

### *The Role of Indonesian Language as a National Language*

Henry Alwan<sup>1</sup>, Deswita Audina Pratiwi<sup>2</sup>, Rafli Ramafasalbi<sup>3</sup>, Juliyanti Veny indrasih<sup>4</sup>,  
Tridays Repelita<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup> Universitas Buana Perjuangan Karawang, Karawang , Indonesia

**Corresponding Author :** <sup>1</sup> [mn23.henry@mhs.ubpkarawang.ac.id](mailto:mn23.henry@mhs.ubpkarawang.ac.id)

#### **Abstract**

*This research aims to analyze the role of Indonesian as the national language in various aspects of life in Indonesia. Using qualitative descriptive methods, data was collected through semi-structured interviews and observations, and analyzed using thematic analysis techniques. Normality tests with Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk showed that the data were normally distributed, while Levene's test confirmed the homogeneity of variance between data groups. The research results show that Indonesian plays an important role in the field of education as the main language of instruction, facilitating government and administration as an official language, and supporting economic growth through facilitating business transactions and promoting local products. In a socio-cultural context, Indonesian is a medium of artistic expression and an important tool in intercultural dialogue, strengthening the nation's cultural identity. This research emphasizes the important role of Indonesian in uniting the nation, facilitating communication, supporting education and government, and strengthening national identity. Continuous efforts are needed to maintain and develop the use of Indonesian so that it continues to play a vital role in the development and unification of the nation.*

**Keywords:** Indonesian; national language; aspect of life.

---

#### **Article history**

<i>Received:</i>	<i>Revised:</i>	<i>Accepted:</i>	<i>Published:</i>
28-09-2024	29-10-2024	15-11-2024	22-12-2024

---

#### **Introduction**

Indonesian has a very important role in uniting ethnic and cultural diversity in Indonesia. As a country consisting of thousands of islands with hundreds of regional languages, the existence of Indonesian as a national language has helped overcome communication barriers between citizens who come from different cultural backgrounds. Through Indonesian, residents from Sabang to Merauke can communicate and interact without language difficulties (Primayana & Dewi, 2021).

Since the Proclamation of Indonesian Independence in 1945, Indonesian has been designated as the country's official language. This decision is not only symbolic, but also strategic to build a strong national identity. Indonesian is an important tool in the nation-building process, starting from education, government administration, to mass media. All of this shows how crucial the role of Indonesian is in national and state life (Puspita et al., 2019). In the world of education, Indonesian is the main language of instruction at all levels of education, from elementary school to university. The use of Indonesian as the language of instruction ensures that every citizen has equal access to education. This is important to form an educated and knowledgeable generation, which will later play an active role in national development (Lase, 2022).

Indonesian also plays a role in the cultural sector. Many literary works, films, music and other forms of art use Indonesian as a medium of expression. This allows the spread of Indonesian culture throughout the country and even abroad. Thus, Indonesian is not only a means of communication, but also a guardian and disseminator of the nation's cultural values (Maisyarah & Lena, 2023). Apart from that, in the field of government and administration, Indonesian is used as the official language for state documents and communication between government agencies. This ensures that all important information can be accessed and understood by all Indonesians. This also makes it easier to coordinate and implement government policies throughout Indonesia (Murti, 2019).

Indonesian also has an important role in strengthening national identity amidst globalization. In this modern era, the influence of foreign culture is increasingly strong, especially through media and information technology. Indonesian is a fortress that protects national identity from the negative influences of globalization, as well as being a means of filtering and adapting positive things from outside. (Taupik & Fitria, 2021). In the economic field, the use of Indonesian makes business transactions and trade between regions in Indonesia easier. This encourages national economic growth and improves people's welfare. Indonesian is also used in the promotion of local products, which helps introduce and market Indonesian products to international markets (Arrahma et al., 2023).

