

Nationalism and Citizenship Perception in Ex-East Timor Students at IKIP Budi Utomo Malang

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Abstract. The East Timor referendum that happened in 1999 has changed many things in the lives of the people of the island of Timor. Previously, this island only consisted of one country, but now it is divided into two countries. This has led to changes in the lives of Timorese people, especially those who were previously lived in East Timor but later decided to move and choose to be Indonesian citizens. The views of those who were once Timorese citizens towards citizenship and nationalism are certainly different from those who have never experienced the separation of the country. In a few people who are on the border, have crossed the border, and see their place of birth as a different country, there are certainly a number of interesting things that can be explored. The concept of nationalism was actually born in the modern era since the formation of a political institution called the state. This study tries to see how the perception of IKIP Budi Utomo students ex-East Timor towards nationalism and the concept of citizenship in themselves. The research method used is qualitative. The informants in this research were chosen specifically as IKIP Budi Utomo students who have been born in East Timor and lived there for several years. Data collection is done through interviews and observations. From this research, it is known that these students prefer to become Indonesian citizens because of the access to the education they receive, family, and better security.

Keywords: Nationalism, Citizenship, Student, Ex-East Timor

INTRODUCTION

In 1999, through a referendum held in East Timor (now Timor Leste), the region officially broke away from the 27th province of Indonesia. The country then officially gained its independence on May 20th, 2002. Previously, from 1975 to 1999, the area formerly known as Portuguese Timor became part of Indonesia.

Van Klinken [1] explained that at the end of 1998, many regions outside Java demanded their autonomy. This was also accompanied by separatist movements such as those in East Timor, Aceh and Papua. This movement was initiated by the local community in the area. Instead of improving

citizens' rights, this movement is mostly aimed at increasing local control over central government subsidies.

This action then led to the decentralization, followed by regional autonomy in all regions in Indonesia. This encourages political strengthening at a very local level and changes political conditions so that regional heads and members of the DPR are directly elected by the local public. This specifically strengthens the status of citizens in the political field because they have greater control over the state and government than before.

The separation of East Timor into an independent state called Timor Leste was one of the impacts of a number of these movements. Even so, the upheaval that occurred in East Timor had actually occurred even before the period of integration with Indonesia. This also continued to occur during Indonesia's reign in the country.

The referendum and separation of East Timor made the people in the region divided into two groups. Some people in East Timor who are pro-integration with Indonesia, some decided to leave the country when they separated from Indonesia. Some people from East Timor live in the western part of the island of Timor, but there are also people who cross and move to a number of places including Java.

This movement also emphasized their status as Indonesian citizens. However, this does not necessarily break their relations with this place that is now known as East Timor. The long-life they lived in the country and the presence of relatives and family there made this relationship uninterrupted.

For some students who are on the border, who have crossed the border, and see their place of birth as a different country, there are certainly some interesting things that can be explored. In themselves, the concepts of nationalism and citizenship they have will certainly be different from many people who have not experienced any of these things. The concept of nationalism was actually born in the modern era since the formation of a political institution called the state. Meanwhile, citizenship already has a much longer history.

This nationalism has a very close relationship with the identity of an individual or group of people. Sen [2] explained that feeling and identity could make a meaningful contribution to the strengths and deficiencies of our relationships with other parties, such as neighbours, members of the same

community, fellow citizens, or adherents of the same religion

The perceptions and views held by these students towards nationalism in themselves and citizenship will certainly be different and interesting to study. The interaction and adaptation that they do in the place where they now live that is, the city of Malang can also influence the thinking they have. Therefore, researchers are interested in conducting research on "Perceptions of Nationalism and Citizenship on IKIP Budi Utomo Malang Students ex-East Timor".

METHOD

The approach used in this research is qualitative research. A qualitative approach is "research method that emphasizes the perspective of the research object in obtaining findings about the object of research" [3]. In this study, researchers want to try to capture naturally the phenomena that occur in everyday life.

This research was conducted to ex-East Timor students of IKIP Budi Utomo Malang. The selection of informants is made by selecting specifically those who are known to be ex-East Timor. Furthermore, this informant will look for other sources with the same conditions. Informants from this study were taken from ex-East Timor students of IKIP Budi Utomo Malang.

