



Good and Correct Use of Indonesian in Conversing on Social Media

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Abstract

Indonesian is an important language in the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. Judging from its position in the treasures of national and state life, Indonesian has two meanings, namely as a national language and as a state language. Speaking well and correctly is the key to successful communication. The right language ensures that the message you want to convey can be clearly understood by the recipient. Mistakes in word choice or grammar can cause confusion or even misunderstandings. This paper aims to conduct a study of the good and correct use of Indonesian in social media. This study was carried out using the library research method by utilizing articles, journals and internet access as sources. In this study, various effects that can be caused are considered. Logically, based on social media language, this issue is considered important to receive special attention. Based on the data and information collected, it shows that many social media users use a mixture of Indonesian and their mother tongue and even foreign languages to express their thoughts and feelings.

Keywords: Indonesian, Social Media, Communication Culture, word choice, correct grammar

1. Introduction

Language is a method of human communication expressed through structured arrangements of sounds or written statements to form larger units such as morphemes, words, and sentences. Language is one of the social phenomena (Antono, 2019). There are two definitions of language. The first definition states that language is a tool for communication among groups in society, expressed in the form of sound symbols produced by human vocal organs. Secondly, language is a system of communication that uses vocal symbols (spoken sounds) which are arbitrary in nature (Oktaviani, 2023). Language reflects the identity of a nation and its people. It can indicate how strong, independent, and sophisticated a nation is during a particular period (Ika, 2019).

The primary function of language is as a tool for communication. The main role of language is as a medium for communication and interaction (Oktaviani, 2023). The primary function of language is as a tool for communication within society, used in various environments, levels, and diverse interests (Saddhono, 2012). The main function of language is to serve as a medium for communication among humans. Without linguistic communication, the social system of a society would not exist. Without language, people would not be able to interact with one another, nor would they be able to establish kinship bonds. Therefore, the primary function of language is communication (Oktaviani, 2023). Language is also considered to have another function besides the expressive one, which is to show the identity of its users (Saputra & Aida, 2019).

Indonesian is the national and official language throughout Indonesia. It is the language we use in daily life and the official language of our country. In its use, the Indonesian language has several rules that must be followed so that we can use it properly and correctly (Suminar, 2016). Good Indonesian language refers to language that is used according to its context. Meanwhile, correct Indonesian is language used according to the linguistic rules (Ella, 2021). Proper and correct Indonesian language entails selecting a language variety appropriate to the context and adhering to the correct linguistic rules. A language variety itself refers to the variations in language use according to different situations (Oktaviani, 2023).

Slang is a representative of the Indonesian language in social interactions. This dictionary of slang emerged in the late 1980s. According to Saputra & Aida (2019), slang is comprised of several words or terms with unique, specific meanings, often contradicting conventional meanings when used by individuals from certain subcultures. In fact, slang is the distinctive language of teenagers, with words modified in such a way that they are only understood among them. Remarkably, almost all teenagers across the country, especially those exposed to mass media, can understand it, despite the fact that slang terms evolve, change, and grow almost daily (Oktaviani, 2023).

Many people use slang, and unfortunately, young people in Indonesia are the most prevalent users of this form of language. They frequently use slang instead of proper Indonesian. To reduce the widespread use of slang in society, we must instill a love for the Indonesian language among the nation's youth as the national language. With the emergence of slang in society, there are many significant impacts that slang has on the development of the Indonesian language as the national identity, including the following:

- 1) **The Presence of Indonesian is Threatened by Slang.**
The practice of language is closely tied to the culture of a generation. If the nation's younger generation continues to be immersed in the declining quality of Indonesian, the language may become increasingly weakened in fulfilling its role as the national language. In such a situation, it is necessary to nurture and guide the younger generation from an early age to prevent them from following these negative trends.
- 2) **The Decline of the Status of the Indonesian Language.**
Due to the ease with which slang can be used for communication and the fact that only certain individuals understand its meanings, teenagers are more inclined to use slang in their daily lives. As a result, the use of proper Indonesian fades, and the language is increasingly viewed as outdated by the younger generation, further contributing to the decline of its status.
- 3) **The Risk of Indonesian Becoming Extinct.**
The increasingly prominent use of slang among teenagers is a serious threat to the Indonesian language, highlighting the worsening linguistic ability of the younger generation. It is undeniable that at some point in the future, the Indonesian language may disappear as it is replaced by slang.

Social media is understood as a digital platform that provides opportunities for all users to participate in social activities. Social media refers to digital technologies that have the potential to connect people, facilitate communication, generate, and share news (Sutijono & Farid, 2018). Social media is a communication tool that offers many opportunities for new forms of interaction (Febrianti, 2021). Febrianti (2021) argued that social media is a collection of images, videos, and text about interactions between individuals and groups, such as organizations, within a network (Oktaviani, 2023). The negative impacts of social media include diminished face-to-face interaction in close relationships, internet addiction, the rise of conflicts, privacy issues, and the negative influence of others. The negative impacts include:

- 1) Social media and the internet have been used by criminals as a "vehicle for fraud" to achieve material gain. This happens frequently, and there is widespread exposure to sexually explicit content that lures users freely and easily.
- 2) People becoming individualistic and indifferent to others.
- 3) The emergence of cyberbullying and cybercrime.
- 4) The proliferation of crimes stemming from social media.
- 5) Disruption of relationships between couples, leading to jealousy due to interactions with others through social media.

