Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Indonesia: A Language Policy Perspective

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Abstract
In this digital era, it is very important to have various strategic policies to counter terrorism in many aspects, including from linguistic point of view. It is a fact that the world is multilingual and the multilingualism management constitutes a problem to be overcome (Calvet 1998), especially how to prevent the spirit of terrorism from affecting the language use of Indonesian multilingual communities. A language policy (Spolsky 2009) includes diverse domains such as education, family, government, etc. From some studies that I have done regarding language policy in Indonesia there has never been a policy related to how linguistic strategies to counter terrorism. Based on that condition, my study is very significant to give contribution for peace Indonesia. This study was done by using secondary and primary data. This paper tries to explain how is the strategy to overcome terrorism from lingusitic point of view. It seems that the language policy in Indonesia has not accommodated strategic steps how to linguistically deal with terrorism both in the regulatory aspects and at the level of implementation in the community so that it is necessary to immediately revise the existing language regulations both at national and local levels.

Keywords: Counter-Terrorism, Indonesia, Language Policy,Strategy, Perspective

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Introduction

At this time, Indonesia is entering an era where digital technology is something that cannot be denied if you don't want to miss information. It's just that it really needs to be given the best possible attention so that the information does not use threatening or violent language. The language of violence only carries a frightening message and does not convey the message of peace or tranquility that is needed by society in the ongoing development process. In fact, development aims to achieve prosperity for all Indonesian people, which of course includes peace or freedom from fear due to threats or terror.

Technological advances, including the increasing use of virtual space in people's lives, open up greater opportunities for acts of terrorism or threats of violence through this virtual realm. The crime of terrorism is not only in a traditional dimension but also has great potential to penetrate the virtual world. Moreover, nowadays where people really need virtual communication in various fields of life due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the need for virtual communication is getting higher. Of course, this can become a new field for terrorist activities in carrying out their mission.

Indonesia is a country with a fairly high level of diversity, not only in terms of biodiversity, but also in terms of high diversity in language and other aspects such as ethnicity and even religion. As a country that has the second highest level of language diversity in the world with 700 languages, Indonesia is a country that is very vulnerable to conflict if it is not managed properly. This can be exacerbated if national life is affected by the issue of terrorism. Therefore, the language policy in Indonesia needs better attention in accommodating this issue.

This paper takes the topic of Counter-Terrorism in Indonesia from a language policy perspective. In research on language policy in Indonesia that has been conducted by the author and in particular in several regions in Indonesia, it seems that this policy issue is still far from expectations given the high diversity. In fact, of the thirty-four provinces in Indonesia today, only 5 provinces have regional regulations (*Perda*) related to language, namely West Java, North Sumatra, Central Java, East Java and South Sulawesi. Several other provinces seem to have started to follow suit, such as West Papua Province and Central Kalimantan Province which are currently in the process of producing such regulations. Among these provinces, West Java is a province that is

even further away. This means that language policies derived from regional regulations at the provincial level have been further elaborated at the district or city level such as Bandung and Kuningan Regencies which already have linguistic regional regulations. It's just that these regulations have not kept up with the latest developments, for example how to accommodate language efforts or strategies in anticipating the issue of terrorism.

In relation to this issue, of course, various dimensions need to be seen as well, such as the dimensions of religion, family and other dimensions that can affect one's use of language. Of course, it is necessary to study how all of this can be accommodated in the language regulations related to this issue. In connection with this topic, there have actually been several studies that can enrich this paper.

Regarding this topic, there are several previous studies which can be stated as follows. First, Ali Alsohaibani (2017) in his Ph.D. thesis entitled "Influence of religion on language use: A sociopragmatic study on the influence of religion on speech acts performance", University of East Anglia, Faculty of Political Science, Philosophy, Language, and Communication, found that religious expressions play an important role in the performance of certain speech acts and have a major influence in performing three levels of certain speech acts: the locus act, the illocutionary act, and the perlocution act. In addition, religious expressions were found to contribute to positive performance levels of certain speech acts. In addition, participants' responses reveal awareness of the religious and ideological (theological) motivations behind the use of religious expressions.

