Millenials: Transnational Citizen
Dealing with Constructivist and Cosmopolitan Perspectives

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Abstract: This paper aimed to analyse how millenials emerged as the new form of generation based on social sciences studies. It argued millenial generations lived in rapidly changing environment caused by high mobility of people, goods, services, and overwhelming information flows from various online sources. Internet spread out massive information, influences the perceptions and changed people behaviours. This topic used descriptive qualitative research design. It used purposive sampling by 132 students represent millenials generations as a subject of research. Data and information obtained from literature review, polling, and working group discussion. Research subjects were used to test the theoretical foundations regarding the structure of the millennial society. Based on constructivist approach, internet role as an institution internalized values and discourse of modern society. It is constituted new identity as a digital or virtual community. Therefore, millenials appeared as cosmopolitan social structure. It represented transnational world citizen - in terms of political, economic and socio-cultural activities. Millenials lived in market trend behavior and sophisticated technology of information but experienced distrust on friendship and privacy.

1 INTRODUCTION

Millennials – as a prominent word in the last few years has been used to identify individuals born between 1980-2000. Social problems can be appeared as the implication of millenial's life style, such as depression, bullying, and drug abuse (Young and Rodgers, 1998; Putra, 2016; CSIS, 2017; Wang, 2017). Moreover, the local governments started to arrange the development model due to adopt the demographic changing characters supporting millenials need. It argued qualified young generation influenced the realization of target of development goals (CSIS, 2017, Hanik, 2017).

Many scholars researched on millennial dealt with multi sectors of development, especially on the education and teaching methods. They defined millenial as internet friendly user, practical and premium instant services consumer, demand on multimedia and sophisticated technology, advance communication skills, concerned on international issues and fashion, high achievement, and pursuing popular market commodities (Broido, 2004; Considine, D., Horton J., & Moorman, G., 2009; Borges, N.J., Manuel, R.S., Elam, C.L., & Jones, B.J.,

2010; Castro, A. J., 2010; Bracy, C., Bevill, S., & Roach, T.D., 2010; Henry, R.K., & Howell, J.G., 2011; Wahana, 2015; Putra, 2016). Based on those literatures, this paper supports scholar's research arguments that shown millenial as modern social structure that owned specific characteristics. Internet is prominent source of knowledge and able to influence millennials perspective and behaviors.

According to constructivis and cosmopolitan approaches, this paper would like to analyse how millenials emerged as a modern society. It argues millenial generations live in rapidly changing environment caused by high mobility of people, goods, services, and overwhelming information flows from various online sources. Internet spread out massive information, influences their perceptions and changes people behaviors.

2 METHODS

This topic used descriptive qualitative research design. It used purposive sampling by 132 students represent millenials generations as a subject of research. Data and information obtained from

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literature review, polling, and working group discussion. Research subjects were used to test the theoretical foundations regarding the cosmopolitan structure of the millennial society.

The researcher used an analytical technique consisting of three flow of activities that refers to the Miles and Huberman' opinion (Silalahi, 2009). 1) Data reduction consist of classifying, directing, removing unnecessary and organizing data in such a way as to form verifiable conclusions. 2) The data presentation is done by testing the findings of data reduction results with the basic assumptions of the theory used as the analytical framework. 3) Conclusion is the final part of the effort to synchronize the results of analysis that have been tested with the theory of the hypothesis that has been stated.

3 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The Relation between Perception, Identity, and Behaviour

Millenial is the modern structure of society that is created from social process. Perception of individual influenced not only by interest but also intersubjective matters. The diffussion of information and discourse through media as an instrument, legitimate the internalization of new values and perspectives. It triggers the similar characteristics of behaviors as transnational citizens. This point of view refers to general claims of constructivist approach.

Constructivism as a social analysis approach emphasizing the role of 'human consciousness' in social life. They believe that human interaction is primarily shaped not solely by material factors but also of ideational elements disseminated as intersubjective beliefs (Adler, 2008; Checkel, 1997; Finnemore & Sikkink, 2001).

Finnemore & Sikkink (2001) explained that these intersubjective beliefs are not only inherited to individuals but also internalized as considerations underlying the interests of the actors. According to John Ruggie (1998: 856), "constructivism is about human consciousness and its role in international life". Constructivism focuses on the role of ideas, norms, knowledge, culture, and political arguments inherent in an intersubjective understanding of social life.

Moreover, prominent theorist of social constructivism – Berger & Luckman said that constructivism is seen as an individual's cognitive process of interpreting the existing world of reality, because there is social relation between the individual and the environment or the people around him. Then the Individual builds his own knowledge of the reality he sees based on the existing structure of knowledge. Berger and Luckman argue that community institutions are created and maintained or altered through human action and interaction, although societies and social institutions are visibly objective, but in reality they are all formed in subjective definitions through interaction processes. Objectivity can occur through the repeated affirmations given by others, who have the same subjective definition. At the highest level of generality, man creates the world in a universal symbolic sense, a comprehensive view of life that legitimizes and regulates social forms, and gives meaning to various areas of life (Sulistyowati, 2017).

