



The Role Of Multicultural Education On Attitudes And Politeness In Language

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| ABSTRACT

Indonesia is a country that is rich in cultural, religious, ethnic, and linguistic diversity. With this diversity, there is a demand for understanding and appreciation of these differences. One way is with multicultural education. This study aims to find out how much the role of multicultural education in shaping attitudes and politeness in language. This research method uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a literature study method taken from the journals in the Google Scholar database. The results showed that multicultural education became a crucial approach in instilling attitudes and politeness in language as a form of respect for the diversity of culture, religion, ethnicity, and race in Indonesia. Multicultural education is integrated into the curriculum in order to form awareness of the importance of politeness in language in the context of diversity.

| KEYWORDS:

Multicultural education, attitude, politeness, language

I. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country with a highly diverse society in terms of religion, ethnicity, race, culture, customs, language, and other aspects. This diversity can be a challenge in an effort to unite the nation, but at the same time has the potential to strengthen unity in differences [13]. The existence of this diversity requires an understanding and appreciation of cultural differences, including in language. The use of language that is rude to cultural differences can create tension and damage harmony. This diversity makes Indonesian society a multicultural society [10].

Language is one of the elements in intercultural communication. As a means of communication, language facilitates the exchange of ideas, emotional expression, the dissemination of information, and the conceptualization of thoughts in social interactions [25]. In simple terms, language skills, especially speaking skills and understanding of polite communication ethics, are important capital for speech participants to ensure smooth social interaction in society [4]. Meanwhile, politeness represents attitudes and behaviors based on ethics and social norms. As a cultural element, the standard of politeness is relative between communities. In communication, language politeness is an important indicator that reflects a person's level of education, ethics, and cultural maturity, while building a positive image as an effective communicator [25].

Education plays a crucial role in the formation of a person's character and behavior patterns, as well as serves as a foundation for the development of a personality with integrity. Including instilling the value of mutual respect and appreciation of differences. As an approach that respects and accommodates cultural diversity in the learning process, multicultural education is considered to be an effective solution to overcome the problem of intolerance. With the application of an educational approach based on multiculturalism, students are guided to appreciate

diversity as a fundamental element in social life. Conceptually, multicultural education is a learning process that focuses on cultural diversity, which aims to respond to the dynamics of demographic and cultural changes, both within certain communities and globally [15]. In the concept of multiculturalism, all forms of differences must be respected, because diversity is a beautiful gift and needs to be maintained in peace [14].

Multicultural education is the right approach to face these challenges. This approach focuses on strengthening attitudes to respect diversity and building student character that is tolerant, inclusive, and respectful of differences. Through multicultural education, Indonesia's young generation is expected to be able to understand the importance of living in harmony in a diverse society. In addition, this education plays a role in forming citizens who are more tolerant, inclusive, and contribute to maintaining peace and unity in the midst of diversity [9].

This research was conducted to provide an understanding that multicultural education can form inclusive language attitudes and behaviors and respect diversity. By understanding the relationship between multicultural education and language behavior, it is hoped that effective strategies can be developed to increase multicultural awareness and create a more inclusive and harmonious communication environment. This research offers novelty with a focus on linguistic politeness. This is relatively unexplored, especially in the context of how multicultural education can shape more inclusive language behaviors and respect cultural differences.

II. METHODOLOGY

This research uses the literature review method. Literature review is one of the methods that can be used in research activities. This method shows that a literature review is an important technique for testing or approaching a particular problem. In other words, literature review is a systematic methodology in producing theoretical studies that function to strengthen the foundation of scientific research and affirm the direction of an academic study [2]. The literature review process has met the ideal standards of research that produce objective and reliable findings. This is due to the use of reference materials in the form of scientific works and published materials based on valid data and information [23].

This study adopts a data collection method based on a literature review through exploration, analysis, and documentation of various relevant sources related to the research topic. Primary reference sources include scientific publications in the form of print/digital journals, conference proceedings, monographs, digital scientific papers, as well as other secondary sources such as dissertations and theses.

