

Language Diversity and Potential Conflict in Kerinci Community

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Abstract

The purpose of writing this work is to find out and describe what multicultural or linguistic diversity is in Kerinci and to find out what are the good and bad impacts of language diversity in Kerinci. This research is research using a descriptive qualitative method. The data collection technique, in this case, is using library research or other news related to the research title. The data analysis technique used by the author means content analysis. The author can obtain that the existence of the diversity of languages in Kerinci is not to divide one another but to teach them how to respect each other, respect each other between one language if there is a division caused by language if they are differences. The solution is, of course, to start from themselves how to respect each other, appreciate every diversity of languages and also other diversity regardless of the diversity, instill Bhineka Tunggal Ika, which is the motto of the country, not discriminating between friends who are around us, and also by using the nation's unifying language, namely Indonesian, especially in educational institutions must apply Indonesian in the educational environment and also continue to instill in students mutual respect among

the diversity that exists. After starting with themselves then, they begin to socialize with others.

Keywords: *Language, kerinci, multicultural*

Abstrak

Penulisan karya ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui dan mendeskripsikan apa itu multikultural atau keragaman bahasa di Kerinci, mengetahui apa-apa saja dampak baik dan buruknya dari keragaman bahasa di Kerinci. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif. Teknik pengumpulan data dalam hal ini merupakan menggunakan library research, atau berita lainnya yg berkaitan dengan judul penelitian serta teknik analisis data yang digunakan oleh penulis artinya content analysis (analisis isi). Penulis dapat memperoleh bahwa dengan adanya keragaman bahasa yang ada di Kerinci ini bukan untuk memecah belah antara yang satu dengan yang lainnya, melainkan untuk mengajarkan kita bagaimana cara saling menghargai, saling menghormati antara bahasa yang satu dengan bahasa yang lainnya, apabila terjadi perpecahan yang dikarenakan bahasa yang berbeda maka solusinya ialah tentunya memulai dari diri kita sendiri bagaimana cara saling menghormati, menghargai setiap keragaman bahasa, dan juga keragaman yang lain apapun keragamannya, menanamkan bhineka tunggal ika yang merupakan semboyan negara kita, tidak membedakan teman yang ada di sekitar kita, dan juga dengan menggunakan bahasa pemersatu bangsa yaitu bahasa Indonesia, terutama di lembaga-lembaga pendidikan harus menerapkan bahasa Indonesia di sekitar lingkungan pendidikan dan juga tetap menanamkan kepada peserta didik sifat saling menghargai di antara keragaman yang ada. Setelah memulai dari diri kita sendiri barulah kita mulai mensosialisasikan kepada orang lain.

Kata Kunci: *Bahasa, kerinci, multikultural*

Introduction

In everyday life, wherever humans are, they encounter various kinds of diversity, be it cultural diversity, language, religion, race, belief, ethnicity, and so on (Akhmad, 2019). The diversity that humans feel or see is called multiculturalism. One of these variations, namely the diversity of languages in Kerinci.

The diversity of languages in Kerinci can undoubtedly have positive and negative impacts. The positive impact of this diversity of languages is, for example, if they can appreciate the diversity of languages owned by other communities or other communities so that they form one unit, of course with this, they can complement each other with the diversity of languages that exist (Akhmad, 2019). At the same time, the negative impact is if the existence of language diversity divides us because they do not respect each other and prioritize the community itself or the community itself without thinking about the diversity of languages owned by other communities.

The Kerinci language has many distinctive and unique language variations. Although it has various phonological and lexical differences between dialects in the Kerinci language, speakers and opposites understand each other and understand each other's languages. However, this should not interfere with the people of Kerinci's communication (Suparyanto and Rosad, 2015).

With so much diversity that they often encounter, namely language diversity, many encounters divided societies because of the diversity within a community or society (Akhmad, 2019). How do they unite people who speak different languages? Which then becomes an essential question in this research.

Method

The method applied in this research is descriptive. According to Sudaryanto (1986: 62), the descriptive method is research carried out solely under information and facts that are indeed empirically alive in the speakers. As a result, what is produced or recorded is in the form of various languages, which are usually said to be similar to portraits of expositions as is.

