

Language And Gender : Students' Sensitivity Toward Issue The Emergency Of Sexual Violence Against Children In Indonesia

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Abstrak: Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif kualitatif yang menggambarkan fakta bahwa mahasiswa Tadris Bahasa Inggris IAIN Salatiga memiliki sensitivitas yang cukup tinggi terhadap isu "Indonesia Darurat Kekerasan Seksual pada Anak". Hal ini terlihat dari jumlah presentase yang menunjukkan 77% mahasiswa peka terhadap isu nasional tersebut. Adapun ditinjau dari ranah gender, mahasiswa laki-laki lebih update terhadap kasus nasional tersebut terlihat dari hasil presentase yang menunjukkan 80% mengetahui kasus kekerasan seksual pada anak dibandingkan mahasiswa perempuan yang hanya mengetahui 73% issue nasional tersebut. Penelitian ini juga menganalisis reaksi, tanggapan, dan respon mahasiswa terhadap isu tersebut dilihat dari ranah bahasa dan gender melalui personal essay pada mata kuliah academic writing bahasa Inggris. Hasilnya menunjukkan mahasiswa laki-laki lebih banyak merespon isu dengan memberikan solusi dari sudut pandang hukum serta mendorong pemerintah untuk memberatkan hukuman pada pelaku kekerasan seksual anak, serta mereformasi hukum khususnya pada sistem peradilan anak sedangkan mahasiswa perempuan lebih dominan menunjukkan empatinya kepada para korban kekerasan seksual anak dan hanya sedikit menyinggung tentang gagasan, solusi, dan usaha untuk menyelesaikan kasus-kasus kekerasan pada anak.

Kata Kunci : Bahasa dan Gender, Kekerasan pada Anak

Abstract : This research uses a descriptive qualitative research which describes the fact that students from English Education Department at IAIN Salatiga have high sensitivity toward issue "The Emergency of Sexual Violence against Children in Indonesia". This can be seen from the result of percentage that show 77% students care with this issue. Based on gender perspective, 80% male students more update to this national case compared to female students who only 73% know about the issue. Moreover, this research also analyzes students' reactions and responses from language and gender aspect through personal essays in English academic writing courses. The result shows that male students respond the issue by providing some solution from law perspective and encourage the government to raise the punishment to children violence perpetrators and reform the law on Juvenile Justice System while female students more dominant show their empathy toward children sexual violence victim but only little give solution, idea or effort to solve the cases of children sexual violence.

Key words : Language and Gender, Children Sexual Violence

1. Introduction

“*The Emergency of Sexual Violence against Children in Indonesia!*” This issue burst after the tragic incident of Yn from Bengkulu who was brutally raped and killed by 14 men on her way home from school. This crime news became viral on all media in Indonesia both print and electronic (<http://regional.liputan6.com>). More cases of children sexual violence also happen to a 13 years girl who raped in Cirebon by 6 perpetrators in fasting month (<https://news.detik.com>). Moreover, 2.5 years old toddler also killed after being raped by his neighbors in Bogor (<http://www.tribunnews.com/regional>).

Another child sexual violence case that also became controversial was the found in Jakarta International School (<http://www.tribunnews.com/regional>). All the same cases come every day. It makes a question in our mind, “What’s wrong with Indonesia’s moral?”

Data from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) reveals an increase in the number of children sexual violence cases from year to year. Data show 218 cases of children sexual violence in 2015. While in 2016, KPAI noted there were 120 cases, and in year 2017 have been recorded as many as 116 cases (<http://www.kpai.go.id>). The data shows a continuing trend of increasing number of the cases gradually. It is really bad and will be a nightmare to all Indonesian children.

So far, the society has begin to show its sensitivity to the cases of children sexual violence. Not only activists, Indonesian people from all elements also force the government to create new rules harder against the perpetrators of the crime. President Joko Widodo finally reacted strongly to this extraordinary case. He invited the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) and some ministers to discuss about this case, until legalize the government regulation No.1 of 2016 on the second amendment of Law No. 23 of 2002 on Child Protection.

Not only through demonstrations, many young people also used social media as a means of modern oration to support victims of children sexual violence. In fact, the solidarity through social media can raise sympathy and empathy from all Indonesian people. On the weekend of May 2016, there were more than 1,800 tweets about Yn case. This number is increasing after most netizens take initiative to use the #NyalaUntukYuyun hash tag to popularize this topic on social media. Similarly, the academic community also participate by conducting discussions, scientific dialogue, and also national about the prevention and handling of children sexual violence cases, one of them at the State Islamic Institute (IAIN) Salatiga which also reacted to this issue. Therefore, in this research will be studied the extent to which the sensitivity of IAIN Salatiga students, especially English Education Department students to the national issue that is also viewed from aspect of language and gender.