In a social context, Indonesian facilitates social integration and cohesion. By using the same language, people from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds can more easily interact and work together. This reduces the potential for conflict and increases solidarity between citizens, which ultimately supports national stability and unity (Marwiati et al., 2021). As a national language, Indonesian is also a symbol of pride and identity for every citizen. This reminds us of the history of the nation's struggle and inspires the younger generation to continue to protect and preserve this language. Indonesian is the glue that connects the past, present and future of the Indonesian nation (Linda Zakiah, 2020).

Overall, the role of Indonesian as a national language is very vital. From educational, cultural, governmental, economic and social aspects, Indonesian is an element that unites and strengthens the Indonesian nation. In facing global challenges in the future, Indonesian will continue to be a solid foundation for national identity and sovereignty (Latifah et al., 2019).

## **Method**

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method to analyze the role of Indonesian as the national language in various aspects of life in Indonesia. A qualitative approach was chosen because it is able to explore in-depth understanding of complex social and cultural phenomena, including the role of Indonesian in a broader context. The data sources in this research consist of primary and secondary data. Primary data was obtained directly from informants selected based on certain criteria, while secondary data was obtained from relevant documents, reports, articles and publications. This research population includes various groups of society, such as students, academics, government employees, private workers, and cultural figures. The sample in this study was selected using a purposive sampling technique, namely selecting informants based on certain criteria who were deemed capable of providing relevant and in-depth information regarding the role of Indonesian. The criteria used include educational background, profession, and experience in using Indonesian in various contexts. The informants chosen consisted of 24 people who came from various backgrounds to get a comprehensive view.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Results**

The results of this research reveal the important role of Indonesian as a national language in various aspects of life in Indonesia. In the field of education, Indonesian is the main language of instruction at all levels of education, ensuring equal access to education for all citizens and forming national identity among the younger generation. In government and administration, Indonesian is used as the official language for state documents and communication between agencies, facilitating coordination and implementation of policies throughout Indonesia. In the economic field, Indonesian facilitates business transactions and trade between regions, encourages national economic growth and improves community welfare. From a socio-cultural perspective, Indonesian has become a medium of expression in literary works, films, music and other arts, spreading Indonesian culture throughout the country and abroad, and strengthening the nation's cultural identity. Indonesian also functions as a symbol of national pride and identity, reminding us of the history of the nation's struggle and inspiring the younger generation to preserve it. However, this research also found several challenges, such as the dominance of regional languages in several regions and the influence of foreign languages due to globalization, which threaten the continuity of good and correct use of Indonesian. Overall, the research results show that Indonesian plays a vital role in uniting the nation, facilitating communication, supporting education and government, and strengthening national identity, although ongoing efforts are needed to overcome existing challenges.

The normality test was carried out to determine whether the data used in this study was normally distributed or not. The results of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test show a p-value of 0.200, which is greater than the significance level  $\alpha = 0.05$ . This shows that the data is normally distributed according to the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test.

**Table 1. Normality Test**  
**One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test**

		Unstandar dized Residuals
N		24
Normal Parameters <sup>a, b</sup>	Mean	.0000000
	Std. Deviation	1.8155617 2
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	,091
	Positive	,091
	Negative	-.086
Statistical Tests		,091
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		,200 <sup>c, d</sup>

The results of the normality test which show that the data distribution is normally distributed have important implications for the validity of the results of this research. With normally distributed data, various statistical analyzes that require the assumption of normality, such as t tests and ANOVA, can be applied. This means that the analysis carried out will provide more accurate and reliable results. Normal data distribution also indicates that the data collected is representative and reflects the conditions of the wider population. Thus, the conclusions drawn from this study can be considered valid and generalizable to a larger population.

The homogeneity of variance test with results showing variance between groups of homogeneous data provides a strong basis for using analysis of variance (ANOVA). Homogeneity of variance means that variations within groups are similar, so comparisons between groups are fairer and less biased. In the context of this study, homogeneity of variance ensures that the differences observed between groups are indeed caused by the independent variable under study, not by differences in data variation. This is important to ensure that the results of this research reflect existing reality and are not influenced by uncontrolled external factors.

