

Nationalism attitude of Indonesian citizen: A survey

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Abstract— Nationalism is one of the fundamental things for the development of a country since it influences the strength of the country. Over a few decades, the problems of nationalism have been experienced by several countries. This study aims to investigate the attitudes of Indonesian nationalism by using a survey method employing the quantitative data. The researcher distributed questionnaires about how Indonesians reflect their nationalism based on 4 aspects of nationalism; love of the homeland, sacrifice willingness, unity and never give up. The questionnaire consisted of 12 statements using a four-Likert scale to indicate Indonesian nationalism. This study involved 100 respondents; between 18-40-years-old. The study reveals that Indonesian citizens show their attitude towards indicators of nationalism: proud to be Indonesian, learning Indonesia history, volunteering, donating alms, respecting differences, deliberation, caring for NKRI, sincerity, optimistic as well as endurance. Meanwhile, the non-nationalism attitudes are reflected from the indicators of using Indonesian products and serving in the remote area around Indonesia.

Keywords— attitude, nationalism

I. INTRODUCTION

United Nations (UN) data shows there are 193 sovereign nations. Nation is a biological community that has the same place of birth, culture, physical characteristics, history, region and continues from time to time (Steven, 2005). Nation also is a large group whose members believe in the relation of territory and genealogy (Penrose, 2009). Humans divided into various nations is a natural destiny of God, even though sometimes there are political and cultural interferences (Kaftan & Smith, 2000). As a netizen being nationalist, the implementation of regulations is less powerful. Many legal institutions (police and attorney offices) have different interpretations in the field (Nurmandi & Kim, 2015). National identity links the individual to the world, and for the past 15-20 years, this theme has been the topic of discussion (Treanor, 1997). The development of a nation is related to national unity where national identity is not an ethnic or regional group in which a group of individuals is bound together, communities, speaks, understands, believes among one another (Miguel, 2004). Indonesia is a nation consisting of various ethnic groups, cultures, traditions, languages and religions. As a developing country with a variety of life problems that are very complex, one of the problems of the Indonesian nation is nationalism.

Nationalism is related to the ideology in which individuals in a country or a nation are expected to be faithful and concerned with the prosperity of the country. It is also related to the attitude of its members who are

apprehensive with public interests over personal interests; it could also be a political ideology that makes national identity a political state (Ahlerup & Hansson, 2011; Kaplan, 2009). Nationalism is universalism, mission and ideology that is consistently related to autonomy, secession, national borders sometimes as doctrines for the benefit of national groups (Frost, 2010; Penrose, 2009; Treanor, 1997). The degradation of the sense of nationalism is quite chronic among young people as seen in the attitude of some young generations who lack the national symbols, such as the Indonesia Raya song and the Red-White flag (Kusumawardani & Fatiurochman, 2004). Today, some people prefer using imported products, even though there are a lot of Indonesian products, insulting each other on social media, being lazy to work and serving in remote areas of Indonesia, deifying foreign cultures, and lacking respect and study of Indonesian culture; those are the examples of the weak nationalism of the nation. Nationalism is created based on 4 aspects of nationalism; love of the homeland, sacrifice willingness, unity and never give up (Soegito et al., 2006).

Discussing about the nation and nationalism means that it also discusses the love of the homeland, sacrifice willingness, unity and never give up (Soegito et al., 2006). Love of homeland is formed from a combination of motherland and fatherland which refers to the lineage where individuals are raised in a region; in addition, the homeland can build a national identity with a common origin and history (Amer, 2012; Steven, 2005). Willingness to sacrifice deals with such commitments to sacrifice one's own interests for the benefit of partners or the environment which is usually for greater goodness and prosperity (Davis, Le, & Coy, 2011). Unity and peace are interrelated, in which unity has existed since long ago in the history of human life by interconnecting and helping each other to achieve common goals and features in shaping national identity (Haag, 2010; Unal, Janaikhan, & Berikbolova, 2014). Never give up is closely related to endurance, strength, trust in oneself and focus (Trump & Mclever, 2008).

Regarding the aforementioned reasons, this study was conducted to explore the attitudes of Indonesian citizens toward their nationalism based on aspect love of homeland (Section 1), aspect sacrifice willingness (Section 2), aspect of unity (Section 3) and aspect of never give up (Section 4).

II. METHODS

This study has used survey design method with a cross-sectional survey and quantitative data results. Survey research is to take information from respondents by employing questionnaires or conducting interviews so as to

show differences in responses, for example the level of agreement on reflecting differences in attitudes, opinions and behavior (DeMarrais & Stephen D, 2004). Cross-Sectional survey is collecting data at a certain time (Creswell, 2012). This study used a quantitative data where the researcher distributed questionnaires about how Indonesian people reflect their nationalism based on 4 aspects of nationalism; love of the motherland, sacrifice willingness, unity and never give up (Soegito et al., 2006). The questionnaire consisted of 12 statements using a four-Likert scale to indicate Indonesian nationalism. This study involved 100 respondents; between 18-40-years-old. The respondents are Indonesian citizens.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the following sections, we present the results of our investigation.

