



MILLENNIAL LEVEL OF AWARENESS OF LANGUAGE POLICY IN INDONESIA

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ABSTRACT

This article discusses the level of the millennials regarding language policy. The millennials are living in a new period of time especially in Indonesia. As a national language, the Indonesian language surely can't be separated from the policy of the Indonesian language. It was proclaimed in the youth pledge that the Indonesian language is a language that makes Indonesia one unity. Usage of the Indonesian language by millennials through the time, there are also regional languages that are used as well. But lately, the use of good Indonesian language is threatened by foreign language use. Marked by this late popular mixing of Indonesia and English language as a trend on the internet.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a type of social semiotics that operates within situational and cultural contexts and is used both orally and in writing. Language cannot be separated from its speakers. The meaning of this statement is related to the existence of the language itself (Anto et al., 2019). Humans use language as a means of communication so that they can understand one another. Additionally, a nation or group of people's language serves as their means of expressing their identity. Indonesia itself has a very distinctive identity that can set it apart from other countries (R. A. K. Nisa & Pandin, n.d.).

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Indonesian identity is formed through a complicated and long process, so the next generation is obliged to save and conserve it. Every year, there is a worsening trend in Indonesian usage. Millennials tend to speak in slang, a strange or unusual language that only some of them are able to understand, or a foreign language more frequently. Due to this, the Indonesian language's existence starts to be marginalized, which naturally creates the conditions for the nation of Indonesia to experience an identity crisis (R. A. K. Nisa & Pandin, n.d.)

Indonesian was designated as the national language precisely on October 28, 1928, in the event of the Youth Pledge Day. This determination is a manifestation of national unity. This is due to the fact that the Indonesian nation was founded on ethnic and cultural diversity. The determination of the Indonesian language, which originates from Malay, is also not an easy matter. It is because at that time, people spoke their native regional languages to communicate. Malay was chosen as the basic material for creating Indonesian because of its simple system. In addition, the Malay language, which has been used as a common language of communication (*lingua franca*) in Southeast Asia and the archipelago since ancient times, is the ancestor of the Indonesian language.

This article was written with the intention of informing readers regarding language policy and the determination of the Indonesian language in the Indonesian language policy as a national identity. The second purpose is to examine how millennials use Indonesian. The outcomes of this article's discussion are expected to awaken Indonesian millennials to the importance of using good and correct Indonesian, even if it must be accompanied by regional and foreign languages. This article was also written to develop earlier research and to serve as a guide for future studies that will be similar to it. This article is about how much the levels of millennials are concerned about the Language Policy in Indonesia.

METHOD

The data collection for this article makes use of a qualitative method of literature study in the form of a review of the literature from various journals that deal with Indonesian language policy and the implementation of the language policy by millennials in Indonesia. The author also searches several relevant websites for sources of data and information.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Research Findings

Indonesia is a multiethnic country with 1,340 ethnic groups. In this country, there are 715 regional languages spread across all provinces. The fact that Indonesia is a multiethnic country raises the possibility of ethnic divisions. As a result, Indonesia has declared Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia) to be the national language. Article 36 of the Constitution from 1945 and Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 24 of 2009 both specify and confirm Indonesian as the official language with regard to the flag, language, state emblem, and national anthem. It is hoped that by having this law, the Indonesian language will be properly positioned as a language that the Indonesian people greatly respect.

Indonesia also regulates policies on the use of regional languages. Indonesia's regional languages coexist with Indonesian. "In Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System (including Law Number 4 of 1950 in conjunction with Law Number 12 of 1954 and Law Number 2 of 1989, which became the forerunner of Law Number 20 of 2003), the use of regional languages is regulated as a complement to the use of Indonesian, which is mandatory in the implementation of national education in Indonesia" (R. K. Nisa, 2018). According to Article 36 of the 1945 Constitution, regional languages that are well cared for by their speakers will be respected and cared for by the state because these regional languages are part of living Indonesian culture (Asrif, n.d.). The Minister of Home Affairs Regulation No. 40 of 2007 on Guidelines for Regional Heads in the Preservation and Development of Language Country and Regional Language had actually preceded the desire to speak the local language (Setyabudi, 2017).

"The majority of Indonesia's population is bilingual as a result of the use of both Indonesian and regional languages. The use of the language implies that an Indonesian citizen will have at least two identities: ethnic identity and national identity" (R. A. K. Nisa & Pandin, n.d.). Due to this, maintaining Indonesia's national identity undoubtedly benefits greatly from using Indonesian as the official language of the country.

"Concerning the Indonesian language, there is currently no strong commitment from Indonesian speakers to place Indonesian first. In fact, Indonesian speakers' language behavior is generally negative. Several facts show that the use of foreign languages threatens the survival of the Indonesian language. Several government agencies, the private sector, and specific places use foreign languages without mixing them with Indonesian, let alone regional languages" (Anto et al., 2019). The influence of foreign

languages, particularly English, is very noticeable in Indonesia in the current era of globalization. In some circumstances, Indonesians are prouder to express themselves in English. This is so because, in addition to its commercial value, England has a higher prestige value (R. A. K. Nisa & Pandin, n.d.).

