

# Nationality Values of Sundanese Words and Proverbs

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Keywords: Nationality Values, Sundanese Words, Proverbs.

Abstract: The nationality values should be embedded in every individual as a pillar in running the life of nation and state. These sources of values in addition to the ideal and constitutional foundation, are also widely distributed in society as a whole encapsulated in local wisdom. The spread of local wisdom is almost evenly distributed in every tribe, one of them is words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) in Sundanese society. Using a descriptive method, this paper reveals the values of nationality contained in *babasan* and *paribasa*, and grouping those values based on the reference sources of nationality values i.e. Pancasila (the five foundations), UUD 1945 (the 1945 Constitution), NKRI (the Republic of Indonesia), and Bhineka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity). Based on the analysis results, the words and proverbs are strongly encumbered with national values that have long been embraced and practiced by the community, so it has become the collective memory of Sundanese society in running daily life.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Nationality values that have been formulated in various concepts are actually crystallization of the values of life which has been widely spread in the society. The sources of these values include customs and traditions that are passed down from one generation to other generation.

Various ethnic in Indonesia have their own traditions that are filled with values of life. The distribution of these traditions encompasses various aspects and cultural institutions, ranging from languages, arts, knowledge systems, livelihood systems, social organizations and kinship systems, equipment and technology systems, and religious systems and beliefs.

In daily practice, the community has been accustomed to perform a work related to cultural institutions by promoting its values, such as determining the structure of customary leadership by means of consensus, building irrigation technology cooperatively, working on agricultural land or commerce on the principle of kinship, building relationship between citizens by prioritizing the value of tolerance, and based all actions of life on the basis of religion or religiosity.

The community also work hand-in-hand together to build economic independence through entrepreneurship implantation. In native society,

independence to meet the needs of food is done by building a granary. Likewise, to keep regional and cultural unity, people will react spontaneously if their cultural works or territorial are snatched. Similarly, to maintain the value of nation unity, the people are accustomed to associate with various ethnic, religions, and various cultures.

The above condition is a simple description of the practice of national values in our community life. The source of reference to these values is not very difficult to find. It can be found in our religious values that have been inherent in the Indonesian people, as well as the many scattered values of local wisdom contained in oral and written sources that almost all ethnic groups have.

Therefore, what is needed is the excavation and analysis of the sources value, one of which is contained in the Sundanese words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) commonly used in everyday conversations of the Sundanese. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) according to Sudaryat (2010; 2014) are part of Sundanese idiom besides *rakitan lantip*, *cacandran*, *candrasangkala*, *caturangga*, and *uga*. Similar opinion was also expressed by Salmun (1970) and Prawirasumantri (1973).

*Babasan* (words or word phrase) is a complex word or group of words, usually a compound word or phrase, whose sequence is fixed and contains

figurative meanings, for example: *ngaburuy*, *siduru isuk*, and *hampang birit*, while *paribasa* (proverbs) is a string of words in the form of clauses or sentences that the composition of these words has been fixed and have a specific purpose, for example: *kudu boga pikir rangkepan*, *nyeungeut damar di suhunan*, and *napsu nu matak kaduhung badan nu katempuhan*. The phrase is a summary of all thought patterns, attitudes, and actions formulated in *pakeman basa* (idiom). Some of words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) meaningfully corresponds to the nationality values sourced from Pancasila (5 state foundation), UUD 1945 (the 1945 Constitution), NKRI (Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia), and *Bhineka Tunggal Ika* (Unity in Diversity). The four sources of value are then broken down into more specific sub-values.

## 2 METHODS

The procedure in this study include data collection and data analysis. The data collection in the form of words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) are gathered through library research. The literature references are *babasan* and *paribasa* book written by Sumarsono (2001), and *Pakeman Basa* book written by Sudaryat (2016). Data analysis stage is processed by using descriptive method. This stage is to explore the values contained in words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) and compared to the national values derived from the four pillars of value mentioned above.

