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UNRAVELING THE INTERPLAY OF LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN BIPA LEARNING FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to describe the role of language and culture in the success of international students in BIPA learning at Andalas University. The method used in this research is descriptive. The data used is data obtained from observations, interviews and documentation on the role of language and culture with BIPA students at Andalas University. Data collection techniques use observation, interviews and documentation techniques. The data source in this research is interviews with Andalas University students. According to the results of the analysis, it was found that 24 language roles and 30 cultural roles were known to Andalas University international students.

KEYWORDS: Role of Language, Role of Culture, BIPA, International students

INTRODUCTION

Learning Indonesian for Foreign Speakers (BIPA) is one part of language learning with foreign speakers as the subject. Foreign students who study Indonesian are students who do not come from Indonesia. BIPA students are usually students who have a different cultural background from the culture of the language they are studying. Several universities in West Sumatra have international students, both darmasiswa students and students with regular programs. International students in the darmasiswa program become BIPA students like Andalas University which has international students. These students do not fully know the Indonesian language and Indonesian culture. The BIPA program at Andalas University provides basic level BIPA teaching for international students to communicate in classes consisting of several countries who have previously been provided with learning Indonesian for Foreign Speakers (BIPA) at the Andalas University Language Center UPT for three months.

The role of language is very important for international students, namely as a tool to convey information to the person they are talking to. Good use of language will help international students in social life, because language is an element of culture. Language and culture are things that cannot be separated. Apart from being a cultural product, language also reflects the values and expressions of a nation's material culture. The role of culture for international students is to form an attitude of tolerance in society and to respect one culture and another. Culture is needed to regulate humans so they can understand how they should act and act in life. Cultural understanding is very important, especially for people in the education industry, especially international students who have direct contact with

surrounding communities who have different cultures. This understanding includes an understanding of values, customs, habits, ways of communicating. In understanding the role of culture in BIPA learning, cultural material is directed at knowledge and introduction to Indonesian culture for BIPA students to use it as a provision for their daily lives in Indonesia.

Through BIPA teaching, students will know the language, culture and cultural characteristics of a region, so that students are interested and can easily learn Indonesian and even regional languages. In accordance with Suyitno's opinion (2018: 13), the role of culture is to introduce and learn Indonesian family lifestyles and cultural knowledge. Introduction or learning about Indonesian family lifestyles includes various aspects of culture, traditions, daily habits and values related to the lifestyle of Indonesian people, especially Minangkabau. Cultural knowledge, namely history, art, religion, social systems: ornaments and symbols. This cultural material will equip BIPA students to be able to speak Indonesian according to their situation and conditions. Apart from that, it also introduces Indonesian culture to BIPA students so that it can foster a positive and appreciative attitude among BIPA students towards Indonesian culture.

Therefore, this research is very interesting to research because it is based on the fact that language and cultural differences greatly influence the daily lives of international students. By studying Indonesian, international students can master Indonesian and by being able to speak Indonesian, international students can find out what culture exists in Indonesia. Apart from that, this research is considered unique because it connects two different objects, namely the role of language and culture. The very different languages make it difficult for students to communicate with the surrounding community.

So, for international students at Andalas University who still don't have much knowledge about Indonesian culture, they can learn BIPA easily at the Andalas University language center UPT for several months. Students who study BIPA are Darmasiswa students who receive scholarships from Andalas University. because the role of language and culture is very important in the success of international students in learning the BIPA taught and research related to the objects raised has so far never been researched. Research carried out regarding the role of language and culture in the success of international students in BIPA learning will be carried out at Andalas University at the basic level. It is very important to carry out research on the role of language and culture in the success of international students in BIPA learning at Andalas University. In order to adapt to Indonesia, BIPA learning is required for international students at Andalas University. By studying BIPA, international students are expected to be able to master Indonesian or speak Indonesian (Kusmiatun, 2015). Therefore, the aim of this research is to look at the role of language and culture in the success of international students in BIPA learning at Andalas University.

METHODS

In this research, researchers used descriptive methods. This method was chosen with the aim of presenting a comprehensive picture of the research results and gaining a thorough understanding of the subject under study. The choice of this method is rooted in the need for international students studying BIPA to see the various roles of language and culture in the success of international students in BIPA learning at Andalas University. According to Moleong (2010:11) explains that the descriptive method is a method of collecting data in the form of words, images and not in the form of numbers.

This form of qualitative research adheres to a descriptive framework, with a focus on describing and characterizing phenomena. A distinctive feature of descriptive research is its narrative-oriented approach, which involves a large amount of textual description. This method analyzes data that has been collected in the form of spoken words (speech) directly from the object being observed. This research emphasizes the role of language and culture in international students. So, this research describes the role of language and culture in the success of international students in BIPA learning. Qualitative research is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of words or speech from people and behavior that can be observed Siyoto (2015:27).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on research conducted on the role of language and culture in the success of international students in BIPA learning at Andalas University, it is known that there is a role of language and culture in the success of international students in BIPA learning. The total number of students or informants was 5 people. The research will start from July 26 2023 to August 2 2023. This research was carried out by conducting direct interviews with BIPA students to see the role of language and culture known to international students in BIPA learning. Each informant was asked 25 questions. Each informant was asked the same questions.