The use of English in the daily lives of Indonesian people is considered a good progress considering that English is an international language. However, the use of a foreign language that is not in accordance with the context will affect and even have a negative impact on the original language (in this context, Indonesian). An example of this case is the phenomenon of the style of language “Anak Jaksel” (Jaksel is an abbreviation of Jakarta Selatan or South Jakarta). This phenomenon, which was popular on Twitter a while ago, has piqued the interest of social media users. The reason for this is that they use Indonesian mixed with English. Which is, confused, literally, usually, basically, prefer, better, and other English terms that are often used in the Jaksel language variety. An example of a sentence in the style of “Anak Jaksel” is: "Gue literally asli anak Jaksel ya walaupun rada pinggir ke Depok gitu lah. Cuman gue kadang bingung sama jokesnya anak Jaksel which is bahasanya mixed Indo and English gitu." which means "I'm literally a child of South Jakarta, even though I'm a bit on the edge of Depok. I'm just sometimes confused by the jokes made by South Jakarta children, which is the language mixed with Indo and English." (Azzumardi, 2022).

The discrepancy in the use of Indonesian is then characterized by the emergence of slang. Slang first became popular among the general public in the 1980s. In Indonesia, slang was more commonly known as “bahasa gaul” and was used by thugs at the time. Slang language can be thought of as a code used by specific groups. However, regular people who are not part of the group start to use slang in everyday conversation as well. Over time, in line with the development of communication technology, the development of language has become rapid, and the spread of slang among Indonesian millennials has occurred so quickly (Azizah, 2019). Examples of slang among Indonesian millennials:

Slang	PUEBI Spelling	Meaning in English
<i>Santuy / sans</i>	<i>Santai</i>	Relax or chill
<i>Mantul</i>	<i>Mantap betul</i>	Very good
<i>Gercep</i>	<i>Gerakan cepat</i>	Fast movement

<i>Bucin</i>	<i>Budak cinta</i>	People who are crazy for love
<i>Komuk</i>	<i>Kondisi muka</i>	Face condition
<i>Mager</i>	<i>Malas gerak</i>	Lazy to Move
<i>Sabi</i>	<i>Bisa</i>	Can or capable
<i>Ngab</i>	<i>Bang / Abang</i>	Brother
<i>Japri</i>	<i>Jaringan pribadi</i>	Send messages privately to one person.
<i>Kuy</i>	<i>Yuk / ayo</i>	Come on

Discussion

Data from various academic sources demonstrates that millennials do not use Indonesian in a way that complies with the rules. The shift in language usage is viewed negatively, given the difficulty of establishing Indonesian as a national identity. Edward Sapir, in Sue Wright's book *Language Policy and Language Planning*, sees language as a "cultural construct". He states that language is "a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbols" (2004: 3). Various definitions of language have been proposed by linguists. "The language is Form, not matter" (Chaer Lyons 1995:60). Chaer (1995:14). Arbitrary, productive, dynamic, diverse, and humane are the characteristics that make up the nature of language as a sound system symbol. Language shows everyone their country. If that means Thinking deeper allows us to understand and handle all cases of smarter Relationships between language and attitudes or behaviors of language speaker groups. As the country's official language, Indonesian represents national pride and identity. It also acts as a bridge between people from different regions and cultures and as a unifying force for the archipelago's various tribes, cultures, and languages. The Indonesian language can be seen as a source of national pride because it was developed by the Indonesian people themselves as a means of communication. "The vast majority of people in Indonesia are bilingual. A person who is an Indonesian citizen, from the perspective of language, has at least two identities, an ethnic identity and a national identity. Thus, maintaining Indonesian national identity undoubtedly depends greatly on using Indonesian as the official language of Indonesia" (Bulan, 2019).

One of the fundamental key components of human groups is language. All children are socialized into their respective language groups, and adults teach children the structures and lexicon used by the group while correcting them as they learn in an effort to maintain comprehensibility within the group (Carmen Llamas et al., 2006). The term "language policy" refers to explicit or implicit language planning by government agencies like education ministries, employers, or school administrators. Language policies, which serve as guidelines or rules for language structure, use, and acquisition, are established and put into action within nation-states or institutions like schools and workplaces. Such directives or regulations may be expressly stated in legal documents (such as the constitution) or may be understood without a written declaration. According to Spolski (2004), "the definition of language policy includes three components: the language practices of a community, in particular patterns of choices of which varieties are used in particular circumstances; language ideologies; and any specific efforts made to influence those practices through intervention, planning, and management."

