

## ANALYSIS OF GOOD AND CORRECT LANGUAGE SKILLS AMONG REGIONAL STUDENTS

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**Abstract:** *In the current era of development, mastery of language skills has become increasingly crucial considering that communication has become a very important aspect in modern life. This research aims to analyze good and correct language skills among regional students using a qualitative descriptive method approach. The research subjects were students from various ethnic groups in Indonesia who studied at the Indragiri Hulu Institute of Technology and Business, selected using a purposive sampling technique. Data collection was carried out through observation, interviews and documentation studies. Qualitative data analysis includes data condensation, data presentation, and drawing conclusions/verification. The research results show that there are still many regional students who do not have good and correct language skills. This research also examines the importance of Indonesian as a unifier of the nation, views on the essence of good and correct use of Indonesian in the campus environment, its influence and benefits for students from various ethnic backgrounds, responses to the use of regional languages on campus, factors causing pronunciation difficulties good and correct Indonesian, as well as efforts to increase the use of Indonesian in the campus environment.*

**Keywords:** *language skills, indonesian, regional students.*

### INTRODUCTION

In recent developments, mastery of language skills has become increasingly crucial considering that communication has become a very important aspect in modern life. According to Suganda (2023), good language skills are not only needed in an academic context, but also in the

world of work and social life. Individuals who are able to communicate themselves effectively will have advantages in careers, building networks, and influencing others.

Apart from that, developments in communication and information technology also require more advanced

language skills. In the current digital era, digital literacy and the ability to communicate in writing via various platforms have become very important (Kern, 2022). Students are required to be able to use language appropriately in the context of online communication, both for academic and social purposes.

However, the reality on the ground shows that there are still many students who experience problems in using Indonesian properly and correctly. One of the contributing factors is the students' diverse backgrounds, with different mother tongues and dialects. This diversity often influences the way they speak, especially in using Indonesian which is the national language (Sumarsono, 2014).

Previous research has examined language skills among students, but not much has specifically discussed students from regional areas. Some of them are research conducted by Widyastuti (2019) explaining regional language interference in Indonesian language skills in rural students and found that interference most often occurs in speaking skills.

Then, research by Mulyani (2020) analyzed the difficulties faced

by students from various mother tongue backgrounds in using Indonesian properly and correctly, as well as the factors causing it.

Furthermore, Rahmawati (2021) analyzed the mastery of Indonesian language rules among students from various regions in Indonesia and found that regional language background and the social environment influenced mastery of Indonesian language rules.

Therefore, this research aims to analyze good and correct language skills among regional students. This analysis will cover aspects of language skills such as vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and language style. This research will also identify factors that influence regional students' language skills, as well as provide recommendations for improving these skills.

Thus, it is hoped that the results of this research can provide a comprehensive picture of the condition of language skills among regional students and become consideration for relevant parties in developing programs and policies to improve the quality of good and correct use of Indonesian in the tertiary environment.

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

### **Related Theory**

#### **Language Skills**

Language skills include four main aspects, namely listening, speaking, reading and writing skills (Tarigan, 2008). This skill is an important component in communication, both oral and written.

##### **1. Listening Skills**

Listening is the skill of capturing and understanding the message or information conveyed by the speaker (Hermawan, 2012). This skill involves the process of actively listening, interpreting, and responding to messages received.

##### **2. Speaking Skills**

Speaking skills are the ability to express thoughts, ideas and feelings verbally (Tarigan, 2008). These skills include aspects such as pronunciation, intonation, word choice, and sentence structuring.

##### **3. Reading Skills**

Reading skills are the ability to understand and interpret written texts (Somadayo, 2011). This skill involves cognitive processes such as understanding the meaning of words, identifying the main idea, and

capturing the message or information contained in the text.

##### **4. Writing skills**

Writing skills are the ability to express thoughts, ideas and feelings in written form (Tarigan, 2008). These skills include aspects such as word choice, sentence structure, organizing ideas, and appropriate use of punctuation.

### **Factors that Influence Language Skills**

In general, a person's language skills can be influenced by various factors, including:

##### **1. Family environment**

Family environment is an important factor that influences a person's language skills (Chaer, 2009). Mother tongue and interaction patterns in the family can shape language skills from an early age.

