

LINGUISTIC REGULATION AND NATION CHARACTER BUILDING: THE NEGLECTED PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: Due to the advancement of technology and science; the effect of globalization cannot be avoided by any countries in the world. Therefore, every country has to simultaneously apply the sustainable development in various aspects such as environment, sociopolitical (social and political), and economy. The sociopolitical sustainability aspect consists of several dimensions such as language, science, culture, etc. However, in some developing countries, the sustainable development is more focused on economic sectors, like how to increase the national income or how to improve the export volume. Language as one of the essential aspects in sociopolitical sustainability is often neglected. It is closely related to the nation character building, which is the basic foundation for the development of each country. Nation character has two basic principles: (a) religionism and (b) nationalism. The principal of nationalism is extremely important in international relationship. Language is one of the most crucial aspects in the principal of nationalism because language reflects the identity of a nation. This paper is based on a qualitative research to portray the role of language (local and foreign language) and the urgency of language in every aspect of the national sustainable development by using discourse analysis approach. The analysis is intertextually supported by some previous empirical studies about the role of language in the development of countries. The

analysis shows that some languages are specifically used in certain aspect of development. For example, English that is specifically used for international economy. In another side, local or national language is only used in social and culture. Therefore, some people start asking a question about the existence of local language. From the literary review, the writers conclude that every country needs to formulate linguistic regulation or legislation in order to regulate the role of language (local and foreign) in some aspects of sustainable development. This regulation will support the sustainable development in the future. Lastly, the writers provide this paper with our hypothesis about the rules needed in the construction of linguistic regulation or legislation.

Keywords: discourse analysis, globalization, linguistics regulation, nation character building, sustainable development

INTRODUCTION

The technological and science advancements trigger the existence of the new era named globalization. The openness of globalization cannot be avoided by all countries in the world due to the ease of information exchange. In order to compete in the international scope, all countries have to simultaneously apply and improve the sustainable development.

The sustainable development consists of various dimensions of development such as environment, sociopolitical, and economy. Those elements are related from one another. In this paper, the writer focuses on the sociopolitical development as one of the most influential aspect in the sustainable development. It consists of several aspects such as language, science, culture, etc. Language is one of the most essential aspects in sociopolitical sustainability. It is closely related to the nation character building, which becomes the foundation of the development. In this paper, the writer will discuss about the role of language (local and foreign language) and the urgency of local language in every aspect of the national sustainable development. In addition, the writer discusses the importance of linguistic regulation for the sustainable development.

METHOD OF ANALYSIS

The paper is analyzed by using discourse analysis approaches. Basically, the word “*discourse*” has various definitions that are significantly caused by the existence of this term in many subjects and phenomena. Generally, some experts of discourse analysis state that discourse is an example of communication by using language (Johnstone, 2002). Fowler (1977) defines this word as the portrayal of reality that is communicated by using oral or written form. It is constructed from some experiences and media such as photography, architecture, art, and so on. These experiences and media are the tools used to interpret the meaning communicated.

The meaning conveyed in discourse contains biased interpretation. The intertextual relations between texts inductively help the discourse analysts to identify the meaning of discourse. The conclusive interpretation or proposition of discourse is constructed by several or sequences of premises. Therefore, in order to interpret a global meaning of discourse, we have to link several texts that are related by meaning. For example, the meaning of the sustainable development can be conclusively defined from several text perspectives that are related to this phenomenon. Semantically, these interrelated premises create a global meaning that portrays the meaning of each constructive element.

The purpose of this research is to interpret the correlation between language and development. There are three basic interrelated variables that base this interpretative analysis; they are: linguistics regulation, nation character building, and sustainable development. In this research, the writer uses several scientific sources that are related by meaning to these three variables and build the conclusive interpretation of each variable. The conclusive interpretation of each variable is correlatively compared. Based on this comparison, the writer builds a hypothetical

proposition. The analysis is pictured in the following conceptual scheme.

ANALYSIS

The analysis consists of several point; they are, (a) development: the meaning of development and sustainable development, (b) development: the dimensions of the sustainable development, (c) the urgency of language development as an element that builds the nation character, (d) linguistic regulation and the nation character building: discourse analysis.

Development: The Meaning of Development and Sustainable Development

Every country in the world wants to continuously develop in every aspect in order to improve their living standard. The economic sector takes the first place and becomes the priority in the national development. This phenomenon is based on a fact that this sector is one of the most important channels to achieve the national development by increasing the national income.

Rostow explains that the term *development* is a process that will be passed by each country (Kaya, 2004). The process can be classified into several stages.

Traditional society

The characteristic of this stage is marked by the subsistent economy. The trading is done by exchanging. The mainstays of agricultural sectors meet the needs of community.

