

Sustainable Development Discourses on Construction of Citizen Participation in Community Care for Environment

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Abstract—This paper will provide new insight into the participatory social construction of citizens in the protection and management of the environment. Exploring individual discourses and interactions in constructing citizen participation. This paper is produced by a case study with a qualitative approach. Data collection using interview, observation and document study, then analyzed using Critical Discourse Analysis and Interactive Analysis. Research finds discourse on sustainable development of opinion articles constructing citizen participation. But the construction of participation is a dynamic process formed through action and interaction. The involvement of individuals in key communities provides the construction experience of citizen participation. Individuals build the reality of their participation on an ongoing basis as civic competence increases.

Keywords—*citizen participation; construction of social reality; sustainable development discourse; social communities*

I. INTRODUCTION

The low level of environmental awareness is the problem of Indonesian urban society [1]. This is also reflected in Medan City. Medan city is experiencing environmental damage. The environmental damage is reflected in Medan's worst-ever 4th-place air pollution in the world, trash, green open space disproportionate, flood, pollution and exploitation of the delirious rivers of Deli and Belawan rivers.

Ecologically humans are part of the environment [2], environmental damage is part of the deterioration of human life. The demands of citizen participation in development change the paradigm of society in the development process. Citizens are the subject of development, no longer as an object of development [3]. Since the concept of sustainable development was present. The important discourse of sustainable development is issues of citizen participation at the practical and institutional level [4]. Norms built on discourses on specific areas can be harmonized to support active participation and support the creation of collective knowledge [4]. Discourse practice can have a positive effect and contribute directly or indirectly to the progress of citizen involvement to participate [5].

Citizen participation is shaped through a dynamic process that is reconstructed in social groups [6]. Discourse is a good

way of building citizen participation [7]. Social cohesion on discourse is identified as promoting civic education and encouraging citizen participation change [8,9]. Correspondingly, Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 32 Year 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management provides equal opportunity and widest area to actively participate in environmental protection and management.

This study is based on two questions, namely (a) how the construction of citizen participation in the discourse of sustainable development and (2) how social construction of citizen participation in environmentally care community in Medan City.

II. THEORETICAL

A. The Social Construction

Social construction views human as the creator of human's reality. Social construction is a social process through action and interaction [10]. Individuals are constantly creating reality subjectively in society [11, 12]. The formation of a reality is a dialectical process between individuals creating society and society creating individuals [10]. Construction comes when people try to give meaning to an activity or social phenomenon [13].

The dialectical process occurs in three simultaneous dialectical moments namely (a) externalization, (b) objectivation and (c) internalization [10]. Overall individual activity occurs in externalization. As individuals devote themselves constantly to understanding discourse, environmental and sociocultural phenomena. Externalization occurs in physical and mental activity through actions and interactions that occur [14]. Thus, externalization takes place when participation is created in society, then the individual adapts into his sociocultural [12].

The moment of objectivation is the moment in which social interaction in the institutionalized intersubjective world [12]. At this moment, participation is institutionalized. The process of habituation is very important in objectivation [14]. Language of the construction process is an effective symbolic tool added in the process of objectivation [10, 12]. Finally, the moment of internalization is understanding through the direct

interpretation of events subjectively. Then be made subjective meaning for the individual himself [12,14]. The process is a re-interpreting of reality through self-identification.

B. Citizen Participation

Participation is related to participating in an activity [15]. Menurut Timothy in [16] citizen participation there are two forms such as participation (1 in the process of influencing public policy, and (2) directly to the community solve the problem. Both such participation is the power of society to overcome its problems in the present to achieve a better life in the future [16].

Participation as a form of physical, mental and emotional involvement of a person in a group that encourages him to contribute to group goals. Furthermore, participation is influenced by one's ability, knowledge and responsibility [17, 18]. Citizen participation is intended as an individual process of taking part in communities that affect them [19]. Correspondingly, citizen participation is a dynamic process reconstructed within a social community [6].

C. Discourse on Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development is a visionary development concept to meet the needs of the present without compromising the resources that future generations need to meet their needs [20]. The discourse of sustainable development is not just a technical development with respect to the environment. The most important is citizen participation at the practical and institutional level [4]. Citizen participation to engage in vast mechanisms is an important discourse for sustaining the Development of Sustainability [21].

Discourse is a series of speeches or sentences. Discourse reveals a thing that is presented regularly, systematically in a coherent unity and shaped by segmental and non segmental elements of language [22, 23]. Discourse as a process of reality construction by the discourse maker, reflects the first reality of the state of things, things, situations, events, people and so forth [23]. Discourse is a form of social action combined with a goal by the discourse maker [24].

III. METHOD

The research method used is a case study with qualitative approach. Purposeful Sampling is used to determine the source of research data. Using Purposeful Sampling technique, because it gives the researchers the opportunity to choose the right object and subject to study [25] the social construction process of citizen participation. The object of research is the daily newspaper opinion article in Medan City to know the participation of the citizens who are constructed. The research subject is a member of the environmental community in Medan City.

This research uses interview, document study and observation data collection technique. The data collected were analyzed using Critical Discourse Analysis [26] and Interactive Analysis [27]. Validation data using techniques extend observations; member check; triangulation of collection techniques and data sources.