Based on the results of interviews that have been conducted, the role of language and cultural role for international students in BIPA learning is: First, the role of language, from the results of research conducted, the role of language for international students in BIPA learning is the role of language which is related to the role of language expressing self-expression, where the role of language expressing expression contains 2 data that are pronounced by international BIPA students. Apart from that, the role of language as a communication tool was found in 17 data, where this data was related to the way BIPA international students expressed opinions or arguments conveyed in language. Furthermore, there are 5 data on the role of language as a tool for social integration and adaptation, namely in communicating during BIPA learning, international students can make adjustments to the customs that apply in the surrounding environment.

Second, the role of culture. As BIPA learners, students can also use language as a cultural role, which can be seen from the way students interpret language, such as learning Indonesian as an introduction to and learning about the lifestyle of Indonesian families in cultural diversity, 8 data were found, namely that BIPA international students while studying BIPA can learn about culture. -culture in Indonesia, especially the culture of the Minagkabau people. BIPA students can also find out the types of food and drinks where there are 3 data found in BIPA learning students, namely the students' knowledge of the types of culinary delights that exist in West Sumatra. There are 5 data regarding festivals and celebrations, namely BIPA students know the types of festivals and celebrations that exist in West Sumatra. There are 7 data regarding understanding in everyday life, namely BIPA students know about means of transportation and traditional markets in West Sumatra.

The results of the interview also show that BIPA international students can know about cultural knowledge, such as knowledge about art, 5 pieces of data were found, namely students' knowledge regarding types of art in West Sumatra, apart from that, BIPA international students' knowledge of types of religion in West Sumatra, of which there are 2 data. So, from the results of the research that has been carried out, there are 54 data

containing the role of language and the role of culture in international students in BIPA learning, so the role that is most often obtained is the role of language as a communication tool. Meanwhile, the data that was not found was the role of language as social control and the role of culture in historical cultural knowledge and knowledge of societal systems.

A. Data Analysis of The Role of Language in The Success of International Students in BIPA Learning at Andalas University

1. Language to Express Self-Expression

Data: 15

“For me it's beautiful. There is a gajak room and several rooms. I "

Based on the data above, it can be seen that the role of language spoken by international students in BIPA learning is as a tool for expressing self-expression. The self-expression expressed is an expression of joy or happiness. Through language, they can express feelings, and view them more effectively. BIPA International Students enjoy learning Indonesian, so this can be seen from the words they conveyed "For me it is beautiful". From his speech, it can be known that according to international students the Rumah Gadang is beautiful, beautiful here means pleasing to the eye, beautiful, good, therefore international students are happy and happy and while studying Indonesian at Andalas University, students know many things, so they feel amazed. and amazed at the culture that exists in Indonesia, especially in West Sumatra.

2. Language as a Communication Tool

Data: 01

"By learning Indonesian I can speak Indonesian, Indonesian is not difficult but depending on the actual language and language style, in standard language it might be quite easy. But if the slang outside is sometimes confusing, I don't understand it."

Data 01 above is a form of the role of language as a communication tool. In this data there are views or arguments expressed by BIPA International students while studying Indonesian language lessons. This can be seen from the statements made by international students, "By learning Indonesian, I can speak Indonesian." From the speech, it can be seen that by studying BIPA international students can understand Indonesian, where students can communicate with other people and express views or opinions that they want to convey to other people. In accordance with Felicia's (2001) opinion, the function of language is as a means of communication with the surrounding environment. Language also allows international students to communicate with fellow students and lecturers in their new environment.

3. Language As a Tool for Social Integration and Adaptation.

Data: 51

“A little, Like the way I dress, I used to wear short clothes”

Based on the data above, it can be seen that the role of language spoken by international students in BIPA learning is as a tool for social integration and adaptation. When international students learn Indonesian they will know about language rules and how the language will be used in everyday life. International students will know and recognize the customs and manners, as well as the behavior of Indonesian society. International students try to adapt to their surroundings and adapt to society and adapt while living in

Indonesia. This can also be seen from the data above that BIPA international students adapt to their surrounding environment by following the rules or manners of society in West Sumatra, namely by changing the way they dress in accordance with the traditions or way of dressing of West Sumatra society in general.

