



Economic Inequality And Language Gap

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ABSTRACT

Economic inequality and language inequality in Indonesia are two issues that are interrelated and have a significant impact on the social and economic development of this country. Although rapid economic growth has produced various benefits, economic inequality has become increasingly striking. Data shows that the Gini ratio—an indicator used to measure income inequality—has increased significantly, especially in large cities such as Yogyakarta. These disparities are not only visible in income distribution, but also in access to education, health services and fair employment opportunities. On the other hand, the language gap is an important factor that contributes to exacerbating social and economic inequality. The diversity of regional languages in Indonesia often creates challenges in communication and access to information, especially for community groups who speak minority languages. Children who cannot access education in their mother tongue often experience difficulties in the learning process, leading to increased educational inequality. These two issues influence each other; Economic inequality can exacerbate language gaps, while language gaps can hinder efforts to address the problem of economic inequality. Therefore, it is very important for governments and stakeholders to formulate policies that not only focus on economic equality, but also take into account cultural and linguistic dimensions. With this comprehensive approach, we have the opportunity to build a more inclusive and just society.

INTRODUCTION

Economic inequality is a phenomenon that can be found in various countries, where disparities occur in the community's economy which results in striking differences (Junaedi and Salistia, 2020). Various factors contribute to the emergence of this economic imbalance. These

include limited job opportunities, low levels of education and skills, high unemployment rates, inadequate working conditions and poor infrastructure, in addition to various other factors.¹

Economic growth is one of the main indicators in analyzing development and measuring a country's economic progress. Theoretically and practically, economic growth is the core of macroeconomics. This term is often represented by Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which serves as an important benchmark for comparing a country's level of well-being over time. GDP becomes more accurate when used to evaluate economic growth rates. In simple terms, GDP reflects a country's national income over a certain period. Based on data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), in the second quarter of 2022, Indonesia's GDP reached IDR 4,919.9 trillion using current prices, and IDR 2,923.7 trillion if calculated at constant prices in 2010. In addition, the Indonesian economy experienced growth of 5.44% compared to the second quarter of 2021. In the expenditure analysis, exports recorded the highest growth, namely 19.74%, while on a quarterly basis, this growth increased by 3.72%. In terms of production, the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors showed the largest growth of 13.15%. On the expenditure side, the personal consumption component experienced significant growth, reaching 32.00%.

The strengthening of the economy in Indonesia in the second quarter of 2022 appears to be evenly distributed across all regions, where the rural cluster in Java leads with an increase in economic output of 5.66% compared to the second quarter of 2021, contributing 56.55% to the national economy. Indonesian is the national language which is an integral part of our identity as Indonesian citizens. As good citizens, we have a responsibility to preserve it. According to Sunaryo (2000), without language, including Indonesian, science and technology cannot develop. Indonesian not only functions as a means of communication, but also as a bond of unity between the Indonesian people, which has a diversity of 746 regional languages and more than 17,508 islands (Head of the Language Center of the Ministry of National Education, 2011). In the midst of technological advances and modernity, the development of the popular Indonesian language is very rapid.

However, as time went by, the use of Indonesian in everyday life began to shift, replaced by popular language or what is better known as slang. Many teenagers now think that if they don't understand slang, it means they can't be called slang. The use of popular language is increasingly dominating among society, especially among teenagers, and it is not uncommon to find educated individuals also using this language in their daily lives.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Economic inequality refers to differences in the distribution of income and wealth among individuals or groups in society. This phenomenon is often measured using various indicators, including the Gini coefficient and the Lorenz curve. Economic inequality can occur vertically, which describes differences between high and low income groups, as well as horizontally, which shows disparities between different regions or areas. Meanwhile, the language gap describes differences in language abilities between individuals or groups in society. This gap is often influenced by factors such as education, access to educational resources, and language policies implemented in a country.

