

THE USE OF ENGLISH IN INDONESIA: STATUS AND INFLUENCE

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Abstract

This research is a qualitative research which aims to describe the state of the use of English in Indonesia, in terms of language status and its influence on Indonesian society. To realize the purpose of this paper, the authors collected several news stories from national websites (such as Republika, Tribun News, detikNews, ANTARA, and Tempo) regarding the use of English in Indonesia as data that is explained and interpreted by descriptive qualitative analysis. The results of the study show that English is common and has massive use, even though it is still a foreign language. In fact, English has moved to improve its linguistic status, namely starting to act as a second language and the language of instruction.

Keywords: *English, second language, linguistic influence, language status*

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INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, with the official name of the Republic of Indonesia, is a large country located in Southeast Asia. With a population of around two hundred and fifty-two million, Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world after China, India and the United States. The large population is considered in accordance with the vast territory of Indonesia which stretches from Sabang to Marauke. Of course, the span of Indonesia's territory is not empty, in the sense that it must be filled with local culture which is a very valuable source of intellectual property. one of these intellectual properties is language.

So far, it is known that the number of languages spoken in Indonesia is at least seven hundred languages. These languages are known as regional languages which have the status of being the mother tongue or first language. The diversity of languages in each region in Indonesia is not an obstacle to realizing Indonesia's unity in unity, because it has been resolved long before the Indonesian nation became independent. Every Indonesian nation must be able to communicate

fluently with their fellow countrymen and countrymen, of course by using the unified language, Indonesian.

Tracing a little history of the birth of Indonesian, namely on October 28, 1928, a historic date that will continue to be remembered in the memory of every Indonesian nation, it is known that Indonesian is a lingua franca originating from Malay which is substantially a full-fledged language and is the mother tongue of the people living in the areas of eastern Sumatra, Riau and Kalimantan. The fairly even distribution of the Malay language throughout Indonesia is the background for its acceptance as a unifying language called Indonesian with the status of an official language but a second language.

However, in this sophisticated era, mastery of regional languages and Indonesian is not enough. This is based on the fact that the atmosphere of globalization has long been felt in Indonesia. Everyone is competing to equip themselves with various abilities in order to win the competition of life. The community is required to be able to express ideas and realize abilities, of course, it must be supported by qualified communication media, language. Fortunately, the world has a lingua franca that almost all people of the world control, namely English. The use of written English in Indonesia has been found in many cases, such as in the names of commercial agencies, service providers, mass media, and others. This situation is a bit contradicting the presence of spoken English, which incidentally is only used on occasion and in certain environments.

METHOD

In this regard, this short paper is intended to describe and describe the state of the use of English in Indonesia, in terms of its language status and its impact on Indonesian society. To realize the purpose of this paper, the authors collected several news stories from national websites (such as Republika, Tribun News, detikNews, ANTARA, and Tempo) regarding the use of English in Indonesia as data which will be explained and interpreted later with descriptive qualitative analysis.

The selection of news as data is based on the perspective that news is a reflection of facts that occur in society, so that it is considered to represent a picture of the state of the use of English in Indonesia. The national news, entitled the use of Indonesian English is still low, English and its influence on the education curriculum in Indonesia, what is the use of English in Indonesia ?, English has become the second language of Indonesia, craving the use of English as the language of instruction in schools. , and Speech in English, Jokowi Can Break an Oath.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Status of English in Indonesia

English is the language spoken in England, America and many other countries in the world, including Indonesia. English as the world's lingua franca is inseparable from the historical background of the control of almost all regions of the world by the British colonial government. During the colonization of the colonies, the British government carried out not only economic imperialism, but also its culture. Each British colony was required to be able to speak English well, and some colonies made it the national or second language. Not only British colonies, countries that were not British colonies had many adopted English as a second language, however, this was not the case in Indonesia. English is still a foreign language which is used exclusively in everyday life. In Indonesia, English speakers have a smart and international personal image, so the use of English continues to increase. This situation is predicted to continue and in use, English is slowly becoming a second language and the language of instruction. The following is a description of the use of foreign languages based on their language status.

