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Surabaya Youth Political Discourse in in the Dynamics of Election Information

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ABSTRACT

Youth have become the main agents of change and are usually the most affected by changes in the socio-political context in Indonesia. The very large youth population in Indonesia signifies a great asset for socio-political transformation in the democratic space. Specifically, this study examines youth political discourse in the changes and dynamics of the 2024 General Election. This study aims to identify linguistic expressions of public practice within the scope of youth political culture in Surabaya. Exploration of the relationship between different sets of influences and different types of political activism seeks to contribute to a better understanding of the reasons why young people choose certain paths of political participation regarding the 2024 election. Focus group discussion methods and in-depth interviews are considered most appropriate on the basis of the advantage is in gaining in-depth insights into the respondents' experiences regarding their understanding and conception of the 2024 election. Then a discourse analysis is carried out by comparing the knowledge from general cultural knowledge shared by participants from various social groups and knowledge shared by participants from separate social groups.

Keywords— Political Discourse, Youth Participation, Youth Activism, Political Outreach

1. INTRODUCTION

Youth is a potential community group in political socialization and recruitment, because the circulation of power in the Indonesian political system is determined by the will of the majority which is procedurally obtained through the election process. For the 2024 election, the number of millennial and generation Z voters is expected to increase to around 60 percent of the total vote [1]. Based on the Kompas poll, 92.8% of young voters stated that they would definitely vote in the general election [2]. The reference for young voters in determining their political choices is religious leaders (93%), followed by parents (90%) and friends (74%) [3]. This happens because these young voters do not have sufficient participatory experience and skills, as a result the quality of their political choices can be categorized as low. This can have an impact on the process and quality of the resulting elections.

Generational differences in participation patterns are largely due to the broader context that creates certain opportunities and constraints for action and certain understandings of politics [4]. However, things get more complicated when looking at the intra-generational level. This gave rise to the initial motivation and trigger for political engagement. Casting doubt on the existence of political apathy among youth, scholars admit that youth do not have a uniform approach to politics; in contrast, youth political participation is complex and nuanced, with factors such as social class and educational history of young people having an important influence on their political engagement [5]. This research recognizes that beyond parental and school influences, a richer array of factors shape socialization experiences, from voluntary associations to peer groups.

Focusing on the period of early political socialization, this analysis examines the visibility of the various influences of political engagement in the discourse of these young “activists” at the point of their

first mobilization, which is defined here as the moment when they recognize themselves as citizens. Comparisons across different types of activism are based on identifying the most distinctive features that pave the way for each type of membership studied such as: organizational membership and grassroots group membership.

In particular, the research questions in this study are: How are the expressions and public activities of youth in Surabaya motivated by various types of influence on the dynamics of the 2024 Election. The experience of socializing young people who are members or not members of various political organizations in the arena of everyday reality. In particular, the research questions in this study are: How are the expressions and public activities of youth in Surabaya motivated by various types of influence on the dynamics of the 2024 Election. The experience of socializing young people who are members or not members of various political organizations in the arena of everyday reality.

Youth activism contributes to a deeper understanding of the ways youth think about and experience their own activism. Given that political socialization is an ongoing process and young people continue to learn and develop. Further studies could explore how the relationship with each level of influence changes over time: whether youth political reactions stick or not. Furthermore, the perceived significance of influences at different levels on youth activity trajectories can also be explored.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This type of research is exploratory qualitative with the type of discourse studies that examines texts as social reality. Exploratory research is defined as research that is used to investigate a problem that is not clearly defined. This is done to have a better understanding of the problem at hand, but will not yield conclusive results. For such research, a researcher starts with a general idea and uses this research as a medium for identifying problems, which can become a focus for future research. The important aspect here is that the researcher must be willing to change direction subject to the disclosure of new data or insights. Such research is usually done when the problem is in its early stages. This is often referred to as a grounded theory approach or interpretive research because it is used to answer questions such as what, why and how.