METHODS

Method is an approach that needs to be taken in carrying out research. The aim of this method is to direct, search for and discover scientific truths that are detailed and accountable, while adhering to the formulation of the existing problem. The type of research methodology

used is descriptive qualitative. The data used in this research comes from various literature, news and books, always paying attention to the regulations set by the regulators, namely bank indonesia and the financial services authority. The purpose of this analysis is to explore how globalization contributes to the economic inequality that occurs in indonesia. This research uses a qualitative approach based on post-positivism philosophy. The main focus of this research is on the condition of objects in nature, where the researcher acts as the main instrument. The data collection method is carried out through triangulation, which combines several techniques. Data analysis is inductive and qualitative, so the research results emphasize the significance of findings rather than generalization.

This research method adopts a descriptive qualitative approach, which aims to understand in depth certain phenomena or events. This process is carried out by collecting detailed and thorough data regarding the research subject, then analyzing and interpreting the data descriptively. According to saryono (2010), qualitative research is a method used to investigate, discover, describe, and explain the qualities or characteristics of social influences that cannot be explained, measured, or depicted through a quantitative approach.

RESULTS

Inequality

Economic problems become increasingly complicated when faced with the realities of life, such as poverty, unemployment, prosperity and social welfare. In this context, Pancasila Economics emerged as a solution to the challenges faced by Indonesia. The majority of Indonesian people reject the existence of social inequality, considering that the two economic systems that have been adopted are more focused on growth than equality, thus creating gaps between levels of society.

Debates regarding the Indonesian economic system have been going on for almost the entire history of independence. Even though capitalism was once an option, it gives individuals complete freedom in economic activity without government interference, which often leads to monopoly or oligopoly. On the other hand, socialism provides freedom to individuals but with strong government intervention, which has the potential to create a more egalitarian government.

These two systems are in contrast to the ideology of the Indonesian nation which is based on Pancasila. Economic inequality in an area can cause various problems, such as increased migration from poor areas to more developed areas, as well as the emergence of crime and conflict between communities. In the context of a state, this inequality can damage people's trust in the government, which in turn threatens the integrity of a country. The island of Java, which consists of six provinces, is facing various important problems that need to be resolved immediately, including the issue of economic growth and disparities in the distribution of development.

Therefore, the aspect of equitable development is very important to monitor, considering that equitable distribution of development results is one of the strategies and goals of national development in Indonesia (Suyatno, 2013). As an illustration, Graph 1.1 shows the economic growth rate of provinces on the island of Java in the 2011-2016 period (%). National Economic Recovery in 2021 shows that the poverty level is an important indicator that reflects the welfare of society. This poverty level is measured based on the number of people living below the poverty line, which is defined as the minimum expenditure value to meet basic needs, both food and non-food. Thus, people who are below the poverty line are considered poor.

Economic inequality is a complex social phenomenon, reflecting significant differences in the distribution of wealth, education, and access to economic resources within a society. This phenomenon is often measured with statistical tools such as the Gini coefficient, which indicates the extent to which economic inequality exists within a population. These inequalities can

emerge in various aspects of economic life, including individual income, home ownership, access to decent work, education, and health services. The impact of economic inequality has broad and complex effects on society, including increasing social tensions

Poverty

The high poverty rate in Indonesia can be caused by several factors. First, many areas are underdeveloped with limited natural resources, especially in the agricultural sector. This results in opportunities to develop human resources being very minimal. Apart from that, limited supporting infrastructure, such as roads, schools and economic facilities, also worsens this condition. Apart from infrastructure problems, people who are classified as poor generally have a relatively low level of education.

From this explanation, it can be concluded that poverty and income inequality have a significant impact on economic growth in various regions in Indonesia.

According to BPS, poverty can basically be seen in two dimensions:

1. Absolute Poverty

Absolute poverty refers to a condition where individuals have very low incomes and only meet basic needs for survival. The measure of absolute poverty can be compared to an individual's income level, which indicates a person's ability to meet the basic needs necessary for survival. A person is considered truly poor if their income is below the poverty line and they are unable to meet their basic needs. According to the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), in Yogyakarta in March 2016, the poverty line was set at IDR 354,000 per person per month.

2. Relative poverty

Relative poverty can be understood in a social context. A person is considered relatively poor if they can meet minimum basic needs, but much lower than those of the surrounding community. The greater the income gap between the upper class and the lower class, the worse the poverty that occurs in Indonesia. Thus, poverty is closely related to income distribution.