At the beginning of this study, researchers looked for IKIP Budi Utomo Malang students who had lived in the province of East Timor. With the sampling technique used, the researcher will look for other informants from the initial informants used in this research. The presence of researchers as research instruments seeks to make a full observation of the research subject and openly state its role. After the required data or information is obtained, the next step is to organize the data by selecting, dividing, and classifying them systematically.

The data source of this research is ex-East Timor students from IKIP Budi Utomo Malang. Since the beginning of the study, researchers have determined several students who will be informants in this study. Then there will be interviews with a number of informants about the perceptions of these ex-East Timorese students about nationalism and citizenship.

In this study, researchers used interviews and observations. The type of interview used is a non-structured interview. Interview technique in this research is to use unstructured interview techniques so that at the time of the interview took place, the atmosphere that occurs can be relaxed and seem reasonable. Interviews do not use guidelines systematically so that the interview process runs as it is but is still in the context of the themes raised in this study.

Observations in this study were made by observing the reading habits of respondents on the day the data was collected. This observation was carried out to see the extent of adaptation that they do in their daily lives both in behaviour and daily communication. After data from all the methods used were collected, the researcher conducted a triangulation of interviews and field notes used.

RESULT & DISCUSSION

The perception of nationalism among ex-East Timorese students is the main thing examined in this study. From three informants who became informants in this study, the views of nationalism that they have are quite different. Even so, one common thread that binds is about their love of Indonesia.

In the first speaker, DT, nationalism was considered not merely geographical and state boundaries. He even considered that nationalism was not the same thing as the love of the motherland or nation. Love of the nation is considered only lead to chauvinistic behaviour while nationalism is in the form of the attitude it shows in treating others well. This can be in the form of frequent greetings, living together, and showing togetherness with others.

The view of nationalism that emerged in this DT could occur because of the history he had. Nationalism as a manifestation of state awareness grows in an independent state. In fact, it is precisely in an independent country that nationalism can develop freely according to the ability and willingness of its own citizens without experiencing pressure from other parties. The way of national thinking has special characteristics, in the form of objective norms; prioritizing the interests of national life [4].

The difference regarding nationalism and patriotism as deemed by DT is in line with the views of Ben Anderson [5]. In his perspective, Anderson [5] considers that many people are wrong to use the term nationalism as a synonym of a nation. In fact, nationalism refers to a set of ways of thinking or beliefs about the state. Certain countries will have different views on a character so that differences will arise between countries which usually will end up as political differences. Some people will view their country as supporting individual freedom while some are willing to lose it for the sake of security.

The way of thinking about the country owned by DT is quite fluid and indeed is not limited by the love of the homeland. This makes the nationalism it has is a set of values or social concepts that can give birth to the conditions of an ideal society. Therefore, this is not only limited to geographical boundaries or country-specific symbols.

In the second informant, JA, his national view is not as concrete as DT, the first informant. He mentioned that his nationalism was in the form of a

strong love for Indonesia. In the form of nationalism he demonstrated, JA showed it in his refusal to work in Timor Leste despite having greater economic opportunities was one of the things he did.

The condition of JA's nationalism can be said to be very dependent on equality of status in the form of equality of citizenship. Robet and Boli Tobi [6] explain that citizenship is generally understood in the context of relations between individuals and the state. Citizenship can be understood as full and equal membership in a political community which in this case, means the state [7]. Relationship in the form of a person's love like JA with this country makes him an Indonesian citizen who really loves his country.

The third informant, AD, did not limit his view of nationalism to the extent of symbols and national borders. In view of the nationalism it has, it is emphasized regarding one's fundamental understanding of the various differences that exist in this country. AD considers that nationalism occurs when everyone can exchange ideas and respect people of different cultures.

Implicitly, this view of AD explains that the nationalism it adopts is not held hostage by differences in identity. This is based on a view that does not consider yourself superior to others. Sen [2] explained that taste and identity could make a meaningful contribution to the strengths and deficiencies of our relationships with other parties, such as neighbours, members of the same community, fellow citizens, or adherents of the same religion. In a variety of different ways, identifying yourself with other parties can be very important for community life.

In the case of AD, this view of nationalism is manifested in a shared identity in the form of the status of an Indonesian citizen. Even so, other things such as ethnicity, religion, and other factors do not form the basis of making one identity higher than the others.

The emergence of a sense of nationalism in the resource persons certainly cannot just happen overnight. To them, this might even be a deep reflection and recollection of family life history. Living in the border area and seeing the land of birth is now a different country is something that is not experienced by everyone. Various fundamental reasons might be the cause of why the emergence of a sense of nationalism in themselves.

