



## MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY LIFE IN MAINTAINING DIVERSITY IN THE DIGITAL ERA

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### Abstract

This research is a picture of the life of a multicultural society in maintaining diversity in the digital era. The aim to be achieved in this research is to find out the life of the multicultural community in Tanjung Rejo Village and to find out the forms of activities in maintaining diversity in the digital era in Tanjung Rejo Village. The diversity that exists in Tanjung Rejo Village is something that is prone to division, this can be felt when people have different habits, different religions, different ethnicities and different languages. This type of research is qualitative research with a phenomenological approach, with the subject being the people of Tanjung Rejo Village. Data collection techniques using observation, interviews and documentation methods. The data analysis used is analytical description, namely by describing the data collected in the form of words or images. There are three flows of data analysis, namely data reduction, data presentation and conclusion. The process of checking data using triangulation techniques. The results of this research are that Tanjung Rejo Village has a multicultural society. This can be seen from the diversity of religion, ethnicity, language and culture. However, the people living in Tanjung Rejo Village still maintain their good relations by living side by side peacefully in carrying out their daily activities. Activities that involve the entire community include village clean-up activities that invite people from various ethnicities and religions, religious activities and other social concerns.

**Keywords :** Multicultural, Digital Era, Diversity, Tanjung Rejo Village

### Introduction

Indonesian society is a pluralistic society. This pluralism is characterized by various kinds of differences, including differences in class, religion, ethnicity and ethnicity, which live together side by side based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. In social life, of course there is a lot of diversity, whether in terms of habits, culture, procedures, life, social and customs that are different from others. This is all a dynamic that certainly exists in a pluralistic society. Indonesian society is a society with a very complex level of diversity. With this diversity, our society is known as a multicultural society. Basically, the multiculturalism that was formed in Indonesia is the result of socio-cultural and geographical conditions that are very diverse and extensive. (Nabila, 2015). Society is a group of individuals who live together, work together to obtain common interests and have an order of life, norms and customs that are adhered to in their environment. Multicultural is a word or term used to describe a person's views or assumptions regarding various life on earth, or policies that emphasize acceptance of cultural diversity, various values (multicultural) society, systems, cultures, customs and also the politics they adhere to. Multiculturalism is a view of putting aside differences in people's lives that prioritizes the goal of living together in creating peace, tranquility and forming unity and unity. A multicultural society is defined as cultural diversity or differences with other cultures. Apart from that, the formation of a multicultural society is essentially motivated by various factors such as differences in climate, regional shape and natural appearance, geographical location. A multicultural society is a society that is divided into sub-subsystems which are more or less established, each subsystem is bound by primordial ties. Mulyadi (in Middy Boty, 2011). Indonesia is a country in which there is a

multicultural society. This is proven by the fact that Indonesia has many ethnic groups, each of which has a different cultural structure. These differences can be seen from differences in language, customs, religion, types of art, and so on. Basically, a society is said to be multicultural if the society has diversity and differences. The diversity and differences referred to include, among other things, diversity of race, ethnicity and religion, diversity of physical characteristics such as skin color, hair, facial expressions, body posture, etc., as well as diversity of social groups in society. Diversity of ethnicity, culture, race, and religion within the nation. Indonesia is both an advantage and a challenge. Just as diversity is strength and wealth, it is also a challenge for the Indonesian nation. This challenge is felt especially when the Indonesian nation needs togetherness and unity in order to face the dynamics of life in society, nation and state. Diversity or even what is often called multiculturalism is a term used to explain a person's view of the variety of life in the world, or a cultural policy that emphasizes acceptance of diversity and the various kinds of cultures (multicultural) that exist in people's lives regarding values, the values, systems, culture, habits and politics they adhere to.