The author searched for scientific articles on Google Scholar using the keywords "multicultural education" and "language politeness". From the search, the author selected several articles that were relevant to the criteria for the year of publication after 2015. Furthermore, the author examines the overview of the study and the conclusions of the article to filter it into an academic paper that is most in line with the theme and topic to be discussed. In addition to the article, the author also looks for additional literature as a supporting reference.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. THE CONCEPT OF MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

Education is a learning process that involves knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes. Education is also defined as a planned and conscious action that aims to create a climate and learning activities that encourage students to actively develop their capacity, both in religious aspects, emotional control, personal character, and intellectual abilities [16]. Education is expected to guide students in the maturation process. One of the signs of maturity is having a distinctive character. Therefore, every adult individual has a character that reflects themselves. Thus, education plays a role in helping a person find and develop their identity [12].

Meanwhile, multicultural education can be interpreted as an educational effort that is oriented towards cultural diversity, which aims to respond to demographic changes and cultural dynamics in a certain society, even at the global level [15]. Multicultural education is also defined as an educational reform movement that is intended to revise the structure of educational institutions so that students with special needs, students of various races, ethnicities, and diverse cultural backgrounds still have equal opportunities in achieving success in school [21]. Multicultural education is also an effort to introduce and teach cultural diversity in Indonesia, such as Javanese, Sundanese, Minangkabau, Batak, Ambon, Sasak, Baduy, and other cultures [19].

Multicultural education aims to teach individuals to appreciate, understand, and accept differences in culture, religion, and ethnic background. This approach encourages the creation of an open and inclusive dialogue between groups, thereby reducing prejudice and discrimination [24]. Multicultural education aims to reform learning

methods and ensure that every child has equal opportunities. This is done by instilling broad insights, introducing diversity to students, and fostering an attitude of respect for differences [17]. By instilling the values of tolerance, multicultural education not only builds an inclusive educational institution and social environment, but also forms a generation that is ready to face the challenges of a world that is increasingly globally integrated through an attitude of respect for diversity between students [15].

B. THE ROLE OF MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION IN SHAPING POSITIVE ATTITUDES AND POLITENESS IN LANGUAGE

Attitude refers to a person's tendency to exhibit certain behaviors toward certain stimuli or objects. This behavior is formed based on the interaction between cognitive, affective, and behavioral components that exist in individuals. The manifestation of this tendency reflects the feelings or emotions that a person has [18]. Meanwhile, language politeness is basically a reflection of ethics in social interaction, which is shown through the selection and use of appropriate words, taking into account the context of place, time, interlocutor, and purpose of communication [6].

Through multicultural education, several things can be done so that students appreciate diversity more, namely, in the following ways:

1. Increase awareness of cultural diversity.

Through multicultural education, students are given an understanding of the importance of respecting differences in cultural, linguistic, and social norms in the community. Through this understanding, students are more aware that spoken language can have different meanings in other cultures. This can encourage them to be more careful and polite in their language. Multicultural education has played a role in building a harmonious society through increasing understanding and respecting differences such as differences in religion, beliefs, cultures, ethnicities, tribes, customs, languages, socio-economic status, ideology, politics, defense, and security [20].

2. Cultivate an attitude of empathy and understanding of each culture.

Through multicultural education, students are taught to understand cultural differences as something that must be appreciated. This learning helps foster empathy for others who come from different backgrounds is an important attitude. By having empathy, it will be easier for a person to create a harmonious life because they are encouraged to respect each other, accept differences, and avoid behaviors that can hurt others [4].

3. Reduce stereotypes and discrimination.

Multicultural education can reduce stereotypes or prejudices against differences so as to avoid social conflicts. By understanding diversity, students can understand that differences are not a threat but a strength. Through the integration of multicultural values into the curriculum and various school activities, educational institutions play a role in reducing the level of prejudice, encouraging the growth of tolerance, and strengthening social ties in the community [11].

4. Encourage inclusive use of language.

Multicultural education can provide an understanding of the importance of inclusive language, that is, language that does not ignore or demean certain groups. By avoiding the use of terms that are discriminatory and preferring words that reflect respect for other cultural groups. The application of learning materials that reflect cultural plurality in the educational curriculum is essential to ensure the creation of equal and inclusive representation, as well as support the realization of an education system that is responsive to the diversity of society [22].