##### **2. Cultural Background**

Cultural background, including the culture of the region of origin, can influence the way a person uses language (Alwasilah, 2013). This can cause interference or language transfer from the mother tongue to the national language.

### 3. Education and Teaching

The process of language education and teaching, both in school and college environments, makes a significant contribution to the development of language skills (Sumarsono, 2014).

### 4. Motivation and Interest

A person's drive and interest in language has a significant influence on the process of mastering and using language appropriately and according to the rules (Hermawan, 2012). In other words, an individual's strong desire and great interest in learning a language are important factors in determining a person's success in using language well and correctly.

### **Good and Correct Language Skills**

For Indonesian people, Indonesian functions as a means of communication and conveying information. However, not everyone understands the proper and correct use of Indonesian. It is necessary to understand that correct Indonesian is not necessarily good, and good Indonesian is not necessarily correct. Good Indonesian is a language that suits the situation and can convey meaning effectively to the person you are talking to. Meanwhile, correct

Indonesian is a language that complies with standard language rules. Therefore, it is necessary to understand the good and correct use of Indonesian from the perspective of language usability (Rahayu, 2015).

As Indonesian citizens, everyone must be able to use good Indonesian, regardless of which generation they come from. Indonesian is national pride, national identity, and a means of unifying the nation. Thus, good and correct mastery of the Indonesian language is important for every Indonesian citizen to have. Good and correct language skills include the ability to use language appropriately, both orally and in writing, in accordance with the rules and regulations that apply in that language. In the Indonesian context, good and correct language skills include the following aspects:

1. Grammar (Gramatics)
2. Kosakata (Leksikon)
3. Pronunciation (Phonology)
4. Spelling and Punctuation
5. Language style
6. Oral Language Skills
7. Written Language Skills

Mastery of good and correct language skills is important in various

aspects of life, both in the academic, professional and social fields. This allows a person to communicate effectively, convey ideas clearly, as well as build good relationships with others.

### **METHODOLOGY OF STUDY**

This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods which aims to understand social phenomena experienced by humans. According to Chariri (2009), qualitative research is carried out in real life contexts with the aim of investigating and understanding phenomena, including what happened, why it happened, and how it happened. Thus, qualitative research is based on the concept of in-depth exploration and is oriented towards cases or single case studies.

The subjects in this research are students who come from various ethnic groups in Indonesia and are studying at universities in the Indragiri Hulu area, especially the Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business. Subject selection will be carried out using a purposive sampling technique, namely selecting subjects who meet certain criteria (Sugiyono, 2017). The subject criteria in this research are active

students who come from areas with a mother tongue other than Indonesian. The data collection techniques that will be used in this research are observation, interviews and documentation studies.

Data obtained from in-depth interview observations and document studies will be analyzed using qualitative data analysis techniques from Miles et al. (2014), which includes data condensation, data presentation, and drawing conclusions/verification.

### **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The use of Indonesian in everyday life has very important significance in various aspects. First of all, Indonesian is not just a means of communication, but is also a key element in strengthening nationalist attitudes. Thus, the use of Indonesian in everyday life is a form of support for the ideology of *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, which emphasizes the importance of unity in diversity. Indonesian helps overcome regional language differences that exist in Indonesia, thereby enabling effective and smooth communication between various groups of society, without exception. Apart from that, Indonesian is also a tool for disseminating information,

promoting Indonesian culture, and strengthening national identity.

Currently, many students already use Indonesian in their daily lives. However, the use of Indonesian today is often mixed with the use of foreign languages, slang and regional languages. As time goes by, the use of slang and foreign languages tends to become more dominant in the daily lives of Indonesian people. This causes Indonesian people to often experience difficulties in communicating using good and correct Indonesian.

In the interview and observation session, several aspects were analyzed from students in each study program at the Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business with different ethnic or ethnic backgrounds. These aspects include: The importance of Indonesian as a language that unifies the nation; Views regarding the essence of good and correct use of Indonesian in the campus environment; The influence of good and correct use of Indonesian in the campus environment as a national identity; The benefits of using Indonesian properly and correctly for students from various ethnic backgrounds on campus; Responses to students who prefer to use

regional languages in the campus environment; Factors that cause students to experience difficulty in pronouncing several Indonesian words properly and correctly; Efforts to increase the use of Indonesian in the campus environment.

