Multicultural Convergence in Indonesia: Literature Study in Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara Library

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Abstract. This article discusses multiculturalism and multilingualism in Indonesia from the aspect of literature study. Indonesian society includes people with various ethnic groups, regional languages, customs, and religions that have become conventions in society. Differences are more than similarities among people, but they can live tolerantly between religions and ethnic groups which are marked by togetherness and unity. This is what needs to be converged and revitalized the values of unity to be applied in character education in schools and communities. The values of Pancasila are collaborated with the values of regional customs as a symbol of the unity and integrity of a multicultural society and a multilingual society.

Keywords: Multicultural · Multilingual language community

1 Introduction

Indonesia is a plural society that has many regional languages (vernacular) from Sabang to Papua. Explicitly, the majority of people still use local languages as their first language and Indonesian as their second language. This regional language is the forerunner to become the language of a pluralistic society that has social units based on region as distinctive and ethnic characteristics. This plural society is united into a society known as a multilingual society.

Multiculturalism includes the alignment of rights in the same position in developed countries, because it has implications for different backgrounds, attitudes, traditions, ceremonies in society. Therefore, there is a balance between politics and social stratification which has a social function in a convention [11].

In a multilingual society, nationality and notion differ significantly. Nationality is a group of people who feel as a social unit that is different from other groups, but is not

based on local size (region), while the nation is a territorial political unit that is largely under the control of certain nationalities [8].

The function of the national language is an effort to create conditions for a society that has the power as a multi-ethnic national. It is in this point of view that it is necessary to instill the spirit of nationalism to foster the feeling of the national spirit [9].

The role of a language according to Garvin and Mathiot, as a unifying and separating function, which means the function of uniting and separating at the same time. The history that cannot be lost from our minds is the history of East Timor's departure from the Indonesian nation, apart from the political will factor as well as the linguistic factor. In other words, the role of language can create divisions between speakers of the language, if they leave the system of nationalism. It is very interesting to discuss the dynamics of multilingualism, especially the various languages in Indonesia.

2   Methodology

This study uses the method study of literature. The data obtained were compiled, analyzed, and concluded so as to get conclusions regarding the literature study. The research was conducted based on written works, which were obtained from library sources or documents. In this study, the literature search is not only the first step in preparing the research framework (research design) but at the same time take advantage of library resources to obtain research data.

3   Result and Discussion

Finocchiaro forward language is a system of arbitrary, vocal, symbol which permit all people in a given culture, or other people who have learned the system of that culture, to communicate or to interact [14]. In line with the opinion of [4] which states that language is a system of arbitrary sound symbols used by members of social groups to work together, communicate, and identify themselves. [12] say that language is a systematic way of combining larger units for the purpose of communication.

Based on the information above, it can be concluded that language has characteristics, including language is a system, language is in the form of symbols, language is in the form of sound, language is arbitrary, language is meaningful, language is conventional, language is universal, language is productive, language is varied, language is dynamic, language is used to communicate, language functions as a tool for social interaction, and language is the identity of the speaker.

3.1   Language Community

The word 'community' is usually defined as a group of people (in relatively large numbers), who feel they are of the same nation, descent, area where they live, or who have the same social interests. Chaer [4] explains that a language community is a group of people who feel they use the same language. Thus, if there is a community of a group of people who feel they both use the Minang language, then it can be said that they are

the Minang language community. Likewise, a group of people who feel they both use the Batak language, then they are called the Batak language community.

Argues that the ideology of humanism says that multiculturalism comes from equal rights in the context of the civil rights of society [13]. Referring to this view, a positive or negative attitude must be in the existence of a person. That is, one must get used to enculturation in certain regional cultures. Here, it is necessary to respect the principles that they have in order to face the challenges of plural and plural conflicts to make the cohesion and unity among nations of not similar back ground and make the humanistic atmosphere in which all the society members feel having equal civil rights.

Language communities can cross provincial boundaries, national boundaries, and even continental boundaries. For example, the Baduy language community and the Osing language community (East Java) are of course very few or narrow, while the Javanese language community and the Sundanese language community are certainly wider. Another example, the French language community and the English language community, no longer cross national boundaries, but continent boundaries.

Finally, regarding this language community, there is a problem, how about a bilingual or multilingual society, such as Indonesia. There is a national language, namely Indonesian and there are also regional languages. Indonesians in general are bilingual, that is, they use Indonesian and their local language. Many are also multilingual, in addition to mastering Indonesian, mastering their local language, as well as foreign languages.

Therefore, many Indonesians use Indonesian, so they are Indonesian people, when they use the regional language, they become the people of their local language, as well as if they use a foreign language, they are foreign language people. In conclusion, Indonesian is used at the national level, while regional languages are used at the regional level.

3.2   Multicultural Society and Multilingual Society

Multiculturalism is a philosophy of radical difference. As a philosophy of radical difference, multiculturalism denies the universal commensurability of cultures or values in the name of universal humanity [1]. Multiculturalism can also cause conflicts within social strata to become challenges in the future. In this case, multiculturalism can elaborate the public interest for societal change [2].