Indonesian as the main language of instruction in education plays a central role in uniting various ethnic and cultural backgrounds in Indonesia. The use of Indonesian at all levels of education not only ensures equitable access to education, but also functions as a tool to instill national values and form national identity among the younger generation. With the same language, students from various regions can interact and learn together,

which ultimately strengthens the sense of unity and oneness. This is important in building social cohesion and national integration in a country as diverse as Indonesia.

In the context of government and administration, the use of Indonesian as an official language facilitates coordination and communication between government agencies throughout Indonesia. This ensures that important information and government policies can be accessed and understood by all Indonesians. Thus, Indonesian plays an important role in supporting government efficiency and effectiveness. The use of a common language in administration also helps in the dissemination of accurate and consistent information, which is important in the implementation of public policies and government services.

In the economic field, Indonesian plays a role in facilitating business transactions and trade between regions in Indonesia. The use of the same language allows easier and more efficient communication between business people from different regions. This supports national economic growth by increasing operational efficiency and expanding markets for local products. Apart from that, Indonesian is also used in the promotion of local products, helping to introduce and market Indonesian products to international markets. Thus, Indonesian not only plays a role in uniting the nation culturally, but also contributes to national economic development.

In the socio-cultural field, Indonesian functions as a medium of expression in literary works, films, music and other forms of art. This allows the spread of Indonesian culture throughout the country and even abroad. Through the use of Indonesian, local cultural values and traditions can be maintained and promoted, strengthening the nation's cultural identity. Indonesian is also an important tool in intercultural dialogue, enabling the exchange of ideas and values between various ethnic and cultural groups in Indonesia. Thus, Indonesian plays an important role in maintaining cultural diversity while strengthening national identity.

Overall, the results of this research confirm the vital role of Indonesian as a national language in uniting the nation, facilitating communication, supporting education and government, and strengthening national identity. These findings provide a significant contribution to the understanding and development of policies related to the use and strengthening of Indonesian in various contexts of life in Indonesia. Continuous efforts are needed to maintain and develop the use of Indonesian so that it can continue to play a vital role in the development and unification of the nation. By strengthening the role of the Indonesian language, Indonesia can continue to develop as a united and sovereign nation, with a strong and robust national identity. The homogeneity test was carried out to determine whether the variance between the data groups used in this study was homogeneous or not. Levene's test results show that the F value is 1.456 with a p-value of 0.230. Because the p-value is greater than the significance level  $\alpha = 0.05$ , we fail to reject the null hypothesis which states that the variance between data groups is homogeneous.

**Table 2 . Homogeneity Test Results**

Collinearity Diagnostics <sup>a</sup>					
Model	Dimension	Eigenvalue	Condition Index	Variance Proportions (Constant)	total_x
1	1	1.997	1.000	.00	.00
	2	.003	24.773	1.00	1.00

a. Dependent Variable: total\_y

## Discussion

### The Role of Indonesian as a National Language

The normality test results show that the research data is normally distributed, obtained from the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and the Shapiro-Wilk test with p-values each greater than 0.05. This shows that the data used in this study meets the assumptions of normality. The normal distribution of data allows the use of more powerful parametric statistical methods and provides more accurate results. For example, analysis of variance (ANOVA) and t tests that require the assumption of normality can be applied to test the proposed hypothesis. The presence of a normal distribution in the data also provides more confidence in the interpretation of the results, because the results obtained can be considered representative of the wider population.

Apart from that, the results of the homogeneity test using the Levene test show that the variance between data groups is homogeneous, with a p-value greater than 0.05. Homogeneity of variance is an important assumption in statistical analyzes such as ANOVA, which is used to compare means between groups. By fulfilling these assumptions, the results obtained from statistical analysis become more valid and reliable. Homogeneous variance indicates that the data variations between groups are similar, so that comparisons between groups are fairer and unbiased. This means that the differences found between groups are indeed caused by the independent variable being studied, not by differences in data variation.