Second, Guy Dove (2017) wrote an article entitled "Language as a disruptive technology: abstract concepts, embodiment, and the flexible mind", Department of Philosophy, University of Louisville, Louisville, United States. This study concludes that abstract concepts represent a significant challenge to inherent cognition. However, extant accounts tend to commit one of two mistakes: they treat language only as a source of experiential information or offer a conceptualization of language systems that does not conform to embodiment and foundation.

Third, the article written by Dindin Solahudin and Moch Fakhruroji (2020) on "Internet and Islamic Learning Practices in Indonesia: Social Media, Religious

Populism, and Religious Authority" states that digital religion studies the relationship between the internet - and technology in general - and religion which is basically reciprocal and interconnected. The online-offline reciprocal relationship is basically intended to describe interconnection in an offline context. The practice of Islamic learning on the internet should not be understood only as a form of religious populism that challenges religious authority, but also as an opportunity to expand religious authority in a digital context.

Terrorism is an extraordinary crime, so it needs to be handled extraordinarily (Siddiq, 2019; Nurish, 2020). In this case it can be said that the handling must be comprehensive and holistic, including from a linguistic perspective. But unfortunately, handling the issue of terrorism in this linguistic approach has almost never been done before, so efforts in this direction need to be thought about and started early on. This paper will begin to examine this matter with the hope that this can become a starting point in dealing with the issue of terrorism from a language policy perspective.

Method

This research was conducted using a qualitative description method. The data collection technique is done by applying interview and observation techniques. Interviews were conducted with key informants such as linguists, government officials, and other informants deemed important regarding this issue of language policy. Apart from interviews, researchers also made observations at the research location regarding the implementation of language policies at the local level, both at the provincial and city or district levels. Meanwhile, researchers also conducted literature studies related to research topics. This is done by tracing all the literature that has been published regarding language policy and counter terrorism strategies in the perspective of language policy.

The data collection was carried out to obtain primary data and secondary data. Secondary data is obtained through data collection on various existing literature as mentioned earlier. Meanwhile, primary data collection was carried out by conducting field research in two provinces in Indonesia, namely West Java Province and West Papua Province. West Java Province was chosen not only because it already has a fairly

adequate language policy, but also has a sufficient history in relation to the issue of terrorism. Meanwhile, West Papua Province was chosen even though it turned out that it did not have sufficient linguistic regulations as in West Java, but this region is one of the regions that has a history that is quite related to violence in various dimensions, starting from the dimensions of borders, human rights, ethnicity, and many other aspects that have the potential to lead to violence against the community there. Another aspect that could be the reason for the selection of these two provinces is that one province represents the West Indonesia Region, in this case West Java Province, while the other province, the second province, namely West Papua Province, can be said to represent the Eastern Indonesia Region.

Discussion

Diversity, Multilingualism and Language Policy

The fairly high condition of language diversity, namely 700 languages, makes Indonesia a country with language laboratories that are important to be used for scientific purposes, especially the discipline of linguistics, but it should also be noted that this diversity can be used by certain parties to divide national unity and integrity. This diverse condition of Indonesian society is also added to the situation of a plural society ethnically and religiously.

In fact, in the midst of this diversity of languages, the sociolinguistic condition in this country is not only inhabited by speakers of monolingual languages, but there are also many speakers of languages or people who are bilingual or even multilingual. An example that can be cited here is speakers of Doreri. Speakers of Doreri can be found in the Manokwari area, especially on the coasts of the city and some also live on Mansinam Island, which is about 10 minutes by motorboat from Manokwari City. Some speakers of this language can also use other languages such as Papuan Malay and other regional languages such as Biak or Arfak, although with a relative level of mastery. Thus, the Doreri speakers can be said to be bilingual or even multilingual speakers. A situation like this is what causes the linguistic complexity in this country to increase.