Establishing the precondition for take off

This stage is marked by the surplus of trade as the result of the improvement in the transport infrastructure. This phenomenon triggers people to save and invest their money.

Economic takeoff

The takeoff stage is the beginning of the sustainable economic growth that is created by the existence of concentration transition from agriculture to the industrial processing sector. At this stage, the social and political institutions evolve to support the industrial process.

The drive to maturity

At this stage, the economic development is created through the support of technological innovation.

High mass consumption

At this stage the results of the development will be visible.

The explanation of development from Rostow’s perspective shows that the development is a process of fulfilling the needs by using the modern way in order to give more satisfaction to the society.

Nowadays, the concept of development has dramatically shifted. The development is no longer defined as the process of fulfilling the needs of human. The modern concept of development considers the balance and the environmental preservation. This modern concept of development is named the sustainable development. The World Bank (1987) defines the sustainable development as the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This statement implies that the fulfillment of human needs at this time must consider the needs of the future generations.

Development: The Dimensions of the Sustainable Development

Intrinsically, the sustainable development is the development that leads to the balance in economic, sociopolitical, and environmental development. The economic development refers to the settlement of economic problems (Badruddin, 2009). It is closely related to the traditional perspective of development centered in how to meet the human needs that are not limited by the resources. The economic development of a country is considered to succeed if the needs of life in society are equally met. Once the community needs are met, then a country will continuously achieve its goal to increase the national income. From the economic perspective, the goals of the national development can be measured by using the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The prosperity of a country is shown by the GDP obtained.

The sociopolitical development is one of the most complex dimensions of sustainable development. The sociopolitical development includes many aspects such as the quality of life as individuals, the quality of life as a nation, the community structure, the patterns of community life, the development of religious life, the political situation, and the cultural preservation. These aspects affect the development of a country through their respective channels. The good quality of life is reflected through the quality of human resources. The safe and peaceful religious lives as well as the secure political situation are the major contributions in sociopolitical development. The Preservation of culture is also an important aspect to be considered in a development process. The values of a country's virtues that are not eroded by the foreign culture are the portrayal that a country has succeeded in applying the sustainable development.

In the past, the environmental development received less attention because people are endowed with abundant of the natural resources. Their needs were fulfilled with the existing natural resources. They have no concerns with environmental preservation.

However, such a mindset has significantly changed. The modern people were starting to realize the importance of environmental preservation because environment is a very important aspect in sustaining human life. This concern was manifested in the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002, in Johannesburg. The country's leaders, entrepreneurs, and the leaders of the nongovernmental organizations gathered to discuss the sustainable development and the environmental conservation issues.

The three dimensions of the sustainable development (economic development, sociopolitical development, and environmental development) must be synergized to create a sustainable development. They must be simultaneously applied in order to build the sustainable development.

The Urgency of Language as an Element that Builds the Nation Character

The concept of nation relates to concept of power organization (Budiyanto, 1997). This statement implies that a country is a collection of people who are in a global structure and bound by certain rules or value with which the implementation is led by someone who is considered to have the ability to control and persuade the society. Generally, the group of people who build a country can be defined as a nation. The existence of a country is based on the desire of people to live together with a great sense of solidarity (Budiyanto, 1997).

Hans Kohn argues that the nation is the product of history (Budiyanto, 1997). Most people define the meaning of nation from various perspectives such as descent equations, region, language, customs, political equality, and religious feelings. Otto Bauer conclusively defines the meaning of this term as a group of people who has some similarities of character. It grows because of the sense of togetherness and the similarity of fate of its people (Budiyanto, 1997).

Mounier (1956) views character from two different points of interpretation. Firstly, the character is seen as an innately given set of conditions (given). Secondly, the character is defined as the level of strength that a person is able to master (willed). From these two perspectives, it can be concluded that the character of a nation refers to the characteristic or trait possessed by a nation. It is the legacy of the national founding fathers. The character of a nation is also pictured from the vision of its people. The vision is the fundamental elements that base the development of a country.