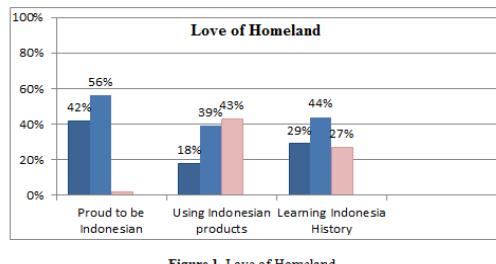


Figure 1. Love of Homeland

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

In the aspect love of homeland, one of the proud attitude of being an Indonesian as a mirror of nationalism can be seen in the statement “I introduce myself as an Indonesian to foreigners” showing 42% strongly agree, 56% agree and only a small percentage disagree. Furthermore, the attitude of the respondents to use Indonesian products shows that 18% strongly agree, 39% agree, while 43% disagree with the statement “I like using batik”. Meanwhile, the statement “I know the names and histories of Indonesian heroes” is an item of learning Indonesia history showing that 29% strongly agree, 44% agree and 27% disagree.

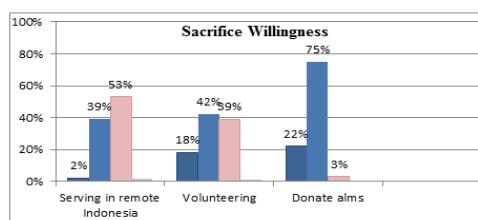


Figure 2. Sacrifice Willingness

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

In the aspect sacrifice willingness, one of the nationalism indicators is serving in remote areas in Indonesia as described in the statement “I am willing to work and serve in remote areas in Indonesia.” It shows that 2% strongly agree, 39% agree and 53% disagree. Meanwhile, the indicators of volunteering between agreeing and disagreeing are quite balanced, 18% strongly agree, 42% agree, and 39% disagree, as indicated in the statement “I want to volunteer to help victims of Indonesia’s natural disasters.” The last, alms donation is reflected in the statement “I am willing to donate alms to poor Indonesians” showing 22% strongly agree, 75% agree and only a few disagree.

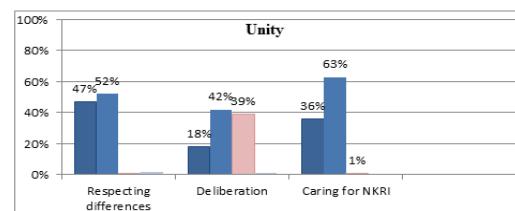


Figure 3. Unity

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

In the aspect of unity, an indicator of respecting differences in Indonesia shows that 47% strongly agree and 52% agree, only a small number disagree, as reflected in the statement “I enjoy learning culture and language from other regions or different ethnicities in Indonesia”. Meanwhile, an indicator of deliberation show that 18% strongly agrees, 42% agree and 39% disagree. This indicates that there are quite a lot of Indonesians who do not want to negotiate as represented by the statement “I like to participate in deliberations in my environment/community”. Furthermore, an indicator of caring for the NKRI shows that 36% strongly agree and 63% agree. This indicates that almost all Indonesians agree to guard the NKRI as reflected in the statement “I am aware of protecting Indonesia”.

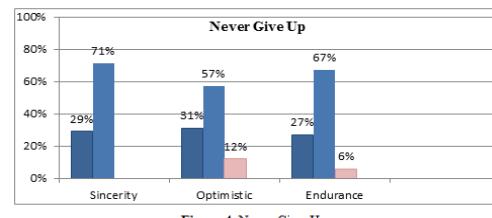


Figure 4. Never Give Up

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

In the aspect of never give up, it can be seen in the sincerity indicator in the statement “I diligently study, work and add positive experience” showing that 29% strongly agree and 71% agree. Furthermore, the optimistic indicator as reflected in the statement “I am sure that Indonesia can compete with other great countries” showing that 31% strongly agree, 57% agree and 12% disagree. Meanwhile, an indicator of endurance as reflected in the statement “If I fail, I will try until I succeed” showing that 27% strongly agree, 67% agree and the rest disagree.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

The study reveals that Indonesian citizens show their attitude towards indicators of nationalism: proud to be Indonesian, learning Indonesia history, volunteering, donating alms, respecting differences, deliberation, caring for NKRI, sincerity, optimistic as well as endurance. Meanwhile the non-nationalism attitudes are reflected in the indicators of using Indonesian products and serving in the remote area around Indonesia.

Therefore, the authors formulate nationalism as an assessment or evaluation of Indonesian citizens. Indonesian citizens are expected to implement nationalism at least through the fulfillment of elements of nationalism namely proud love as an Indonesian nation, studying the history of Indonesia, participating in development, volunteering, upholding the law and social justice, giving alms, utilizing resources as well as being oriented towards the future, respecting differences, deliberating, caring for NKRI,

achieving, independent and responsible by respecting ourselves and others, being sincere, optimistic, endurance, using Indonesian products and serving in the remote area around Indonesia and being ready to compete with other nations and engage in international cooperation. This ideal nationalism will deliver Indonesian citizens as people who have high self-quality.

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