Language Gap

Indonesian is the official language of Indonesia, which is the country with the fourth largest population and strongest economy in Southeast Asia (Wahyuni, 2018). This language comes from the Riau Malay language, which has historically been used since the Malay kingdom and the Sriwijaya kingdom.

Evidence of the use of Malay can be found in various inscriptions, such as the Kedungan Bukit inscription. Over time, the Malay language developed rapidly, both in oral and written communication. This rapid growth was also triggered by the existence of ethical political policies (politics of retribution) in the colonial era, which resulted in the Dutch colonial government's increasing need for employees to manage their administration (Firmansyah et al., 2022).

Even though Indonesian is the official language, communication in Indonesia does not always have to use that language. It is important to pay attention to the context and the person you are talking to, one of which is by considering the everyday language commonly used in the area. The use of language as a means of conveying information or promotions, especially on billboards, varies greatly.

Based on observations of existing data, the author notes that there are many mixed languages on billboards in Singkawang City and others. Language functions as a communication tool that has an important role in everyday life, especially in various sectors, such as hospitality, tourism and trade.

Apart from that, writing appropriate and correct language is also something that is no less important, both in government and private contexts. Careful word selection has a major impact on the effectiveness of conveying information. Therefore, choosing the right language among the

people of Singkawang City is very crucial. The interlocutor and the purpose of communication are determining factors in choosing the language used when interacting.

DISCUSSION

Inequality

Economic inequality refers to differences in economic development between various regions, both vertically and horizontally, which causes disparities or inequality in development achievements. One of the main goals of regional economic development is to reduce this inequality. Although an increase in per capita income can be an indicator of a region's economic progress, this does not always reflect an equal distribution of income in society. In many developing countries, the focus of the economy is more on the use of capital rather than labor, so that the benefits obtained are often only enjoyed by a few people. If national income is not evenly distributed among all levels of society, then it is clear that inequality has occurred.

In general, every country in the world has the same main goal, namely to improve the standard of living and welfare of all its people through economic development. Development itself is a multidimensional process, involving major changes in social structures, established thought patterns, and national institutions. This also includes accelerating economic growth, reducing inequality, and eradicating absolute poverty (Todaro, 2003).

Initially, development efforts in developing countries (NSB) were closely related to increasing per capita income. It is hoped that by increasing per capita income, various problems such as unemployment, poverty and inequality in income distribution can be resolved. However, reality shows something different, because the figures produced by gross domestic income and gross national income are not fully able to solve the problem of poverty and unemployment. Moreover, there has been a striking shift between rich and poor groups along with rapid economic growth (Arsyad, 2010).

Indonesia is one of the developing countries that has tried hard to carry out development in various sectors in order to improve people's welfare. National development is carried out by the Indonesian people with the aim of realizing a just and prosperous society based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution (Agustina and Reny, 2014). One of the main goals of economic development is to overcome income inequality and poverty. Income inequality in Indonesia can be measured through the Gini ratio. Data from 2012 to 2016 shows a decline in the Gini ratio with an average of 0.41%, indicating a significant change in income distribution in Indonesia.