From the background of the study above, the research problems are; (1) Do students of English Education Department at IAIN Salatiga has the sensitivity toward national issue “The Emergency of Sexual Violence against Children in Indonesia”? (2) What are students' reactions and responses from language and gender aspect toward the issue “The Emergency of Sexual Violence against Children in Indonesia”?

2. Review Of Literature

Several previous studies on language and gender have been conducted. A study entitled *Selayang Pandang Ketimpangan Gender dalam Bahasa Indonesia* by D. Jupriyono in 2010 focuses on gender inequality in *bahasa Indonesia*. The study entitled *Bahasa dan Gender* is also done by Umi Hijriyah which makes the conclusion that language and gender are related to how gender affects the way we use language and the use of other languages. The other research on *Gender*

Bias in an English Textbook for Junior High School Students (Thesis) by Noni Mia Rahmawati Postgraduate Program State University of Malang analyzes the contents that explain the re-interpretation of gender in contents of the text through the use of language and the images in an English language text book. In addition, Munjin (2008) in a study entitled *Ekspresi Bahasa dan Gender : Sebuah Kajian Sociolinguistik* also conclude that language expression reflects the tendency of its speakers. From some previous research, it can be drawn a conclusion that there is a strong influence and relationship between language and gender, which will be discussed more deeply in this study, especially on the issue “The Emergency of Sexual Violence against Children in Indonesia”.

This research has novelty aspect compared to the previous research, such as the subject of this research are 30 students of English Education Department at IAIN Salatiga in semester V. This research also uses descriptive qualitative method whose data source obtained from personal essay from English academic writing course. The results of this study provide a description how far students care and sensitive toward the nation issue that become trending topic both mass media and social media in Indonesia. In addition, to know the level of sensitivity of students based on gender perspective, the researcher also classify the analysis from personal essay between male and female students in order to know each perspective toward this issue. So far, it is still rare to this kind of research about the relationship between language and gender toward the national issue.

Language and Gender. Language is a means of communication between members of the public in the form of sound symbols produced by human speech (Keraf, 2005). While Caplan (1987) stated that gender is a behavioral difference between men and women other than the biological structure, most of it is formed through social and cultural processes.

Gender in social science is defined as the pattern of male and female relation based on the social characteristics of each (Zainuddin, 2006). HT.Wilson (1998) further considers gender as a basis for determining differences in the contribution of men and women to the collective culture and life that as a result they become men and women. Generally, the definition of gender in this study is the differences between male and female students in writing the idea, thought, and point of view toward the issue “The Emergency of Sexual Violence Against Children in Indonesia” into a personal essay. Wardhaugh (2006) stated three claims relating to gender and language variation. The first claim states that biologically men and women are different and this difference has serious consequences on gender. The second claim is that language behavior indicates male dominance. In addition, Wardhaugh also explained that females tend to have fewer social networks than the networks owned by men. However, women have the greater sensitivity to the forms of language, especially in the form of standard language. The third claim is that men and women are social beings who must learn to act in a certain way. Of the three claims can be drawn the conclusion that between men and women have their own ways of communicating and looking at things with a different perspective of each other. That is why sometimes misunderstanding happen between them. Sumarsono (2007: 113) also explained, the diversity of language based on gender arises because language as a social phenomenon is closely related to social attitudes. Naturally, men and women are different because society determines different social roles for them, and people expect different patterns of behavior. This social reality is reflected through language. The speech of woman is not only different, but also more “true”. Sumarsono added that the phenomenon is a reflection of social reality, generally from

the side of women is expected to be more correct social behavior.

Student's Sensitivity. According to Oxford Dictionary, sensitivity means feelings liable to be offended or hurt; sensibilities. Meanwhile, university student means a person who is studying at a university or other place of higher education. Givo Aulia (2012) mentions, at least students have 3 roles which are as agents of change, social control, and iron stock. Meanwhile, Ilham Muzzaki believes that there are 3 roles attached to students; pioneer of movement, serve to society, and solution to nation problem (<https://medium.com>). In the context of this study, the sensitivity of students is defines as students attention toward national issue that is being discussed in society. As the students, they should care about national issue and be reactive to the issue because they have the responsibility as the next generation of this country.