The positive effects of social media include easier interaction with others, improved ability to build relationships, the elimination of distance and time barriers, easier self-expression, quicker dissemination of information, and reduced costs. The positive effects include:

- 1) Strengthening ties and connecting with knowledge.
- 2) Expanding knowledge and insights through social media.
- 3) Access to information about universities, job openings, and scholarships that provide concise and accurate details.
- 4) Providing space for positive roles, such as communication with religious figures, scholars, or motivators.
- 5) Helping users develop friendships and communicate during meetings, conferences, and social environments.

Considering the various impacts that may arise, logically, the language used on social media should receive special attention. Without this, there may be a rise in unhealthy communication cultures that do not reflect the character of the Indonesian nation, known for its politeness, hospitality, and civility. Therefore, this research is vital and urgently needed to be a focus for society and to contribute to shaping the national character for the future of Indonesia (Oktaviani, 2023)

2. Methodology

This study is a literature review (library research). According to Oktaviani (2023), library research involves a series of activities related to methods of collecting library data, reading, recording, and processing research materials. A literature review allows for the study of various references and previous similar studies that can help provide a theoretical

basis for the research questions being examined (Suleman & Islamiyah, 2018). Library research also refers to data collection techniques by reviewing books, literature, notes, and various reports related to the issue being addressed (Oktaviani, 2023). According to Safika (2020), library research is a theoretical investigation based on academic references and other literature related to the cultural values and norms that have developed in social conditions.

The data for this study consists of secondary data related to the discussion topic, such as the use of the Indonesian language and social media. The data is sourced from published research articles in national journals related to the designated topic.

3. Results and Discussion

The results of this research highlight the importance of proper and correct verbal knowledge and expression. It is essential to use appropriate phrases when writing proper and correct sentences. Oktaviani (2023) explains that diction and word choice refer to the ability to distinguish between nuances of meaning accurately according to the idea being conveyed. This ability must be adjusted to the context and values of the individual and the listener or reader. Based on the meanings of the phrases, many social media posts are also known to deviate from their pragmatic meanings. These deviations can be identified by the presence of ironic elements in the sentences. The most common sarcastic writing found on social media includes the use of harsh words, insults, and derogatory comments, as well as the use of labels and nicknames that demean or offend others. From the collected data, it is evident that many social media users use a mix of Indonesian and their native language to express their thoughts and feelings. This audio phenomenon is often referred to as interference, code-switching, and code-mixing. Code-switching is a general term that refers to the alternating use of two or more languages or different styles of language. Its usage patterns are consistent. Generally, people engage in code-switching and code-mixing for the following reasons (Saputra & Aida, 2019):

- 1) The regional language is believed to express a person's thoughts and feelings more accurately.
- 2) No other language adequately expresses these thoughts and feelings.

However, considering the context is a national election campaign, the use of regional languages may be intentional to highlight the speaker's ethnic background to social media readers. Sarcasm is a harsher gesture than irony or satire, containing bitterness and hurtful accusations. Sarcasm not only implies mockery but also contains ridicule or insults directed at someone. Based on various meanings of sarcasm, it can be said that sarcasm involves harsh words deliberately used to hurt someone's feelings (Suleman & Islamiyah, 2018). The use of sarcasm suggests that the speaker intentionally replaces a word with a normal meaning with.

4. Conclusion

This study concludes that the decline in the use of proper Indonesian among young people is largely influenced by the pervasive nature of social media and the increasing use of slang. Social media platforms, being informal spaces, encourage a more relaxed style of communication where proper language norms are often overlooked. As a result, young people, especially teenagers, are adopting informal expressions, abbreviations, and slang that deviate from standard Indonesian, leading to a gradual erosion of formal language use.

Furthermore, the frequent use of code-switching and code-mixing, particularly between Indonesian and regional languages or foreign languages, reflects both the flexibility and complexity of language use in modern digital contexts. While code-switching can serve to enhance expression, especially in conveying emotions or cultural identity, it also contributes to the fading use of standard Indonesian. This pattern is exacerbated during specific events, such as political campaigns, where the intentional use of regional languages is employed to strengthen cultural bonds or appeal to certain demographics.

The study also reveals that sarcasm, irony, and satire are prevalent in social media communication, often manifesting in harsh, derogatory comments. These forms of expression not only impact the tone of discourse but also promote the use of offensive and improper language, further distancing young users from traditional linguistic norms.

In light of these findings, it is crucial to address the growing influence of social media on language practices among young people. Efforts should be made to promote the proper use of Indonesian through education and digital literacy programs. By doing so, we can preserve the integrity of the Indonesian language while allowing for the creative and dynamic use of language in informal contexts. Ultimately, it is important to strike a balance between embracing linguistic diversity and ensuring that the formal use of Indonesian is not neglected.

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