THE ROLE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) IN THE EDUCATION OF HISTORY TO DEVELOP NATIONALISM

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Abstract

In the globalization era today and by having pluralistic conditions of Indonesia—by having many ethnic diversity, languages, culture, custom, religion and different ways of life based on social economics; each region requires the education of history be able to collect, manage, store, analyze, verify and disseminate important information effectively and efficiently in order to develop nationalism. The presence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is hoped to facilitate the education of history so that history can be complete, accurate, fast and modish. This article will explain how the role of ICT can facilitate the education of history in developing nationalism supported by information literacy.

Keywords: Globalization, Information and Communication Technology, Education of History, Nationalism.

Introduction

The role of ICT in human life has become more important to reveal data and fact into utilized information. The education of history is inseparable from a responsibility in order the data and fact can be collected, managed, stored, analyzed, verified and disseminated so that the society get a right information in an effective and efficient way. By having the right knowledge and information, the true and responsible patriotism and nationalism will grow.

Essentially, ICT is a tool to obtain added value in producing fast, complete, accurate, lucid and modish information. One of the advantages related to the role of ICT in the education of history is Internet. Internet as a media of information provides an opportunity to everyone to convey data and historical fact in an open and responsible way. This opens a new opportunity in the development of historical study in which historical reality can be owned by everyone openly and honestly. The emergence of Indonesia Raya video, the historical fact of the heroism of Otto Iskandardinata, the early development of knowledge about the theory of evolution by Wallace in Sulawesi are several data and fact which disturb the establishment of recent history. The discovery of those data and fact not only changed Historical point of view fundamentally but

also affected the information's transparency through some of web based applications, which provided a big opportunity into the development and dissemination of knowledge.

The maturity of someone in comprehending and using information is really needed so that different kinds of information can be seen in an honor way. Unpreparedness of knowledge and mental sharpened a very potential conflict. Chaotic that occurs in today's society shows the public unpreparedness in receiving information that can threaten national security. Patriotism and nationalism lately appeared because of short conflict; a real example of patriotism and nationalism appeared because of cases of Reog Ponorogo, Pendet's dance and Ambalat Island.

The education of history should be able to increase a better information literacy supported by data and fact to make a united nation. Alvin Toffler in "Powershift" (the third book of the trilogy after "Future Shock" and "The Third Wave") described the development as a revolution took place in three waves. First one marked by agricultural technology, second one marked by industrial technology and the third one marked by information technology which led to the growth of telecommunication. Technology affects humans in everyday life, so if they are having "technology illiterate", it will decelerate having information mastery, and will also be left behind to get an opportunity to advance. Information has a very significant role, let alone the society today is heading into information society era and/or knowledge society era.

The education of history not only undergoes the changes of data substances and historical facts, but also challenges to find a form of teaching approach, strategy and method, which can answer the challenges of historical education necessity in the era of globalization and the disclossure of information. Research and development of the education of history in finding teaching approach, strategy and method which are rooted in the nation's context should be conscious and sustainable.

Problem

ICT in the education of history in order to nurture nationalism can be interpreted into three paradigms, namely (1) ICT as a Tools means that ICT as a technology product that can act as historical actor in nurturing nationalism, (2) ICT as a Content means that ICT as a part of material that makes the education of history can be complete, accurate, fast, lucid and modish in developing nationalism. (3) ICT as program application means that ICT as a helping tools to collect, manage, store, analyze, verify and disseminate important information effectively and efficiently in order to develop nationalism. This paper raised an issue on how the role of ICT can facilitate the education of history in developing nationalism supported by information literacy.

ICT and the Education of History

The story begins with the discovery of Alfred Russel Wallace's story that perambulated Nusantara's islands for almost 8 years (1854-1962) and made a journey along 22.000 km and has been recorded into a book called "The Malay Archipelago". Wallace is a biologist—the same era as Charles Darwin—both of them are the same by finding the theory of evolution. The difference only lied in the place of research conducted. Darwin conducted a research in Galapagos Islands in Equador offshore, South America, while Wallace conducted a research in Sulawesi and Maluku. The question arouse is the first one who revealed the theory of evolution, while history has been determined that Darwin is the founding father of evolution's theory. Will this change the historical fact?

The same case occurred in the death story of "Si Jalak Harupat" Oto Iskandardinata who was born on March 31, 1897 in Bandung. He said in "Tjahaja" newspaper published on August 21, 1945 that "Kalaoe Indonesia Merdeka boleh diteboes dengan djiwa seorang anak Indonesia, saja telah memadjoekan diri sebagai kandidat jang pertama oentoek pengorbanan ini." Lately the heroism data and fact of Otto Iskandardinata is getting evident in the disclosure of Information.

