

THE EFFECT OF BRAND EXPERIENCE, BRAND IDENTIFICATION, BRAND AUTHENTICITY, AND BRAND LOVE ON BRAND LOYALTY IN WAROENG KALIGARONG RESTAURANT IN SEMARANG CITY

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Abstract : *The Development Of The Restaurant Industry Sector In Indonesia Is Growing. The Development Of The Restaurant Industry Sector Is One Of The Sectors Driving Economic Growth That Can Increase National Income. This Can Be Seen From The Consistency Of The Number Of New Restaurant And Hotel Openings Throughout Indonesia. In Addition, The Restaurant Industry Sector In Indonesia Is A Popular And Promising Culinary Business. The Purpose Of This Study Was To Determine The Effect Of Brand Experience, Brand Identification, Brand Authenticity, Brand Love And Brand Loyalty. Analysis Using Sem Showed Several Findings: Brand Experience on Brand Identification Shows That There Is A Significant And Positive Effect, Brand Identification On Brand Love Shows That There Is A Significant And Positive Influence, Brand Authenticity On Brand Love Shows That There Is A Significant And Positive Influence, Brand Identification On Brand Loyalty Shows That There Is A Significant And Positive Influence And Brand Love On Brand Loyalty Shows That There Is A Significant And Positive Influence*

Keywords : *Brand Experience, Brand Identification, Brand Authenticity, Brand Love, Brand Loyalty, SEM*

1. Introducing

The food and beverage industry sector is one of the causes of the increasing economy in Indonesia. In 2019 the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Indonesia (Kemenperin RI) stated that the food and beverage industry experienced growth of 7.91% and exceeded the national economic growth of 5.17% (Kemenperin RI, 2019). In addition, in 2019 the Indonesian Ministry of Industry also reported a growth in the restaurant and hotel industry sector by 0.33% higher than in 2018. The trend of an increasing trend in the food and beverage industry or restaurant encourages the development of research on the food and beverage industry sector or the industrial sector. restaurant. The restaurant industry sector is a sector that is quite complex and interesting.

The development of the restaurant industry sector in Indonesia is growing. The development of the restaurant industry sector is one of the sectors driving economic growth that can increase national income. This can be seen from the consistency of the number of new restaurant and hotel openings throughout Indonesia. In addition, the restaurant industry sector in Indonesia is a popular and promising culinary business. Based on a report submitted by the Creative Economy Agency (BEKRAF) in 2019, it is known that culinary is the third largest contributor to employment. This indicates that, when employment increases, there will also be an increase in places to eat and restaurants. This increase is probably due to an interesting fact that people eat at restaurants not only to satisfy hunger. However, the need to eat at a restaurant is a

social need that indicates the social status of a person (Ariyani et al., 2019). In addition, according to the Indonesian Hotel and Restaurant Association (PHRI) in 2017, the need for public arrivals at hotels and restaurants is due to the development of lifestyles in the technological era.

The restaurant industry in Indonesia is predicted to continue to grow every year. Various types of restaurant industries are spread throughout Indonesia, one of which is a local restaurant called Waroeng Kaligarong. Based on the results of observations that have been made, Waroeng Kaligarong has a relatively increasing number of visitors when entering the weekend. Based on Table 1.1, it can be seen that the phenomenon of increasing tourist visits on weekends indicates that Waroeng Kaligarong is an icon of culinary tourism in the city of Semarang. This is in accordance with the study of the notion of culinary tourism in the research conducted by Komaladewi (2017). In addition, based on these consumer visits, it can be seen that one of the factors that cause a consumer to become loyal is brand (brand loyalty) (Manuaba,

In addition, Waroeng Kaligarong as a local restaurant located in Semarang City from 2015 until now provides traditional food menus, especially in the Semarang area, Central Java. This also indicates that Waroeng Kaligarong has a distinctive character as a culinary tourism object in the city of Semarang. In this study, Waroeng Kaligarong is the object of research regarding the level of customer loyalty to local cuisine menus.