B. Data Analysis of The Role of Culture in the Success of International Students in BIPA Learning at Andalas University

1. Introduction and Learning about Family Lifestyle

a. Cultural Diversity

Data: 06

"It's not complete yet, but you know there are many Minangkabau tribes. 9 if I'm not mistaken yes caniago, koto, it's hard there are a lot"

From the data above, the form of cultural role found in international students' speech is the introduction of cultural diversity. While studying BIPA, international students not only learn the language but also study the culture in Indonesia such as various tribes, religions, languages and customs that influence the lifestyle of the people. Learning can include understanding the diversity of Minangkabau culture and the way people interact with their surrounding environment. This learning will make international students aware of the various tribes and cultures that exist in Minangkabau.

b. Food and Drink

Data: 07

"Here, the Minangkabau specialty is rendang, but because I don't eat meat at all, I eat the vegetarian version of jackfruit, jengkol, apart from rendang, especially here, kelio, gulai, pical, lotek. My drink is usually bitter coffee."

From the data above, the form of cultural role found in international students' speech is an introduction to the types of culinary delights that exist in West Sumatra. While studying BIPA, international students not only learn the language but also learn about the types of culinary delights that exist in West Sumatra. International students know about the traditional foods in Minangkabau and have tried various traditional Minangkabau foods such as jackfruit, jengkol, kelio, gulai, pical, lotek, gado-gado, vegetables, capcai, cakangkung, bitter coffee drinks. Because Khin is a vegetarian he only ate fruit and vegetables during his stay in Indonesia.

c. Festivals and Celebrations

Data: 08

"Tabuik, pacu jawi, baralek, those from the religion of Eid al-Adha, Eid al-Fitr are definitely those."

Data 08 above is a form of cultural role in recognizing festivals and celebrations. While studying BIPA, international students also learn about the types of festivals and celebrations that exist in West Sumatra. One form of festival known to international students is the Tabuik festival. The Tabuik celebration is an annual tradition that occurs in Pariaman City, West Sumatra, Indonesia.

d. Everyday Life

Data: 09

"Motorbikes, public transportation, trains that's all."

The data above is a form of cultural role, namely regarding everyday life. As international students they can understand the use of means of transportation used by the surrounding community, namely traditional transportation such as public transportation and trains.

2. Cultural Knowledge

a. Art

Data: 12

"Tau, karawitan, gendang sunai, talempong, saluang that's all."

From the data above, the form of cultural role found in international students' speech is cultural knowledge related to art. Through the BIPA lessons that international students receive, they can help foreign students to understand and recognize various traditional Indonesian musical instruments, such as "karawitan, gendang sunai, talempong saluang."

b. Religion

Data: 14

"In Minangkabau one hundred percent are Muslim, right? In Indonesia there are 5 legal religions, Catholic Christianity, Protestant Christianity, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu."

While studying BIPA, international students not only learn the language but also learn the culture in Indonesia such as various tribes, religions, languages and customs that influence the lifestyle of the people. Through BIPA learning, international students learn about religions in Indonesia. By learning Indonesian, students will also know and know the values of each religion, such as Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism.

By learning Indonesian it will make it easier for international students to communicate with Indonesians and be better able to express what they want to know about Indonesia. This is in accordance with what Felicia (2001) said when we talk to other people we will use language as a means of expression and communication. When we communicate with other people, we definitely use expressions to convince other people to understand and comprehend what we want to convey. Because of this, the role of language is very important in everyday life. Without understanding our language it will be difficult to communicate with other people. This cultural aspect is one way that students can better understand the Indonesian language they are studying because culture determines a person's way of thinking and speaking. The role of culture for international students is to form an attitude of tolerance in society and to respect one culture and another. Culture is needed to regulate humans so they can understand how they should act and act in life. Cultural understanding is very important, especially for people in the education industry, especially international students who have direct contact with surrounding communities who have different cultures.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research with 5 BIPA students as informants, it can be concluded that:

1) First, the role of language, namely the role of language in expressing expressions where while studying BIPA international students feel happy because by learning Indonesian

they can learn about the language and culture that exist in Indonesia, especially in West Sumatra. BIPA International Students enjoy studying Indonesian, so this can be seen from the statements they convey, that while studying Indonesian at Andalas University the students know many things, so they feel amazed and amazed at the culture that exists in Indonesia, especially in West Sumatra. The role of language as a means of language communication is used by students to express opinions or arguments regarding the linguistics they have studied. The role of language as a tool for social integration and adaptation means that international students can make adjustments to the customs that apply in the surrounding environment, namely by adjusting the clothing they wear during the BIPA learning process.

2) Second, the role of culture as an introduction to and learning about Indonesian family lifestyles where international students can recognize the cultural diversity that exists in Indonesia, especially the culture of the Minagkabau people. BIPA students can also find out about traditional Minangkabau food and drinks, and find out about festivals and celebrations in West Sumatra. Next, find out about the types of art in West Sumatra and know and appreciate the religions in West Sumatra.

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