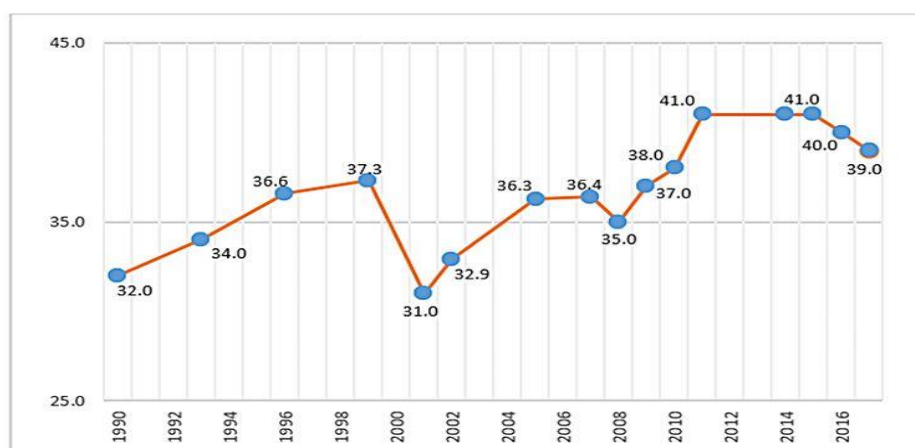
On the other hand, although the average income inequality by island tends to be stable, Papua Island has higher inequality compared to the national average, with a figure reaching 0.42%. Meanwhile, six other islands show inequality below the national average: Java and Sulawesi Islands 0.40% each, Nusa Tenggara Islands 0.38%, Sumatra Island 0.35%, Kalimantan Island 0.34%, and finally, the Maluku Islands with 0.33%. The problem of income inequality cannot be separated from the problem of poverty. According to Arsyad (1999) in Hajiji (2010), even though economic growth is high, its benefits in overcoming poverty are very minimal, because there are still many people whose income is below the standard of living needs. Economic growth often fails to reduce or eliminate absolute poverty. Thus, a rapid increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) does not necessarily mean an increase in people's living standards. Based on data from BPS, between 2012 and 2016, the number of poor people in Indonesia fluctuated with an average of -1.515%, indicating that the shift in the number of poor people was not significant. In the same period, the average number of poor people on the islands of Indonesia also showed a similar trend. Java Island has an average number of poor people that is lower than the national average of -2.167%, followed by the Maluku Islands which reaches -3.002%. Meanwhile, five other islands have an average number of poor people higher than the national average, namely Sumatra Island -0.247%, Nusa Tenggara Islands 0.728%, Kalimantan Island -0.291%, Sulawesi Island -0.285%, and Papua Island -1.112 %. From this data, it

is clear that there are still many provinces with an average number of poor people that exceeds the national average. Based on theory, increasing economic growth should be in line with reducing poverty rates; However, in reality, this has not been fully realized.

By reducing levels of income inequality and poverty, economic growth should have a positive impact. However, in reality, increasing economic growth is often inversely proportional to income inequality and the number of poor people. For several decades between 1970 and 1990, during the New Order era, Indonesia recorded an average economic growth rate of around 6% to 7% per year, making it one of the few countries capable of achieving relatively high growth (Sudarlan, 2015). However, in 1998-1999, Indonesia's economic growth experienced a drastic decline to -6.65%, which was caused by the global financial crisis (World Bank, 2016). Furthermore, between 2012 and 2016, Indonesia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) showed fluctuations with a downward trend, producing an average of 5.45% (Central Statistics Agency). In the same period, Sumatra Island and Kalimantan Island recorded lower average Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) compared to the national average, namely 4.95% and 3.98%. On the other hand, five other islands show higher GRDP, namely Java Island with 5.69%, Nusa Tenggara Islands 6.34%, Sulawesi Island 7.77%, Maluku Islands 6.10%, and Papua Island 5.56%. %. With this background, this research aims to analyze: (1) the effect of economic growth on poverty in Indonesian provinces, and (2) the effect of economic growth on income inequality in Indonesian provinces.

According to Kuncoro (2006), inequality refers to the relative standard of living across society. These differences cause varying levels of development in various regions, thus creating welfare gaps. Noor et al. (2010) noted that inequality or disparities between regions is a common phenomenon in economic activities. This phenomenon is influenced by variations in natural resources and demographic conditions in each region. These differences influence the ability of each region to encourage the development process optimally. An economic factor that is often associated with income inequality is the macroeconomic conditions of a region. On the other hand, non-economic factors include demographic, natural, political and local cultural conditions (Fulgsang, 2013). The concept of inequality between regions was also discussed by Douglas C. North in his analysis of Neo-Classical Growth Theory. In this theory, North put forward predictions about the relationship between the level of national economic development and development inequality between regions, which is known as the Neo-Classical Hypothesis. Income inequality, which is the difference in the amount of income received by society, results in greater disparities between various groups in society. Inequality between regions, as part of economic dynamics, is caused by differences in natural resources and demographic conditions. This, in turn, affects each region's ability to encourage a sustainable development process.

