

## The Dignity of Indonesian Language in Information Technology

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### Abstract

*The attitude of language is illustrated in the use of language in public spaces. The use of Indonesian language is required in submission of information to the public. Submission of information using the Indonesian language in information technology is a dignity forms of Indonesian language. This study is aimed to describe the use of Indonesian language in information technology. The research method used is descriptive method with a qualitative approach. The source of research data is the website of cluster one tertiary institutions in Indonesia. The data used are menu and submenu which is on the main website in the college website. The results showed that there are still menu and submenu that use foreign languages/terms. Therefore, the dignity of Indonesian language in information technology has not yet been reached maximally. The solution to these problems is the making of policies related to the use of Indonesian language in targeted information technology.*

### Keywords

national policy; language attitude; information technology



## I. Introduction

Indonesian language is the national language which is the unifying language of the nation. The Youth Pledge on October 28, 1928 the third point stated, "We, sons and daughters of Indonesia uphold the language of unity, Indonesian language". The Youth Pledge made Indonesian language as a unifier of various layers of society consisting of various social, cultural, linguistic, dialectal, ethnic backgrounds into one unity of the Indonesian nation. Furthermore, Indonesian language became stronger when the struggle of the Indonesian people reached its peak on August 17, 1945 which was stipulated in Article 36 of the 1945 Constitution which reads, "The language of the state is Indonesian language". Since the proclamation of Indonesia's independence, Bahasa Indonesia has been used as a means official communication in the community. Despite of the diversity of regional languages, Bahasa Indonesia is now widely used in every aspects of life. Indonesians are overwhelmingly bilingual; indeed many people have a good command of three of four languages (Ridwan, 2018).

Another law foundation that strengthens the obligation to use Indonesian language is contained in Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 24 of 2009 concerning the flag, language and symbol of country, as well as the national anthem. In addition, there is also Government Regulation number 57 of 2014 concerning the development, guidance and protection of language and literature, as well as the improvement of the function of Indonesian language. Thus, it is proper for all components of the nation to uphold and dignify Indonesian language.

The development of Indonesian language has different tendencies. Language development occurs because of the diversity of languages used in certain regions. This diversity has an impact on other languages. In this regard, Aziz (2013: 4) revealed that

Indonesian language could force local languages to cause extinction, but Indonesian language was also pressured by foreign languages (read: English) because they were seen as having higher economic values. The position of Indonesian language is threatened by the use of foreign languages due to the paradigm of the speech community towards the language.

The influence of foreign languages on Indonesian language is quite large. Aziz (2013: 4) revealed that in the 1994-2000 period, Indonesian immigrants in Melbourne whose first language was Indonesian language used English language more frequently in communicating inside and outside the home. As a result, Indonesian immigrants are not very competent in Indonesian language. Various groups of people are more likely to love using a foreign language than Indonesian language. Even though Indonesian language is used in communication, the community group spices it with the influence of foreign languages.

Not only oral communication, written communication through electronic information also uses several foreign languages / terms. This continues to happen even though the language used on the website already uses Indonesian language. This is a problem in the dignity of Indonesian language in the community. These problems require solutions so that Indonesian language is more dignified in its own country.

## **II. Review of Literature**

### **2.1 National Policy**

National policy is a set of concepts that form the basis of achieving goals at the national level. National policies to be discussed are policies on language and policies on information technology. Pateda (2013, p. 92) revealed that language policy contained planning related to language. National language policy is a policy that includes Indonesian language, regional languages and regional literature. The national language policy that has been developed is the Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 24 of 2009 concerning the country's flag, language and symbol, as well as the national anthem. In addition, the language policy is also regulated in Government Regulation number 57 of 2014 concerning the development, guidance and protection of language and literature, as well as the improvement of the functions of Indonesian language.

Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 24 of 2009 article 25 to article 45 regulates the obligation to use, develop and preserve Indonesian language. Indonesian language must be used in the delivery of information circulating in Indonesia. The rules for the use of language in Government Regulation number 57 of 2014, specifically contained in article 5 paragraph 2 which reads, "Indonesian language as the official language of the state functions as ... a means of developing and utilizing science, technology, and art ...". These rules encourage and require people living in Indonesia to dignify Indonesian language in various means and types of communication.

Another policy that needs to be discussed is the rules regarding information technology. The rules regarding information technology can be used as a controller in the development of electronic information, especially in the use of language. Regulations related to information technology are contained in Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 11 of 2008 concerning information and electronic transactions. The law underwent changes and is regulated in Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 19 of 2016. In addition, rules regarding information technology are also contained in Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia number 82 of 2012 concerning the implementation of electronic transactions and systems.