Indonesia has experienced colonization by Europeans throughout its history, including the Portuguese, Spanish, British, Dutch, and ultimately the Japanese. The longest colonialism, which lasted for about 350 years, was Dutch. While local communities and indigenous peoples battled for independence, the Japanese invaded and colonized Indonesia. The elite or upper class of society was educated in the Dutch educational system using Dutch as the primary language of instruction during this protracted period of Dutch expansion (Hoffman, 1979). Due to this, middle-class to lower-class Indonesians do not frequently know or use the Dutch language. "The Malay language is the lingua franca for diverse people to communicate on a daily basis" (Abduh & Rosmaladewi, 2019). At the beginning of the twentieth century, where this article ends, the Malay-dynasty language was recognized as the administrative language of the Indies (Hoffman, 1979). According to Hoffman (1979), in 1865, the Dutch government formally adopted Malay as a second language for trade and administration. The term "Malay" (Bahasa Melayu) was replaced by "Bahasa Indonesia" in 1901 and designated as the official state language and the language of instruction. "The standard Latin alphabet spelling system for Indonesian, developed by Dutch scholar C.A. van Ophuijsen, was published in response to this decision" (Hoffman, 1979; Lowenberg, 1992). Since the Youth Pledge of October 28, 1928, Indonesia has formally proclaimed the Indonesian language to be both the nation's official language and the language of national unification. Later, the 1945 Constitution mandated that

Indonesian become the nation's official language. No protests or unfavorable responses were sparked by these two policies among Indonesia's ethnic groups. This is so that the language policy can be determined and the roles of Indonesian, regional languages, and foreign languages can all be clearly understood (Susanto, 2016). "During the Japanese colonization between 1942 and 1945, the non-explicit bilingual language policy was modified" (Abduh & Rosmaladewi, 2019). According to Anderson (1966), The Japanese immediately prohibited the use of Dutch for any purpose. However, the bilingual language agenda was changed into a domestic bilingual language policy after the Japanese surrendered at the end of World War II, and Indonesia was liberated on August 17, 1945. For formal administrative and educational matters of the new nation, Indonesian was designated as the only national language (Abduh & Rosmaladewi, 2019). Independence gave Indonesia an opportunity to break away from Dutch and Japanese influence. "Three categories of languages emerged in Indonesia during this time: 1) Regional or vernacular languages (bahasa daerah); 2) National languages (bahasa Indonesia); and 3) Foreign languages, such as English, German, and Arabic" (Dardjowidjojo, n.d.; Nababan, 1991). Despite the Dutch and Japanese colonizing Indonesia successively, none of those languages were formally taught in educational institutions. In contrast to the colonized languages of Dutch and Japanese, English, according to Alisjahbana (1974b), is a more significant language for global science and knowledge. Since Indonesia gained independence in the 1940s and 1950s, and up until the new order government regime, this implicit bi/multilingualism policy has been incorporated into national language policy and planning (1960s-1990s) (Abduh & Rosmaladewi, 2019).

Basically, the nature of communication itself is a message that can be clearly conveyed to the other party (Azzumardi, 2022). The emergence of the "Anak Jaksel" language style and slang among Indonesian millennials is a concrete manifestation of the language's development. That means the language is dynamic and will change over time. However, the development of language in this phenomenon is slightly contrary to the provisions of the Indonesian language policy. The designated language is Indonesian as a unifying language in accordance with the rules of the language.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

"Various definitions of language have been proposed by linguists. The language is Form, not matter" (Chaer Lyons 1995:60). The Indonesian language can be seen as a source

of national pride because it was developed by the Indonesian people themselves as a means of communication. One of the fundamental key components of human groups is language. The term "language policy" refers to explicit or implicit language planning by government agencies like education ministries, employers, or school administrators. "Malay is the lingua franca through which diverse people communicate on a daily basis" (Abduh & Rosmaladewi, 2019). Since the Youth Pledge of October 28, 1928, Indonesia has formally proclaimed the Indonesian language to be both the nation's official language and the language of national unification.

During Japanese colonization between 1942 and 1945, the non-explicit bilingual language policy was modified (Abduh & Rosmaladewi, 2019). According to Anderson (1966), the Japanese immediately prohibited the use of Dutch for any purpose. However, after the Japanese surrendered at the end of World War II and Indonesia was liberated on August 17, 1945, the bilingual language agenda was transformed into a domestic bilingual language policy. Indonesia is a multiethnic country with 1,340 ethnic groups. The fact that Indonesia is a multiethnic country raises the possibility of ethnic divisions. Indonesia also regulates policies on the use of regional languages. The majority of Indonesia's population is bilingual due to the use of both Indonesian and regional languages. However, regarding the Indonesian language, currently there is no strong commitment from Indonesian speakers to place Indonesian in the most important place. This is evidenced by several facts that the existence of the Indonesian language is threatened by the use of foreign languages (Anto et al., 2019).

The use of a foreign language that is not in accordance with the context will affect and even have a negative impact on the original language (in this context, Indonesian). In this case for example is that the use of Indonesian mixed with English. The emergence of the "Anak Jaksel" language style and slang among Indonesian millennials is a concrete manifestation of the language's development. Nevertheless, the development of language in this phenomenon is slightly contrary to the provisions of the Indonesian language policy.

From this study, it can be concluded clearly that language is an important component for human life. Indonesian itself was created to connect the differences in various local languages that are spread throughout Indonesia. And as a human being who keeps up with the times, humans have developed and are getting smarter in various aspects, not least in the aspect of language. The slang used by the millennial generation today is evidence of the development of globalization and linguistics. The combination of Indonesian and foreign

languages is one thing that has its own rules and ways to use in everyday life, and this is what the z generation uses as part of the times.

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