According to [7], a monolingual society is a country that does not have a minority language-speaking group, so that the existence of a majority language and a minority language is inevitable. For example, Japan and Germany, although they are monolingual societies, there are three minority groups, namely Cinta (0.7%) of the total population. Likewise, in Germany, there are about four million emigrant workers who still speak their own language in addition to German. It is different with bilingual society, namely a country that recognizes two languages as its official language. For example Canada, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Cyprus, Israel, and Finland. Thus, the country officially recognizes two languages.

In Belgium, for example, the Vlaam, French and German languages are recognized as official languages. The country's laws equate these languages and government is exercised in those languages. In addition, a multilingual community is a society that uses more than two languages. In this plurality, the main national language is seen as the

official language. For example, in Switzerland the three languages respectively German, Swiss, French, and Italian are national languages. In Singapore, there are also four languages that are used according to the four ethnicities, namely Chinese, Malaysian, Tamil, and English.

[10] says that a multilingual society or a multilingual society is a society that has several languages in a particular area. Such a society occurs because several ethnic groups form a society, so that from an ethnic perspective it can be said to be a plural society. The majority of multilingual communities in the world have more than one language that is used as the mother tongue in the territory of a nation. Very few we find countries that are monolingual (monolingual) or what we call a language minority group in this world. A linguistic minority is a group of speakers who have a variety of native languages, not an official language that is not dominant in the country where they live.

Multilingualism in a country always causes problems or at least the potential for problems to arise, at least causing certain consequences. Diversity brings problems to individuals and groups of individuals (especially those belonging to language minorities), governments, and the world of education. The immediate problem for minority groups of individuals is that they must master at least two languages, namely their own language and the language of the majority, before they can function as full members of the society in which they live.

[3] argues that multiculturalism is used as a regional culture to explore cultural values in diverse societies. The position here, multiculturalism is considered as conservation where marginal groups can reflect the plural life that needs to be considered for equal rights [5]; at the level of togetherness and their differences need to be respected according to equal rights and obligations [6].

3.3 Nationality and Nation

According to Fishman in [10], distinguishes between nationality and nation. Nationality is synonymous with nationality, while nation is a nation. Nationality is a group of people who feel as a social unit (social unity) that is different from other groups, but is based on local size (region). Nationality differs from ethnic groups, which are simpler ethnic groups, smaller in sociocultural organization. In sociolinguistics, nationality and ethnicity are considered as two very different and separate things, but two endpoints of a line barrier.

Nationality does not need to have its own autonomous region. The term nationality is neutral or free from the problem of the presence or absence of a related political unit (state). Nation is a territorial political unit which is mostly or is increasingly under the control (control) of a particular nationality. A nation is different from what is called a state (state), policy (political unit), or country (state) because the state is not free from outside control. The nation of a country does not always have a single nationality that is primarily in power.

Politically, multinational states are less stable than multi-ethnic nations. When sociocultural groups in a country feel they are a nationality that just happens to live under the control of the rulers, the country is a multinational country. If members of a sociocultural group in a country feel as citizens of a nation in which they live and at the same time as

members of a particular group, the country is approaching the end of the multiethnic-national range. When sociocultural groups are isolated, namely ethnic groups, they do not have any interest or interest in the country where they live, both interest in being citizens and becoming rulers. If all groups of a country, except the ruling group become such, the country really becomes a multi-ethnic nation.

3.4   Linguistics as a Problem

According to Chaer [4], an open society can be interpreted as community members can accept the arrival of members from other communities, either from one or more than one community, then a language contact will occur. The language that receives the arrival will influence each other with the language of the people who come, this is where the problem occurs. In line with the opinion of [10], states that multilingual countries clearly have more problems than monolingual countries. The serious problem with multilingualism is that it works in the opposite direction of nationalism. Based on the fact that nation-states are more stable than multilingual countries and the development of a sense of nation is more difficult for multilingual countries than for monolingual countries.

Indonesia is a multilingual country, Indonesian is used as the national language and there are hundreds of large and small regional languages that are used by members of the local language community for regional purposes. In a multilingual society, community members tend to use two or more languages, either fully or partially according to their needs. People who master one language are called monolingual, unilingual, and monolot, while those who master two languages are called bilingual, and people who master more than two languages are called multilingual, plurilingual or polyglot.

4   Conclusion

The conclusion of this article is that the characteristics of language can be stated several items, namely language as a system, language in the form of symbols, language in the form of sound, language is arbitrary, language is meaningful, language is conventional, language is universal, language is productive, language is varied, language is dynamic, language is used to communicate, language functions as a tool for social interaction, and language is the identity of the speaker. A language community is a group of people who feel they use the same language. A group of people feel that they use the Javanese language, so it can be said that the Javanese language community. The difference between a monolingual community, a bilingual community, and a multilingual community is very much different in the category of society and the influence of the community. Nationalism and nationalism are a combination in one multilingual society, consisting of nationalism on nationality, while nationalism on nation. Diversity can cause problems, because of the influence of language contact with immigrant communities which results in opposing nationalism.

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