

Netizen Civilization

Mutation of Citizen to Netizen

(Changing Disaster into Virtue)

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Abstract: It is netizen civilization era, the era in which economic booming and the entrance of information and communication technology have led us to the concept of cyberspace citizen (netizen). Prevalent drug trading and human trafficking have generated a moral crisis and broken religious belief. Human beings live in profane setting bringing the world to materialism way. Religious life is replaced with prevalent offering of profane life, coupled with prevalent trans-national crime, civil war in East Europe, horizontal conflict, and hedonistic generation's boisterousness. Domestically, Indonesia has entered into reformation era (Purwasito: 2003) in any sectors. The state tries to deal with the economic crisis, to reform bureaucracy, to eradicate corruption, and to improve public participation in democratization process such as accomplishing the General Election. Despite unsatisfactory result, the intention of reformation ideals and the intention to change the life into the better one have been implemented sincerely. Since the inception of reformation coming suddenly like flood without roadmap, we cannot perform good governance correctly immediately. Amid political and economic problem messiness, in social public domain, we have experienced a shift called citizen mutation characterized with the change of citizen's character from citizen to netizen. Such change starts a new era of citizen civilization, its difference and effect are very significant on any aspects of life within society, particularly in communication pattern.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Economist, "the world is in your pocket." (Cairncross: 2001). Distance Length has been broken and traveling time has been removed, history is faster than expected.

Globalization is a blessing characterized with the presence of internet. Our world is no longer reality and the invisible one, but we have had virtual world now. Virtual world is a new life system built through information and communication technology system as its foundation. World reality, invisible reality, and virtual reality are our world now so-called "World is in our pocket". This so broad world can be reached through satellite, wireless and internet. Even invisible world can be seen through infrared light. It is that we called globalization era. On the one hand, globalization brings many conveniences and benefits, but on the other hand globalization also brings many extreme changes and disasters anywhere. The contact between human beings with

different cultural background have been new chapter in history but instead such contact and interaction often result in humanity disaster and conflict.

In netizen civilization, culture that should be unifier instead becomes a beginning of misunderstanding and disharmonious relation. Human beings are coming from different cultural backgrounds, when they are meeting and influencing each other, it will cause conflict and war (Samovar et al.; 1972). It means that the State which is playing a dominant role in citizen era has been replaced with the stronger netizen. The role of state is ignored or more abandoned. Similarly, the recognition of a nation's sovereignty borders has been ignored (Cairncross:2001).

From elaboration above, it can be summarized that globalization and internetization are the beginning of the shift of human citizenship concept and status, from our concept of traditional citizen into global citizen or netizen. This shift is a big *hijrah* in human life. This new civilization inception highly affects community's communicating life,

viewed from communicator, channel, message, communicant aspects, and effects resulting.

2 METHODS

This Research is carried-out using qualitative approach. The data for this research is non-numerical series and cannot be classified according to categories or structural classifications. Main data and informations collected through observation. The Qualitative research method enables the interviewees to be examined and questioned in depth further on the basis of their answers.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Netizen civilization is characterized with the change and the move of citizenship status, having consequence on potential changing behavior and character of citizens. Netizen is not citizen creature, but a new creature with new mind and status, as the metamorphosis of human beings who are born from natural transformation of information and communication technology. Old paradigm assumes that power is concentrated on and controlled by the King, or the King is central, controls all of information. Now it has been out of ate. In netizen civilization, information monopoly has vanished. Information now belongs to everyone (anybody controls information) and anybody can be a source. Now anybody can claim the truth without showing an evidence and without needing a moral. Independence and freedom of information have been a real time in netizen civilization.

Previously, citizen becomes target and goal of information, but now netizen becomes not only audience but also source of information. Communication becomes space-less and real time flowing continuously and incessantly. Millions information flow every second whether it came from a reliable source or unreliable one and to falsified information. For that reason, Indonesia, through its Ministry of Communication and Information, blocked thousand sites. But in the following, second million sites are born.

Now, we are netizen rather than citizen. Our current character, consciously or unconsciously, has changed as well. Our behavior and mental state also change. In this transition period, we experience a process into the new us. We see that the change of netizen-human's character and behavior resulting a cultural shock. Our mind and heart have changed

unintentionally. Our reference world through ICT has falsified reality into illusion and our imagination becomes hallucination over dreams of secular heaven living in virtual world. People likely leave taboos, and our children no longer know taboos, decorum, etiquette, and noble character because virtual world promises beautiful dreams and matchless enjoyment.

We also see counter culture established by some conservatives. They oppose netizen culture as the counter culture in many ways. Some of them use pluralism, multiculturalism, unity and diversity, and so far, we still hold on Pancasila.

Netizen civilization is like Tsunami in Aceh and Japan, a massive global cultural wave through global network, internetization. Netizen civilization also resulting in cultural mainstream, cultural homogenization (Purwasito, 2015) massively and concomitantly generating likely more extreme movements such as religion purification activity in vis-à-vis with secular culture preferred by netizen that in turn resulting a resistance against netizen's culture that can increase conflict exhalation and instability.

Netizen civilization has brought out a new concept of identity and community. At individual level, it is indicated with community's participation in building network and building small community based on the same hobby. It is facilitated with social media which is growing like mushrooms in rainy season. The small examples of it are *wayang* (puppet) community, *Cangklong* lover community, animal lover community, jazz music lover community, and etc. They are not acquainted with each other but they are connected or linked through the same hobby. Those communities are introducing themselves in limited manner, but then transactional communication occurs. It is dependent on its members' intensity.

The elaboration above indicates that new netizen civilization follows nano-culture pattern such as (1) minimalist, (2) simple, (3) detail but (4) fashionable.