Language problems in the Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 11 of 2008 are contained in article 16 paragraph 1 which reads. "... Each Electronic System Operator must operate an Electronic System that meets the requirements ... equipped with procedures or instructions announced in language, information or symbols that can be understood by the parties concerned...". In these rules it appears that the terms of language used are examined in terms of function. The language used functions as a communication tool, so the language used must be understood by the parties concerned.

## **2.2 Language Attitude**

Attitude can be interpreted as an individual's tendency to accept or reject something based on an assessment of something whether it is valuable or not for him. The figure in the field of attitude measurement, Thurstone and Likert (in Azwar, 2003: 5) argues that attitude is a form of evaluation or reaction of feelings of support, favor, or not support, or unfavorable, on an object that being faced. In line with the definition of attitude, Kridalaksana (2001: 197) conveys that language attitudes are one's mental position or feelings towards one's own language or others. Attitude is a psychological phenomenon, which is usually manifested in the form of actions or behavior. However, various research results show that what appears in behavior does not always indicate his attitude. Vice versa, a person's attitude is not always reflected in their behavior. As is the case with attitudes in general, language attitudes are also psychiatric events so they cannot be observed directly.

Attitudes towards language can be positive and negative attitudes towards language. Garvin and Mathiot (in Chaer and Agustina, 2004, p. 152) revealed that the characteristics of language attitudes, namely: (1) language loyalty that encourages people to maintain their language and prevent the influence of other languages; (2) language pride that encourages someone to develop and use language as a symbol of identity and community unity; (3) awareness of the language norm that encourages people to use their language carefully and politely as a very big factor influencing the use of the language (language use). These three characteristics of attitude are indicators of a positive attitude towards language. A positive attitude towards language is marked by the enthusiasm to use language in the community groups he said. The negative attitude towards language is marked by the weakening of the enthusiasm of speech community members to use and maintain language independence. A negative attitude toward language will occur if the speaker no longer has a sense of pride in his language and shifts his pride to other languages that do not belong to him. This can occur because it is influenced by several factors, including political, ethnic, racial, prestige, economic, efficiency, practicality, convenience, and various other reasons.

## **2.3 Information Technology**

Uno and Lamatenggo (2011: 57) revealed that information technology is a technology used to process data. The intended processing includes processing, obtaining, compiling, storing, manipulating data in various ways to produce quality information, namely information that is relevant, accurate, and timely. The information obtained is distributed as a form of electronic information.

Abdulhak (2005, p. 413) revealed that the use of information technology was classified into three types, namely: first, information technology as a medium (tool) for education and as a complement to clarify the details submitted; secondly, information technology as a source of information and finding information; third, information technology as a learning system. Information technology that functions as a source of information requires language as

a delivery medium. The language used must educate people who use technology. Educating using language can be done using good and correct Indonesian language.

### III. Research Methods

The research method is a method used in conducting research. The method used in this research is a descriptive method with a qualitative approach. Descriptive method is a method used to describe and explain the object under study. In line with this statement, Sukardi (2009: 157) revealed that the descriptive method is a research method that describes and interprets objects as they are.

The data analyzed in the study are menu and submenu which is on the main website in the websites of each college. This is done to describe the use of language or the naming of menu and submenu on the main website at each college. The colleges studied were fourteen colleges, there are: Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), Gadjah Mada University (UGM), Bogor Agricultural Institute (IPB), Indonesia University (UI), Diponegoro University (Undip), Institute of November 10 Technology (ITS), Airlangga University (Unair), Hasanuddin University (Unhas), Padjadjaran University (Unpad), Andalas University (Unand), Yogyakarta State University (UNY), Brawijaya University (UB), Indonesian Education University (UPI), and Malang State University (UM). The selection of the fourteen colleges is based on the ranking of the first cluster conducted by the Ministry of Research and Technology in 2018.

The data analysis technique used in this research is a way to carry out the process of analyzing data obtained from digital documentation. Based on the data obtained in the study, the data were analyzed with several stages consisting of: the stage of data collection, the stage of reduction (grouping of data), the stage of presenting data, and the stage of drawing conclusions / verification.

### IV. Discussion

This study examines the websites of the fourteen best universities in 2018 by the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education. The results of the assessment will be described and discussed as follows.

The website that was studied in the fourteen best college in 2018 by the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education is a website that uses Indonesian language as the language of instruction. The naming of menu and submenu obtained from each website still does not use Indonesian language as a whole. There are inconsistencies in the use of language in naming menus and submenus. There are still foreign languages / terms from each website. Foreign languages / terms in the menus and submenus are as follows.

