

PROLOGUE



Locality in national and global perspectives: An agenda for research

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Prior to 1966, Indonesia was regarded as a country with an outdated order system. After the establishment of a new social order characterized by the incorporation of markets into people's lives, this period came to an end. The market's integration into society has transformed traditional self-sufficiency through subsistence production practices into a market-oriented and centralized modern society oriented toward the market. Various local beliefs, values, and practices have been supplanted with new ones as a result of the modern nation's formation. The national language, which functions as a measure of nationalism, has become a central factor that has transformed and threatened local languages. As a result, the influence of local languages has diminished significantly as urbanization, the offspring of welfare programs, has increased. National legal policies are enforced despite coexisting with customary laws, demonstrating modernization's dominance over marginalized local cultures. Under the guise of "progress," the new lifestyle is a component of the modernization project that not only shapes a new social practice but also disorients values and adds new hues to the system of ideas, values, and social practices that serve as the basis for societal development.

Locality, which is the origin and history of a society, has been confronted by great forces that dominate significant changes in human existence. This transformative process frequently threatens the existence of a society's norms, social systems, and established structures. After undergoing the convergence process caused by technological advances, global economic shifts, and enormous social-political movements, the region's resilience is tested once more. This context has existed since the Industrial Revolution of the 18th century, coupled with urban development in the 19th century, digitalization, the internet, and computation in the 20th century, and the social crisis that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading into the 21st century. This context, described by Karl Polanyi as the "great transformation" (Bendix, 2020) or conceptualized by Francis Fukuyama as the "great disruption" (Fukuyama, 1998), poses important questions regarding the existence of locality in a world that is constantly changing.

Locality must be positioned within the contexts of nationalism and globalization. Both of these contexts provide new power and space for the transformative process of locality, making it possible for local characteristics to permeate and color national and global cultures. Simultaneously, nationalism and globalization have formed their own dominant forces that can alter the social, economic, political, cultural, and religious frameworks in a context-dependent manner.

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Locality within nation

In the context of nationalism, the state's authority has, in addition to assuming control of the government, shaped the framework of life for local communities in an increasingly complex manner. State-created and -implemented top-down policies have created new pressures that communities must accommodate. This context is reflected in the government's structural policies on national language and culture, which not only unite all ethnic groups but also suppress local diversity. Increasing national language dominance is one example of structural dominance that results in the displacement and marginalization of local languages. This context is reflected in a survey conducted by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), which indicates that only 61% of youthful generations in Indonesia continue to use local languages to communicate with their relatives and neighbors (Aziz, 2023).

Government efforts at social engineering have had a significant impact on local identity. Government-driven policies, such as settlement and education policies, frequently compel local communities to abdicate their distinctive characteristics in favor of adopting customs and norms deemed conducive to national interests. This context is reflected in government-led settlement arrangements that frequently disregard local values in favor of national standards, resulting in the loss of local nuances in a region's physical and social arrangement. In other words, government-led settlement arrangements tend to disregard local cultural factors, so resettlement is solely based on infrastructure and not local culture. This is evidenced by the relocation of 11,670 high-rise communities (Directorate General of Housing, 2023).

In the government's rigorous nationalisation process, the difficulties of locality within nationalism also surface. This context tends to marginalize local knowledge and frequently diminishes local intelligence that has been passed down through generations in various social strata. This is evident in research and education, which frequently prioritize national standards and government-mandated curricula at the expense of local expertise. According to Zidny et al. (2020), the incorporation of local values into the curriculum is highly pertinent to the community's socio-cultural life. Thus, the nationalization process can lead to an appreciation of local knowledge and sagacity, which contributes to the sustainable development of local communities.

Locality within the global

Long before the intensification of colonial influences in Indonesia, globalization had already been a transformative force in the lives of local communities. I-Tsing (689 A.D.), who brought global ideas and values to the archipelago (I-Tsing, 1896), is credited with initiating the forces of globalization in Indonesia, according to historical accounts. In addition, globalization introduced Hinduism and Islam, which became crucial pillars for the transformation of local social systems. Not only did the advent of these religions have a profound impact on spiritual teachings, but also on social systems, political structures, and numerous other aspects of life. In the contemporary era, this context continues to be the most influential factor on the lives of local communities (Ramharter, 2020).