Figure 1 The Following Is An Illustration Of How Severe Economic Inequality Is In Indonesia



Poverty

Extreme poverty is a condition where a person fails to fulfill basic needs, such as food, clean water, sanitation, health, shelter, education and access to information. This problem is not only related to low income, but also to limited access to social services (UN, 1996). The difference between general poverty and extreme poverty can be seen in terms of expenditure: individuals assessed as extreme poor spend only IDR 10,739 per day or IDR 322,170 per month, while those who are part of the ordinary poor group have daily expenditures of IDR 15,750 and monthly amounting to IDR 472,525. Globally, the poorest 20 percent of people only receive 1.5 percent of the world's total income. Among this group, approximately 1.2 million people live below the extreme poverty line, defined as spending less than \$1.25 per day (based on Purchasing Power Parity/PPP). To overcome extreme poverty, at least 2 percent of the wealth and income of the richest 10 percent of people in the world is needed. This reflects the high inequality between rich and poor groups (Todaro and Smith, 2014).

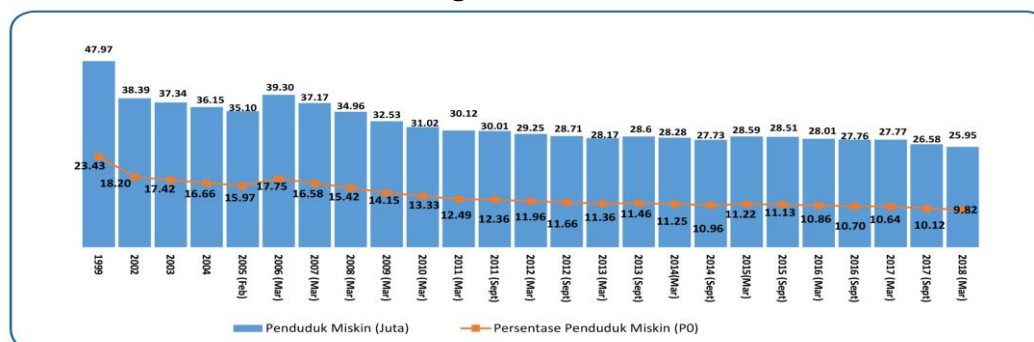
Extreme poverty itself is defined as a situation where people's welfare is below the extreme poverty line which is equivalent to \$1.90 PPP. The determination of this line has been agreed upon by UN member countries and is measured using a measure of absolute poverty that is consistent across countries and time (National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction / TNP2K). In Indonesia, efforts to overcome extreme poverty are carried out specifically at the direction of the President of the Republic of Indonesia. The main focus of this initiative is consolidation, integration and certainty in targeting through collaboration of various interventions, with the aim of eliminating extreme poverty to zero percent by 2024.

This strategy involves two main approaches: first, reducing the expenditure burden on poor and vulnerable groups through protection programs social and subsidies; second, empowering this group to increase their productivity, which in turn is expected to increase their economic capacity and income. In his writing, Addae-Korankye (2019) states that poverty is a situation where a person or group of people does not have enough resources, especially material resources, to meet their minimum needs. Meanwhile, Davis and Sanchez-Martinez (2014) define poverty as a real lack of welfare consisting of various dimensions. JRF (2013) in the work of Davis and Sanchez-Martinez also emphasizes that poverty is a situation where individual resources, especially material ones, are insufficient to meet minimum needs, including participation in social life. The World Bank provides another view of poverty, emphasizing specific conditions such as malnutrition, illiteracy, and disease. Asrol and Ahmad (2018) underline that poverty is a complex and multidimensional problem, which is not only related to economic aspects, but also involves social, health, education and political dimensions. In general, poverty is often understood as a condition where a person does not have sufficient income to meet basic living needs such as food, clothing, shelter, education and health. The Central Statistics Agency (BPS) classifies people who are unable to fulfill these basic needs as poor.