In general, all speakers acknowledged that their sense of nationalism arose because of two main things that Indonesia could provide. Both are education and security. As people who previously lived in the border area, these speakers were accustomed to interacting with various things that are typical of Timor Leste. They even witnessed and heard for themselves how more promising income could be obtained while working in Timor Leste. Even so, the protection provided by the state

and the great opportunity to obtain education makes them still choose to become Indonesian citizens.

The choice of security is a matter that indeed underlies many people in choosing the status of citizens. Anderson [5] even assumed that some people would view their country as supporting individual freedom, while some were willing to lose it for the sake of security. The state of security provided by this country is an important thing that is desirable, especially for those who have experienced conflict conditions such as for students who have experienced this East Timor referendum.

Although these students already have quite diverse perceptions and concepts of nationalism, the three of them still understand it in a similar form. Active involvement in the community in the form of maintaining order is something that these students do as a form of nationalism. In addition, they also consider support and linkages with various symbols and state representatives as a form of nationalism.

DT marks the attitude of nationalism and love for this country in the form of involvement in various organizations and activities. In addition, he also has various national symbols such as the Indonesian flag and the Indonesian National Team's red and white shirt. This made him undergo nationalism both in an active role in society and in the form of ownership of state symbols.

The concrete form of nationalism shown by the second resource person, JA, is in the form of involvement in maintaining the territorial integrity of Indonesia. Concretely, this is done by maintaining order around the boarding house and residence. The association with the symbol or in this case the representative of the country is also shown by JA in the form of support it provides to the national team.

Active involvement in the community was also demonstrated by the third participant, AD. He proved this by involvement in mutual cooperation activities, community service, road cleaning, and youth activities conducted around the neighbourhood. Support for Indonesian representatives was also shown by supporting the work of the Indonesian national team in various competitions in the international arena.

In particular, the involvement of students in maintaining the order and integrity of Indonesia is a way that they deem appropriate in showing nationalism. The views of these speakers are in line with Smith's thoughts [8] about nationalism as an ideological movement to achieve and maintain the identity, unity, and autonomy of social groups whose members consider it to form a potential or actual state. Nationalism can be formed before the state or in this formation effort. However, this can also happen when a country is formed. Two of these possibilities can occur [7].

The love possessed by the speakers with various symbols and state representatives makes their nationalism often confused with patriotism. There are no truly fundamental differences regarding nationalism and patriotism. Although nationalism is often mistaken for patriotism, there are substantive differences between the two. Patriotism is more focused on the love of institutions and ways of life that maintain one's general freedom. Meanwhile, nationalism is more focused on the political value of citizenship [7].

In general, the various actions exhibited by these speakers are often misunderstood as nationalism, but in reality, this attitude is patriotism. This makes them even though in the concept of assuming their nationalism is not confined by boundaries and merely shows, and more on the ideal value of community life becomes trapped again in patriotism which is trapped in symbols and love of institutions alone.

CONCLUSION

The young age when the separation of East Timor from Indonesia occurred led the interviewees to follow their families for an exodus. The main factor that drove them out of East Timor was the security conditions that were no longer guaranteed. This makes their families willing to leave their property and even work in East Timor to seek safety for the family.

Cultural relationships and elements of kinship are things that cause the resource persons to have a deep connection with Timor Leste. This is the main cause and is stronger than the reason for the country as their birthplace. This strong kinship caused East Timor's secession to be quite unfortunate for the speakers because it made their families separate. As people who live in border areas, the interviewees also claimed to have visited Timor Leste several times.

In general, all speakers acknowledged that their sense of nationalism arose because of two main things that Indonesia could provide. Both are education and security. As people who previously lived in the border area, these speakers were accustomed to interacting with various things that are typical of Timor Leste. They even witnessed and heard for themselves how more promising income could be obtained while working in Timor

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Although these students already have quite diverse perceptions and concepts of nationalism, the three of them still understand it in a similar form. Active involvement in the community in the form of maintaining order is something that these students do as a form of nationalism. In addition, they also consider support and linkages with various symbols and state representatives as a form of nationalism.

Conceptually, nationalism has a view of an ideal value in society and is not only confined to national borders or state symbolism. However, although the concept of assuming the nationalism that is owned is not confined by boundaries and merely show on societal ideals, they become trapped again in patriotism form in symbols and love of institutions.

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