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Research paper

The Influence of Direct Elections on Public Pragmatism in North Sulawesi Indonesia

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Abstract

Democracy through direct election in the local elections is currently being implemented in Indonesia. The realization of democracy is basically an effort to empower the role and participation of society related manifestation of their political and social rights which are constitutionally guaranteed. The medium of democracy and democratization through political participation mechanism is expected to be able to provide multiple effects are not only related to the increasing size of the public maturation level to the rights and obligations of political constitution, but also the mechanism and system of direct election. Bargaining position of the society to determine a better future should be a necessary. Ironically, to give a reaction to the promises of the candidates, the community also expects the benefits which are realized in the form of short-term participation which await a clear material reward. As long as the candidates give the money, they will participate in the campaign and after which the wait to see if another candidate will give them money as well. The attitude of pragmatism has become irony in the spirit of democracy in achieving the real purpose. Pragmatism ultimately becomes destructive and leads to its adherent to be inconsistent. By making us of quantitative method this research would like to see the relationship between direct election and public pragmatism. The result showed that the relationship between the direct election and public pragmatism is moderate, however the both of the variables showed significant value and linear. This confirms that any increase in direct election variables will increase the public pragmatism.

Keywords: *Direct Election; Indonesia; North Sulawesi; Public; Pragmatism.*

1. Introduction

This Democracy has become an important pillar in the practice of current state administration. In the name of democracy, every citizen has legitimacy to engage anything related to the organization of the state. It is of course a proof of the actual implementation of the essence of democracy is a model of government of the people, by and for the people who carried out by each country. Even today, there has been a global trend whom democracy is not merely an intellectual discourse but also a political dream of many countries, particularly developing countries. This requires the recognition of a state in the international association lies in the recognition of democracy.

Democracy has a variety of meanings because it is multi interpretative. Because of the interpretative nature, we recognize such as liberal democracy, people's democracy, proletary democracy, communist democracy, guided democracy, Pancasila Democracy, and other [1].

In Indonesia, when reform occurs, immediately too long pent-up passion democracy sticking to the surface. Starting with the first direct presidential election, improvements to the law on local government resulting Law 32 of 2004, which is one of the articles mentioned that the head of the region chosen by direct election. Direct election in the local elections is actually a form of democracy that is currently being implemented in Indonesia. The realization of democracy is basically an effort to empower the role and participation of society related manifestation of their political and social rights which are constitutionally guaranteed. The medium of democracy and democratization through political participation mechanism is expected to be able to provide multiple effects which are not only related to the increasing size of the public maturation level to the rights and obligations of political constitution, but also the mechanism and system of direct elections, both presidential and local elections. Bargaining position of the society to determine a better future should be a necessity.

Ironically, to give reaction to the promises of the candidates, the community also expects the benefits which are realized in the form of short-term participation which await a clear material reward. As long as the candidates give the money, the society will participate in the campaign and after which the public will wait to see if another candidate will give money as well.

The attitude of pragmatism has become irony in the spirit of democracy in achieving the real purpose. Pragmatism ultimately becomes destructive and leads to its adherents to be inconsistent. Pragmatic attitude tends to take all means to achieve their interests by ignoring the principles of truth. As a result, this pragmatic attitude will not contribute anything to resolve a problem of life, but on the contrary, it will bring a latent danger that is capable of damaging the values of truth.

In the realm of public life, political pragmatism means that they only see the short-term interests that benefit himself and his group. Helpful or profitable does not mean true, but merely indulgence. When short-term benefit is lost, they will look for another benefit. Consequently, the main problem facing society will never be re-

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solved. Again, the people will become victims. Politics then only as a means to preserve the interests of the political elite, not for people.

Pragmatism is a school of thought which holds that truth and untruth of a speech, proposition, or theory solely rely on beneficial or not beneficial of speech, proposition or the theory for humans to act in their lives. This idea is the culture and traditions of America thinking in particular and the West in general, which was born as an intellectual effort to address the problems that occurred at the beginning of this country. However, the direct election of regional heads in these areas is still basically a rational choice that still wants the public to determine the leader in the area. The fact of this public opinion be important for government. Our society as a sociological view that direct elections to appoint a leader who is a native of the area is a pride. In addition, they also assume that the mechanism of thought and the interests of society would value greater representation of aspirations still well accommodated.