The basis for determining poverty refers to a minimum need of 2,100 calories per capita per day, plus non-food needs which include housing, clothing, education, transportation, and other household and individual needs. The multidimensional crisis that hit Indonesia has made it difficult for this country to get out of prolonged problems. While other Southeast Asian countries, such as Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore, have succeeded in recovering the momentum of their economic development to almost reach pre-crisis conditions, Indonesia is still trapped in the impact of the crisis. As a result, various anti-poverty programs previously initiated by the New Order government could not be implemented properly. This situation contributes to the increasing poverty rate in Indonesia. As an illustration, in 1996, before the crisis hit, the number of poor people in Indonesia was successfully reduced, but after the crisis, this figure jumped again to 24%, which is equivalent to around 39.4 million people. Descriptive statistics presented through chart maps are used to analyze the distribution of the depth index, severity index and percentage of poor people in Indonesia. Figure 1 depicts the distribution of

the poverty depth index, which varies between 0.55 and 7.4. The darker the color degradation on the map, the higher the poverty depth index. From the analysis results, it can be seen that the province with the lowest poverty depth index is Bali with a value of 0.55, while West Papua recorded the highest poverty depth index, namely 7.4. The five provinces in Indonesia with the highest poverty depth index values in sequence are West Papua (7.41), Papua (6.25), East Nusa Tenggara (4.16), Maluku (3.41), and Gorontalo (3.31)

Figure 2 Data Survei



Sumber: Diolah dari data Survei Sosial Ekonomi Nasional (Susenas)

Catatan: Maret 2011–September 2013 merupakan *backcasting* dari penimbang proyeksi penduduk hasil Sensus Penduduk 2010

Language Gap

Language functions as the most effective means of communication and cooperation in interactions between humans. It is a means of thinking that is the initial source for humans in acquiring and understanding knowledge, and functions as a symbol of understanding. Apart from that, language is also a social phenomenon where non-linguistic or external factors have a significant influence on its use (Sari and Wedasuwari, 2014, 40). Through language, humans are able to understand the surrounding environment and gain knowledge and skills. In everyday life, language plays a vital role in various aspects of life. Indonesian, in particular, functions to convey feelings and thoughts accurately and thoroughly to other people. In this way, language becomes a means to express what comes to the heart.

Indonesian people, as users of the Indonesian language, need to be wiser in choosing and sorting the words they encounter on the internet and other media. In this way, they can reduce the excessive use of Alay language. In addition, it is important for society to strengthen the use of Indonesian on various social media platforms and websites, making it one of the main languages in cyberspace. With this step, Indonesian will not only be part of globalization, but will also play an active role in it, not just be a "victim" of the flow of globalization. We all see how rapidly globalization is developing in the 21st century compared to previous centuries. Indonesian is not just a foreign or regional language; it is the official language of our country. As the main communication tool, Indonesian is used in various contexts, from educational introductions, textbooks, to official documents such as laws and state texts. Even though it has been designated as an official language, the practice of using Indonesian continues to develop and change. This change is influenced by various factors, especially the development of science and technology. One of the most significant factors is the influence of foreign languages on Indonesian. Foreign language interference is an issue that is quite capable of changing the pattern of language use (Mutoharoh, et al., 2018:87).

The use of foreign languages is increasingly widespread at all levels of society, especially among the millennial generation. Hidayatullah (2018) explains that the millennial generation is those born between 1980 and 2000. Rudiwanto (2018) adds that this generation is very familiar with the development of information technology. Many of them prefer to use foreign languages in communication rather than Indonesian. Another phenomenon that emerges is the use of code mixing, where Indonesian is mixed with a foreign language when speaking. For

example, more young people use the word "annyeong" (from Korean, meaning "Hello") than simply saying "Hello" or "Hi".

This happens because foreign cultures easily enter Indonesia, causing foreign languages to become a trend and be used in everyday life, so that over time people become accustomed to this concept. As a result, there is a stigma that if someone cannot say something in a foreign language or is unable to speak a mixture of languages, they are considered less "cool" and can be laughed at. This phenomenon certainly causes a decline in the quality of language use, especially Indonesian. Moreover, in Indonesia many international schools require their students to be fluent in foreign languages. In order to gain recognition as "cool", many parents teach their children foreign languages from a young age, even though they are native Indonesian citizens. This phenomenon reflects a shift in language use. One solution to deal with this is to increase awareness of the importance of language and maintain its quality. Apart from that, utilizing the abilities and potential of the millennial generation who are familiar with technology to develop Indonesian is also a step that should be taken, rather than destroying its existence. Language is a reflection of a person's identity, displaying an individual's character, thought patterns, behavior, habits and intelligence. The choice of words used, as well as the stress and intonation when speaking, give an idea of who is actually speaking. Language is also the beginning of the enthusiasm to achieve the independence of the Republic of Indonesia. This pledge has erased all differences - whether ethnic, religious, racial or class - and united this nation in the spirit of the Pledge of Allegiance and the Youth Pledge. Unfortunately, the noble values of the Indonesian nation which are reflected in the Indonesian language are often forgotten. In fact, Indonesian was born from great sacrifices—sweat, tears, treasure, blood, and even life. For our nation, Indonesian is not just a means of communication without meaning. It is a language of struggle that is able to awaken the spirit of nationalism and provide enthusiasm to continue fighting, even at very high risks.