In the midst of the digital era, the world is creating without barriers, there are many new cultures, social systems, teachings and ideologies that will influence society in a country, including multicultural society. Besides that, the digital era aims to increase the competitiveness of each country's industry in facing a very dynamic global market. This condition is caused by the rapid development of the use of digital technology in various fields. In the current digital era, various problems will gradually destroy diversity, resulting in divisions in society. It cannot be denied that Pancasila has become an important factor that integrates society with all its unique differences. In other words, Pancasila is the home of multiculturalism, meaning that Pancasila is a national statement that contains community agreement regarding the recognition of plurality or multiculturality. This means that Pancasila is an important factor in maintaining diversity in the digital era. Therefore, important factors in village development in the digital era need to be implemented. Apart from that, villages are a small replica of the diversity that exists in Indonesia, which generally consists of various cultures, religions, cultures, languages and tribes. Tanjung Rejo Village is a village in Percut Sei Tuan District which is inhabited by several tribes such as Batak, Javanese and Malay. Apart from that, from a religious perspective, the residents of Tanjung Rejo Village adhere to several religions. These include Islam, Christianity and Buddhism. The diversity that exists in Tanjung Rejo Village is something that is prone to division, this can be felt when people have different habits, different religions, different ethnicities and different languages. Apart from that, in the digital era, all social activities are supported by increasingly fast information technology. Apart from that, the location of Tanjung Rejo Village is close to the Tanjung Rejo Mangrove Tourism Village which allows many people to come from outside the area, and this can also influence people's thought patterns and behavior which will later lead to divisions. From these descriptions, researchers became interested in conducting research in this area to explore sources and data about "Multicultural Community Life in Maintaining Diversity in the Digital Era in Tanjung Rejo Village". This research aims: To find out the lives of multicultural communities in Tanjung Rejo Village. To find out the forms of multicultural community activities in maintaining diversity in the Digital era in Tanjung Rejo Village.

#### *The problem formulation of this research*

1. How does the multicultural community of Tanjung Rejo Village live?
2. What are the forms of multicultural community activities in maintaining diversity in the Digital era in Tanjung Rejo Village?

#### *Research that is relevant to this research is as follows*

*Siti Nur Janah (2018) entitled:*

" *Social Interaction of Multicultural Society in the Citraland Housing Complex, Sambikerep District, Surabaya* ". Which is qualitative research with descriptive analysis units. The data collection techniques used were in-depth interviews, observation and documentation. This research found: Social interaction in the multicultural society in the research area has gaps in the forms of interaction such as helping each other, community service in cleaning up the environment for orphans, social service to orphanages. Meanwhile, things that influence this interaction are religion, socio-culture, economics and education.

*Gardini Jufi Andini (2018) entitled:*

" *Strategy for Merawa Diversity and the Multicultural Society Model in Seputih Raman District, Central Lampung* ". This research aims to describe: Knowing the condition of diversity in Seputih Raman District. Knowing strategies for maintaining diversity in a multicultural society in Seputih Raman District. Knowing the model of multiculturalism in society in Seputih Raman District.

## Research Methodology

The research used by this researcher is qualitative with a phenomenological approach which is expected to be able to produce in-depth descriptions of speech, writing, and/or behavior that can be observed from a particular individual, group, society, and/or organization in a particular context setting which is studied from the perspective of complete and comprehensive. This research uses a phenomenological approach. Phenomenological research is qualitative research which is intended to examine a particular phenomenon (symptom) experienced by a particular person or a particular group of people (Suwarsono. 2016). The research subjects were the people of Tanjung Rejo Village, who were asked for their opinions regarding the life of the multicultural community of Tanjung Rejo village in maintaining diversity in the digital era. Researchers obtained information from the Village Head and Village officials, hamlet heads, community leaders, and the Tanjung Rejo village community. This research aims to obtain a clearer, more complete picture and information, making it possible and easier for researchers to conduct observational research. Therefore, the author determines that the research location is the place where the research will be carried out. In this case, the research location is located in Tanjung Rejo Village, Percut Sei Tuan District, Deli Serdang Regency, which contains several hamlets. The research was carried out from March until completion. The focus of this research is on the living conditions of the multicultural community of Tanjung Rejo village in maintaining diversity in the digital era. The focus of this research also functions as a guide in discussing the results that have been implemented. This research focus is very important because without a research focus, researchers will be confused and trapped in fulfilling the criteria for the data obtained. The limitations in this qualitative research are based more on the level of importance/urgency of the problems faced in this research. This research will focus on: (1) This research was only conducted in Tanjung Rejo Village (2) The research was conducted to find out the life of the multicultural community of Tanjung Rejo Village (3) The research was conducted to determine the forms of activities of the Tanjung Rejo Village community in maintaining diversity in the digital era. Data collection techniques are methods that can be used by researchers to collect data, which methods show something abstract, cannot be realized in visible objects, but can be useful for researchers. In terms of collecting this data, the author went directly to the research object to obtain valid data, so the researcher used the following method:

1. Observation method

Observation can be interpreted as systematically observing and recording the symptoms that appear on the research object. This observation was carried out by observation, namely the researcher observed the life of a multicultural society carried out in all hamlets in Tanjung Rejo Village in maintaining diversity in the digital era, such as social life in the Tanjung Rejo village community.