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The language of the newspaper is not just a tool to describe the form of participation, but it is able to determine the construction of meaning for participation in the minds of the public [28]. The Critical Discourse Analysis finds discourse in daily newspaper opinion articles in Medan City constructing the reality of citizen participation. The participation is classified into three areas: (a) protection, (b) management, and (c) raising community awareness in environmental protection and management.

In another analysis, the respondents said that the discourse on opinion articles is not only able to form their participation. The opinion article forms the "social shock of knowledge" of the respondents. The languages in the article affect the dialectics of participation construction. Respondents confirmed that their participation was formed because the respondents had lived in the real problem. It is influenced by the increased interest and sense of individual responsibility after the community has solved the environmental problems. Because the individual's participation in environmental affairs through the community is getting higher [29, 30].

During social construction discourse engagement is very important [31]. Moreover, the construction of reality in discourse has relevance to the actual situation experienced [22]. Such as inform the impact of environmental damage, people's behavior does not protect the environment, low government commitment, the need for citizen participation in the field of environment and so forth. It is a process of habituation to construct commitments and intellectual assumptions of participation based on the construction of reality on discourse [31]. Individuals can question, analyze, and develop what and how citizen participation reduces environmental problems.

Construction begins when there is conformity between participation in the article text [23] with the need to participate in addressing environmental concerns [10, 32]. Individuals try to give meaning to discourse, social phenomena and environmental phenomena in unconscious social activities [13]. Individuals just want to interpret social phenomena just because it is considered relevant to the needs [10]. So it is very necessary to maintain the discourse of sustainable environmental development in the formation of citizen participation in the community. The whole is made to reflect a social process [31].

Such involvement, individuals customize their past experiences (social shock of knowledge) with new information gained. The most effective social construction is to involve the respondent directly into the real situation. At this stage occurs the process of social learning [33, 34]. The process as the individual learns through the complex interaction of himself with anyone and anything [34]. Interaction with anyone is an interaction with other individuals such as fellow community, community members, and government. Interaction with anything is individual interaction with discourse, observing environmental and sociocultural phenomena. Individuals observe the causes of environmental damage and the impact caused by environmental damage.

TABLE I. SUMMARIZES THE FINDINGS IN THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION PROCESS OF PARTICIPATION AT 3 MOMENTS

Moments	Findings
Externalization	Understand that the social construction of participation in discourse represents the context of the phenomenon experienced and understands the respondents. Respondents found the relevance of social construction participation in discourse with the "social shock of knowledge" of respondents because respondents have life in environmental problems. It is derived from activities and interactions on community participation.
Objectivation	Discover patterns of participation (typification) during subjective interaction with the discourse and direct participation of community communities. The discovery is because respondents interact continuously. Participation is formed through the process of habituation when the involvement of respondents in community activities.
Internalisation	Respondents thought participation was a necessity. Due to the emergence of empathy, responsibility and awareness of respondents on environmental issues. Participation in the community enhances the knowledge, responsibility and ability of the respondents to protect the environment. Respondents assume that it is not himself who is maintaining this environment.

Citizen participation is influenced by the ability, knowledge and elements of responsibility. Participation as a form of physical, mental and emotional involvement in groups that encourages it to contribute to group goals [17, 18, 35]. Knowledge, attitudes and skills increases with respondents' experiences [36]. Along with that, there is a process of learning construction occurs in the interactions and situations in the mastery and completion of skills, attitudes and knowledge of individuals [37].

The impact of social construction on the context of this research is the participation of citizens in the field of environment. Respondents are aware of the experience of participation creating discomfort and responsibility protecting and managing the environment. Participation in the community provides a different learning experience. Changes in thinking patterns, cognitive processes and empathy encourage individuals to continue to participate as a basis for their satisfaction and goodness [38].

Discourse and Individual involvement improves citizenship competence [39]. The competencies are used to understand the technically difficult situation and see the overall solution of the problem. Social construction encourages one to rethink what is natural, why it happens, why it feels so [31]. By placing discourses [23] that form the structure of reality (participation). Discourse can explain what they have to do better, why, and how it is different from what has happened before [31]. According to Robles [31] using "social construction" is a way to get people to rethink their role in addressing the real problem through individual involvement and discourse maintained within the social community.

In the process of learning constructivism [37], looking at each individual building his own participation. In parallel, it is important to develop an important environmental concern for

habituation [40]. Thus, the construction process can not be done quickly. Individuals conventionally assimilate new information, past experiences, and apply to subsequent actions [34]. So that individual empowerment within the community makes it possible to encourage active citizen [30, 36]. Because in addition to discourse, the construction of citizen participation requires action and interaction [4].

V. CONCLUSION

The participatory construction process begins when the individual tries to interpret the meaning of the discourse and its relevance to social phenomena. The process happens unconsciously. The individual is constructed if there is any relevance between his social shock of knowledge and the new knowledge gained. The influence of language on discourse on the construction of participation is on the creation of interpretation of reality. Empowerment of individual participation in the community enables the establishment of an active citizen. This is because the individual is an active learner who develops their own participation. Individual participation in the community increases the knowledge, attitudes and skills of citizenship. The experience of participating directly related to the formation of empathy and environmental responsibility. It is produced repeatedly so that institutionalization is formed through the process of habituation.

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