The transformation of locality continues to evolve in the modern era. This is a result of the effects of technological advances, global economic shifts, and ongoing local social-political movements. However, the rapid development of communication and transportation technologies has significantly integrated local communities with the global community. Local

communities now have access to an infinite amount of global information, cultures, and new ideas through social media, digital platforms, and the Internet. As Humphreys (2013) demonstrated, the implications of the rapid development of communication technology on local communities had raised important questions about the definition and existence of locality in a future that is rapidly changing.

Not only has the development of information and communication technology altered how local communities communicate and interact, but it has also substantially altered their participation in modern social, cultural, and political life. Exclusive social and political movements, massive human rights campaigns, progressive environmental movements, and provocative feminist movements are forms of local community participation that are becoming increasingly globalized, thereby influencing local agendas. These movements are conducted via online campaigns facilitated by activist networks, which can raise awareness and mobilize local communities in support of global causes. In other words, technology facilitates global movement (Waterman, 2000).

The future of communities: Research priorities

To comprehend and ponder comprehensively on locality, diverse and critical research is required to explain the relationship between locality in the meso-national and macro-global contexts. Therefore, locality studies should be able to explain and analyze the genuine transformative forces in dynamic processes, both in the voyage towards change and in responses to ongoing changes. Here are five significant issues that can serve as research springboards for a more contextual understanding of locality:

The first factor relates to the local effects of nationalism and nationalization. This study will investigate how the "power of the state" influences the construction of locality as a political concept. The focus of the research can be on identifying the factors that contribute to the reduction of local diversity and the transformation of local identities, as well as how local communities respond and adapt to nationalization pressures. Concerning the state-(local)society relationship, it is crucial for research to examine the diverse regional experiences.

The second factor is the impact of information and communication technologies on locality. This study examines the implications of utilizing information and communication technologies, focusing on the impact of digitalization on the preservation or extinction of locality in various forms of local cultural heritage. In tandem with the impact of technology on the preservation of local cultural aspects, it is crucial to evaluate the utilization of technology (media) that enables new modes of exhibiting and representing locality. A crucial topic of discussion is whether technology can transform or marginalise a locality's character.

The third one is regional opposition to globalization. This research will focus on the ideological, value, and material aspects of local communities' resistance to globalization's forces as they confront globalization's forces. Through cultural mechanisms such as counterculture and cultural resistance, local resistance has the potential to preserve local identity and cultural heritage in the face of global influences. In addition to investigating the dynamics of cultural relationships, it is essential to examine the accommodation and negotiation conducted by local communities, taking into account the various forms of cultural mimicry or cultural hybridity that provide a space for doing so.

Another factor is local community social and political participation. This issue relates to the participation of local communities in national and global political and social activity. Consideration must be given to how nationalism and globalization influence local community participation in the making of political decisions and fate-determining policies. This context can be evaluated based on the extent to which locality is viewed as a source and asset for social advancement or as a classic discussion on cultural barriers to change, which positions locality as an impediment to national development.

The last factor is the local community utilization of nationalization and globalization policies and opportunities. How local communities can leverage the opportunities offered by state welfare projects, modernization, and postmodernization for profoundly rooted social, economic, political, or even religious interests needs to be investigated. In this context, the adaptive modes of local communities in socioeconomic-political macro-development and challenges for sustainable local existence and excellence must be thoroughly examined. The dynamics of locality can teach us how locality can be viewed as the origin or basis of progress in national and international discourses and practices.

Closing comments

Examining locality in the contexts of nationalism and globalization reveals the complexities underlying human life changes. This transformation challenges established customs, structures, and social norms. Technological advances, global economic transformations, and significant social-political shifts have shaped the locality. In this situation, nationalism and national policies have a significant impact on local communities, as evidenced by the decline of local languages as a result of the dominance of the national language, adding to the settlement and education policies that disregard local contexts. Globalization, including global commerce interactions and universal religions such as Hinduism, Christianity, and Islam, has influenced the transformation of the locality. Local communities must preserve their identity and cultural heritage while remaining open to global influences.

In the age of globalization, cultural initiatives, the preservation of local traditions, and community empowerment are crucial means of preserving and promoting locality. Future research should concentrate on the connections among locality, nationalism, and globalization. Additionally, researchers should investigate transformative forces and contrasts, such as the impact of information and communication technology, the role of local resistance to globalization, and the social and political engagement of local communities. The dynamic relationship between locality and nationalism/globalization cannot be divorced from the technological revolutions that enable the coexistence of the real and virtual worlds.

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