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Politic of Identity, between Conflict and Compromise to Construct the Social Identity: The Case study toward the Wearing of Hijabs by the Christian Woman Students while Serving as Paskibraka in Halmahera Selatan

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Abstract

The existence of identity, individually or collectively, often causes conflict in our society. It is indicating that the current policy and regulation seems to be unfair. In this situation, a minority identity is weak and often becomes victim. It is good to study the phenomenon from identity politics point of view: between resistance and compromise identity in public. The issue raises two critical questions: 1. Why does the government policy treat civil rights unfairly? 2) How does the impact of the Policy for the minority rights? To answer, a qualitative research is conducted by collecting data, observation, interview and literature study. The data are analyzed using cultural study approach. The result shows that hijab-wearing for a Christian female student policy means the State gave unfair treatment towards the minority. It had a correlation with local politic dynamic. The policy split people in two debate sides: conflict and compromise. Conflict concerns religious identity awareness being discriminated and social identity meaning body, power, and femininity. Compromise deals with the minority survival strategy under the domination of patriarchy.

Key words: Nation, Hijab, Conflict and Compromise Women Identity

Introduction

Identity is essential for every individual or community because it relates to the human capacity to know who they are. Jenkins (2008:8) says that identity is human capacity to recognize himself and others. This definition includes another people's capability to recognize us and themselves. This view reaffirms the opinion that identity is a social product which closely relates to social relationship and social construction around us. Identity emerges because of the interaction between individuals in the society. From this interaction process emerge awareness that identity is to distinguish and to equalize between one person and the other. The Interaction of every individual with identity label effects on receiving or refusing, conflict and violence. These conflict or violence could happen because of identity labels such as religion, ethnic, gender, women and children. Therefore, identity issue may become a phenomenon.

The identity phenomenon such as conflict and violence connecting to Religion, race, ethnic as an identity is phenomenal because of conflict, violence in the name of religion, race, and ethnic, gender and women colors human dynamic. Identity harassment occurs everywhere such as Hindu-Islam conflict in India (Varshney, 2003). In Indonesia, particularly, within two decades, religion and ethnic identities from many different elements have triggered conflict and fight (Mas'oed, 2000; Betrand, 2004; Mujiburahman, 2006). Various kinds of conflicts recorded indicate that variety identities as multicultural reality has to be managed seriously. From the new Order to reformation Order, the variety identities have always been unfinished problems for violence especially between Islam and Christian frequently happened (Liddle, 1996:323-356; Husein, 2001; Silivan, 2001:11-131; Azra, 2000), or oppression toward certain identity (gender and women) has become socio-cultural empirical reality in Indonesia. The previous research conducted by Nurul Ikasari was about women issue. Nurul's research focused on the oppression and ethnic discrimination toward women. Through her analysis on a film entitled "Sapu Tangan Fang Yin", she describes the existence of Chinese in Indonesia since the colonial era until the reform era that shows not only in the form of stereotype (China Benteng) but also in the form of oppression (rape) toward Chinese women as happened in the 1998 incidence (Laksari: 63). This phenomenon shows that not only ethnic identity but also women identity is a problem.

Discrimination and oppression toward women in Indonesia also happened in South Halmahera when the local government insisted the Christian students to wear Hijabs when they were on duty as a flag raiser team. The other discrimination for Christian female describe by the local government policy