### **The Importance of Mastering Indonesian Language Skills as a Unifying Language for the Nation**

Language skills include several aspects of language skills such as vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and language style in regional students. Based on the research results, it can be described as follows:

1. Vocabulary: There are still students at the Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business who tend to use vocabulary from their regional language when speaking Indonesian and the Indonesian vocabulary used is still limited and less varied.
2. Grammar: It is still found that Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business students often use sentence structures and grammatical patterns that are influenced by their regional language. Apart from that, there are still errors in the use of Indonesian

grammar, such as errors in sentence construction, use of prepositions, and sentence patterns.

3. Pronunciation: There are still students at the Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business who tend to use pronunciation that is influenced by their mother tongue or regional language and have difficulty pronouncing certain words or sounds in Indonesian that do not exist in their regional language.
4. Language Style: It is still found that students of the Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business tend to use language styles from their regional language when speaking Indonesian. The language style used is often not appropriate to the formal context or situation in Indonesian.

Then, the research results also show that skills in using Indonesian have an important role as a tool of unity in Indonesia. As the country's official language, Indonesian has great potential to bridge communication between tribes with diverse regional languages. When it becomes the main means of communication, Indonesian becomes the key to achieving and

maintaining the motto *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika*, which describes the diversity of cultures, languages and ethnicities united in one unified state.

Even though there is an ongoing assimilation of vocabulary and structure of foreign languages and regional languages in daily use, maintaining the unity of the Indonesian language requires support from various parties. Language organizations, linguists and language enthusiasts cannot do it alone. The role of the government and head of state in making decisions and actively participating in maintaining the national language is very important.

By mastering Indonesian language skills properly and correctly, we can strengthen our sense of unity and pride as an Indonesian nation united in diversity. Indonesian is a very important binder and unifier in building effective communication, advancing education, government, the economy, and preserving the nation's cultural heritage.

### **Views Regarding the Essence of Good and Correct Use of Indonesian in the Campus Environment**

The research results explain that the good and correct use of

Indonesian in the campus environment, especially the Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business, is considered very important as a national need. The respondents realized that the campus was a gathering place for students from various regions, ethnicities and cultures. Several ethnic groups at the Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business include Malay, Javanese, Minang, Batak Karo, Nias, Sundanese and Banjar, etc. The essence of using Indonesian properly and correctly facilitates communication between students with diverse backgrounds.

Respondents were of the opinion that the good and correct use of Indonesian on campus plays a vital role in strengthening solidarity and unity among students. When students from various regions, ethnicities and cultures use Indonesian as a communication tool, they feel more connected to each other and it is easier to work together. This also increases the sense of nationality among students, as they share and celebrate the same national identity through language.

The use of Indonesian on campus helps maintain and enrich Indonesia's cultural heritage, because

language is one of the main components of a nation's cultural heritage. By using Indonesian consistently, students contribute to maintaining the authenticity and sustainability of Indonesian culture amidst globalization.

The use of Indonesian is also considered to improve communication, understanding and equality in the campus environment. The respondents also stated that by using Indonesian, they could become a young generation who loves the national language, contribute to cultural preservation, and help build a stronger nation.

### **The Influence of Good and Correct Use of Indonesian in the Campus Environment as a National Identity**

The research results show that the use of Indonesian on the campus of the Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business is considered very important as a national identity. The respondents realized that the campus was a gathering place for students from various regions, ethnicities and cultures. Thus, good and correct use of Indonesian facilitates communication between students who come from different backgrounds. Apart from that, Indonesian is also considered an



important element in strengthening Indonesia's national cultural identity.

The use of Indonesian on campus not only strengthens solidarity, unity and a sense of nationality among students, but also helps in maintaining and enriching Indonesia's cultural heritage. In this context, Indonesian acts as an effective unifying tool, reducing potential misunderstandings and conflicts that may arise from language and cultural differences.

Furthermore, the use of Indonesian is considered to be able to improve communication, understanding and equality in the campus environment. Respondents stated that by using Indonesian, they could become a young generation who loves the national language, contribute to cultural preservation, and help build a stronger and more united nation. Thus, Indonesian is not only a means of communication, but also a symbol of national identity and pride.

Indonesian also functions as a national identity in the international arena and is a unitary language that is able to unite various ethnic groups throughout Indonesia.