Children Sexual Violence. Rosulullah once said, "Take care of your children and educate them well". According to the law in Indonesia, in article 1 of Law No. 23 of 2002 on Juvenile Justice, it is stated that "a child is a person under 18 (eighteen) years of age, including a child in the womb". While the definition of child protection in article 1 paragraph 2 of Law No. 23 of 2002 on Child Protection, "child protection is all activities to guarantee and protect children and their rights in order to live, grow, develop and practice optimally in accordance with the dignity and dignity humanity, and protection from the violence and discrimination". From both the law, it is clear that a child under 18 years old shall be protected from any threats and harassment that may interfere with his or her rights to grow and develop. Unfortunately, although it is clear that children's rights are regulated in the law, in fact, children are often get sexual violence anywhere. Barker (in Huraerah, 2007) defines child abuse as a repeatedly physical and emotional abuse of depend

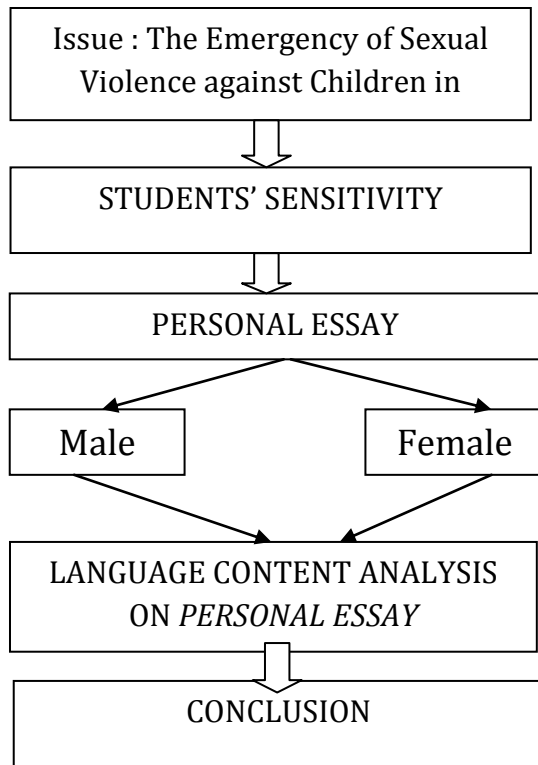
children, through the urge of passion, uncontrolled body punishment, degradation and permanent scorn or sexual violence. Meanwhile, sexual violence according to *End Child Prostitution in Asia Tourism* (ECPAT) International (in Noviana, 2015) is a relationship or interaction between a child with an elderly or an adult such as stranger, sibling, or parent where the child is used as an object satisfying the perpetrator's sexual needs. Sari (2002) mentions the forms of sexual violence as the act of rape or fornication. In addition, sexual violence is usually accompanied by psychological or physical stress (O'Barnett et al., in Matlin, 2008). In Indonesia, children sexual violence cases in fact increasingly year by year. Hence, the stigma "The Emergency of Sexual Violence against Children in Indonesia" is worthy of being the center of attention in order to get a solution seriously.

3. Research Method

This study uses descriptive qualitative method. Sugiyono (2005) states that the descriptive method is a method that is used to describe or analyze a research result but not used to make wider conclusions. The purpose of this study is to describe how far students of English Education Department have sensitivity toward the issue "The Emergency of Sexual Violence against Children in Indonesia" on language and gender perspective. The subject of this research is 30 students of semester V in academic year 2015/2016 who consist of 15 male and 15 female students. Subject of this research is selected randomly (random sampling) based on several criteria such as; all of the students have the same English proficiency both written and spoken skill, all of them are students from English Education Department in academic year 2015/2016, and all of them take English academic writing course.

The source data of this research will be taken from personal essay. The main analysis of personal essay only focus

on the content of ideas, thought, and perspective of the students toward the issue, not in language area in writing skill such as grammatical, vocabulary, spelling, coherence, cohesive, and so on. The detailed of research steps are stated in the scheme below.