According to Bogdan and Taylor (in Moleong, 2010: 4), "A qualitative research approach means that research procedures that form narrative data in the form of written or verbal terms come from people and attitudes that can be observed. Sudaryanto (1993: 132) Recording is done after the data in the form of gossip discourses are evaluated relatively to be used as research data. The data is then recorded for analysis regarding the cohesion and coherence used. This recording method is vital. The recording is carried out around the form, meaning, and use of the various languages that are carried out

at the time of the interview to remember the data obtained.

The data analysis stage is the most critical and decisive because, at this stage, the rules governing the existence of the research object must have been obtained. The discovery of the intended principles is the core of scientific research activity (Mahsun, 2005: 111). To answer the formulation of the problem in this study regarding language diversity, the researcher searched for and read sources of data/texts on language diversity carefully and thoroughly. Then the researcher analyzed the content contained in the source.

Result and Discussion

Kerinci is one of the districts in the westernmost part of Jambi province, Indonesia. This district is a tourist area in Jambi province, known as a piece of land from heaven. Kerinci Regency was designated as a regency since the inception of Jambi province. Kerinci is also known for using the diversity of languages in each of its villages.

The diversity of languages in Kerinci can, of course, have positive and negative consequences. For example, the positive impact of diversity is if they can appreciate other people's or communities' diversity. As a result, they form a single unit. Of course, with this, they can complement each other with that existing diversity. Meanwhile, diversity's negative consequences divide them because they don't respect

each other and are selfish of their community without thinking about the diversity of other communities.

There was once a feud in Kerinci because of the diversity of languages. Most of the youths or school teenagers mocked each other because of the language differences between villages, one of which was the conflict between Debai Village and Baru Debai Village, the Kumun Debai feud with Pondok Tinggi, it was because they did not respect or "ridicule" of this conflict, it is necessary to have a solution, as for the solution if there is a split due to the diversity of languages in Kerinci:

Instilling Tolerance

behavior is highly expected in social life, especially in Indonesia, with its various cultures and differences. Tolerance is a recent concept to describe mutual respect and cooperation between groups of people with various disparities. Therefore, tolerance becomes a very crucial behavior because it is an act that respects the diversity of backgrounds, views, and beliefs.

Tolerance is classified as a positive trait to maintain harmony and as an effort to prevent fights in society. Tolerance behavior must be introduced early on. one model of tolerance is seen in youth, as young people accept local languages and give their opinions using the language of their respective regions. The people must instill tolerant behavior towards anyone so they can respect each other with

the various languages that exist, not only when humans are in Kerinci, but wherever they are, they need to respect the diversity of languages (Abdul, 2014).

Instilling tolerance that they can and that they often encounter in everyday life, among others, is getting along with everyone without differentiating each other's culture. Even though they come from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds, they must be able to affiliate without making it an obstacle. Appreciate and listen if you need to learn from friends using a different language to use their language without ridiculing or discriminating. Gives a sense of comfort when listening to other people speak their language. If they respect others, they will also respect us. Do not insult the language of other communities.

Intolerance, there is no term for mocking or insulting each other even though they understand that their languages are not the same. When celebrating other holidays in their language, they must respect and respect it. Not ridiculing other people's cultures in terms of their accents and distinctive characteristics because each culture has its specialties and uniqueness.

Instilling Bhineka Tunggal Ika

One way to maintain and care for these considerable differences is with Bhinneka Tunggal Ika (different but still one), which is the motto of the

Indonesian State which is used as the basis for realizing the unity and integrity of the Indonesian State where they must apply it in their daily lives, namely, using a natural way of respecting one another. Therefore, Indonesian people must maintain unity to create a pluralistic unitary state.

Indonesia with the presence of a diverse people consisting of various ethnic origins that are not in harmony under the auspices of a national system that contains several elements of government that carry out a process of forming the Indonesian people without distinguishing between cultural, linguistic, religious, ethnic or social strata diversity for the sake of realizing the goals of a country, namely as what has been meant by Bhinneka Tunggal Ika.

