The Changing attitudes Of Indonesian Youths Towards Culture, Identity, and Language.

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This study tries to discuss the study of Cultural in relation with identity and the use of Indonesian youths language in communicating, especially in formal situations. This study focuses three main areas: (1) Factors underlying the changes (2) How the Indonesian youths change (3) What affect the changes. The data of this study were taken from literature reviews and the writer observations and investigations. Recently, in Indonesia there have been some issues on communication barriers between older and young people. These take place at home, school and communal places. The crucial thing lies on the rare practices of their origin cultures and mother tongue languages. To note here, that Indonesia is a heterogeneous mix of various cultures, there are 34 provinces with thousands of local vernaculars, Bahasa is Indonesian national language. Our identity is constructed based on where we come from, language used, and cultural attribute. Loosing identity, culture and manner of communicating may cause problems. That is why it is important to solve the problem to avoid misunderstandings. The author’s contributions to this problem are as follows: explaining factors of culture, identity, and language changes. Let me take the citation of Altugan (in Eagleton 2005) who says that culture “all things making life liveable and composing society, while cultural identity can be defined as individuals nature and nurture which includes their experiences, talents, skills, beliefs, values and knowledge, in other words, who they are, what their status is in their family, school, work, environment and country and, beyond that in the world as with globalization, the world is getting smaller”. Burgoon, et.al (2011) added that “identity is often linked with the cultural aspect of communication, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, and society as well as personal versus group identity”. The Indonesian youth’s oath spoken in 1928, were that The Indonesian youths should acknowledge one country, nation and language ‘Indonesian’. This oath is a tool for strengthening the unity and identity of Indonesian people. However, times change, (1) What factor underlying the changes: a. Globalization where media plays important role in contributing new terms for Indonesian language, even new vocabulary items made up as a result of foreign language interferences, youngster’s jargons develop through times. b. Culture influences a great deal in transmitting ideas, norms, traditions, behavior, languages, beliefs. Many Indonesian youths have been changing their behavior caused by the introductions of new exposures of difference cultural shown on TV and other media. c. Education, through times to times the ways people are educated have been delivered differently. (2) How the Indonesian youths change: a. Perceptions: the way they perceive traditional norms, beliefs, behavior, language and even respects are totally different from my era, and of course my ancestors. The youths’ minds are more critical, in contrast, they lose their identity as Indonesian whose cultural background in the past as polite, simple and honest society. b. Attitude attires: the way they dress, speak, behave do not show as the Easteners to certain extends and individuals. For examples, manners of politeness are neglected, the gambits of talking to older people or parents are forgotten, the body gestures for pointing things or directions are misused whereby using the right hand as a polite one is placed by the left hand which is used as impolite one. c. Language use: as known that in Indonesia there are many local vernaculars in according to its provinces, regions, and districts. As a normal language used there are two or three ways of saying things, formal, informal or polite impolite, and neutral. Some youths tend to use impolite colloquial in formal supposed situations for example at schools, home or public places besides their own terms of language expressions. Recently, there are estimated 137 local vernaculars which have been almost extinct in West Java, as a result of less usage. In one hand, the old generations who gradually disappear through ages, on the other hand, the youths who rapidly have changed through globalizations. These, have shown that many Indonesian youths have changed their attitudes towards culture, identity and language. (3) what affects the changes: respect, creativity, yet, loosing their heritage of culture, identity, language. To certain extends, the national language use ‘Bahasa Indonesia’ is widely used to replace local vernaculars in both formal and informal situations.