



RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PELA CONCEPT AS THE CONTRIBUTION TO MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION IN MOLUCCAN CONTEXT

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Abstract: The aim of this paper is to discuss reconstruction of the "pela" concept as a cultural approach to contribute to multicultural education in the Moluccan context. The paper is basically to answer the questions of 1) How is the "pela" concept created by Moluccan ancestor and how does it contribute to multicultural society in Moluccas in the past?; 2) What is the concept of multicultural society in Moluccas that consist of many ethnics, tribe and religion nowadays?; and 3) Does it bring impacts for multicultural education in Moluccas? This study was conducted by using qualitative method through in-depth interview, participative observation of Moluccan society and related literature review. The investigation found that "Pela" as a cultural symbol in Moluccas does not accommodate multicultural societies in the present days consisting of various ethnics and tribes like Chinese, Arabic, Buginese, Butoness, Javanese, etc. because "Pela" relation only accommodates indigenous people in Moluccas, so that the concept of brotherhood as the cultural basis of "Pela" does not represent multicultural society, but it still preserves the cultural segregation. The contribution of this study is that the "Pela" concept has to be reconstructed to accommodate all ethnics and tribes in Moluccas to contribute to multicultural education.

Keywords: *Culture, pela, Reconstruction, multicultural education*