2. Literature Review And Hypot Hesis Relationship

Self Congruence Theory

The explanation of self-congruence in (Hosany, 2016) is a form of explanation and prediction of consumer behavior. Through self-congruence can be a determinant of a consumer in liking a brand. Therefore, self-congruence can be used to examine the relationship between self-image congruence and evaluation before and after the purchase. Studies related to the use of self-congruence theory are in the hospitality sector (Wang et al., 2018; Sop & Kozak, 2019; (Qian et al., 2019), tourism (Huang et al., 2017; Ranjbarian & Ghaffari, 2018). ; Chen et al., 2020), and the restaurant sector (Line & Hanks, 2016; Han et al., 2019). In the past research has mostly focused on the relationship between self-image congruence and consumers' pre-purchase evaluations such as purchase intention (Landon, 1974), product preference (Bridwell, 1969), and product choice (Malhotra, 1988). However, there are some researchers who see the benefits of expanding the conceptualization of self-congruence in order to be able to model post-consumption evaluations. Recent consumer behavior studies have examined the role of self-congruence in post-consumption variables such as satisfaction (Ekinci et al., 2006; (Jamal & Goode, 2001; Sirgy, 1982), loyalty (He & Mukherjee, 2010), perceived quality (Kwak, 2009).) and attitudes (Ibrahim, 2008). Goode, 2001; Sirgy, 1982), loyalty (He & Mukherjee, 2010), perceived quality (Kwak, 2009) and attitudes (Ibrahim, 2008). Goode, 2001; Sirgy, 1982), loyalty (He & Mukherjee, 2010), perceived quality (Kwak, 2009) and attitudes (Ibrahim, 2008). Currently, the level of public consumption on culinary tourism continues to increase, especially on local products. Self-congruence can be the basis for consumers to build brand identification (Rather et al., 2020). Where consumers already have the same image and identification of the products and brands they consume. Until now, almost no research is known to simultaneously investigate self-congruence, on the variables of brand experience, brand authenticity, brand love and brand loyalty regarding the local restaurant industry. Therefore, this study validates self-congruence theory in the restaurant industry with special reference to consumers at Waroeng Kaligarong, Semarang.

Brand Identification within the framework of Self Congruence Theory

The influence between self-congruence and brand identification in the study conducted (Han et al., 2019) states that identifying a brand is something that consumers need. This is because the identification process is generally carried out to determine whether the selected product has conformity with the consumer. So that between self-congruence or self-congruence and product identification or brand identification, there is an interrelated relationship. Brand identification in the research conducted (Berrozpe et al., 2018) is expressed as the desired state of a product with a specific purpose. This means that the product identification process is carried out so that consumers can understand what the product has. Even according to Carr et al (2017) brand identification can be dynamic which changes over time. This is because in general the development of a product will continue to grow. But creating the uniqueness of the product must be consistent. So that a consumer will still have conformity with a brand. Even by identifying a brand, someone will have confidence that he has conformity with the brand.

Brand Experience

Brand experience can be regarded as an explanation of the concept of a cognitive-oriented brand such as equity, values, associations, attitudes and brand personality (Schmitt & Zarantonello, 2009). For consumers, the most important goal of a brand is to provide an attractive experience. Thus the manufacturer of a brand must be able to give an impression to customers through something real or authentic (Harris et al., 2018). This can indicate that brand experience functions as a facility for consumer responses to brands (King & King, 2017). Several studies of brand experience are indeed associated with brand identification. One study which states that there is a positive relationship between brand experience and brand identification is (Kumar & Kaushik, 2017). Where in the study it was stated that brand experience indicators (affective and sensory) gave an important influence on brand identification. This agrees with (Feiz, 2019) and (Fazli-salehi et al., 2019) that brand experience has a positive effect on brand identification. Based on the description of the brand experience and previous research, the hypotheses in this study are:

H1 = Brand Experience has a positive influence on Brand Identification.

Brand Love

Brand love can be interpreted as a form of love for the brand. The concept of brand love according to Batra et al (2012) is the positive behavior of a consumer towards a brand. This positive behavior can be described in consumers who are afraid to lose a certain brand, thus this behavior can provide a positive emotional connection between consumers and brands. Based on the results of research (Albert et al., 2015) stated that the relationship between brand identification and brand love has a positive influence. This result is similar to research (Coelho & Bairrada, 2019) where there is a positive correlation between brand identification and brand love. In addition, research on the correlation between brand love and brand identification was also conducted (Liu et al., 2018; Mehran et al., 2018) which gave positive results. The relationship between the two variables has provided the identification of feelings of liking for a brand, so that consumers can guarantee a committed relationship. Based on the description of brand love and previous studies, the hypotheses that can be proposed in this study are as follows:

H2 = Brand identification has a positive effect on Brand Love.