2. Interviews

Interviews were conducted directly by going door to door. Before the researcher conducts the interview, the researcher will determine with the hamlet head the data that will be collected from community leaders, religious leaders, and the community that will be interviewed. Specifically, the interviews that will be conducted here are with the people of Tanjung Rejo Village. Researchers interviewed them to obtain data that revolves around problems related to people's lives in maintaining diversity in the digital era.

3. Documentation

Documentation is a data collection technique in the form of writing and images from an informant/source. Documents in written form such as historical records of Tanjung Rejo village, hamlets, religion and others related to the problems in this research which will later be used as accompanying data or data that is able to provide information about the objects studied in Tanjung Rejo Village

Research subjects are determined using *purposive sampling*, namely a technique for sampling data sources with certain considerations. These particular considerations are, for example, the person who is considered to know best about what we expect or perhaps he or she is the authority so that it will make it easier for the researcher to explore the object/social situation being studied. (Sugiyono. 2017). In collecting data, the technique used was an in-depth interview technique with predetermined sources. In this research, the interview topics used were selected in depth so that the data taken could be accurate and relevant. And the data obtained can also be drawn to the same and correct conclusions. The data analysis used is a descriptive analytical method, namely describing the data collected in the form of words, images and not numbers. Data comes from manuscripts, interviews, field notes, documents, and so on, then described so that it can provide clarity on the facts or realities. Miles and Huberman's version of data analysis (in Sugiyono. 2017) states that there are three activity streams, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing.

1. Data reduction

Data reduction is carried out by selecting data that is considered basic, which is new and has never been known. Reducing data means summarizing, focusing on important things, looking for themes and patterns, unique data that is different from other data and is data that is relevant to the researcher's question. (Sugiyono. 2017)

## 2. Data Presentation

Data presentation can be done in the form of tables, graphs, charts, and similar. By presenting data, it will be easier to understand what is happening. Plan further work based on what has been understood. (Sugiyono. 2017).

## 3. Conclusion

Conclusions are drawn by looking at the reduction results and referring to the problem formulation and objectives to be achieved. In the research, conclusions will be drawn from the results of observations, interviews, and reinforced with documentation. Checking the validity of the data produced can be scientifically accountable and trustworthy, so the researcher checks the validity of the data. Checking the validity of the data is a step to reduce errors in the process of obtaining research data which of course has an impact on the end of the research carried out.

To determine the validity of the data, inspection techniques are needed. The implementation of inspection techniques is based on a number of certain criteria. There are four criteria used, namely: (1) Degree of Trust (Credibility); (2) Transferability (Transferability); (3) Dependency (Dependability); (3) And also certainty (Confirmability). In the process of checking the validity of the data, the researcher tested the credibility of the data using several techniques:

### 1) Extension of observation

The researcher extends the observation by going directly into the field and participating in research activities in the field, with the aim of seeing and knowing in depth about the conditions occurring in the field until the data is complete, so the researcher comes back to the field to check again to confirm whether the data obtained previously changed or not. After no changes occur in the data, the researcher ends the research.

### 2) Increase persistence

Researchers increase their perseverance in collecting data in the field by reading and carefully examining the data that has been found repeatedly. Often, after leaving the field, researchers recheck the data that has been found to see whether it is true or false, with the aim of obtaining information that is valid and relevant to the theme raised by the researcher.

### 3) Triangulation

Triangulation is a validity checking technique that uses something else to compare interview results with the research object. In this research, researchers used source triangulation and data collection technique triangulation. This is intended to make comparisons between data obtained in the field through a series of data collection processes so that valid data is obtained

### 4) Adequacy of reference materials

What is meant by reference materials here is the existence of support to prove the data that has been found by researchers. For example, interview data needs to be supported by interview recordings. Data about human interactions needs to be supported by photographs. Through a series of processes for checking the validity of the data as described, the data obtained can be accounted for and then conclusions can be drawn on the found data.