4. Result and Discussion

This research began with appearing the issue on “The Emergency of Sexual Violence against Children in Indonesia” in English academic writing course. Students who consisted of 15 male and 15 female students were given 60 minutes to develop their ideas, thoughts and respond toward the issue. Before the students created personal essay, the researcher asked multiple choice question about the issue to explore students know and sensitivity about this national issue by giving the question, “Do you know about the case of Yn? (the victim of children sexual violence in Bengkulu). The researcher revealed this case since it seen as the most phenomenal children sexual violence case that got a lot of people’s

attention in all the media in Indonesia. The result of respondents’ answers was as follows:

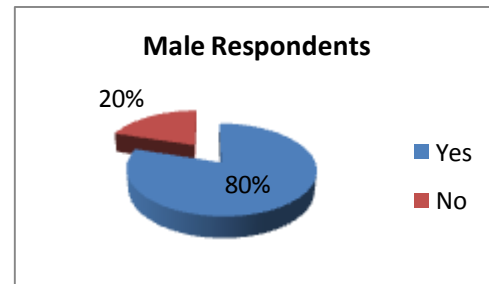


Diagram 1. Male Respondents

From the diagram above, it shown that 12 of male respondents (80%) knew about the case of Yn which was representative from children sexual violence case, but 4 of male respondent (27%) did not know about this popular case.

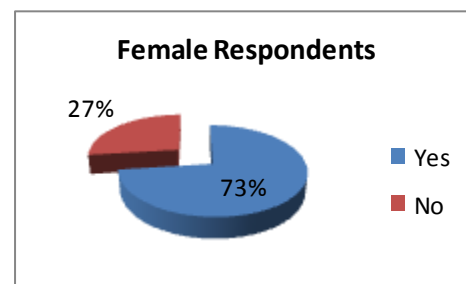


Diagram 2 : Female Respondents

From the diagram above, it shown that 11 of female respondents (73%) knew about the case of Yn which was representative from children sexual violence case, but 4 of female respondent (27%) did not know about this popular case.

From the respondents’ answer to the question number one, it could be concluded that the male students actually more updated toward the case of Yn that attracted many attention of society. It was shown from the total of percentage of male respondents that appeared higher than female respondents toward the case that become the most trending topic of children sexual violence case.

The researcher then continued to give a second question which asked students to write personal essay about their

idea or point of view about the issue “The Emergency of Sexual Violence against Children in Indonesia”. In this stage, the researcher analyzed the result of students; personal essay with 3 criteria as follows:

- a. Respondent only give reaction toward issue/cases of children sexual violence without providing solutions or ideas to solve the problems.
- b. Respondent only give little reaction toward the issue/cases of children sexual violence but add some solution or hope to solve this problem.
- c. Respondent give little attention toward the issue/cases of children sexual violence but also offer the solution or ideas to handle the problem.

The result of the percentage respondents in the personal essay was stated below:

No	Gender	Language Content
1.	Male students	15 % respondents only gave respond toward the issue by writingsome condolence expression for the victims of children sexual violence.
		35% respondents gave respond toward the issue by revealing condolence expression but there was an expectation to the government to solve and give the best solution to prevent these cases happen.
		45% respondents little gave comment about the case of children sexual violence, but they revealed many ideas, solutions and suggestion for the government, for example, by increasing the punishment to perpetrators and also by recovering children’s psychological after become the victim of

2.	Female students	sexual violence.
		70% respondentsdeeply empathize with the victims of children sexual violence and they reacted violently cursed the perpetrators of these cases.
		15% respondents gave empathy to the victims and there was also the expectation for the government to give the best solution toward these cases.
		15% respondents give little comment about the case, but they offer some solution, way out, and also preventive action to avoid these cases happen

Table 1. Analysison Personal Essay

Based on the personal essay between male and female students, researchers made the following analysis:

- a. Students of English Education Department at IAIN Salatiga had a high sensitivity toward the issue “The Emergency of Sexual Violence against Children in Indonesia” as stated in percentage result showed 77% knew and responded to this national issue.
- b. From gender perspective, 80% male students showed more updates on the national case compared to female students which was only 73% knew this national issue.
- c. From the result of personal essay, most of male students responded the issue by providing some solution from law perspective and encourage the government to raise the punishment to children violence perpetrators and reform the law on Juvenile Justice System while female students more dominant shown their empathy toward children sexual violence victims but only little give solution, idea or effort to solve the cases of children sexual violence.

5. Conclusion

Students should be aware toward all the national issue since they have the roles as agent of change and social control. They also will be the next generation in this country. The result of this study show that students of English Education program at IAIN Salatiga is sensitive in responding the national issue about “The Emergency of Sexual Violence against Children in Indonesia”. It is indicated from 77% respondents paid attention to the issue. The results of this study also conclude that between male and female students have different sensitivities and perspective on responding the national issue.

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