**Table 1.** Naming Menus and Submenus in the College Website

No.	Language/Foreign Terms	Suggestion Languages / Indonesian Terms
1	<i>Agrimart</i>	<i>Toko pertanian</i>
2	<i>Agroedutourism</i>	<i>Wisata pendidikan pertanian</i>
3	Blog	<i>Laman pribadi</i>
4	Career center	<i>Pusat karier</i>
5	Cyber campus	<i>Siber kampus</i>
6	Digital library	<i>Perpustakaan digital</i>

No.	Language/Foreign Terms	Suggestion Languages / Indonesian Terms
7	Download	<i>Unduh</i>
8	Dual degree	<i>Gelar ganda</i>
9	E-journal	<i>Elektronik jurnal</i>
10	Email	<i>Pos-el</i>
11	Explore	<i>Jelajahi</i>
12	File	<i>Berkas</i>
13	Highlight	<i>Peristiwa menarik</i>
14	<i>Hymne</i>	<i>Himne</i>
15	International admission	<i>Penerimaan internasional</i>
16	International office	<i>Kantor internasional</i>
17	International program	<i>Program internasional</i>
18	International students	<i>Pelajar internasional</i>
19	Journal student	<i>Jurnal pelajar</i>
20	<i>Klipping</i>	<i>Kumpulan informasi</i>
21	Leaflet	<i>Selebaran</i>
22	Main menu	<i>Menu utama</i>
23	News	<i>Berita</i>
24	Newsletter	<i>Nawala/ bulletin</i>
25	Observatories	<i>Tempat observasi</i>
26	Online	<i>Daring (dalam jaringan)</i>
27	Programs	<i>Berbagai program</i>
28	Program double degree	<i>Program gelar ganda</i>
29	Quick access	<i>Akses cepat</i>
30	Quick links	<i>Taut cepat</i>
31	Roadmap research	<i>Rencana kerja penelitian</i>
32	Science techno park	<i>Taman teknologi sains</i>
33	Search	<i>Pencarian</i>
34	Shelter motor	<i>Halte sepeda</i>
35	Smart eco campus	<i>Kampus ramah lingkungan</i>
36	Staff	<i>Staf</i>
37	Student exchange	<i>Pertukaran pelajar</i>
38	Teaching industry	<i>Industri pengajaran</i>
39	Timeline	<i>Daftar berita terkini</i>
40	Tracer alumni	<i>Pelacak alumni</i>
41	Tracer study	<i>Studi pelacak</i>
42	Training center	<i>Pusat pelatihan</i>
43	Webmail	<i>Laman pos-el</i>
44	Website	<i>Laman</i>

The naming of menus and submenus obtained from each website, there are those who already have the equivalent in Indonesian language and some who do not. The naming of menus and submenus that already have the equivalent have been published on the Ministry of Education and Culture website with the address [websitehttp://spai.kemdikbud.go.id/v1/web/index.php?to=cari\\_istilah](http://spai.kemdikbud.go.id/v1/web/index.php?to=cari_istilah). The naming of menus



and other submenus that are not yet available on the Ministry of Education and Culture website can still be searched for through the translation process.

Based on the data obtained, it can be concluded that the dignity of Indonesian language in information technology has not been reached maximally. There are still the naming of menus and submenus that use foreign languages / terms. Each naming of menus and submenus on the website in the data source still does not use Indonesian language as a whole.

The naming of menus and submenus on the website at each of the fourteen colleges still uses foreign languages / terms. There are no colleges that use Indonesian language / term as a whole. This is something worth studying because the language of instruction used is Indonesian language.

Obligations to use Indonesian language have been regulated in Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 24 of 2009 and Government Regulation number 57 of 2014. Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 24 of 2009 articles 25 to article 45 regulates the obligation to use, develop and preserve Indonesian language. Indonesian language must be used in the delivery of information circulating in Indonesia. The rules for the use of language in Government Regulation number 57 of 2014, specifically contained in article 5 paragraph 2 which reads, "Indonesian language as the official language of the state functions as ... a means of developing and utilizing science, technology, and art ...". These rules encourage and require people living in Indonesia to dignify the Indonesian language in various means and types of communication. The rule does not appear in the practice of using Indonesian language in information technology.

Information technology also has rules in disseminating information. The regulation is contained in Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 11 of 2008 in article 16 paragraph 1 which reads. "... Each Electronic System Operator must operate an Electronic System that meets the requirements ... equipped with procedures or instructions announced in language, information or symbols that can be understood by the parties concerned ...". In these rules it appears that the terms of language used are examined in terms of function. The language used functions as a communication tool, so the language used must be understood by the parties concerned. This is different from the Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia number 82 of 2012 article 24 paragraph 1 which reads, "Electronic System Administrators are required to educate Users of Electronic Systems". The government regulation requires electronic system providers to provide education for users. Education can be in the form of education in using and dignifying Indonesian language.

There are still practices that do not comply with the rules outlined. This can occur because the laws and government regulations do not yet specifically regulate the use of Indonesian in the delivery of electronic information in information technology. In the Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 24 of 2009, the information intended in these two rules is still in general, namely oral and written information (mass media). While the rules in Government Regulation number 57 of 2014 there is no explicit expression related to the obligation to use Indonesian in technology. The government regulation only revealed that Indonesian language as the official language of the country functions as a means of developing and utilizing technology.