Brand Authenticity

The concept of brand authenticity according to (Catalano, 2000) is the authenticity of an object that cannot be copied. The definition of brand authenticity according to (Riefler, 2020) is

communication between consumers and brands that can make consumers understand the authenticity and history of certain brands. Brand authenticity can also function as a key used to find the characteristics of a brand (Manthiou et al., 2018) such as the characteristics or traditional recipes contained in the product. In addition (Akbar & Wymer, 2016) means that brand authenticity is an assessment of the views on brands that are considered unique, legitimate, honest, and without falsehood. In connection with the authenticity of the brand, brand authenticity can be used as a form of commitment to quality, heritage and sincerity are so important for business people to be able to increase the values of authenticity in brands (Napoli et al., 2016). Based on the description of brand authenticity and previous studies, the hypotheses that can be proposed in this study are as follows:

H3 = Brand authenticity has a positive influence on Brand Love.

Brand Loyalty

Brand loyalty is a form of loyalty from customers to a brand, but this loyalty is not only seen from consumer repurchase because according to brand loyalty theory (Jagdishn, 1974) defines it as a tendency for positive impact which consists of three dimensions, one of which is emotional tendencies. It can refer to affective tendencies, fears, respect or obedience that are systematically manifested in a brand. The existence of brand loyalty can be the key to success for companies, thus brand loyalty can be used as a reference for how likely customers will switch to other products (Nyadzayo & Khajezadeh, 2016). The existence of customer commitment to be able to buy the same product consistently can be referred to as brand loyalty. this is independent of situational factors and other product marketing that can encourage customer behavior to switch to other brands (Oliver, 1999). Thus, brand loyalty is the level of interest between consumers and brands based on the advantages of each brand (Lee & Kang, 2012). Consumers who identify brands will be able to better understand the advantages of brands, this can be evidence that there is a correlation between brand identification and brand loyalty (Ahn & Back, 2018).

Based on research conducted by Heggde & Tampi (2019) on information technology companies, it is stated that there is a positive relationship between brand identification and brand loyalty. In addition, research in the hospitality sector also shows a positive relationship between brand identification and brand loyalty (Rather, 2020). A similar relationship between brand loyalty and brand identification which has a positive correlation was also reported by (Fazli-salehi et al, 2019). Based on the description of brand loyalty and previous studies, the hypotheses that can be proposed in this study are as follows:

H4 = Brand identification has a positive influence on Brand Loyalty.

Several studies have shown that brand loyalty can be influenced by brand love. As the research of Thuy et al (2019) stated that brand love directly has a positive relationship to brand loyalty. In addition, Agatha & Widiartanto (2020) also stated that there was a strong correlation between brand love and brand loyalty. In another study which stated a positive relationship between brand love and brand loyalty, namely (Zhang et al., 2020). Based on the similarities of the results of previous studies, the hypotheses that can be proposed in this study are as follows:

H5 = Brand Love has a positive influence on Brand Loyalty.

3. Research Methodology

The research population is consumers who visit the Waroeng Kaligarong Restaurant located in Semarang City. In this study, the sampling technique was based on the principle of non-probability sampling. Non-probability sampling is a sample selection technique in which not all members of the population have the same opportunity or opportunity to be sampled as many as 145 respondents.

