

The Fading Spirit of Nationalism in the Digital Native Generation Due to the Effect of Westernization

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Abstract

This study aims to provide an overview of the fading spirit of nationalism in the digital native generation due to the influence of westernization. The research method uses a qualitative and quantitative approach with a case study method that focuses on understanding the fading spirit of nationalism in the digital native generation due to the influence of westernization. The informants of this study were lecturers in the Social Sciences Education at the Indonesian University of Education and young people from the digital native generation using interview techniques. The phenomenon of westernization or imitating Western culture has developed massively in Indonesia. This is a threat to the fading of the spirit of nationalism in the digital native generation, due to the melting of Western culture with authentic Indonesian culture. The biggest agent in this phenomenon is the younger generation, especially the digital native generation who are friendly with technology. Love for the motherland is expected to be a shield for the swift currents of westernization brought about by globalization. The results of the study show that the younger generation already understands a sense of nationalism, namely love for the motherland, but they also reveal that westernization can affect the fading of the spirit of nationalism in the younger generation, especially the digital native generation, so there is a need for policies to deal with this problem from various parties.

Keywords: Nationalism, Westernization, Digital Native.



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INTRODUCTION

The influence of Western culture or what is known as “Westernization” has had a major influence on the lives of today's digital native generation. Where the pattern of people's life is increasingly carried away by modernist currents, which are considered as modern culture or as an alternative to today's culture. And this happens among teenagers, who so easily accept foreign civilizations as something to be proud of without filtering them. (Suharni, 2015). Young people as the successors of the nation must be able to maintain the preservation of Indonesian culture. However, we feel hopeless when we see young people these days feel more proud of foreign cultures. Even though the key to cultural conservation lies in the intention and enthusiasm of young people to continue to preserve and teach previous generations things they know about the country's culture, history and traditions to the younger generation (Agustin, 2011).

This cultural influence cannot be avoided in this increasingly sophisticated era, the process of interaction between nations in the world through student or student exchanges, tourist visits and other programs is increasing day by day. Meanwhile, protection against the currents of cultural influence is very weak in society, so that they have begun to abandon their identity as a virtuous nation, without knowing the boundaries of religious teachings and cultural morality.

Modernization and globalization on the one hand are seen as inevitable gifts for human progress, but on the other hand they are seen as threats to the growth of a sense and spirit of nation and state for the people of a country. Not a few young people in Indonesia identify themselves with global values and culture. This is a threat to the fading of the spirit of nationalism in the digital native generation. The digital native generation is the most vulnerable to the effects of westernization, both directly and indirectly. Meanwhile, it is on their shoulders that the future of the nation and state of Indonesia lies. If this is allowed to continue, it will undermine the national identity of the Indonesian people.

Based on the phenomena that occur, this study wants to see how far the influence of westernization that has occurred in the lives of Indonesian people can affect the fading of the spirit of nationalism in the digital native generation. After that, what are the factors that influence the fading of the spirit of nationalism in the digital native generation? Then, what efforts should be made to anticipate it, as well as what policies should be made by parents in fostering youth to avoid the influence of westernization.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses quantitative and qualitative research types. The population in this study is the digital native generation with an age range of 18-24 years from various agencies. To reveal or prove the assumption that westernization has played a significant role in influencing the decline of nationalism, especially among the digital native generation. The author distributed questionnaires to digital native generations, sought information from print and electronic media, and interviewed Mr. Muhammad Arief Rakhman, S.E, M.Pd. In this study, data analysis techniques were carried out through the stages of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or verification.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Nationalism comes from the word "nation" which means nation, and the word "ethnic" which means the union of autonomous communities with the same ancestry, customs, language and history. The term Nationalism has two meanings, namely love for the motherland and the country itself, as well as potential or true shared realization, maintenance and continuation of national identity, integrity, prosperity and strength. As we also know that Nationalism is our love for our nation and country, namely Indonesia (Suryana & Dewi, 2021). Meanwhile, Westernization is an imitation of Western culture in terms of behavior patterns, ways of dressing, culture, language, and others. Apart from that, Koentjaraningrat also revealed that westernization is an attempt to excessively imitate the lifestyle of Westerners, imitating all aspects of life in terms of fashion, behavior, culture and others. (Koentjaraningrat, 1992). It can be concluded that westernization is a person's process of imitating western culture excessively without selecting and sorting it out first. (Josaphat, et al, 2022).