1.1. Foreign language

The status of foreigner English in Indonesia can be seen from the several news excerpts below. The status of alienation is indicated by the underlined expression. For Indonesians, the ability to understand English is not easy, both in

terms of mastery of vocabulary, pronunciation and sentence structure (1). The use of English in national and international official forums is considered a violation of the oath of office for public officials who should use the Indonesian language in accordance with the mandate of Article 28 of Law Number 24 of 2009 concerning Flag, Language and State Symbols, and the National Anthem. (2). The use of English in official forums by state officials, especially when speaking one way in public, is seen as a bad example. This is because state officials should participate in advancing and maintaining the proper and correct use of Indonesian as a national identity (3). The use of English reflects the lack of love for the country. The use of English in Indonesia is considered an impact of westernization, whose image tends to be negative. This view strengthens the status of English as a foreign language (4).

- (1) The penetration of the use of English properly and correctly in Indonesia is still very low, which is below eight percent.
- (2) International legal expert from the University of Indonesia, Hikmahanto Juwana, said that President Joko Widodo had violated his oath as President of the Republic of Indonesia if he made a speech in English at one of the sessions of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Beijing today.
- (3) "Only the President does not set an example for the people to use the Indonesian language proudly in international forums," said Hikmahanto.
- (4) Apart from that, Untung continued, there is still an opinion that Indonesian people who speak English are considered not nationalist, even though this is an incorrect assumption.

1.2. Second Language

Sartika, T. (2019). The use of English in the delivery of learning is also one of the choices for several schools in Indonesia. The increasing number of speakers who use it with great enthusiasm without paying attention to sentence structure and nuances of meaning built against the background of getting a smart and international personal impression when using English either on certain occasions or on a daily basis, further encourages the improvement of the status of English

into a second language in Indonesia. People don't care about the quality of their speech production in English, because the main thing is self-image using it in everyday life (5).

(5) Professor of the State University of Medan (Unimed) Prof. Amrin Saragih said that currently English seems to have become the second language in Indonesia considering that today there are more and more speakers, there are even schools that make the language of instruction in education.

1.3. Language of instruction

Agustin, Y. (2015). Schools in Indonesia, the language of instruction for education is Indonesian. However, as time went on, Indonesian was gradually being replaced by its role. English slowly attracts Indonesians to use it on many occasions and functions it as a medium of self-expression. Naturally, the younger generation of Indonesia often uses English to express their psychological condition which should be more accurately expressed in Indonesian (6). English skills must be better than Indonesian is a view that is embedded in the minds of Indonesia's young generation. This condition is based on the use of English as a lifestyle that should reflect Indonesians. The view of English as a lifestyle has increasingly shifted Indonesian as an introduction, which is rarely spoken (7). Not only as a medium for expression of psychological conditions and lifestyle, English is also the main key to the gate of knowledge. International schools in Indonesia use it as the language of instruction for various subjects, including the national character such as the Guidelines for the Practice of Pancasila and Citizenship Education which should speak Indonesian (8).

(6) This is interesting, because of its non-native position, English is increasingly playing its natural role as a means of expressing oneself, it is considered more comfortable and appropriate, of course apart from the cosmetic effect it is considered more "slang".

(7) Personally, English has become a valid lifestyle passport. This fact was obtained when EF English First and proVetic, a social media tracker platform, investigated the phenomenon of the use of English in 5 major cities in Indonesia.

(8) "For some subjects that are not related to the character of the nation, it is okay to use English, but if the lessons instill the character, principles and values of the nation, they must use Indonesian," he said.

2. The Influence of English in Indonesia

Ningsih, A. N. M. (2019). Indonesian and English have a complementary position for the development of science. From the news collected, it is found that English has an impact on education and the economy in Indonesia. This is considered normal, considering that English is used all over the world, including Indonesia. The following is an analysis of the news which contains a view of the influential use of English in Indonesia.

2.1. Against Education

Saukah, A. (2003). One of the most widely followed ways to find out whether a teaching is considered successful or not is to check whether the teaching objectives have been achieved or not. It is commonly known in Indonesian society that English is important for the advancement of the education of the nation's children. English has been explained to the younger generation of Indonesia from kindergarten to tertiary education. The influence of English on education in Indonesia is already in formal education forums where English is a compulsory subject at all levels of Indonesian education with the aim of advancing and educating the nation's children (9) (14).

