayers. According to her, one of the interesting aspects is being involved in joint projects. For example, when there is a cosplay project involving one or more characters from one anime title, Chizu and cosplayers who already know each other will invite other friends to join the project. In addition, Chizu also active in creating photo and video content for platforms such as Instagram Reels or Tiktok, as well as discussing plans to attend events, watch anime, or plan the next cosplay projects.

Nicholas responds that attending a cosplay event or event is a great opportunity to make new friends, acquaintances, and connections. There, participants can compliment other participants' costumes, discuss a single anime title, or even more specific things like costume performance and materials. Questions such as "What are the materials?" or "Is it fabric or foam" are common, especially when it comes to cosplay armor which is usually made of materials such as foam liveries, foam mattresses, or makeshift materials made to look like the character. Costumes made of fabric are also a frequent topic of conversation for Nicholas, such as "Oh, what material is this cosplay armor made of?", "How do you make the initial pattern?", "Where did you buy this?", and "What is the manufacturing process?". Besides costumes, Nicholas discussions can also extend to makeup and staging performance, such as how create an element in cosplay or where to buy necessary materials. The conversations can extend to other topics outside of cosplay, especially if they become close friends. In the beginning, a love for anime can be a bridge of communication, especially if you like the same title, such as One Piece. Fellow One Piece or other anime fans will find it easier to communicate and feel connected. Both cosplayers and event goers are generally easy to talk to and communicate with as long as they are polite, because they will also be polite. Nicholas stated that this kind of communications does not have to based on common interests, but having something in common can spur the conversation to be more intense and connected, and last longer. So, having common interests enrich conversations and strengthen relationships between cosplayers at events.

In contrast to Respondent Kie, who said that her social interactions often start by following each other's social media accounts and becoming mutual. Usually, Kie often attends events in the same place, takes pictures together and uploads stories of these activities. The topics he often discusses is cosplay, such as costume planning for the net event, whether there is a cosplay plan (cosplan) or a duo or group project, and duo or group collaborations. The rest involves everyday conversations. For duo or group cosplay, there are two types: open projects where anyone can join, and projects that only involve people they already know. For introverted individuals like Kie, it takes longer to get along with new people, so he prefers projects with people he already knows. This creates comfort and reduces awkwardness. Comfort is important because of the possibility of being together at the event for a long time and interacting constantly. Kie adds that there are also individuals who like meeting new people. For Kie, a person's attitude of whether they enjoy their work or have other reasons to interact, can affect their reaction to new experiences in cosplay. In general, from observation and experience, it affects the way people interact and build connections in cosplay events.

According to respondents Fan, who often coswalk will often discuss correct costumes and performance, and Fan are often given tutorials by them so that their performance is

better and there is a chance to win. They also teach how to make costume instead of buying, giving tips to make it cheaper. In addition, there are anime cosplay projects with 10 people each cosplaying a different character in a manhwa or anime. Individual fans who can communicate casually about anything if they become friends.

For respondent Karmila, asking for a photo is often the start of a conversation at a cosplay event, followed by questions about the costume, such as whether it is homemade, bought or rented. In addition, it is also common to discuss new anime that are popular, the reasons behind choosing a particular character to cosplay, as well as inviting stories about the theme being cosplayed. Questions like “Why do you cosplay that ?” are common. Requests to share Instagram usernames are also common in order to connect. Most direct interactions involve chatting about friends Karmila knows, anime, snacks, and people who create drama at cosplay events. These conversations are often repetitive, including catch-ups and small talk. In addition, they often talk about the situation at the time, such as whether the event was fun or not, or if there were any strange events such as security guard behavior or other incidents. Sometimes, while enjoying the event, Karmila also confides in each other about family, boyfriend, or friend issues, making the event experience more meaningful. Sometimes, this small talk evolves into deeper discussions about personal experiences and other hobbies outside of cosplay, strengthening relationships and making every encounter more meaningful.