Bhinneka Tunggal Ika has a crucial role in Indonesia, one of which is used as a unifying nation to raise the status of the State of Indonesia. Then one of the efforts that must be undertaken is to increase the enlightenment of the mindset of the Indonesian people to use the constitutional right to assemble and associate and also encourage people to use the basis of belief more as the basis of social life, which also emphasizes that God is the purpose of their life as stated in the belief which every individual citizen adheres.

As time goes by, the practice of Bhinneka Tunggal Ika is getting dimmer. Bhinneka Tunggal Ika is not limited to the motto or concept of developing a country. There needs to be a new way that is more adapted to life in today's world. One way that can be

done is to hold a celebration. This ceremony is one step in how society can interpret and practice the diversity of *Tunggal Ika* by actively participating in a celebration.

Bhinneka Tunggal Ika must protect its integrity because it has been realized how important *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* is for Indonesia, so it is the Indonesian duty as citizens to protect it. The integrity of a region is the leading force in the State, followed by mutual respect for differences in one another because it is true that the Indonesian State contains various disparities within it. Therefore mutual respect is the foundation of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*. Thus, protecting, interpreting, developing and practicing *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* means ensuring peace and harmony can genuinely be realized on Indonesian soil.

Implementing the Language of Unity

In its position as the national language, the function of the Indonesian language is to become a symbol of national praise, national identity, a sense of communication between peoples, regions, and cultures, and a means of unifying tribes, cultures, and languages in the archipelago. In its position as the state language, the function of the Indonesian language is as the official state language, the language of instruction for education, a means of transportation at the national level, and a means of developing culture, science, and technology.

As a national language, one of the functions of Indonesian is to strengthen ties between tribes in Indonesia. Indonesian has a vital role in the general public as well as nationally. Thanks to the Indonesian language, people can relate to each other so that misunderstandings become the impact of differences in socio-cultural and linguistic backgrounds that need not be feared.

It is better to use Indonesian, which people understand; if they bring each other's language, they must respect their language. If necessary, they learn and teach the Indonesian language to add knowledge (Rusli, 2015). Residents can travel to all corners of society using Indonesian as the only means of communication.

Indonesian is a unifying sense of ethnicity, culture, and language, the meaning of which is that Indonesian allows harmony among tribes, cultures, and languages in the archipelago without having to lose ethnic identity and loyalty to socio-cultural values and the language background of the area concerned. More original than that, with the national language, people can place national interests far above the interests of the region or class.

Promoting diversity tolerance

Everyone must understand and develop diversity, education in the community must instill knowledge about diversity in their students, and teachers have an essential role in providing a broad

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understanding and understanding about respecting differences. Understand the various aspects of the struggle together so that a society can avoid division because division is the beginning of destroying a community or a country.

The teaching and learning process can be done through discussion, group work, and extracurricular activities. With these three methods, the teacher can quickly provide an understanding of diversity, respect for others, respect for the opinions of others, and be tolerant. In addition to educating and giving students an understanding of how important it is to live, love one another, respect the right to life, and worship according to their respective beliefs, this must be done by all teachers, from elementary schools to tertiary institutions.

A knowledge of diversity must also be instilled in today's youth due to the accessibility of technology, and if necessary, it is the youth who spread this knowledge throughout society. It is hoped that as technology becomes more advanced and widely used in society, young people will not abuse it or spread false information that can cause conflict, but rather will use it to share an understanding of diversity and teach others to tolerate and respect one another. No matter the circumstances, the Indonesian language must reflect this diverse understanding.

It will be pretty simple for them to disseminate tolerance for variety in this age of simplicity, especially among young people, so that

they may utilize social media for good rather than merely for bad. (Rusli, 2019). Indonesian must prioritize brotherhood and openness to differences, use multiculturalism in a community, and understand diversity in terms of language and differences in the people. Using an understanding of diversity, they can respect each other and maintain kinship regardless of background. That exists in every citizen.

Conclusion

The diversity of languages in Kerinci can have positive and negative impacts. The positive impact is that if they respect each other, they can form one unit, while the negative impact is that because there is diversity, it divides society due to mutual respect, while the way to solve this division is by instilling tolerance, instilling Unity in Diversity, implementing the Indonesian language of unity, and promoting diversity tolerance, regardless of diversity, not just language, they must respect each other regardless of background.

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