At international level, state actor is getting more worried about war threat, leading it to develop a new strategy about as same as that at individual level, in which they assemble in a community of good states at both regional and international scales. They protect themselves from external threat by means of cooperating in safety and economy sectors by issuing a variety of regulations and mutually benefiting cooperation.

At the same time, international politics is also characterized with regional war, stronger terrorism and trans-national crime, Islam State (ISIS)

movement, nuclear, and biological weapon use, all of which indicate that a shift has occurred from citizen to netizen behavior, the change leading to the global interest conflict ending up in regional conflict or economic war. In Javanese term it is called “*nabok nyilih tangan*”.

From the elaboration above it can be seen clearly that transparent access on the one hand will encourage everyone to be a source of communication, characterized with both resistance messages and more aggressive attitude and behavior. On the other hand, they also look for a new way in order to survive and to be self sufficient (Purwasito, 2012), like the inception of EU (European Union) in Europe and AEC (ASEAN Economic Community) in South East Asia.

Internal discourse has produced anarchic messages, generating a typical character of netizen, changing old habit and custom into the new ones, that is, to operate communication pattern through new media.

Internetization has encouraged netizen to adapt to ICT technology and the system creates a new internet-based life. Their preoccupation with using new technology like internet opens new world, norm and value, and constructs new definition of life. Even according to the author’s observation, netizen expresses its idea and thought regardless the negative effect it results in.

3.1 ON-LINE SYSTEM

Netizen civilization develops in virtual world, through cyberspace network. Internetization has encouraged and facilitated netizen in developing themselves both individual and in community online. They do business activity, communicate and express through social media, blog, and online chatting characterized with *click* and *share* symbols.

Netizen civilization is an online-based electronic civilization. All lines of life, from college in which we know SIAKAD (Academic Information), Irish, Remuneration, Payroll, research administration system and community service, including reporting and payment system, tax payment, transfer, purchasing in online shop, ticket and service reservation, including prostitution business, are all done online.

Netizen civilization has special codes or typical language that is never used in citizen civilization such as @.com, # and * *click, share, # save*, and etc. Those linguistic symbol and instruction have characterized as a netizen culture. Those not having

felt being a netizen should begin to learn new language and symbol created by online technology in order not to be misled and deceived, to make us walk as expected.

Netizen civilization is also characterized with the stronger role of non-state actors in utilizing ICT and online media to influence others, to make cultural hegemony, to build global capitalism through standards they specify. Intellectual hegemony as shown by Scopus and ISO institution or THES in UK are the form of new colonialism called intellectual imperialism.

We should not be afraid, but we should only be aware and should treat the intellectual imperialism considerately. It is indeed difficult for us to decline the global standard and even we consider it more important than anything we have had. But remember that any form of imperialism is a humanity imperialism effort intended to extract financial benefit. They use new witchcraft, from democratization, world class university to capitalnet jargons. It is a moral and intellectual hegemony, finer than gunpowder.

We have been subjected to the capitalistic global standard as well. Indonesian netizens, including intellectuals, academicians, and religionists, have been subjected and submitted to the capital netizen’s instructions. Such the subjection and submissiveness can be seen from how our education realm sees life and progress, how we see the future world by following global standardization that can break our cultural identity. Many of us even revere and recognize the standard developed by colonialist we hated and were angry with in the past. History never becomes a good lesson for our nation.

We have paid homage to and paid Gods of netizen civilization with our people’s money in order to be world-class. Ironically, State and Nation’s sovereignty stake blood and sacrifice, have been resold to the world hegemonic community. Why don’t we have our distinctive way to BERDIKARI (to stand on our own feet), Soekarno said. It means that we should be standing on our own feet as the step, as the capital, to have bargaining position with outside world, before we fall down to capitalnet game, before we are misled. There is no best standard but the one based on our own dynamic and potency. *Adiluhung* norm and value bases we have had should be formulated for netizen civilization today. Bung Karno (Soekarno) had said, “*kembalilah kepada nilai-nilai ketimuran dan Jasmerah atau jangan sekali-kali melupakan sejarah*”) (English: please return to eastern values and *Jasmerah* or never forgetting history”). It just

like Fernand Braudel said “*le passe explique le present* (Braudel: 1969), meaning that the past is needed to explain the future).

We believe that it is the choice for the present and the future. What Ronggowarsito has said is correct, “*Inilah zaman edan, apabila kamu tidak mengikuti dan mengamini kehendak zaman, maka kamu akan ketinggalan dan tidak kebagian berkahnya*”, meaning that it is a crazy age, so if you want to get an achievement and livelihood you have to, and it requires your agreement to never questioning and never declining.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Netizen Civilization: Changing Disaster into Virtue

To change disaster into blessing, we should prepare at least the following foundations:

1. **Global Hidden Agenda Setting**, that any information has loaded a content to achieve global interest, politically, economically, socially or culturally. Thus, awareness is desirable.
2. **Community is a power**, safeguarding (social, religious, cultural, economic, and political) community as a power to build a harmonious life. Building tolerance social life through community participation in promoting national belongs to global spirit. New netizen civilization follows nano-culture patterns such as (1) minimalistic, (2) simple, (3) detail but (4) fashionable.
3. **Desire for interdependence** is to minimize aggressive behavior, ensuring the feeling of secure, and keep holding on tightly on piety and belief in One and the Only God, building a world replete with fraternity.
4. **Technology of freedom** means that primordialism has been broken. Technology has considered performance as more promising than competence.

It is the theory I develop so far.

$MP = V$

MP = message packaging, V is Virtue/

Formula above reads: “Anyone packages the message appropriately will benefit.”

That is all and thank you.

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