## 3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Distribution of Nationality Values of Sundanese Words and Proverbs

In general, the values of nationality originated from Pancasila (5 state foundation), UUD 1945 (the 1945 Constitution), NKRI (Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia), and *Bhineka Tunggal Ika* (Unity in Diversity) (Lemhanas, 2011). The nationality values originating from Pancasila include: (1) religious values, (2) family values, (3) harmony values, (4) social values, and (5) justice values.

The religious values are the high spiritual values that must be possessed by Indonesian human beings based on their religion and beliefs and have high tolerance towards other religions and beliefs recognized in Indonesia. This is as a consequence of

the principle of Belief in God Almighty who calls all components of the nation to be culturally religious and believe in their belief. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) that indicate these values include:

- *Dihin pinasti anyar pinanggih*, everything that happens has been determined by God.
- *Milik tara pahili-hili, bagja tara paala-ala*, the belief in the fate that the provisions of life are God govern.
- *Saliring dumadi*, all the world and everything around us are created by God.
- *Umur gagaduhan, banda sasampeuran*, both age and possessions are not ours. All belong to God.
- *Weweg bendunganana*, strongly hold both moral and religious values.

These five words (*babasan*) and (*paribasa*) represent the deterministic mindset of the Sundanese people, who obey and faith and surrender all affairs to God.

The value of kinship, the values of togetherness and the same fate with fellow citizens without discriminating the origin, religion, beliefs, social and political background of a person. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) that indicate these values include:

- *Sing bisa ngarampa haté batur*, in speaking or acting should think about the consequences for others.
- *Sakanyeri sakapeurih* or *sapapait samamanis*, always together in joy and sorrow.
- *Bengkung ngariung bongkok ngaronyok*, living harmoniously despite having to face problems and distress.
- *Ka bala ka balé*, are able to make good relationship with various kind of society and are able to complete various kind of jobs.
- *Runtut raut*, lives together peacefully.

The value of harmony, the ability to adapt and the desire to understand and accept culture and local wisdom as a manifestation of the values of pluralism Indonesia. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) that indicate these values include:

- *Ciri sabumi cara sadésa*, each place has its own customs.
- *Désa mawa cara, nagara mawa tata*, life in the village based on customs, and the state regulate the order of life that is wider than the village custom
- *Jawadah tutung biritna, sacarana-sacarana*, each region has their own customs.
- *Sareundeuk saigel, sabobot saphanéan, sabata sarimbagan*, united without any dispute.

- *Sing bisa mihapékeun manéh*, should be able to adjust to the environment.

The value of democracy, which has the nature and commitment to take side with the interests of the people in planning, formulating and implementing public policy, as a manifestation of the principle of sovereignty of the people and the nation sovereign. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) that indicate these values include:

- *Cai di hilir mah kumaha ti girangna*, people always imitate the behavior of the leader.
- *Mangka asak-asak ngéjo*, in doing the work should be with careful consideration.
- *Hadé ku omong goréng ku omong*, all problems can be discussed or resolved by deliberation.
- *Hurip gusti waras abdi*, if leaders are wise, then the people will be prosperous.

The value of justice, having the ability to uphold and do justice to all human beings and realize justice for all people of Indonesia. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) that indicate these values include:

- *Kudu matang timbangan*, to be fair.
- *Landung kandungan laér aisan*, fair and wise.
- *Leuleus jeueur liat tali*, wise in handling every problem.
- *Ulah cueut ka nu hideung, ulah pontén ka nu konéng*, must be fair and wise, should not take sides for unclear reasons.

The nationality values derived from the 1945 Constitution include: (1) democracy values, (2) degree of equality values, and (3) legal obedience values.

The value of democracy is that the sovereignty is in the hands of the people, and every citizen has freedom of association and expresses his opinion responsibly. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) that indicate these values include:

- *Hérang caina beunang laukna*, completing or achieving goal without causing any problems.
- *Ngeduk cikur kudu mihatur, nyokél jahé kudu micarék, ngagégél kudu béwara*, all activities must be based on mutual agreement.

The value of equal degree, i.e. every citizen has the same position before the law. The value of legal obedience, i.e. every citizen must obey the laws and regulations. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) that indicate both values are:

- *Nyanghulu ka hukum, nunjang ka nagara, mupakat ka balaréa*, obey the law and the state, and in accordance with the norms of society.
- *Katindih ku kari-kari, katerka ku kira-kira*, become suspect by strong evidence.
- *Geus labuh bandéra*, the case has been decided.

