

THE PRESENTATION OF TURKISH IDENTITY AT THE GULEN-INSPIRED SCHOOLS IN INDONESIA

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Abstract

This paper discusses the presentation of identities performed by the transnational community of Turkey under Gulen's Education Movement in Indonesia. The Gulen's Education Movement is a Turkish NGO which develops schools inspired by a Turkish contemporary Islamic thinker and scholar, Fethullah Gulen Hoca Efendi. The presence of nine Turkish schools in six provinces in Indonesia for almost two decades (1995-2014) have shown the contribution of this transnational education movement in developing school models by combining spirituality, modernity and globality. The study aims at critically analyze the conceptual discourse of secularism and modernism which often seen using positivist paradigm and offers an alternative critical paradigm to understand the implementation of the said concepts in this contemporary life.

My research questions is how the presentation of identity is performed and constructed at the Gulen-Inspired Shools in Indonesia, as well as how to place the presentation of identity in the debate of concepts of Islam and secularism. Further, The study investigates how presentations of Turkish Identity in Indonesia are influenced by the images and narratives popular among the Indonesian audience. The methods of study are field note observations, interviews conducted with the organizers, volunteers, and stakeholders of schools.

By looking through the lens of Erving Goffman's theory of Dramaturgy, the study will show how each actors involved in the development of Turkish schools perform their roles as teachers, mentors, and other roles based on the setting built by a certain scenario. In dramaturgical perspektive it is argued that the elements of human interactions are dependent upon time, place, and audience. Thus, I will emphasize the study on the actor's role by relating it with the Turkish political and cultural setting which construct the identity and Indonesian cultural setting as the audience where the "performance" takes place. In addition, Goffman's ideas on: loyalty, discipline and awareness will be utilized in investigating the factors that guarantee the success and continuation of this education movement in Indonesia.

Keyword: transnational community, The Gulen-Inspired School, presentation of identity, dramaturgy