In the midst of this modernization, we are increasingly brought to many changes, from technology to lifestyle. Changes that are increasingly prominent are consumptive behavior (hedonism), free sex and various other behaviors that are rooted in western culture or westernization. This creates a new problem in the scope of citizenship where western cultural behavior is growing rapidly and eroding the nation's sense of nationalism, especially in the digital native generation. This can be proven by several trends that were hotly discussed on various social media channels showing various hedonistic behaviors by buying foreign branded products instead of buying domestic products. Another behavior can be seen from the phenomenon of fashion week in one of the cities carried out by the digital native generation, namely they wear clothes in fashion quotes but do not pay attention to politeness norms that

have been established for a long time, they also use language that is not in accordance with politeness and social norms.

Westernization raises various problems in the field of culture. For example, the loss of the original culture of a region or a country, the fading of cultural values, a decrease in the sense of nationalism and patriotism, loss of kinship and mutual cooperation, loss of self-confidence, and a lifestyle that is not in accordance with our customs. Therefore, it is necessary for us to limit which scope of westernization should be applied and which should be rejected. The government's role is needed through policies that are more directed to cultural or cultural considerations than purely economic ones which are detrimental to a cultural development in the policies formulated. Thus, the government needs to restore its function as protector and protector of traditional arts without having to interfere in the aesthetic process. (Suneki, 2015).

To reveal or prove the assumption that westernization has played a significant role in influencing the decline of nationalism, especially among the digital native generation, we distributed questionnaires to the digital native generation, sought information from print and electronic media, and interviewed Mr. Muhammad Arief Rakhman, S.E, M. .Pd. According to sources, this problem is important to address. Because this problem is directly related to Indonesian youth, because the future of the Indonesian nation is in the hands of Indonesian youth, young people should reflect on other countries that adopt foreign culture but do not abandon their original culture. For example, Korea, even though their culture has mixed with western culture, they still apply their own culture, such as using chopsticks when eating and still enjoying traditional Korean food. It is undeniable, the Indonesian people cannot reject the presence of these foreign cultures, but don't accept everything at face value. However, you must be able to sort and choose positive impacts that can be acculturated with your own culture and don't apply things that are negative. The Indonesian nation must be able to promote its local culture. Apart from that, the resource person also revealed that there should be a policy to deal with this problem, one of which must be a fentakelix of cooperation in various stakeholders from the government, business actors, culturalists, and academics to work together on how to make this very potential cultural industry acceptable in other countries.

Furthermore, from the questionnaire that the author distributed, there were 200 respondents and the average respondent answered that westernization caused the waning of the spirit of nationalism and had an impact on changing the lifestyle of the digital native generation. Most of today's digital native generation also prefer western culture compared to the culture of their own people. This of course causes the waning of the spirit of nationalism in the digital native generation due to the influence of westernization. There are factors that cause the waning of the spirit of nationalism among the digital native generation, namely as follows:

1. Internal Factors

- a. The government is far from the hopes of the youth.
- b. The attitude of the family and the surrounding environment that does not reflect a sense of nationalism and patriotism.
- c. Indonesia is left behind by other countries in various aspects of life, thus making the youth less proud of the Indonesian nation.

2. External Factors

- a. The development of technology and the internet has caused young people to prefer foreign culture to their own national culture because they consider foreign culture to be more modern than Indonesian culture.
- b. The loss of love for domestic products is caused by the increasing number of foreign products in the form of food, clothing and so on with better quality and affordable prices so that they spread widely in the Indonesian market. (Kansil, 2011).

It can be concluded that the factors that cause the waning of the spirit of nationalism in the digital native generation due to the influence of westernization are the main factors that are within oneself, because it is oneself who can determine and direct the heart to want or not to foster a spirit of nationalism. In an effort to revive the spirit of nationalism in the younger generation, support from various parties is needed, including;

