

The Understanding of Religion Related to Motivation and Attitude of Religion

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Abstract

This article tries to describe and criticize the understanding of religion relate to motivation and attitude. Usually, everybody knows his or her religion by doctrine, ritual, church order, ideology. This research aims to know how the followers especially men as a father in District V of the HKBP, North Sumatera, Indonesia, think about religion like as ritual as a part of religion. And how the ritual influence and help him to grow up in good motivation and attitude. Also, are there some factors of attitude of the leaders of religion contribute to motivate the followers to grow up their believe.

Keywords: religion, motivation, attitude, character, Batak

Introduction

Every religion as an institution has a certain doctrine that function as moral system to form the attitude of the followers.¹ The role and function of religion are strong if the religion do criticize the bad social attitude of the society, by teaching of the truthness and goodness values, so that the followers know how to act.

This thinking is needed because now a days there are a few of assumption and phenomenon that attitude of religion does not relate to religion. It means that logically, there are two different space are the religious area and the social area. Both of area is different. The religious area is according to the rituals for God, and the social area is according to the interaction of human being.

Of course, this situation is different from the existence of religion in the beginning, especially as the experience of traditional society with their culture and religion, like religion of Batak in North Sumatera, Indonesia. When the first time Christianity in Batak land, the religious factors influence sosial life very much. Even, some rituals of Batak in Batak society are the implementation of Batak's understanding about religion.² The leader of Batak religion are the leader of Batak society. This is clear when Batak has *bius* system.³

Now a days, usually, the number of followers are growth up fast, but at the same time the bad social attitude is growing to the high level. This condition needs more attention, because the situation happens not only in the followers level but also in the leaders level. Because of that, this research want to know how far the understanding of religion produce motivation and attitude of religion and how the followers show it in their every day life.

Method

This is qualitative research, a part of ethnography research, and a part of academic research that usually is done in Antropology and Sociology knowledge. Usually, this research focus to criticize society, culture, believe, also how the human being know him/her self and environment.⁴

Because of that, some of questions are given to get the deep answers and it will be used for writing. This research is done for Christians in 25 churches in District V of the HKBP, North Sumatera, Indonesia.⁵ In this case, fathers are choiced as sampel and gathering data 1.600 persons in number to get their response.

¹See. Olaf Schumann, **Pendekatan Pada Ilmu-ilmu Agama**, Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 2013, page. 90..

²Raja Patik Tampubolon, **Pustaka Tumbaga Holing: Adat Batak, Patik, Uhum, ed. 3 (revise)**, Jakarta: Dian Utama and Kerabat (Kerukunan Masyarakat Batak), 2012, page. 30-31.

³Sitor Situmorang, **Toba na Sae**, Jakarta: Komunitas Bambu, 2009, page. 24-26.

⁴W. Lawrence Neuman, **Social Research Methods: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches**, ed. 3, Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 1997, page. 346-348.

⁵Protestan Christian Batak Church (HKBP) is the biggest Sinod in Indonesia with the most followers, also as a member of Indonesia Churches Communion, see. <https://pgi.or.id/gereja-anggota-pgi>.

Focus Group Discussion (FGD) Method is used to invent some of actual issues, then the result is written as a part of questionnaire form. By this research, the understanding about religion that produce motivation and attitude of religion can be known.

Results and Discussion

The Understanding of Motivation and Attitude of Religion

Every human being belief that in this world there is a certain power, a supernatural out of his body. Relate to it, for a long time, according to the history of religion, there was a word called *mana*,⁶ means a power, strength, extraordinary. For many people, the supernatural power was believed as the beginning idea of the modern religion in this world, like as: Moslem, Protestan, Catholict, Hinduism, Buddhism, Konghuchu, ecetera. The existance of the extraordinary is received in obedience.⁷ For the followers, existance of the supernatural power was received in every day life and call it as God.⁸

Actually, in Indonesia the supernatural is believed not only by the followers of the modern religion but also by the followers of traditional religion. Every group of the followers has a certain name to call the supernatural, like: Mulajadi na Bolon (Batak), Sang Hyang Widhi (Hindu Dharma), Marapu (Sumba), Sang Hyang Tunggal-Kejawen (Jawa), Aluk Todolo (Toraja), ecetera. The leaders was called: *Datu* (Batak), *Sikerei* (Mentawai), *Ama Bokul Hamayang* (Sumba), ecetera.

Every religion⁹ always teaches the good of doctrines and values, like as truthness, holyness, love of God, ecetera. The most important of existance of religion is how to make the followers be a good person.¹⁰

Usually, the followers try to prepare them selves with good motivation for ritual celebration, respons 1.481 or 93 %. Because the followers believe that when they present in a ritual, so they will get strenght and power to continue their life although in many problem situation. This thing means that everybody as a human being can not do anything without God, human being can not arrange his/her life well by him self. So, that is reason to push someone to act and to pray in God' name and give glory to the God.

