

Culture Studies

Cultural Diversity as a Reality

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Citation: Harahap, Choirunnisa T.A. (2023) Cultural Diversity as a Reality. Nusantara: Journal of Cultural Research. 1(1), 8-15

Received: 9th June, 2023Revised: 7th July, 2023Accepted: 24th July, 2023Published: 25th July, 2023

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Abstract: Every continent is occupied by multicultural societies that have a positive potential for assimilation and social integration. However, there is also a great opportunity for social conflict. The cultural diversity of the world's population consists of various tribes, ethnicities, religions, and races, which if these differences are not communicated and not socialized properly will cause conflicts such as discrimination and radicalism. Multicultural education is a value education that must be instilled in order to have a multiculturalistic view and attitude, so that it is accustomed to coexisting with the diversity of characters and cultures, religions and languages, respecting the rights of every citizen regardless and distinguishing ethnic majority or minority. This study aims to describe the main data about the reality of religious, ethnic and linguistic diversity on five continents. This type of research is qualitative research with a literature review method. The results show that there is a vulnerability to conflict in multicultural life and the most effective way is through multicultural education to encourage the positive potential of differences.

Keywords: Diversity, Multicultural, Multicultural Education

1. Introduction

Multicultural societies are a fact that the increasing intermingling of the world's population puts pressure on established governments, education and economies to change. People living in close proximity and interacting with people from different ethnic and national backgrounds contribute to the acceleration of cultural diversification of the population. The idea of the global citizen is part of a larger trend of contact and interaction between various cultures.

The cultural diversity of the world's population consists of various tribes, ethnicities, religions and races, which if these differences are not communicated and not socialized properly will lead to conflicts such as discrimination and radicalism. The advancement of the industrial revolution 4.0 has also led to technological sophistication and digitization of various things. Ignorance and lack of understanding about multiculturalism will cause discrimination against certain groups.

As Muslims, we recognize and respect that in multiculturalism there are social and cultural differences as a blessing, wealth, a gift, and as a gift from Allah SWT. Multicultural education is a value education that must be instilled in the younger generation so that they have multiculturalistic views and attitudes, so that they are accustomed to coexisting with a diversity of characters and cultures, religions and languages, respecting the rights of every citizen regardless and distinguishing ethnic majority or minority. So that they can jointly build the strength of the nation and be taken into account in global regulations and a strong nation dignity.

2. Results

Multicultural contains two very complex notions, namely "multi" which means plural or plural, and "cultural" which contains the notion of culture or culture. According to Azyumardi Azra, the essence of multiculturalism is a worldview that is ultimately implemented in policies on the willingness to accept other groups equally as a whole, regardless of differences in culture, ethnicity, gender, language, or religion.

If plurality represents diversity, then multiculturalism asserts that with all their differences they are equal in the public sphere. Multiculturalism demands recognition (politics of recognition) of all entities in society that must be accepted, respected and protected, and guaranteed their existence. Multiculturalism is also the equality of diversity whether in terms of religion, language, ethnicity, or culture as will be explained below within the scope of 5 continents in the world.

1. Asian continent

The distribution of population on the Asian continent is uneven. There are some countries that are more populous than others, including Indonesia, India, and China, which still hold the top three largest populations in Asia. The Asian population is divided into three main races:

- The Mongoloid race is distributed in East Asia and Southeast Asia. Characterized by straight black hair, unique eyelids, shorter body size than the Caucasoid race.

- The Caucasoid race is distributed in North Asia and South Asia. The Caucasoid race is generally characterized by white skin.

- The Negroid race is spread in West Asia. The Negroid race is characterized by curly hair, black skin, thick lips shape and straight eyelids.

In the central Asian region, the dominant population is Islam. While in East Asia is dominated by China. North Asia is the main influence of Europe. While South Asia is often called the Bhutanese people. As for the West Asia region, the dominant population is Arab. The Asian continent is the birthplace of major religions such as Islam, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism and Buddhism. The diversity of the distribution of religions and the number of adherents in Asia can be seen in table 1.1 below:

No	Religion	Total
1	Hindus	1.025.775.000
2	Muslims	1.111.810.000
3	Jews	852.500.000
4	Unaffiliated	852.500.000
5	Other	51.940.000
6	Christians	269.710.000
7	Buddhists	481.295.000
8	Folk Religions	365.630.000

Table 1.1 Asian's Religion

The diversity of languages found in the Asian continent is depicted in the following table:

No	Languages	Total
1	Mandarin	1.200.000.000
2	Hindi	550.000.000
3	Indonesia	260.000.000
4	Russia	260.000.000
5	Arab	230.000.000
6	Bengali	230.000.000
7	Marathi	99.000.000

8	Filipina	93.000.000
9	Turki	88.000.000
10	Korea	80.000.000
11	Vietnam	80.000.000
12	Telugu	79.000.000
13	Tamil	77.000.000
14	Urdu	62.100.000
15	Pashto	60.000.000
16	Thailand	60.000.000
17	Kannada	51.000.000

Table 1.2 Asian most common language

2. Continent of Europe

The majority of Europeans are Caucasoid with white skin and blond hair. The population is divided into five groups, namely:

- 1) Nordic tribes; blue-eyed and very blond hair, spread in the northern regions of Germany, the Netherlands, and the Scandinavian Peninsula.
- 2) Alpine tribe; brown-eyed and blond hair living in the central region of France, Switzerland, and Belgium.
- 3) Mediterranean tribe; brown-eyed with wavy black hair spread across Italy, Greece, and Spain.
- 4) Slavic tribes; gray-blue eyes, and whitish-blond hair, living in Bulgaria, Russia, Slovakia and Yugoslavia, and lastly
- 5) The Dinara tribe resides in Romania, this tribe has dark hair.

The distribution of the number of religious believers based on data obtained from the United Nations for the European continent in 2010-2015 is:

No	Religion	Total
1	Hindus	1.525.000
2	Muslims	40.865.000
3	Jews	1.520.000
4	Unaffiliated	139.855.000
5	Other	1.000.000
6	Christians	548.775.000
7	Buddhists	1.465.000
8	Folk Religions	1.000.000

Table 1.3 European Religion

The majority of Europeans speak Russian, with over one hundred and forty million people using this language as their mother tongue. For more details, the ten most commonly spoken languages in Continental Europe are presented in table 1.4.

No	Language	Total
1	Russia	140.000.000
2	Germany	95.000.000
3	France	80.000.000

4	Türkiye	78.000.000
5	Italian	60.000.000
6	English	60.000.000
7	Spanish	43.000.000
8	Poland	36.000.000
9	Ukraine	27.000.000
10	Dutch	22.000.000

Table 1.4 European Most Common Languages

3. African continent

The population of Africa is broadly classified into four major groups based on race, namely:

◎ The Negro race inhabits the south of the Sahara Desert where this ethnicity is the majority population. The Negro race consists of several ethnic groups such as the Masai, Sudanese, Kikuyu, Zulu, and Bantu.

◎ The Caucasoid race of Arab descent inhabits North Africa. This race can be found along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea and consists of two ethnic groups, the Semites and the Hamids.

◎ The Caucasoid race of European descent is white with a small number and the majority live in South Africa.

◎ As for the indigenous people, many live in rural areas, including the Pygmy Tribe in the Congo forest, the Hottentot Tribe in South Africa, and the Bushman Tribe in the Kahari Desert.

Christianity is the most widely practiced religion by the African population, for more details, here is the diversity of religions found on the African continent:

No	Religion	Total
1	Hindus	1.740.000
2	Muslims	439.655.000
3	Jews	355.000
4	Unaffiliated	27.305.000
5	Other	2.030.000
6	Christians	523.535.000
7	Buddhists	400.000
8	Folk Religions	27.975.000

Table 1.5 African Religion

The language most spoken by the majority of the African population is Swahili with more than 150 million users and then Arabic which is the second majority language. Details of the 10 most spoken languages on the African continent are shown in Table 1.6 below:

No	Language	Total
1	Swahili	150.000.000
2	Amharic	21.000.000
3	Yoruba	30.000.000
4	Oromo	30.000.000
5	Hausa	40.000.000

6	Igbo	20.000.000
7	Zulu	10.000.000
8	Shona	10.000.000
9	Arab	100.000.000
10	Portuguese	14.000.000

Table 1.6 African Most Common Languages

4. Australian continent

The general population of Australia consists of:

⊙ Aborigines are the original people living on the Australian continent.

⊙ Descendants of colonial settlers and post-federation immigrants from Europe.

Almost 90% of the population is of European descent.

The majority religion on the Australian continent is Christianity with more than twenty-six million people. Table 1.7 shows the data on religions and the number of people who follow them in Australia.