4. Results And Discussion

Picture 1. Framework

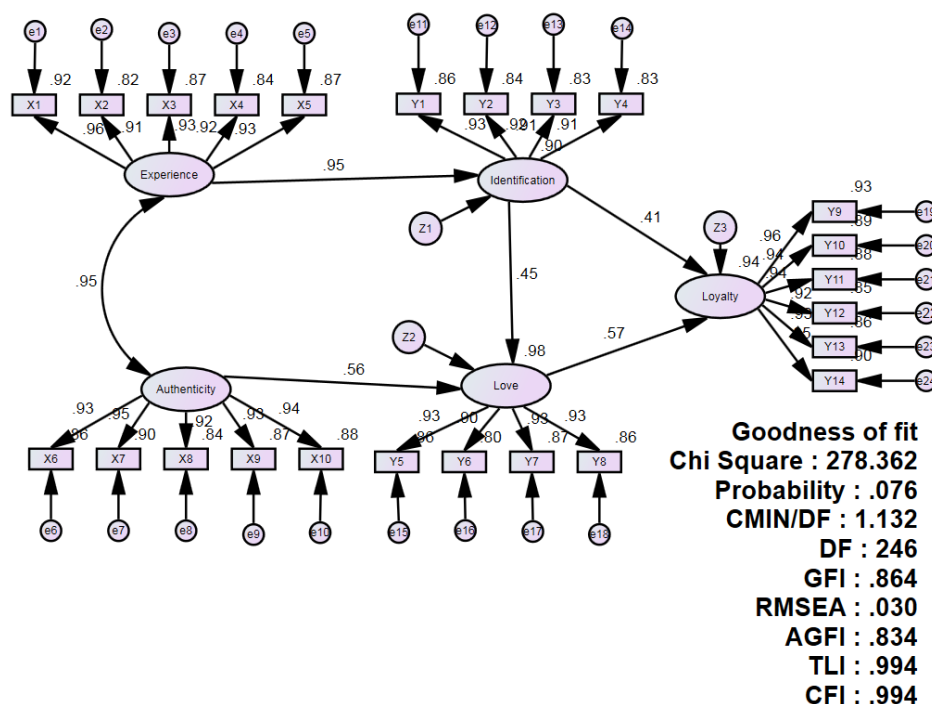


Table 1. Goodness of Fit Model

Goodness of Fit Index	Cut off Value	Results	Model Evaluation
Chi – Square	Small	278.362	Fit
Probability	≥0.05	0.076	Fit
GFI	≥0.90	0.864	Marginal Fit
AGFI	≥0.90	0.834	Marginal Fit
TLI	≥0.95	0.994	Fit

CFI	≥ 0.95	0.994	Fit
RMSEA	≤ 0.08	0.030	Fit
CMIN/DF	≤ 2.00	1.132	Fit

Based on the table above, the results of the data processing analysis show that all the constructs used to form a research model, in the full SEM model analysis process have met the goodness of fit criteria that have been set. The chi square value is 278.362 with a probability of $0.076 > 0.05$, the GFI value is $0.864 < 0.90$, the AGFI value is $0.834 < 0.90$, the TLI value is $0.994 > 0.95$, the CFI value is $0.994 > 0.95$, the TLI value is $0.994 > 0.95$. RMSEA of $0.030 < 0.08$ and the value of CMIN/DF of $1.132 < 2.00$ indicate that the suitability test of this model produces a good acceptance. Therefore, it can be concluded that the structure of the modeling analysis in this study can be done

Table 2. Hypothesis Measurement

			Estimate	SE	CR	P	Label
Identification	<---	Experience	.844	.043	19,782	***	par_20
love	<---	Authenticity	.531	.073	7.297	***	par_22
love	<---	Identification	.492	.083	5.910	***	par_24
Loyalty	<---	Identification	.456	.149	3.068	.002	par_21
Loyalty	<---	love	.590	.135	4.366	***	par_23

Test results between *Brand Experience* to *Brand Identification* shows that there is a significant and positive effect. These results are in accordance with research conducted by (Feiz, 2019) and (Fazli-salehi et al., 2019) suggesting that Brand Experience has a positive and significant effect on Brand Identification. Several studies of brand experience are indeed associated with brand identification. One study which states that there is a positive relationship between brand experience and brand identification is (Kumar & Kaushik, 2017). Where in the study it was stated that brand experience indicators (affective and sensory) gave an important influence on brand identification.

Direct test results between *Brand Identification* to *Brand Love* shows that there is a significant and positive effect. These results are in accordance with research conducted by (Liu et al., 2018); (Mehran et al., 2018) with the result that Brand Identification has a positive effect on Brand Love. Brand love according to (Carroll & Ahuvia, 2006) can be defined as a form of passionate emotional attachment from consumers to a brand. In addition, research (Bairrada et al., 2019) explains that brand love is a description of consumer behavior that can provide positive performance. Brand love is included in consumer involvement when evaluating a brand (Kaufmann et al., 2016). Where the assessment process is based on a positive emotional attachment so that it has an impact on increasing sales and building trust between consumers towards the brand (Albert & Merunka, 2013); (Rossiter, 2012). To provide maximum results in

the process, the role of brand identification can be used, in order to create a communication relationship from consumers in the assessment of a brand (Kaufmann et al., 2016).