Of a dilemma, it appears the issue of pragmatism attitude of society in implementing the direct election of regional heads in districts and cities in North Sulawesi that can be formulated as follows: 1) Is there significant effect of local direct election of regional head on public pragmatism; 2) How is the correlation between direct election of regional head and public pragmatism.

2. Literature Review

The US President Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) defined democracy as: Government from the people, by the people and for the people [2]. On Merriam-Webster online dictionary, democracy is defined as a. Government by the people; especially: ruled by the majority, b. a government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representation usually involving periodically held free election [3].

Effort to achieve democratization in Indonesia pursued through a variety of ways, one of which is to implement decentralization, including direct elections. Decentralizations is part of the process of democratization. With decentralization, the head of local government, its people, as well as representatives of the people are given the possibility and opportunity to formulate and implement public policy in accordance with interest of local community [4].

Isufaj (2014) mentions that decentralization of local government is a very important process for the democratic development of a country. Decentralization is defined as the process of political devolution, fiscal and decision-making from central government to local level. This transfer of powers to local level makes this important process difficult to realize. This reform is stretched almost democratization worldwide, mainly in developing countries and in countries which come from deep political transformations. More over Isufaj (2014) explains that decentralization of power is made to challenge the monopoly of central government decision-making. This reform aims to: Make a more stable democratic system; Increase government efficiency and effectiveness; Stimulate the creation of a stable basis for economic development in local and national level; Make more transparent governance; Involvement of citizens in decision-making. While Romli said that direct election is an implementation of decentralization in the political perspective, where there is the transfer of the locus of power from central to local [5].

Although people are not directly involved in the decision-making day-to-day administration, but they can control the operations of the government that have got a direct mandate from the people. Thus, there will be a check and balance mechanism that encourages the achievement of public accountability in local governance. Meanwhile, in a negative sense direct election as a democratic leap that is the party of the people area, defied as the freedom of the people to do anything, including commit acts of anarchy in the implementation of the elections and take personal advantage of the local election. In the context of consolidation and strengthening of democracy, direct elections could be a pillar that is strengthening national democracy building. The implementation of direct elections showed an increase in democracy. Levels of a country's democracy is determined partly by how significant the role society in determining who among them is used as state officials. The more number of state officials, both at local and national level which is elected directly by the people, the higher level of democracy in the country [6].

Speaking of public pragmatism, pragmatism is derived from the Greek word pragma that means action or "affair" [7]. The meaning of pragmatism is a stream which teaches that the truth is what proves itself to be true with beneficial consequences in practice. This is, everything is acceptable as long as it is useful in life. This stream emphasis on practice in the conduct evidentiary justification of something that can be seen from the practical actions or in term of usability [8].

According to Wikipedia, money politics or stomach politics which is a form of gift or promise bribe to someone so that the man does not implement their right to vote and that he will do particular way at the time of election. Provision can be made using cash or goods. Money politic is one of the form of campaign violations. The practice of money politics is done by giving some money or basic foods to the public in order to attract their sympathy for them to vote for the party concerned [9].

It the public option is contaminated because of the provision of money and other material, the idea of democratic local election will fail, and that we worry about, there will be massive corruption committed by elected candidate pair also by constituents [6]. Therefore, the purchase transaction activity voice in the election process should be avoided and the rule of law must be upheld.

Formal judicial referring Act No.32 of 2004 on Local Government, stating that money politics is Deliberately give money or other material to voters; or Deliberately promise money or other material to influence the voter's choice, do not use their voting right, or vote for particular candidate pairs, or use their right to vote in certain way so that the ballot be invalid.

3. Method

The method used in this research is quantitative in order to find the effect of direct election of regional head on public pragmatism and to measure the significant effect of direct election of regional head on public pragmatism. This research generated variable indicators derived from several theories and about the concepts of direct election and public pragmatism. This research was conducted in 4 regions in North Sulawesi Province which has carried out the local direct elections, namely Minahasa Regency, North Bolaang Mongondow Regency, Southeast Minahasa Regency and Kotamobagu city.