1. **Family Role.** Parents are the first school for their children because the family acts as the initial foundation that will shape the character of the child. The family has an important role in forming a sense of nationalism in children, namely by providing education from an early age regarding the attitude of nationalism and patriotism towards the Indonesian nation, teaching children to speak good and correct Indonesian, accustoming children from an early age to respect and use domestic products, as well as controlling children's behavior so that they are not influenced by negative culture from outside by providing comprehensive supervision to children of the surrounding environment and ensuring children grow up in a good environment.
2. **The Role of Education.** The role of education is to provide Pancasila and citizenship education, provide material on defending the country, instill an attitude of love for the motherland to students, for example carrying out flag ceremonies every Monday and every national holiday, and providing moral education, so that youth do not easily absorb things which can threaten national security. In this way, it is hoped that the youth will not be easily influenced by various things that can destroy the nation.
3. **Role of Government.** Listen more to and respect the aspirations of youth to build a better Indonesia, hold various activities that can increase a sense of nationalism such as seminars, cultural exhibitions, and outreach to young people about the importance of a sense of nationalism and the negative effects of westernization, supporting the promotion of Indonesian culture as much as possible maybe so that Indonesian culture can be better known and recognized by foreign countries so that other nations cannot dominate Indonesian culture. In addition, the government can also advise students to wear batik once a week, just like civil servants (PNS) as a form of pride in one of Indonesia's local products.

According to sources that the authors found in print media, policies issued by the government in strengthening national nationalism to deal with westernization, one of which is in the world of education, namely the existence of Citizenship Education learning in the curriculum at various levels ranging from elementary school to university. The main steps in preventing westernization in the digital native generation are as follows:

1. Tracing the history of Indonesia, so that we always remember how our heroes struggled to win Indonesian independence.
2. Study civics education to shape the national character (national building) of the Indonesian nation, especially the younger generation, so that it conforms to our nation's character in accordance with existing norms, namely following Middle Eastern culture in accordance with etiquette and religious norms.
3. Choose to love the nation by appreciating its works, one of which is choosing and using domestic products.

There are various impacts of westernization on the lives of the younger generation, namely as follows:

1. **The Positive Impact of Westernization**
 - a. Changes in values and attitudes Values are a view of the rules that affect the actions and attitudes of the state community in the life of the nation and state. Values grow and

develop as a view of behaving as a nation and state. The values contained in society are also related to the behavior of the Indonesian people.

- b. Growth and development of science and technology. The current modern era is closely related to the development of science and technology. The rapid development of science causes technological changes to develop as well. Modernization makes the supporting community to make innovations for change. Evidenced by the increasing interest in someone towards knowledge. The development of science is accelerated when someone focuses on research. The research process carried out has produced results, including inventions, updates or innovations in the field of technology.
 - c. A Motivation for a Better and Progressive Life. The concept adopted by western society often promotes a sustainable and advanced life. From this concept it can be a reflection for Indonesian people in life with the goal of a better and more advanced life, such as planning a better happy family with two children.
 - d. The use of other languages in communication increases insight and knowledge in westernization which is dominated by western styles, usually using English so that it triggers Indonesian people to be able to speak English, making it an additional language in Indonesia and also getting to know various languages used by western nations besides English.
 - e. Providing opportunities to introduce their own culture to foreign parties, Indonesia is famous for its cultural diversity so that it is rare for a country to have a wide variety of cultures. Starting from tribes, customs, clothing, food and others.
2. Negative Impact of Westernization
- a. Westernized lifestyle. Most teenagers today prefer to eat at fast food restaurants that sell western food rather than regular rice stalls because they want to look more modern.
 - b. How to dress that is not in accordance with the norms that apply in Indonesia.
 - c. Teen Association. Today's young generation, especially the digital native generation, has been heavily influenced by promiscuity. We often encounter rampant free sex that occurs among young people today, they are not even ashamed to indulge in intimacy in public places and social media.
 - d. The fading of the local culture of the Indonesian nation. The current younger generation prefers and likes western songs more than their own regional songs, and prefers foreign dances to traditional dances of their own people.

CONCLUSION

The influence of Western culture or what is known as "Westernization" has had a major influence on the lives of today's young generation. Where, this can lead to the fading of the spirit of nationalism, especially in the current digital native generation. This can be proven by the rise of free sex that is happening among today's younger generation, especially the digital native generation, who are no longer shy about showing affection on social media, lifestyles that are increasingly carried away by modernists, such as preferring to eat at fast food restaurants that sell western food. compared to ordinary rice stalls because they want to look more modern, how to dress that is not in accordance with the norms that apply in Indonesia, and prefer the culture of other nations to the culture of their own people. Therefore, this problem is important to address. Because, this problem is directly related to young Indonesians. If this continues, it will threaten the national identity of the Indonesian people. To overcome this problem, cooperation from various parties is needed. Starting from parents, society, educators, and government.

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