Maduwu, B. (2016). In a foreign language learning, the practice of the language being learned is the most important thing that must be done by students. When English plays an active role in the realm of Indonesian education, this is not the case with Indonesian, which must adapt to the language of foreigners studying in Indonesia (10). Santoso, I. (2014). Mastery of foreign languages is very necessary as a means of absorbing knowledge that is developing in other countries and vice versa as a medium for spreading knowledge that is developing in Indonesia outside. The influence of English on education seriously destabilizes the role of Indonesian as the language of instruction, thus creating a difference in understanding between educators and observers (11) (12) (13).

- (9) Some time ago, the Indonesian people studied English because this language is one of the compulsory subjects for students so that they inevitably had to follow the learning.
- (10) Another example is the admission of students to tertiary institutions abroad which do not provide space at all for candidates who do not have adequate command of the English language. This is indicated by certain test result prerequisites (TOEFL, IELTS, etc.) as a basis for consideration for the university to accept candidates.
- (11) "It's okay to use the language of instruction together, but English should only be used for certain subjects, mainly Indonesian," said Deputy Chairman of Commission X DPR, Rully Chairul Azwar.
- (12) "If the Indonesian language school is not used as a means of studying science and technology, textbooks and supporting books no longer use Indonesian, then why study Indonesian ..."
- (13) "The use of English in the teaching and learning process at RSBI is contrary to the constitutional mandate stated in article 36 of the 1945 Constitution, and article 29 paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of Law No. 24/2009," he said. language expert Abdul Chaer when delivering his statement as an expert in the Constitutional Court (MK) courtroom, Jalan Medan Merdeka Barat, Central Jakarta, Tuesday (24/4/2012).
- (14) The government's decision to establish English as a subject at various levels of education is very reasonable in order to prepare the Indonesian generation to compete globally. Alwasilah (2001) states that English should be part of the curriculum because this language is the support for the development of the Indonesian generation.

2.2. the Economy

Iriance, I. (2018) Since 2009 English has become the de facto lingua franca of ASEAN countries and no country has objected to this fact. The tremendous influence of the English language on the Indonesian economy, thus

demanding the Indonesian people to work hard to master English if they want to win the competition for life. The foreign investment climate and globalization require Indonesian people to be proficient in English to support work performance (15). When you are able to master English perfectly, the economy will be prosperous because it earns half as much income as Indonesian people who do not speak English (16) (18) (19). To answer international challenges, Indonesians must be able to master English in this free market era, considering that English is an international language (17). The demand for mastery of English for the Indonesian people provides opportunities for education business people to open English courses which of course will absorb labor (20). Agustin, Y. (2015) English is a language that is very much in demand by the Indonesian people which will become a serious threat to Indonesian if there is no good understanding of the position and function of the two languages.

(15) In line with the rapid development of the Indonesian economy, it is estimated that by 2030 Indonesia will need 113 million workers who are fluent in English.

(16) Meanwhile, the results of other studies show that professionals who can speak English well can earn 30-50% higher income than those who can not speak English. About 42% of CEOs in Indonesia say that they lack employees who can speak English well.

(17) "Indonesia is a developing country, so it still has to follow the international world which makes English an international language," said Untung.

(18) As time shifts and the need for information, both students and the wider community make English a need that cannot be ignored. For example, some government agencies / private companies make mastery of English a prerequisite for recruiting employees.

(19) The spread of English is also influenced by population movement from the category of outer circle countries and expanding circle countries to inner circle countries. Most of these transfers were caused by the interests of work, education and seeking political asylum. The new residents then do their best

to be able to communicate in the local language so that they can survive in their new place.

(20) To that end, Untung said that EF will try to work on this English education business by prioritizing reputation, so that it can educate the nation in English.

CONCLUSION

From the descriptions and descriptions of the use of English in Indonesia, it can be concluded that English is common and has massive use, even though it is still a foreign language. In fact, English has moved to improve its linguistic status, namely starting to act as a second language and the language of instruction. This is often found in the social realm, especially adolescents, and education. The use of English also has an impact on education and economics. The use and mastery of English for the Indonesian people is not like the fruit of simalakama, because language is a medium of communication that must be useful for life, it only needs to be considered when, where, and to whom the language should be spoken.

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