The population of this study were all the people who lived in the four regions that have the right to vote and have been registered as voters in the local direct elections. As there was a large population of this study, so we determined the sample based on the list of fixed voters which is determined by the General Election Commission. The total number of Population is 484.772 voters, with the details as follows: 79.576 voters in South Minahasa, 53.930 voters in North Bolaang Mongondow, 264.193 voters in Minahasa, and 87.073 voters in Kotamobagu. The sample was collected using stratified random sampling technique during 2015. In order to simplify the process of research by considering the suitability of the source of the data, this study measures each variable by using table determination of total sample proposed by Isaac and Michael (10). Based on the table with standard error of 5 percent, then the sample is 348 of the total population. The proportion of samples for each region are as follows:

Table1: Sampling Proportion

Region	Voter	%	Sample	Sampling Proportion
South East Minahasa	79,576	16.4	348	57
North Bolaang Mongondow	53,930	11.1	348	39
Minahsa	264,193	54.5	348	190
Kotamobagu	87,073	18	348	63
Total	484,772	100	-	-

Measuring instrument using in this study is research instrument. The instrument was used to measure the variables, independent variable and dependent variable. To determine the scores, we used a Rating Scale by assessing the respondents' answers.

To obtain valid and reliable instrument items, we carried out a test on 30 randomly selected people in the study area. Reliability test using internal consistency technique to determine the Conbach's alpha coefficient [10] The valid items (valid questionnaire) contained 10 items for direct election questionnaire and 10 items for public pragmatism questionnaire. The results of the reliability test instrument direct election and public pragmatism were 0.830 and 0.810 respectively.

Prior to the analysis, requirement test including normality distribution, homogeneity and linearity test has been done first, and analysis data for hypothesis testing is done using correlation and simple linear regression.

4. Results and Discussion

From the result of simple linear regression analysis of the data pairs variable direct election (X) of the public pragmatism variable (Y) obtained coefficient of regression as follows: the coefficient of X is 0.476 and constant value 17.992. Thus, the regression equation is Y= 17.992+0.476X. Using ANOVA, we found that the effect of local direct election (X) on public pragmatism (Y) is linear and significant. This is evidenced since F-value 89.054 > F-table (0.05). This suggests that the increase in one point of the local direct election will increase public pragmatism (Y) for 0.476. We also found that correlation coefficient t(ryx) is 0.452. This means that the correlation between local direct election (X) and public pragmatism (Y) is fairly moderate, and from t test we found that t-value 9.437 > t-table (0.05). It means that there is significant relationship between local direct election (X) on public pragmatism (Y). Thus, if the implementation of local direct election takes place continuously, the public pragmatism tends to increase. By squaring the correlation coefficient, we found that the emergence of public pragmatism in the four research areas is 20.4 percent influenced by the implementation of the local direct election. It is founded that the relationship between local direct election and public pragmatism showed relatively weak relationship or only about 20.4 percent of pragmatic attitude affected by the local direct election process, meaning that there are other factors that affect 79.6 percent of pragmatism attitude in society.

In general, people who live in North Sulawesi fully support the implementation of direct election. In fact, the majority of respondents approved the direct election. They feel that they have the freedom to determine their leaders. People feel that direct election is the best way to accommodate the interests of society and that certainly direct election has shown that sovereignty is in the hands of the people. Through direct election people feel free to determine their leaders. Even, through direct election they can also be involved in regional development. This shows that direct elections are considered to be the most appropriate way to engage in development.

While the public pragmatism tends to arise since most respondents considered that everything is beneficial to life we can accept, because it is considered good. Even a candidate needs to give something to the community so that he or she could be chosen as a leader. Similarly, people judge that it is more important for a candidate to give money to the people rather than his promise to build the region. Even most respondents agree that they have vote for candidate who gives money to them. Similarly, according to most respondents, a person should must have enough money in order to be a candidate and to be elected as a leader. This is a moral burden for democracy in North Sulawesi province.

5. Conclusion

The result showed that the relationship between the direct election and public pragmatism is moderate, and only 20.4 percent of pragmatic attitude affected by the local direct election, however the both of the variables showed significant value and linear. This confirms that any increase in direct election variables will increase the public pragmatism.

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