## Result & Discussion

### Research sites

Tanjung Rejo Village is a village that is diverse and has a community with various religions, various ethnicities and various languages. Judging from a religious perspective, there are Islam, Buddhism and Christianity. Meanwhile, looking at ethnicity, there are the Batak, Javanese and Chinese. In everyday communication, people use Javanese, Batak, Mandarin and Indonesian. From the results of research conducted, multicultural community life in maintaining diversity in Tanjung Rejo Village is indeed well established. This is demonstrated by the existence of religious diversity and ethnic diversity. They live side by side very safely and peacefully in carrying out their daily activities. *"According to several informants, the people here live in harmony and peace. There are different religions and tribes and even languages are different. However, society does not differentiate between certain blocks or groups. Mutual respect between religious communities and also between tribes. The community continues to uphold the values of tolerance and mutual cooperation. Mutual cooperation is shown when repairing*

*public facilities, celebrations or celebrations of happy days and also events commemorating religious holidays. "* So far there have been no social conflicts that could divide the people here. Even if there is a problem, it is resolved through deliberation. From research on the Head of Tanjung Rejo Village, he is of the opinion that this diversity can survive because the people of Tanjung Rejo village uphold the values of tolerance, mutual cooperation, mutual assistance, mutual respect and appreciation and also social care. And he, as the head of Tanjung Rejo village, always gives directions to the community to always maintain unity and integrity, considering that Tanjung Rejo Village is a village with a multicultural society, so all communities continue to maintain this diversity. Apart from that, in the digital era the use of technology can be seen in a number of community activities. In Tanjung Rejo village there is also potential generated from several agricultural sectors as well as the marine and fisheries sectors.

#### *Village Clean Activities*

Village clean-up activities are events that are still being held in Tanjung Rejo Village. This event is a celebration and prayer together with the people of Tanjung Rejo Village so that they remain safe and peaceful. "*Several informants were of the opinion that this village clean-up activity still exists and is held every year, usually during the month of Suro. "In this activity, all levels of society were invited to pray together and the village head in his speech said that the community should continue and maintain unity so that Tanjung Rejo village remains safe and peaceful even though there is a variety of diversity in it."* In this village clean event, the village invited all the people of Tanjung Rejo Village. In this event, the community is gathered as one, meaning there are no differences between religious groups, the entire community joins as one during the activity process.

#### *Religious activity*

In religious activities that are often carried out, the people carrying out the activities also involve other people, for example, during recitation, all people from other religions are also involved to help ensure that the event runs smoothly, likewise when Christians carry out religious activities such as Christmas, for example, other people also help secure these activities, and so on. All religions have their own major holidays, such as the Islamic religion the Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha holidays, the Christian religion the Christmas and New Year holidays, the Hindu religion the Nyepi, Galungan and Kuningan holidays, the Buddhist religion the Vesak holiday. In research on all religious figures, which was carried out when one religion celebrated its holidays, other people also remained harmonious and respected each other. Even just visiting or wishing people who celebrate the holidays a happy holiday, either in person or via social media.

#### *Social concern*

In social life, an attitude of social concern is also instilled in order to maintain diversity in the current digital era. "*Several informants revealed that the social attitude of the community here is such that when a resident dies, the residents automatically come to pay tribute and also help with the funeral process. This is done not only for residents of the Islamic faith, but residents of other religions also come. to condole. On the contrary, if a Christian dies, members of other religions also offer their condolences. Apart from that, charity activities for orphans and mass circumcisions are also routinely carried out.* Even though in the Tanjung Rejo village community there are various religions, ethnicities, languages and cultures, so far there have been no problems that have divided the community and they still live in harmony and socialize well.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the discussion of this research, there are several things that researchers can conclude. The conclusions in question are as follows: Tanjung Rejo Village is a village that has a multicultural society, this can be seen from the diversity of religion, language, ethnicity and culture. But even though there is diversity, all communities still live in harmony, safety and peace. So far there has been no conflict between communities. Everyone respects and appreciates each other between religious communities and between tribes. There are forms of activities in society that are carried out in order to maintain diversity in the digital era, namely village clean-up activities as well as group greetings and prayers, activities to celebrate religious holidays involving people of other religions, and social awareness.

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