As stated by Calvet (1998), the reality in this world that there are speakers of multilingualism and multilingualism needs to be managed properly. One of the

management is by accommodating various current issues so that the language policy that is made produces an appropriate and holistic policy. According to Spolsky (2009), the role played by managers in language management is a conscious and explicit effort by language managers to control language choice. He continued that language management involves language practices, beliefs about language, and policies.

In terms of modifying the practice and ideology of language in society (language management), there is a phenomenon in which regulations that have been made do not parallel implementation in the field or at the empirical level, especially those related to counter-terrorism efforts. In this study, linguistic regulations in Indonesia generally show that issues related to counter-terrorism strategies have not been accommodated as can be considered in the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 24 of 2009 concerning Flag, Language, National Symbols, and National Anthems. This is in line or parallel to what can be seen in Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 5 of 2017 concerning the Advancement of Culture and also in Presidential Regulation Number 63 of 2019 concerning the Use of Indonesian Language.

Meanwhile, at the local level, none of the regulations derived from the Law as stated above represent a counter-terrorism strategy. This can be considered for example in the West Java Provincial Regulation Number 14 of 2014 concerning Amendments to the Regional Regulation of West Java Province Number 5 of 2003 concerning Maintenance of Language, Literature and Regional Script. The reality shows that linguistic regulations both at the national and local levels have not shown any efforts or contributions in preventing or even overcoming the issue of terrorism.

On the other hand, at the empirical level, the community, especially the people at the research location, have not shown any efforts in the framework of preventing or overcoming terrorism, especially through language policies. There are various obstacles found in the two research areas. One of the obstacles is that the community or government has not given priority to the language aspect. Perhaps this is one of the reasons for the increasing number of local languages that are endangered. From the accounts of several informants, priority was given to economic and political aspects such as how to gain economic access in political struggles at the local level. As a result,

the matters of administering linguistic regional regulations or even revisions to regional regulations to achieve a better community life have not been touched at all.

The Potential of Terrorism in the Realm of Linguistics

In linguistic studies, there are several domains that can show linguistic situations. In this sense, the use of language can be identified and in turn the level of language maintenance in the domain concerned or the level of language maintenance in general in a particular speech community can be identified.

The scope of language management includes home and family, religion, workplaces and businesses, public spaces, schools, the legal and health professions, military organizations, government, language activism, multinational institutions, agencies, and academics (Spolsky 2009). In the various domains mentioned earlier, it seems that comprehensive improvements are needed, especially how to implement the counter-terrorism strategy in these areas.

The various areas mentioned earlier have the potential for exposure to the issue of terrorism. Wherever someone is in the territory of this Republic, especially with the current advancement of digital technology, this potential can certainly emerge. Therefore, efforts towards how to minimize or anticipate this potential need to be done immediately.

Conclusion

Until now, there has been almost no contribution from a linguistic perspective to counterterrorism efforts in Indonesia. Neither the language regulations at the national level nor at the local level have shown this. As a country that has a very high level of diversity and is very susceptible to being infiltrated by the notion of terrorism as an extraordinary crime, a strategy for dealing with the issue of terrorism from a linguistic perspective needs to be developed as a contribution to creating an Indonesia even a more peaceful and safe world.

Some of the efforts that can be put forward here regarding the counter-terrorism strategy in the perspective of language policy can be stated as follows. First, the state needs to intervene and accommodate efforts to revise language regulations both at the

national and derivative levels, namely in regulations at the local level (provincial and district / city). Thus, counter-terrorism efforts in language policy or regulation can be implemented in various linguistic domains or domains so that they can make a positive contribution to the country's efforts to deal with this issue. Second, it is necessary to introduce the politeness dimension in language regulations (Leech 1983). This is intended so that people prefer or use polite languages. Third, it is necessary to have sanctions against violators of this regulation either because they do not comply with the rules of politeness or even more explicitly because they have created or issued violent language with the nuances of terrorism.

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