By looking at both cases, at least by the digitalization of content, the disclosure of information and literacy mastery of society, then the recent data and fact will be revealed and changed. Therefore, the education of history as a part of global education and globalization should set a clear goal and direction. Hamid Hasan (Dadang Supardan, 2004) stated that general and ideal goals of teaching and learning history are in order the students (1) be able to comprehend history, (2) have historical consciousness, (3) have a historical knowledge, which all led into the wisdom of history.

A major factor in collecting, managing, storing, analyzing, verifying, and disseminating information quickly, accurately, transparently, effectively and efficiently to some extent influenced by the presence of ICT. The role of ICT has enabled an easy range to various fields without being limited by time and space. Munir (2004) stated that the advance technology of information can deliver virtual world into the real one. By plunging in thought in front of computer and having a narrow and lonely place, we can reverse it into a broaden universe (a universe exist behind the computer screen). The universe no longer limited by time and space. We might say things; give smiles and touches from a very faraway place through the keyboard. In other words, we can chat without speaking, smile without grinning, and hug without touching. Thus, all economics, politics, educations, cultures, entertainment, marketing, promotion and correspondences' activity will be easy and fast. The cyber world has begun.

ICT and Nationalism

The term of globalization justified ICT and nationalism since the driving force of globalization is ICT, while the tendency of nationalism's main factor has been faded because of globalization. Dadan Wildan (http://www.setneg.go.id/index.php) stated that main indication of globalization includes: (i) open competition, (ii) interdependency, (iii) competitiveness. Open competition is an open competitive condition which has been broaden and involved various dimensions of life. Since the competition is getting increased and opened, its complexity level will increase so that it leads into second indication that is the force to increase interdependency between one party and another. And to deal with an extended competition and interdependency, every party should have a high competitiveness. On the other hand, globalization produces a democratic condition of ideology, a better protection of human rights, an opened freedom of press, good governance and also a process into a civil society.

Despite of the above questions is how ICT can arouse nationalism. Muhamad Jafar Elly (http://www.unisosdem.org/article_detail.php) stated that the steps should be taken are: (i) accelerating the development of infrastructure of Information and Communication Technology across Indonesia. If every corner in Indonesia has ICT facility, automatically the integrity of Indonesia will be maintained and be in government's control. (ii) encouraging the national independence through knowledge gained from ICT. (iii) developing nationalism through intellectual works which can lift prestige and dignity of Indonesia. This in return will foster the spirit of defending the country. Defending the country means not only done when the nation was in danger or threaten, but also manifested into competition both national and international scale.

ICT and Cultural-Technology

The impact of Information Communication and Technology into cultural-technology changes are:

- **Economical changes with labor-oriented into capital-oriented.** In general, industrial society used about 70-80% of money to pay labor and about 20-30% to buy machines. Therefore, employee productivity does not increase as required. Then there is a notion and theory that productivity can be increased if 70% of capital is used to get technology. That is why ICT is considered capital-oriented and was not like before.

- **Regional spirit changes into national and global one.** Industrial era is a transportation-oriented. Thus, the road, the railway, the harbor and the airport are developed, magnified and doubled from time to time to facilitate the vehicle from land, sea and air bringing the products from the manufacture into the market. On the contrary, Information era is a communication-oriented, moreover telecommunication. Universal telecommunications, including Internet and Satellite, not only allow us to disseminate and receive information from everywhere, but also produce telemedicine, tele-banking, telemarketing, video conference and even virtual culture. In the West, virtual course and virtual school has been replaced text books, classes, teachers, schools and universities.

- **The changes from labor into information employee.** Economics activity is no longer based on the control over natural resources and labors activity as before, but then Information employee has been given priority. They who have computer literacy and high information literacy have been an intellectual asset of the new society. The importance of information broker, knowledge engineer, ideas processors, etc has a same significant role as labor and technical employee in industrial era before.

- **The changes from monopoly into competition.** The Industrial era was marked by monopoly system. This system was hard to be reduced because of geographical and political obstacles. Thus, there was no choice. Mostly people had to accept the product and the availability of services. But the system has been changed since IT able to remove geographical obstacles, and then bring the products and services from industries all over the world. They want customized products and services with the appropriate price instead of *uniform, mass-produced items'* with the high price. It is the basic competition of the globalization and liberalization demands.

- **The changes from specific work into universal one.** Nowadays, someone needs to make ten jobs instead of the contrary. This change is based on the increase of capacity and ability which are gained by higher education, marked by having computer literacy and well information. It is not only the same as multi-tasking and multi-processing done by computer but also followed by the increase of capacity and ability. Computer can now print, deliver a message, fix, etc at the same time even in the shortest way. It is obviously we who need information have to access it by our self. The difference between user and management of information in the past is no longer exist caused by IT-based management is easier to get so that people who need information can process it without the third person.

Conclusion

The presence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the education of history to develop nationalism can be viewed from various aspects, but basically ICT can facilitate a process to collect, manage, store, analyze, verify and disseminate important information effectively and efficiently; so that the right, fast, accurate and transparent information can develop nationalism.

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