Language politeness is a person's skill in using appropriate word choices when communicating with others [8]. Language politeness does not only occur in verbal communication, but can also be shown through gestures or gestures [6]. Individuals who are able to communicate with polite and gentle speech generally reflect a good personality and a polite attitude [7].

Multicultural education is a strategic approach in learning that is applied to all subjects by utilizing the cultural diversity that students have, including differences in ethnicity, religion, language, gender, social class, race, ability, and age, to create a more effective and meaningful learning process. In addition, multicultural education also functions as a means of shaping the character of students to be able to develop democratic, humanist, and pluralist attitudes in their social lives [14].

Multiculturalism education needs to be integrated into the learning process through habituation, formation of mindsets, attitudes, and actions. This process aims to instill national awareness that reflects Indonesian values.

These values include awareness and pride as part of the nation, independence and courage, respect for the nation, spirit against colonialism, sacrifice for the nation, respect for the nationalism of other nations, and regional understanding that leads to nationality. The formation of this Indonesian character becomes a solid foundation for a strong Indonesian human identity. The strength of this Indonesian character provides great energy to make Indonesia a superior nation in the midst of global competition. Strong human character is the key to the greatness of the nation, and multiculturalism education is one of the important steps to realizing a greater Indonesia in the future [12].

C. CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION AND STRATEGIES TO OPTIMIZE MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

1. Challenge: A curriculum that does not yet include multicultural education.

Strategy: Revise the curriculum to include multicultural The school curriculum needs to be updated by inserting learning that raises the diversity of cultures, beliefs, races, and ethnicities in Indonesia as an important means in strengthening national insights. Instilling the values of tolerance, justice, and respect for differences also plays a role in shaping the character of students who are open-minded and respect plurality [3]. The curriculum should reflect the diversity of cultural groups in the community, including languages and dialects. Through this curriculum, students are encouraged to build mutual respect and uphold the values of cooperation, rather than focusing on competition or prejudice that arises due to differences in race, ethnicity, culture, and social status among them [19].

2. Challenge: Teachers who do not understand the concept of multicultural education

Strategy: Improving teachers' abilities in multicultural education

The role of teachers in instilling multicultural values is crucial, so they need to be equipped with adequate training to be able to understand and convey the principles of multiculturalism appropriately in the learning process effectively [3]. Educators have a strategic responsibility in fostering and directing students in understanding cultural diversity. Teachers who have expertise in multicultural approaches and are able to convey various cultures positively can help students master the concept better [1].

3. Challenge: A School environment that has not yet implemented inclusiveness

Strategy: Create an inclusive school that respects. The school environment should be a small reflection of a society that values differences. This can be achieved by providing facilities that support diversity and implementing policies that uphold equality without discrimination [3]. Teachers can adopt an inclusive and adaptive approach by considering the needs and diversity of students [22].

4. Challenge: There is no support from families and communities in multicultural education.

Strategy: Involving families and communities in multicultural education

Multicultural education is not solely the responsibility of school institutions, but also needs to be strengthened through the involvement of families and communities. The active participation of parents and the community has a crucial role in helping students understand, appreciate, and apply the values of diversity in daily life [3]. Family and social environment also play a role in shaping students' understanding. Families that instill an attitude of respecting cultural diversity and encouraging cultural exploration can be a strong foundation for students' insights [1].

IV. CONCLUSION

The results of the study show that multicultural education has an important role in shaping attitudes and politeness in language. With an approach that respects diversity, this education guides students in building awareness, openness, and appreciation for differences in culture, religion, and social backgrounds. By internalizing multicultural values into the educational curriculum, students can understand the importance of politeness in communication as a form of respect for cultural, religious, ethnic, and racial differences.

The discussion in this study reveals that multicultural education can increase awareness of cultural diversity, foster empathy, reduce stereotypes and discrimination, and encourage more inclusive use of language. Challenges in the implementation of multicultural education, such as a lack of understanding of teachers and support from the school and family environment, can be overcome by revising the curriculum, training teachers, and creating an

inclusive environment. Thus, multicultural education has the potential to be an effective approach in realizing a harmonious and harmonious social order and upholding the values of politeness in language.

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