This research is a document or text study which focuses on the analysis or interpretation of written or oral materials based on the context. Furthermore, focus group discussions can be carried out to find the main issues. Data analysis develops themes and collaborates with them in the mechanism of linkages between themes. The method used is constant comparative,

which is a research design for the same multi-data sources with analytical induction because the analysis of the formula starts at the beginning of the study and is almost complete at the end of data collection. the process of systematically searching for and organizing interview transcripts, field notes and other materials that have been collected by the researcher to increase the researcher's own understanding and to enable the researcher to report what has been found to other parties. Therefore, analysis is carried out through the activities of examining data, collecting data, dividing into manageable units, synthesizing, looking for patterns and finding what is meaningful.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1.1. Political Discourse

Discourse is the object of study of many sciences. His research is carried out by scientists from the fields of linguistics, psychology, philosophy, sociology, theology, pedagogy, law, political science, etc. Currently, there is no clear, generally accepted definition of discourse that covers all of its use cases. . Each science that studies this phenomenon offers its own definition. Discourse according to Zellig Harris, is a way of communicating and understanding the outside world, which manifests itself in the speech acts of other people; utterances placed in communicative situations [6]. It can also be considered as a social form of behaviour, social practice in society, culture, history and political context. By defining discourse in terms of which or which one can, one can understand the communicative identity of the communicating party. Political discourse is determined by the peculiarities of political culture and the political activities of the communication participants.

A.N. Baranov explains, political discourse is "the totality of all speech acts used in political discussion, as well as rules of public policy, sanctified by tradition and proven by experience" [7]. Creating his own definition of political discourse, E.R. Levenkova also includes in it references to the mental planes of human existence, without the analysis of which the study of modern discourse would be incomplete. According to Rakhmatovna, political discourse is "a linguistic expression of public practice within the sphere of political culture, which is the professional use of language, which is based on the nationally and socio-historically conditioned mentality of its speakers" [8]. This broad approach to political discourse can also be attributed to V.V. Zelensky, who distinguished two political levels: official and personal. The first is based on all kinds of political manifestations in the social life of people in any country. This includes the mass media. The second level of politics is actualized when there is

an individual's relationship with other people or the world around him [9], [10].

The functional features of political discourse leave imprints on its substantive and formal components. One of the characteristics of political discourse is that it combines standardization and expression. The first component is needed so that the discourse can be accessed by various recipients. It consists in observing a certain order of construction and reproduction of discourse, as well as rules for selecting vocabulary. Expressiveness also allows you to convey in discourse the emotional state of the writer and his attitude towards the topic. Talking about the creation and perception of political discourse, T.A. van Dyck also alluded to the idea of two kinds of knowledge. then compared “common cultural knowledge shared by participants from different social groups” and “knowledge shared by participants from separate social groups” [11]. The first type forms the basis of communication, objective and undeniable. The second type of knowledge satisfies the first criterion with only one limitation – the similarity applies only to certain societies. To others, this knowledge appears to be just a belief or an opinion.

1.2. Youth in Political Dynamics

The political socialization of young people is shaped by several factors with various influences that motivate their initial political participation [12], [13]. Scholars argue that youth political participation is influenced by family, friends, and institution, while there are different types of sociopsychological motives that play a role in shaping political participation. In addition, the wider socio-political context is important in the political socialization of young people and empirical evidence suggests that cohorts who are socialized under certain circumstances, in certain discourses and contexts of contestation, will indeed be shaped by them. Conceptualize young adulthood as the phase in which transitions to emotional, financial, and housing independence occur [14].

In general, youth political participation differs from adult participation in that the state of transition to adulthood impacts how people relate to the world of politics [15], something known as the life cycle effect. Moreover, the recognition of youth agency suggests that young people are politicized following their own interests and intersectional identities rather than following the example of previous generations. This explains why political activism is being reinvented by young people, who are choosing new and creative forms of political expression and mobilization. Youth activism is thus distinguishable from adult activism and should be studied as such, bearing in mind also that early engagement with activism impacts the trajectory of engagement across the lifespan.