Tabel 4. Results of the Informations Exchange Stage

Name	Information Exchange Stage Results
Chizu	Plan cosplay projects and create content together.
Nicholas	Getting acquainted, complimenting costumes and anime.
Kie	Costum and cosplay project planning.
Fan	Coswalk and costume performance.
Karmila	Ask for photos, reasons for cosplay, anime and event situation.

#### **Final Stage: Cosplayer feedback to other cosplayers and visitors**

The final stage discusses cosplayers feedback to other cosplayers and event visitors, including whether when communicating with a cosplayer or visitor, they become the character they are portraying or themselves, as well as the language often used when communicating.

Chizu’s choice is to be herself when communicating in cosplay events because cosplay is for fun. Acting as character is usually only done when participating in competitions on the cosplay stage. Usually, Chizu uses Indonesian mixed with Sundanese and some common Japanese vocabulary when communicating.

Nicholas, on the other hand, believes that if you want to stay in character, it is important to understand that not everyone will know how you interact. Some cosplayers may exhibit indecent or inappropriate behavior. Therefore, it is necessary to position oneself appropriately; there are times to stay in character and times to be yourself. Nicholas behaves naturally. It is okay to stay in character, you have to behave according to the character you are cosplaying. Most cosplayers are not proficient in Japanese, but they often perform at events that feature Japanese culture.

According to another respondent, Kie so far he has remained himself when communicating because not everyone knows about the character he plays. For example, if someone suddenly asks for a photo, he will keep him smile, expect in content or photo-making situations that require appearing in character. For casual conversation, Kie is more

likely to be in a relaxed state. It feels a bit strange if he stays in character too long. The language Kie often uses is Bahasa Indonesia to be easily understood by many individuals.

Fan respondents in certain situations, such as interviews during cosplay or during coswalk competitions, would go deep into the role of the character they were playing. However, on other occasions, Fan is more comfortable interacting in a casual manner. Indonesian is often used by Fan to communicate with anyone during events, so that it is easily understood by many individuals.

Respondent Karmila also remains herself regardless of the type of cosplay she is wearing. However, sometimes the characters that Karmila cosplays do have similarities with herself, both in attitude and personality. Karmila often uses Indonesian language to be easily understood by many individuals.

Tabel 5. Final Stage Results

Name	Information Exchange Stage Results
Chizu	Being yourself, Bahasa Indonesia, Sundanese and Japanese.
Nicholas	Customizing character to specific places, Bahasa Indonesia.
Kie	Stay true to yourself, Bahasa Indonesia.
Fan	Adapt to specific situations, Bahasa Indonesia.
Karmila	Stay true to yourself, Bahasa Indonesia.

## CONCLUSIONS

The cosplayers in Bandung City exhibit strong communication dynamics and high solidarity, with a sense of kinship among cosplayers. Interactions among them are also characterized by mutual help and information sharing, both in practical aspects such as costume and makeup tips, as well as in social aspects such as building relationships and expanding networks. The decision to interact with new cosplayers is indeed influenced by personal preferences, comfort level and individuals experience in cosplay.

Preferences and approaches to communication show variation among cosplayers in Bandung. Some cosplayers are more open and easily establish new relationship, while others are more cautious and selective in choosing new friends. While many cosplayer tend to be more comfortable being themselves in their daily communication, some adapt to the character they are portraying in certain situations such as when performing on stage or in special photo sessions. Indonesian is the main language used in communication, with additional local language and Japanese vocabulary according to context and need.

In general, the results show that the cosplay community in Bandung has complex and diverse dynamics, but is still based on the principles of mutual support and togetherness. Variations in communication approaches reflect the diversity of the cosplayer's personalities and backgrounds, while the use of language shows their ability to adapt to the diverse social environment in cosplay events. In addition, the role of social media cannot be ignored in the dynamics of communication among cosplayers in Bandung. Platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and Tiktok have become important means to share their work, make connections and gain inspiration. Social media allows cosplayers to showcase their creations to a wider audience, receive feedback and build a reputation in the larger community. Online interactions also facilitate collaboration between cosplayers, both in joint costume projects and community events. Thus, social media plays a vital role in strengthening the sense of community and expanding the network of friends among cosplayers at Bandung City Cosplay Events.

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