The spirit of the Youth Pledge which was pledged on October 28 1928, became an inspiration for our nation's struggle to reclaim our beloved homeland. The Youth Pledge contains a pledge to unite in one homeland, one nation and one language. Historically, there have been no regulations requiring original Indonesian songs to use Indonesian, nor has there been any prohibition on inserting English into Indonesian pop songs. It's interesting, Indonesian itself absorbs many words from foreign languages. The trend of using mixed languages, namely Indonesian and English in songs, has been well received by listeners and is considered normal. This can be seen from the many song lyrics that mix the two languages which are popular with various groups and become hits. Language and culture never exist in isolation; both are always influenced by other languages and cultures. Therefore, language and culture are constantly changing, both through internal relations between the community groups that form them and through interactions with other languages and cultures. In this context, it shows that currently it is almost impossible for a language to be completely free from the influence of other languages. Language is one of the important elements in culture. As part of culture, language represents social changes that occur in the communities that use it.

The dynamics of language use can function as an indicator of the dominance of one culture over other cultures in society. Poynton, as stated by Ida (2014), explains that language always appears in interrelated contexts. Thus, language produced in various forms is a cultural product that cannot be separated from the spatial and temporal context of the culture concerned. Language also reflects the cultural identity of the people who use it. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI, 2008), one of the functions of language is to provide identity. Anshori (2017) states that identity can be interpreted as true self; identity means having or containing an identity.

There is not a single individual in this world who does not have an identity. This identity is reflected in the language used by a person. Each language has characteristics that characterize its speakers, especially in relation to culture. Identity also shows the important meaning of the

existence of an individual or object in social life. Everyone certainly doesn't want to lose their identity. It is very important to maintain awareness of the Indonesian people. As Indonesian language users, people are expected to be able to judge wisely the use of language on social media, especially on platforms like Facebook. In this way, they can reduce the excessive use of unacceptable language, or what is often called alay language. Apart from that, it is hoped that Indonesian can be used optimally on various internet sites, making it an integral part of communication in cyberspace. This will help the Indonesian language continue to exist in the era of globalization.

Therefore, cooperation from all parties is needed. Not only society, but the government must also play an active role in strengthening the existence of the Indonesian language. One of the steps that needs to be taken by the government is to establish a language development center which can be a forum for educating and increasing the use of Indonesian in various aspects of life.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Economic inequality and language inequality are two social issues that are interrelated and have a deep impact on societal development. Economic inequality refers to the unequal distribution of wealth and income among individuals or groups within a community. On the other hand, the language gap includes differences in language abilities that can affect access to education, information and employment opportunities.

1. Economic Inequality

Economic inequality is often measured by indicators such as the Gini coefficient, which describes the extent to which income is distributed equally among the population. Countries with high inequality usually face various problems, including poverty, limited access to health services, education and infrastructure. These inequalities are often exacerbated by factors such as racial discrimination, gender, and geographic location.

2. Language Gap

Language gaps can arise from differences in education and access to resources. For example, individuals who do not have good language skills in a country's official language may have difficulty finding decent work or accessing public services. This often occurs in multilingual countries or in remote areas where local languages are not officially recognized.

3. The Relationship Between Economic Inequality and the Language Gap

Economic inequality can exacerbate language gaps. Disadvantaged communities often do not have access to quality education that can improve their language skills. Conversely, language gaps can deepen economic inequality by preventing individuals from certain groups from competing in the job market or participating in economic activities.

4. By understanding the relationship between these two issues, we can design more inclusive policies to address the challenges faced by our society.

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