The indecisiveness of the use of Indonesian language is also evident in Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 11 of 2008 which only requires that the language used be assessed in terms of function and there is no obligation to use Indonesian language. The language used must only be understood by the parties concerned. Likewise in the Republic of

Indonesia Government Regulation number 82 of 2012 which also does not require an obligation to use Indonesian language for electronic system operators.

Based on the description, it is necessary to make efforts to improve. Some efforts that can be made so that the dignity of Indonesian language can be achieved in information technology as follows.

a. Optimizing the role of the government which is responsible for the progress of the nation, especially in the field of language.

The government needs to issue policies that are right on target, especially policies relating to the use of Indonesian language in information technology. Policies in the form of a legal basis that have been issued have not been able to regulate specifically and have an effect on the organizers of the electronic system. The government needs to conduct cross-agency collaboration so that the rules made by agencies influence each other and do not stand alone.

b. Optimizing the role of the Language and Literature Development and Development Board in language development planning as an extension of the government.

The Vision of the Language Development and Development Agency is the realization of the people of character and national identity through Indonesian language and literature. To achieve this vision, it is necessary to carry out several missions, namely (1) improving the quality of language and its use; (2) increasing the involvement of the role of language and literature in building educational and cultural ecosystems; (3) increasing the involvement of stakeholders in the development, guidance and protection of language and literature; (4) Increasing the active role of diplomacy in the internationalization of language (Suhardi, 2015).

The tendentious problem in foreign languages is related to the achievement of the first mission, which is to improve the quality of language and its use. One of the policy directions of the Language and Literature Development and Development Agency is the development and protection of language and literature. This is related to the problem of tendentious foreign languages. The steps that need to be taken to carry out the mission and direction of the policy are to optimize the seven agreed values in carrying out the task. The seven values are having integrity, being creative and innovative, initiative, learning, upholding meritocracy, being actively involved, selflessly (Suhardi, 2015). With these seven steps, it is hoped that everything that has been carefully planned by the Language and Literature Development and Development Board can be carried out properly.

c. Optimizing the role of colleges as a forum for education.

College as an educational institution needs to provide good education. The education can be in the form of consistent use of Indonesian language on the college website. Consistent use of the language can provide education in the dignity of Indonesian language.

d. Optimizing the role of Indonesian people to love Indonesian more.

Indonesian people as Indonesian language users and information technology. The community must have a positive attitude in language consisting of an attitude of loyalty, an attitude of pride, and an attitude of awareness in using Indonesian language. People who have reflected these three attitudes will be able to dignify Indonesian language.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

Kemenristekdikti (2018) determines the colleges which are in cluster one are the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), Gadjah Mada University (UGM), Bogor Agricultural Institute (IPB), Indonesia University (UI), Diponegoro University (Undip), Institute of

November 10 Technology (ITS), Airlangga University (Unair), Hasanuddin University (Unhas), Padjadjaran University (Unpad), Andalas University (Unand), Yogyakarta State University (UNY), Brawijaya University (UB), Indonesian Education University (UPI), and Malang State University (UM). The 14 colleges have websites. The naming of menus and submenus on the main website in the college website still does not use Indonesian language as a whole. Foreign languages / terms are still contained in the menus and submenus of the website, so the dignity of Indonesian language in information technology has not been maximally reached.

The discrepancy between the practice of using Indonesian language and the rules related to the use of language occurs because the laws and government regulations do not yet specifically regulate the use of Indonesian language in the delivery of electronic information in information technology. In the Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 24 of 2009, the information intended in these two rules is still in general, that is oral and written information (mass media). While the rules in Government Regulation number 57 of 2014 do not express explicitly related to the obligation to use Indonesian language in technology. The government regulation only revealed that Indonesian language as the official language of the country functions as a means of developing and utilizing technology.

The indecisiveness of the use of Indonesian language is also evident in Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 11 of 2008 which only requires that the language used be assessed in terms of function and there is no obligation to use Indonesian language. The language used must only be understood by the parties concerned. Likewise in the Republic of Indonesia Government Regulation number 82 of 2012 which also does not require an obligation to use Indonesian language for electronic system operators.

Based on the description, it is necessary to make efforts to improve. Some efforts that can be made so that the dignity of Indonesian language can be achieved in information technology as follows.

1. Optimizing the role of the government which is responsible for the progress of the nation and the dignity of Indonesian language through language policy making and information technology that is targeted.
2. Optimizing the role of the Development Agency and Language Development and literature in language development planning as an extension of the government.
3. Optimizing the role of colleges, especially the dignity of Indonesian language on campus websites.
4. Optimizing the role of Indonesian people to love Indonesian more.

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