In adolescent socialization, the influence of the meso level is emphasized. The important role played by the family, support network and school environment as well as the influence of peer-to-peer socialization are discussed based on social learning theory. The family, for example, has a direct influence that arises from the learning process that takes place in the home as well as an indirect influence that comes from 'placing the child in a certain local socio-political environment'. Following the same logic, the classroom climate at school/campus has an impact on youth's citizenship knowledge and their appreciation of political contestation.

Together with micro- and meso-level influences, macro-level factors, which are related to the structure of political opportunities, play an important role in motivating people to join political organizations. Youth political socialization is an integral part of the ongoing process and situation which is determined by their spatial and sociopolitical conditions. Everyday political life shapes young people's experiences, their perceptions of their own grievances and their agency, thereby influencing their political behaviour. In addition, the macro context involves the organizing principles of political institutions, such as the context of party structures, which encourage the adoption of certain frameworks for governing political choices, while macro-level change and stability also impact the politicization of youth. Beyond the influence of structural characteristics, major events have a significant impact on daily life and motivate youth mobilization .

1.3. Youth among Paradoxical Political Information

The character of Indonesia's younger generation is considered to be more dynamic, adaptive, and paying attention to domestic and global issues such as health, environment, employment, democracy, and eradicating corruption. These issues become their focus in following information in social, print, and electronic media. The issues and information that follow bring them into an ambiguous arena of awareness. The information captured describes a paradoxical situation, there are times when they agree or understand it, but at the same time they are disappointed and apathetic. An example is information relating to corruption eradication agencies which, on the one hand, are understood to be institutions with integrity, but on the other hand (cases) information actually encourages youth to distrust these institutions. This is what raises youth doubts about sound political practices. Even though they believe that the political system that is currently running is what encourages the freedom of citizens.

Paradoxical information makes young voters experience uncertainty in digesting the growing political

reality. The disparity of news and information carried by the media, friends, family, and the learning environment is felt to not provide more enlightenment in their political references. It is possible that what is happening is a process of apathy that is likely to develop in the frame of mind and beliefs of the younger generation. The facts related to this still need to be further explored. However, what is clear is that these young people are at the crossroads of political information which is difficult for them to systematize.

The above description is in line with CSIS data which noted that the level of youth participation in the 2019 elections increased compared to the 2014 period from 85.9 percent to 91.3 percent. Even so, the interest of Indonesian youth in politics is allegedly still quite low. The desire to run for legislature is almost 15 percent, and 14.1 percent want to run for regional head. However, only 1.1 percent of respondents were recorded as participating in a political party or political wing organization, an achievement that is quite far behind compared to the participation of Indonesian youth in other organizations such as youth organizations, community organizations, and student organizations.

1.4. Politics is Discussed as an Arena of Obscurity

This discourse develops because political news and information do not provide a comprehensive and patterned understanding. Several young informants described the unclear mechanisms and practices of politics as a political pattern in itself. For example, friendship and mutual kindness are not enough to accommodate steady mechanisms in political relations. They describe that the development of party coalition relations is not based on openness, but rather represents a pretense to play the situation. This worries the youths, although they also cannot call it a wrong thing in democracy. This means that they see ambiguity as a reality that can be accepted in political practice.

Judging from this, what the young student voters do not really understand is political ethics. It could be that this happens because in practice there is no standard political ethics that become the basis for political actors to act. Therefore the description of the practice of political behaviour that does not reflect certain good ethics encourages ambiguity for others in interpreting it.

The political discourse of this young group illustrates their inability to describe political phenomena in both theoretical and practical terms. The symptoms that they catch in the news and information about politics become a reference that is accepted practically, but is criticized theoretically. Images and knowledge of political ideals are only used in the discourse stage but are not implemented as expertise in political ethics. It seems that this has not been reached within the

framework of the political actions of the younger generation.

4. CONCLUSION

The new era of changes in the direction of political policy after 2024 will certainly require the policy-making process to be collaborative and listen to external perceptions or aspirations. The younger generation has a strategic position in political sustainability. The process of their discourse on various information and political dynamics shows their values and orientations. Various political dynamics that are mutually contradictory and overturned are discussed as political obscurity. This shows that the ideal political norms have not been captured by them as inherent in political practices and issues in Indonesia.

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