Test results between *Brand Authenticity* to *Brand Love* shows that there is a significant and positive effect. These results are in accordance with research conducted by Mody & Hanks, (2020); (Govarchin, 2019); (Wang & Mattila, 2015) with the result that Brand Authenticity has a positive effect on Brand Love. In the literature it has been explained that increasing the value of authenticity will be able to affect consumer love for certain brands (Shanti, 2020) this is an indication that there is a relationship between brand authenticity and brand love. According to the results of research conducted by (Mody & Hanks, 2020); (Govarchin, 2019) determined that there is a positive correlation between brand authenticity and brand love. This is supported by (Wang & Mattila, 2015) that brand authenticity is the main ingredient in creating a sense of love and liking from consumers for the brand.

Test results between *Brand Identification* to *Brand Loyalty* shows that there is a significant and positive effect. These results are in accordance with research conducted by (Rather, 2020); (Fazli-salehi et al, 2019) suggested that Brand Identification had a positive and significant effect on Brand Loyalty. Brand loyalty is a form of loyalty from customers to a brand, but this loyalty is not only seen from consumer repurchase because according to brand loyalty theory (Jagdishn, 1974) defines it as a tendency for positive impacts consisting of three dimensions, one of which is emotional tendencies. It can refer to affective tendencies, fears, respect or obedience that are systematically manifested in a brand. The existence of brand loyalty can be the key to success for companies, Thus, brand loyalty can be used as a reference for how likely it is that customers will switch to other products (Nyadzayo & Khajehzadeh, 2016). The existence of customer commitment to be able to buy the same product consistently can be referred to as brand loyalty, this is regardless of situational factors and other product marketing that can encourage customer behavior to switch to other brands (Oliver, 1999). Thus, brand loyalty is the level of interest between consumers and brands based on the advantages of each brand (Lee & Kang, 2012). Consumers who identify brands will be able to better understand the advantages of brands, this can be evidence that there is a correlation between brand identification and brand loyalty (Ahn & Back, 2018). The existence of customer commitment to be able to buy the same product consistently can be referred to as brand loyalty, this is regardless of situational factors and other product marketing that can encourage customer behavior to switch to other brands (Oliver, 1999). Thus, brand loyalty is the level of interest between consumers and brands based on the advantages of each brand (Lee & Kang, 2012). Consumers who identify brands will be able to better understand the advantages of brands, this can be evidence that there is a correlation between brand identification and brand loyalty (Ahn & Back, 2018). The existence of customer commitment to be able to buy the same product consistently can be referred to as brand loyalty, this is regardless of situational factors and other product marketing that can encourage customer behavior to switch to other brands (Oliver, 1999). Thus, brand loyalty is the level of interest between consumers and brands based on the advantages of each brand (Lee & Kang, 2012). Consumers who identify brands will be able to better understand the advantages of brands, this can be evidence that there is a correlation between brand identification and brand loyalty (Ahn & Back, 2018). 1999). Thus, brand loyalty is the level of interest between consumers and brands based on the advantages of

each brand (Lee & Kang, 2012). Consumers who identify brands will be able to better understand the advantages of brands, this can be evidence that there is a correlation between brand identification and brand loyalty (Ahn & Back, 2018).

Direct test results between *Brand Love* to *Brand Loyalty* shows that there is a significant and positive effect. These results are in accordance with research conducted by (Thuy et al., 2019); (Agatha & Widiarto, 2020); (Zhang et al., 2020) with the result that Brand Love has a positive effect on Brand Loyalty. Brand loyalty can be influenced by brand love. As research (Thuy et al., 2019) states that brand love directly has a positive relationship to brand loyalty. In addition (Agatha & Widiarto, 2020) also stated that there was a strong correlation between brand love and brand loyalty. In another study which stated a positive relationship between brand love and brand loyalty, namely (Zhang et al., 2020).

5. Conclusion

This study uses a self-congruence theory approach. Brand experience is formed by the customer's experience while being a consumer at the Waroeng Kaligarong restaurant. In the context of this research, there are several things that are considered important in the brand experience process, namely the food provided by the Waroeng Kaligarong restaurant as desired by the customer, the menu display at the Waroeng Kaligarong restaurant is able to make customers enthusiastic, the food menu provided by the Waroeng Kaligarong restaurant has the taste of typical Indonesian spices and the food at the Waroeng Kaligarong restaurant is very much in line with the tastes of the customers. This can build good identification between customers and restaurants, customers have a strong sense of attraction to the Waroeng Kaligarong restaurant and even customers feel that the food provided by the Waroeng Kaligarong restaurant is "very me". From this process, it is able to create customer intentions to be loyal to the brand provided by the Waroeng Kaligarong restaurant.

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