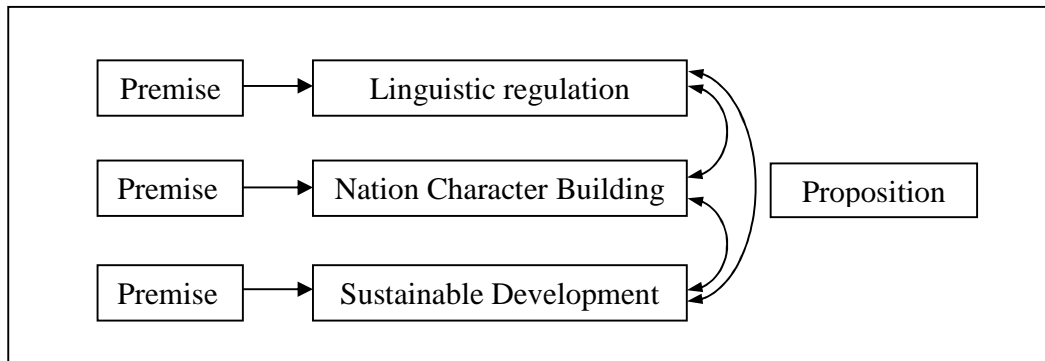


Figure 1: Conceptual Scheme

The character of a nation has two basic principles: (a) religionism and (b) nationalism. The religionism refers the basic elements that underline the behavior and actions of a nation. Nationalism is a state of mind and an act of consciousness (Kohn, 1984). The nationalism is the form of action that is consciously done for the sake of national interest. Nationalism is closely related to the development of a country. In the context of development, nationalism has an important role in the process not as the result of the development. It reflects the sense of togetherness and belonging in society. The realization of nationalism among the nations development process will be purposefully and continuously created. Therefore, the nationalism must be sturdily built to avoid the disunity.

Language is one of the most important elements that build the character of a nation. It is the legacy that is inherited throughout the history. Therefore, it is important to take account the preservation of language because language is the portrayal of the nation character. The development of language reflects the development of social character of a nation.

Language is the fundamental channel of sociopolitical development so that the national development can be improved effectively. As an example, the improvement of the human life quality can be done through the educational process. According to Hasan Langgulung in Sariyan (2009), education can be implemented in two stages; they are: the community stages and the individual stages. At the community stages, education is viewed as the process of continuous cultural inheritance that is continuously done to maintain the human existence. Education is the medium to inherit the cultural

element such as thought, politics, economics, art, customs, and language. They form the identity of a particular community or nation.

Language is also the medium of unifying the nation. A nation is composed of many ethnical groups that specifically have their own language. Therefore, a country needs to establish a national language that will be able to unite all the differences so that the communication can be preceded smoothly.

Linguistic Regulation and the Nation Character Building

The economic development is emphasized on the purpose of a country to obtain and improve the national income as well as to fulfill the human needs. Economic development should not neglect the sosiopolitical and environment development. The environmental development should be highly considered to maintain the viability of the future generation. The classical mindset which assumes that natural resources will always be available to meet the human needs must be changed because the existences of natural resources are limited. The natural resources must be preserved so that the welfare of future generations can be continuously guaranteed.

Based on the understanding of nationalism; the character of a nation has an influential position. The character of a nation is the basic foundation in sustainable development. One of the most important elements of this character building is language. Language is a medium used to unify a nation which is composed by various ethnicities. It is a medium to communicate the idea in science and technology. Therefore, language has a very important role in development process.

The existence of foreign language has been slightly shifted the existence of many local languages. One of the most influential foreign languages that dominates

the world today is English. The role of English language as the transmitter of science and technology has made this language has its own place as the primary language. Therefore, some people assume that in order to improve, the speaker must use English as their language. Therefore, every country must have certain linguistic regulation to maintain the use of local and foreign languages.

DISCLOSURE

In the process of national development, a country must consider several dimensions. Commonly, economic dimension of development has been the central focus of national development. However, the other dimensions of development such as sociopolitical and environmental dimension also strongly influence the national development.

Language as one of the aspects of the sociopolitical development must be prioritized due to its function as the medium of communication. Language has a very important role to unite the nation that has diversity in some aspects of life. It is the medium of communication in several fields such as technology, science, and education. In order to compete in the international scope, people must have the ability to communicate by using some international languages such as English. However, the position of national and local language must be prioritized due to their role as the national identity and the element that build the national character.

The urgency of language as the nation character building must be regulated or legislated in order to create the regular use of the language. Basically, the function of language can be classified into several purposes; they are: economic, education, social, politics, science, and so on. It can be seen clearly that certain language dominates one of these purposes. As the example, English that is considered as the language of science and technology, trading, economy, and education. In the other side, the local language is considered as the language of identity, character, and solidarity.

In some countries, the foreign language is positioned higher than the local language because the foreign language is considered as the first language in the knowledge-transferring process. In the other side, the local language is considered as primitive language and it is commonly used as the second language by the middle class people. It can be seen that there is an unclear position of language in society. Therefore, the language must be framed in order to create a clear border of language use.

The usage of language in a nation is supposed to be regulated and applied because it will influence the development of a country in the future. The content of the regulation must clearly consider several

aspects such as: (a) the aspects which are dominated by a particular language. As an example, the international trading, science, and technology are dominated by the international language; (b) the maintenance of the nearly extinct local language; and (c) the role of local and national language as the identity of the local people

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