- *Unggah balé watangan*, involving in the legal cases and must come to the court.

- *Adu telu ampar tiga*, the litigants are tried.

Nationality values originating from NKRI include: (1) the regional unity values, (2) the national unity values, and (3) independence values. The value of regional unity is a consequence of the geographical reality of Indonesia as an archipelagic country with waters as a unifier of thousands of islands. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) that indicate these values include:

- *Bali geusan ngajadi*, homeland or place of birth.
- *Ka cai diangir mandi, batu lenjang panuusan*, homeland, place of birth and settled.

The value of national unity, as the realization of the reality of Indonesia as a pluralistic nation: religion, ethnicity, culture, politics and so forth. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) that indicate these values include:

- *Bengkung ngariung bongkok ngaronyok*, living harmoniously despite of having to face problems and distress.
- *Paheuyek-heuyek leungeun, paantay-antay tangan*, unite to help each other to achieve common goals.
- *Runtut raut sauyunan*, living together in peace and harmony.
- *Sareundeuk saigel, sabobot sapihanéan, sabata sarimbagan*, united without any dispute.

The value of independence, which is to build the nation and state on the principle of independence by optimizing the ability of human resources, nature and culture owned by Indonesia primarily for the welfare and glory of the Indonesian nation. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) that indicate these values include:

- *Asak warah*, well-educated and skilful regarding to politeness and work.
- *Saeutik mahi loba nyésa*, expertise in managing resources, especially finance.
- *Bluk nyuuh blak nangkarak*, actively earn a living.
- *Dug hulu pet nyawa*, working tirelessly.
- *Kajeun panas tonggong batan tiis beuteung*, working hard to be self-sufficient.

The value of tolerance is the willingness to understand and accept the presence of different people (belief, ethnicity, language, politics and so on) to live together peacefully. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) that indicate these values include:

- *Nyaur kudu diukur, nyabda kudu diungang-ungang*, should feel other people feelings.

- *Handap asor*, polite behavior and always appreciate others and do not like to show off superiority.
- *Padarubak sisi samping*, forgiving each other.
- *Sing bisa ngarampa haté batur*, in speaking or acting must think about the consequences for others.
- *Silih élédan*, mutual succumbing, all are winners.

The value of justice, a balanced attitude between having our rights and obligations as citizens. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) which indicate these values among others as the value of justice derived from Pancasila.

The value of *gotong royong*, the attitude and action to cooperate with other people or groups of citizens in matters related to the common goals, the community and the state. Words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*) that indicate these values include:

- *Gugur gunung*, work together cooperatively for the needs of the community.
- *Paheuyek-heuyek leungeun, paantay-antay tangan*, helping each other hand in hand to reach the common goal.
- *Bengkung ngariung bongkok ngaronyok*, living harmoniously despite of having to face problems and distress.

*Tugur tundan, cuntang gantang, susuk bendung, ngepung maung, ménak kudu kapundayan*, various obligations of the people (especially in feudal age) such as mutual cooperation or social work.

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS

The source of the nationality values contained in Pancasila (5 state foundation), UUD 1945 (the 1945 Constitution), NKRI (Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia), and the motto of Bhineka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity), is a crystallization of values that are scattered in the society which are still alive and practiced by their adherents. These values have become the collective memory of the people recorded in various cultural institutions, both oral and written, one of them is the Sundanese words (*babasan*) and proverbs (*paribasa*). Both Sundanese idioms are strongly encumbered with values that can be applied in instilling national values and building the character of the nation, especially the Sundanese people. The distribution of values is very much aligned with the values developed in the national insight that lead to the core values: divinity, humanity, unity, democracy, justice, plurality and multiculturalism, and patriotism. To revitalize and

actualize the values it is necessary to have some efforts to excavate, appreciate, and rejuvenate in everyday life, so that the ancestral wisdom message can again be interpreted and useful in contemporary life.

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