By using Indonesian, community members can communicate

well, thereby avoiding conflicts that may arise due to misunderstandings in language use. Seeing the important role of the Indonesian language, it is very important to preserve it so that it is not damaged by the current flow of globalization.

### **Benefits of Good and Correct Use of Indonesian for Students from Various Ethnic Backgrounds on Campus**

Based on research results, the use of Indonesian within the Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business will provide various benefits for students from diverse ethnic backgrounds. First, Indonesian functions as the main communication language which strengthens unity and unity among students from various regions and tribes in Indonesia. This is important because a common language allows for smooth and effective communication, which in turn strengthens the sense of togetherness and solidarity among students.

Using Indonesian as the main means of communication, the campus creates an inclusive environment where all students have equal opportunities to participate in discussions, collaborations and various other

academic activities. This inclusive environment is essential to ensure that no student feels isolated or marginalized due to language differences.

In addition, the use of Indonesian allows students to better connect with Indonesian culture and heritage. This not only increases their understanding of national culture, but also helps them appreciate the richness and diversity of Indonesian culture. Students from different ethnic backgrounds can learn about Indonesian traditions, values and history through daily interactions in Indonesian.

However, for students who are not yet familiar with Indonesian, the campus needs to provide adequate support and assistance to help them master the language. This support can take the form of additional language classes, mentoring programs, or learning resources specifically designed to help them adapt quickly.

Overall, the use of Indonesian on campus can create an inclusive environment, where all students feel welcome and valued. This also promotes mutual understanding and tolerance, as well as respect for the

cultural diversity that exists in Indonesia. Thus, the use of Indonesian not only functions as a communication tool, but also as a means to build unity, increase cultural understanding, and strengthen national identity among students.

### **Responses to Students Who Prefer to Use Regional Languages in the Campus Environment**

In this research, various views and opinions emerged regarding the use of language on the campus of the Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business. Several respondents believed that students were free to use regional languages on campus, especially when communicating with people who understood the language. According to this view, the use of regional languages can provide freedom and comfort in communicating, so that students feel more free to express themselves.

However, there are also views that emphasize the importance of using Indonesian as the official language of the country and national identity. Even though students have the freedom to choose the language they use, it is important to maintain and respect Indonesian in the campus environment. The use of Indonesian not only

strengthens unity, but also builds strong relationships between students from various ethnic backgrounds, and creates an inclusive environment.

In this context, there are suggestions to maintain a balance between the use of regional languages and Indonesian in the campus environment. Students are encouraged not to completely replace the use of Indonesian with regional languages, but to maintain the use of Indonesian as part of national identity. This aims to ensure that Indonesian remains a language that unites and reflects the nation's cultural identity, while still opening up space for the use of foreign languages as additional useful communication tools.

**Factors that cause students to experience difficulty in pronouncing several Indonesian words properly and correctly**

There are several factors that cause students at the Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business to experience difficulty in pronouncing several Indonesian words properly and correctly. The following is an explanation of these factors:

1. Influence of Regional Languages:  
Many students come from various

regions with different local languages. The strong influence of regional languages can cause difficulties in pronouncing Indonesian words according to correct grammar. For example, regional dialects or accents often influence the pronunciation of words in Indonesian.

2. Influence of Foreign Languages: The use of foreign languages, especially English, in everyday life and on social media often affects students' ability to speak Indonesian well. Many students are more accustomed to using foreign languages in academic and social contexts, which causes difficulties in pronouncing some Indonesian words correctly.
3. Lack of Practice: Less intensive use of Indonesian in daily life is also a contributing factor. Students who more often use foreign or regional languages in daily conversations tend to be less trained in pronouncing Indonesian words properly and correctly.
4. Education and Environment: Educational background and living environment also influence language skills. Students who grow

up in an environment that does not support the proper and correct use of Indonesian may experience difficulties with pronunciation. A curriculum that does not emphasize the importance of using Indonesian also plays a role in this.

5. Lack of Awareness and Motivation:

Low awareness and motivation to use Indonesian correctly is also an important factor. Students may not realize the importance of using Indonesian properly and correctly as a national identity and effective communication tool, so they do not try to improve their pronunciation.

6. Limited Access to Learning Resources:

Limited access to adequate learning resources such as books, media and activities that support the correct use of Indonesian can also cause difficulties. Students who do not have sufficient resources to learn and practice Indonesian will have difficulty improving their language skills.