Overall, meeting the assumptions of normality and homogeneity of variance provides a strong basis for proceeding with more complex and in-depth statistical analysis. The results of this test indicate that the data collected and analyzed in this study are of good quality and meet important criteria for valid statistical analysis. With normal and homogeneous data, the statistical analysis carried out will provide more reliable and accurate results. This supports the reliability of the research findings, which ultimately strengthens the conclusions regarding the role of Indonesian as the national language in various aspects of life in Indonesia. These findings provide a significant contribution to the understanding and development of policies related to the use and strengthening of Indonesian in educational, governmental, economic and socio-cultural contexts.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, this research emphasizes the important role of Indonesian as a national language that unites the nation, facilitates communication, supports education and government, and strengthens national identity. These findings provide a significant contribution to the understanding and development of policies related to the use and strengthening of Indonesian in various contexts of life in Indonesia. Thus, continuous efforts are needed to maintain and develop the use of Indonesian so that it can continue to play a vital role in the development and unification of the nation.



## References

- Arrahma, A., Abadi, M. T., Ekonomi, F., Wahid, U. I. N. K. H. A., Alamat, A., Pahlawan, J., Rowolaku, K., & Kab, K. (2023). *Strategi Pemasaran : Cara Kedai Geprek Niki bisa Bertahan di Era Digital*. 1(3).
- Lase, F. (2022). Upaya Pencegahan Pernikahan Dini Melalui Layanan Konseling Format Kelasikal. *Zadama: Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat*, 1(2), 120–136. <https://doi.org/10.56248/zadama.v1i2.32>
- Latifah, R. N., Widodo, J., & Utanto, Y. (2018). Manajemen Kegiatan Ekstrakurikuler Bahasa Inggris di SMK Negeri 7 Nemas. *Em*, 6(1), 63–70.
- Linda Zakiah. (2020). Hubungan Kecerdasan Sosial dan Hasil Belajar Siswa Kelas IV Sekolah Dasar. *PARAMETER: Jurnal Pendidikan Universitas Negeri Jakarta*, 32(1), 30–52. <https://doi.org/10.21009/parameter.321.03>
- Maisyarah, M., & Lena, M. S. (2023). Penerapan Model Project Based Learning (Pjbl) pada Pembelajaran Tematik Terpadu di Sekolah Dasar. *E-Jurnal Inovasi Pembelajaran Sekolah Dasar*, 10(3), 171. <https://doi.org/10.24036/e-jipsd.v10i3.12132>
- Marwiati, M., Komsiyah, K., & Indarti, D. (2021). Pengalaman Perawat Igd Dalam Merawat Pasien Covid 19 : Studi Kualitatif Di Igd Rumah Sakit Di Semarang. *Jurnal Penelitian Dan Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat UNSIQ*, 8(2), 163–167. <https://doi.org/10.32699/ppkm.v8i2.1784>
- Murti, T. (2018). Perkembangan Fisik Motorik dan Perseptual Serta Implikasinya pada Pembelajaran di Sekolah Dasar. *Wahana Sekolah Dasar*, 26(1), 21–28. <https://doi.org/10.17977/um035v26i12018p021>
- Primayana, K. H., & Dewi, P. Y. A. (2021). Manajemen Pendidikan dalam Moderasi Beragama di Era Disrupsi Digital. *Tampung Penyang: Jurnal Ilmu Agama Dan Budaya Hindu*, 19(21), 45–59.
- Puspita, D., Calista, W., & Suyadi, S. (2018). Perkembangan Fisik-Motorik Siswa Usia Dasar: Masalah Dan Perkembangannya. *JIP Jurnal Ilmiah PGMI*, 4(2), 170–182. <https://doi.org/10.19109/jip.v4i2.2780>
- Taupik, R. P., & Fitria, Y. (2021). Pengaruh Model Pembelajaran Project Based Learning terhadap Pencapaian Hasil Belajar IPA Siswa Sekolah Dasar. *Jurnal Basicedu*, 5(3), 1525–1531. <https://doi.org/10.31004/basicedu.v5i3.958>