According to this research, in fact, many people can not enjoy the ritual because the ritual does not help them to feel good relationship in God. They are disturbed because of two factors are: (i) human being 1.427 or 89 %: just talking in the church 817 or 51 %, bad preaching 610 or 38 %, bad microfone 194 or 12 %. The result, 89 % the followers say that ritual monotonous, bore.

If a ritual was very important to support the followers to enjoy good relationship in God, in good meditation and healing. The question is how efectively the ritual influence the followers for showing a good attitude? The phenomenon is the growth up of religion as an institution is not the same with the growth of the believers in number. In fact, many problems in society and nation happens because the attitude of religion are not seen in action. At the same time, moral issues rise up coming soon, respons 1.360 persons or 85 %. The result of this research says that there is no guarantee that the followers are the same with the good persons. The person who know God's News and give much explanation about it, are not the same with the believers.

In this research, the majority of responden says that it is very important that the leaders of religion are showing the excellent character like as: caring (*marorot*), the model figure (*sitiruon*), respons 1.209 or 65 %. For that reason, the leaders have to show him/her self as a religious person in talk and in deed. So, another persons will have an inspiration to imitate and follow him in talk and in deed.

For that reason, especially in Indonesian context, the believers have to be organized well, so that the religion did not make the different action to all of the believers. The most important is how to make

⁶See. G. Van der Leeuw, **Religion in Essence & Manifestation**, terj. J.E Turner, London: George Allen & Unwin, LTD, 1938, page. 24.

⁷Emile Durkheim, **The Elementary Form of Religious Life**, ed. 4, London: George Allen & Unwin LTD, 1957, page. 194.

⁸Riris Johanna Siagian, **Sahala Bagi Pemimpin: Dulu dan Kini**, ed. 4, Pematangsiantar: Lembaga Bina Warga HKBP, Sekolah Tinggi Theologia HKBP and Sekolah Pendeta HKBP, 2018, page. 38.

⁹Riris Johanna Siagian, **Agama, Spiritualitas Kepemimpinan, Gereja dan Masyarakat**, Pematangsiantar: Lembaga Bina Warga HKBP dan Sekolah Pendeta HKBP, 2019, page. 118.

¹⁰Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Torsika Surakarta, **Jurnal Epigraphe**, Riris Johanna Siagian, Telaah Kritis Konstruktif Struktur dan Isi Pemahaman Bersama Iman Kristen dalam Perspektif Lutheran, D O I : 10.33991/epigraphe.v3i1.51

everybody enjoy his or her belief and help them to build good communication in love and harmony. Every effort for growing the spirituality for the believers of every religion is very important. That is will support the believers to show the excellent character. So everyone from different group of religion can love each other, so that the harmony life in Indonesian context can be gotten.

The excellent character is formed by two factors, like as: excellent spirituality, excellent quality.¹¹ In this case, the excellent spirituality is formed by openness to build the intensive relation in God. The word of intensive means not only how to know Him as a central figure but also how to commit to realize the whole of live in obedience of Him. By the externalization process, someone will be shown as an excellent character.

The excellent quality was gotten by formal education¹² and non formal which is some of values is received as moral education. Both of good spirituality and good quality will make someone be a character person, in Batak's word is called *marsahala*. As long as the history of education by misionary in Batak land shows that the most important of the goal of education is how to build the moral values and the strong discipline to get the excellent character. So that by history, we know that the goal of education is transfer of moral attitude.¹³

Although many people recognize that they can not enjoy the ritual for growing a good relationship with God, but HKBP as a church still have new hope to be exist as a religion as an institution because according to the research that the majority of the HKBP laity usually has the great love of their church HKBP. It is a attitude of fanaticism for the church, until 1.221 persons or 76 % from the whole number. This is a good chance to start to prepare the ritual be well and good function for the followers. Many critics from out of the church can be understood as a part of their love for the church. Finally, this is a part of growing the church.

Conclusion

By this writing, we know that there are relation of the understanding of religion with motivation and attitude of religion. All of the factors have a strong and good connection. So, the believers are the people who are show and manifestate their religion in their attitude of life. And, the attitude of leaders are most important as an example to the believers.

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¹¹See. Sekolah Tinggi Theologia STAR'S LUB Luwuk Banggai, **Jurnal Visio Dei**, Riris Johanna Siagian, Sahala Kepemimpinan Perempuan Dalam Konteks Masyarakat Batak dan Alkitab, page. 122-140, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.35909/visiodei.v1i1.13>, see too. Riris Johanna Siagian, **Sahala Bagi Pemimpin: Dulu dan Kini**, page. 90-116.

¹²Mohamad Mustari, **Nilai Karakter**, Yogyakarta: Laksbang Pressindo, 2011, page. 8.

¹³Riris Johanna Siagian, **Sahala Bagi Pemimpin: Dulu dan Kini**, page. 139-166.

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