No	Religion	Total
1	Hindus	740.000
2	Muslims	740.000
3	Jews	220.000
4	Unaffiliated	7.125.000
5	Other	330.000
6	Christians	26.880.000
7	Buddhists	775.000
8	Folk Religions	300.000

Table 1.7 Australian's Religion

Australians use Australian English as their primary language on a daily basis. Next are Mandarin and Arabic, as a form of language diversity which is an implication of multiculturalism. Not only that, Indonesian also ranks twentieth as a language spoken on the Australian Continent. Data on the number of languages spoken on the Australian Continent can be seen in Table 1.8

No	Language	Total
1	English Australia	18.303.662
2	Mandarin	685.274
3	Arab	367.159
4	Vietnam	320.758
5	Kanton	295.281
6	Punjabi	239.033
7	Yunani	229.643
8	Italian	228.042
9	Hindi	197.132
10	Spanish	171.370
11	Nepal	133.068
12	Tagalog	131.195
13	Korea	115.531
14	Urdu	111.873

15	Amil	95.404
16	Philippine	90.853
17	Sinhala	85.869
18	Gujarat	81.334
19	Malayalam	78.738
20	Indonesia	73.179
21	Persia	72.498
22	France	70.740
23	Germany	70.247
24	Bengali	70.116
25	Portuguese	67.327

Table 1.8 Australian Most Common Languages

5. Americas

The racial and ethnic population of the Americas is very diverse. The United States officially recognizes that there are six racial categories, namely:

- 1) Caucasian Americans or white Americans,
- 2) African Americans or black Americans
- 3) Native American Indians
- 4) Asian Americans
- 5) Pacific Islanders, and
- 6) Multiracial Americans

The census includes all ethnicities not just races, thus including Jews, Arabs, Poles, Italians and Irish. The religious diversity in the Americas is presented in Table 1.9 where the most widely practiced religion is Christianity with more than seven hundred and ninety million people.

No	Religion	Total
1	Hindus	3.095.000
2	Muslims	4.470.000
3	Jews	6.670.000
4	Unaffiliated	104.440.000
5	Other	3.275.000
6	Christians	797.755.000
7	Buddhists	4.410.000
8	Folk Religions	11.160.000

Table 1.9 American's Religion

The many ethnicities and races of the American people make this continent have a diversity of languages. Quoting from propio-ls.com, the list of languages spoken in the Americas in 2017-2021 is presented in Table 1.10 below:

No	Language	Total
1	English	239.000.000
2	Spanish	41.000.000
3	China	3.500.000
4	Tagalog	1.700.000
5	Vietnam	1.500.000
6	France	1.200.000

7	Arab	1.200.000
8	Korea	1.100.000
9	Russia	940.000
10	German	920.000

Table 1.10 American Most Common Languages

3. Discussion

Multiculturalism is an understanding that recognizes cultural pluralism as a process of internalization of values in society. Understanding and accepting the notion of multiculturalism can be a solution to overcome various conflicts that occur in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious plurality of nations.

Heather Sutherland revealed that multicultural societies in addition to having positive potential in the form of assimilation and the creation of social integration are also prone to social conflict. To provide an understanding of the importance of diversity in religion, race, ethnicity, culture and others, education is an effective step to educate values in society so as to achieve awareness of the meaning of differences in the reality of society. Community in diversity is the concept of multiculturalism that is able to reduce vertical and horizontal conflicts in heterogeneous societies where demands for recognition of the existence and cultural uniqueness of ethnic groups are very common.

Multicultural societies are created to be able to provide ample space for various group identities to carry out life autonomously. Multicultural societies are created to be able to provide wide space for various group identities to carry out life autonomously. This will create an established cultural system and social order in the life of the community that will become the pillar of peace in the nation.

4. Materials and Methods

This research is a literature review, analyzing the cultural diversity of the five continents in the world. data sources are obtained from related books and various internet sites that present information on population, tribes, religions, languages, races and ethnicities on the five continents.

5. Conclusions

Based on the description of the main data on the reality of religious, ethnic and linguistic diversity on five continents, it is concluded that multiculturalism can be implemented through the following basic patterns of education:

1. Multicultural education is a developmental process that is not limited by space, time, subjects, objects and relationships that can be done where, when, by, for, and in relation to anyone.
2. Multicultural education develops all human potential, namely intellectual, social-religious, moral, technical, economic, and certainly cultural potential.
3. Multiculturalism education is an education that respects heterogeneity and plurality. Education that upholds the diversity of cultures, ethnicities, and religious sects, which is a very urgent attitude to be socialized.

Supplementary Materials: The following supporting information can be downloaded at: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/religion-by-country>

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