IDENTITY REPRESENTATION THROUGH LANGUAGE IN MULTILINGUAL STUDENTS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM OF FBS UNY

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ABSTRACT

The impact of global language on local and national languages ??and the speakers' identity continues to be debated and studied in various countries, including in Indonesia. The importance of English in the world of education in Indonesia, which has multilingual and multicultural society, is often associated with a weakening of the use of local languages ??along with local identity and national language along with the national identity of the speakers. This study examines the representation of identity through language among English Literature students who ??use regional languages, especially Javanese, Indonesian, and English daily. This study aims to 1) describe the variety of group identities represented through their language; 2) explain the context they are referring to to represent the various identities; 3) explain the ways of representing various identities through their language; and 4) explore their perceptions of the importance of using a language to represent identity.

This research is a research using explanatory sequential mixed methods design with the stages of quantitative data collection first and then qualitative data. Data was collected through a survey of active students of the English Literature Study Program FBS UNY class of 2016-2018, with a total of 173 respondents. In-depth interviews were conducted on 13 respondents selected by random sampling technique. Quantitative data analysis was carried out by descriptive statistical method using the SPSS version 25 program. Meanwhile, qualitative data analysis was carried out by the research team.

The results showed that the variety of identities represented through their language included local identity, national identity, identity as students of English Literature, youth identity, and millennial generation identity. This diversity does not show multicultural identity because student respondents have L1 monocultural multilinguality that is rooted in Javanese culture. Context that is referred to in representing identity consists of opponents of speech (language background, age, demand, and relationship between roles) and the environment in which to communicate. The most prominent way to show a different identity is through lexical choice. With the awareness that language can be used to represent identity, more students assume that other people do not need to know their identity as Javanese and as students of English Literature. Thus some of them use accents to disguise their local identities and do not use English in certain contexts so as not to cause negative perceptions of others.

Kata Kunci: *language, identity, multilingual, English Literature UNY*