**Efforts to Increase the Use of Indonesian in the Campus Environment**

In order to preserve the Indonesian language in regional

campus environments, especially the Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business, the first step that must be taken is to raise awareness of the importance of Indonesian as a national identity. The extinction of the Indonesian language will result in the extinction of the Indonesian nation. This awareness needs to be accompanied by a sense of pride in the Indonesian language. Our country can emulate Japan and France, who are very proud and loyal to their languages. This pride cannot be separated from the role of national leaders.

It is important to revive education that promotes culture and good language habits. Serious efforts must be made to design a pleasant learning process on campus so that students can enjoy learning in a relaxed and enjoyable way. There needs to be an effort to revive Indonesian language learning so that it becomes a beloved subject. In the future, Indonesian language learning must not only focus on knowledge and theory, but must also be integrated with behavior and attitudes.

In this research, various steps are discussed to increase regional students' awareness of the importance

of using Indonesian properly and correctly in the campus environment. Some of these efforts are, first, educational institutions can strengthen and encourage the use of Indonesian in the learning process, discussions and daily communication. This can be achieved through policies and programs that promote the active use of Indonesian as the main language of communication on campus.

Second, campuses can hold various outreach activities such as seminars, discussions, forums, or events related to language and national identity. The aim of this activity is to promote the importance of using Indonesian. Through this activity, students can better understand the importance of Indonesian as a means of strengthening national unity and integrity.

Indonesian language teaching can also be strengthened in the campus curriculum. An emphasis on teaching Indonesian can help students improve their Indonesian language skills. In this way, students will be more skilled in using Indonesian well and correctly.

Apart from academic activities, cultural activities can also be used to inspire students' interest in using

Indonesian with pride. Indonesian language competitions, cultural festivals, and other activities can be an interesting and varied way to increase student awareness about the importance of Indonesian in the campus environment.

## **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

### **Conclusions**

The conclusion from this research can be explained, namely, the Indonesian language has a very important role in forming national identity and uniting various ethnicities and cultures in the campus environment, it can strengthen the sense of nationalism, unity and nationhood of regional students, especially the Indragiri Institute of Technology and Business and help maintain and enrich Indonesian cultural heritage.

There are several challenges in increasing the use of Indonesian in the campus environment, such as limited mastery of Indonesian, the dominance of the use of regional languages and foreign languages. Apart from that, there is awareness of the importance of using Indonesian properly and

correctly among students, even though they face challenges such as the influence of regional languages, slang and the social environment.

Many students are able to use Indonesian well and correctly in daily conversations, but there are also quite a few students who still have difficulty and tend to mix Indonesian with their regional languages. The factors that cause students to experience difficulty in pronouncing several Indonesian words properly and correctly are the influence of regional languages, the influence of foreign languages, lack of practice, education and environment, lack of awareness and motivation and limited access to learning resources.

Recommendations for increasing the good and correct use of Indonesian among students are to increase understanding of grammatical rules and encourage effective communication in Indonesian in the campus environment. Several activities that can be carried out to improve the language skills of regional students, namely, seminars, discussions, forums, or events related to language and national identity, Indonesian language competitions, cultural festivals, and

other activities can be an interesting and varied way.

### **Suggestion**

1. Increase students' understanding of good and correct Indonesian grammar rules through training, seminars or special courses. Encourage the good and correct use of Indonesian in academic activities, such as presentations, class discussions, writing scientific papers, and communication with lecturers or staff.
2. Hold activities that focus on developing Indonesian language skills, such as literature, debate or theater clubs. Through this activity, the culture of reading and writing in Indonesian can be promoted properly and correctly through literacy programs in the campus environment.
3. Create policies or regulations that support the good and correct use of Indonesian in the campus environment, such as in writing lecture materials, notice boards, or official communications. Apart from that, collaborating with institutions or organizations operating in the field of languages

to provide training and guidance to students.

4. Encourage the good and correct use of Indonesian in daily life on campus, not only in academic activities, but also in social interactions between students.
5. In the realm of campus or education, it is recommended to use good, standard Indonesian, in accordance with EYD and KBBI. The use of regional languages is not prohibited in daily conversation, but it is recommended to continue studying and getting used to using Indonesian as the national language in everyday life.

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