Meanwhile, social identity refers to Tajfel (1982) consider how individual behaviors in the context of larger group relationships, in which individuals are embodied in them, such as social organizations, cultural systems, and other social systems, where individuals place things as a reference for his behavior (Sulistyowati 2017:5). Therefore, individual behaviors that refer to social behavior have a stable pattern in the process of its formation. This means that everything that is thought, felt, and done by individual is a manifestation of certain values, habits, rules, and norms that grow in his group (Padilla & Perez, 2003 in Sulistyowati, 2017).

Based on perspective of cosmopolitan, this paper acknowledge 'millenial' is cosmopolit society that consist of transnational citizen with perceived similar characteristics of behaviors. Kanter (1995) defines cosmopolitan as linked to members of the global business elite as a 'world class' with knowledge and skills currently in accordance with economic transformation productive ones caused by the latest round of globalization, and emerging industries. Cosmopolitan is characterized by world class members who meet several criteria of concepts, competencies, and connections. He argues that this gives millenial access to the latest and most valuable knowledge, intellectual and social abilities to operate to the highest standards anywhere in the world, and the ability to forge a global network (Skribis & Woodward, 2004). Millenial fullfil definition of cosmopolitan characteristics from Urray. It is characterized by the ability to move around, the ability to use various symbols and cultural goods, the willingness to take risks in good faith to interact with others, the ability to observe and appreciate other

cultures, to interpret the image and openness of other cultures and societies (Skribis & Woodward, 2004).

This paper examines millennial embedded new identity as transnational citizens representing grand design of future society that relatively market constructed. It is analyzed by basic preposistions of constructivist approach. Based on this understanding, it argues that internet role as institution which internalized values and spread out transnational discourse. This phenomenon develop new identity of social structure named digital community or virtual community. Therefore, millennial generation legitimate as cosmopolitan social structure. It presents transnational world citizen - in terms of political, economic and socio-cultural activities.

3.2 Media and Social Interaction

The results of this research shows millenial generation experiences paradox of social relations. The improvement of technology of information and communication by internet did not ensure the comfortability of life and friendship. Furthermore, 43% of millenial students did not like the interaction in social media even though 51% of them categorized social media addict. Only 54% of millenial students believe in true friendship.

Table 1: Students Polling Result.

Result	Population	%
Internet daily user	124	94
Updated trend consumer	119	90
Easily make friends but sincerely doubt	61	46
Social media active user	124	94
Prefer social media interaction	75	57
Social media addicted	67	51
Whatsapp safe money, time, and practical communication	100	76
Acknowledge classmates from social media but did not recognize them well	104	79
Did not recognize all of name of classmates	108	82
Internet and social media help accomplished assignment and support learning process	100	76

Based on polling, amount 94% students have social media accounts such as facebook, instagram, and whatsapp and actively use it every day for communication and make friends. It is about 76% of students prefer to use whatsaap because this application safe costs, time, and practical-friendly user. Students agree that mostly accounts facilitate

people to gain hundreds of new friends every second, but only 18% of students know the names of all their classmates.

Based on millennial generation characteristics, they are easy to follow the world fashion trends and international hot issues released by online media and feeds. It is about 94% millenial students internet daily user and 90% of them updated trend customer which owned smartphone. Moreover, 75% of millenial students believe in advantages of internet and social media helps them accomplish assignment and support learning process. They do agree social media not only accommodates freedom of expression but also maintaining communication among them.

Group discussion with 5 out of 132 students showing the fact that social media accounts like instagram support the existence of individuals to be more popular and got fans from all over the world. Five of students come from different areas but no one face obstacles in understanding different traditions, customs, and perspectives during study in University. They feels common to get new friends and meet up after communicate from instagram. As millenial students, they more open minded. They live in among society that accepted different way of life and respect on others habits. This insight they found from social media that for some extend it provides comments and responses below available 'status' or 'posting' contents.

Whereas, millenial students get disadvantages from the virtual interaction through social media. Based on interview, instead of being popular, people often got 'haters'. Yet, the lucky one will be have some of 'secret admirer', and 'stranger followers' which became a common phenomenon in cyberspace. For millenial students, bulliying and hatred comments are the most disturbing.

4 CONCLUSION

This paper supported any scholars who potraiyed millennial characteristics of behavior involve the demand of freedom, innovation, and entertainment. As the implication of globalization, this condition ultimately rebuilds the structure of a cosmopolitan society that is relatively different from the previous generation.

It examines that millennial spreads out ideas and values as modern society. The intersubjective foundation of millennial perception relate to the pattern of communication and social interactions as virtual citizens instituted in social media. Thus, the attractiveness between social interaction in the real

world and the penetration of information from cyberspace builds a new identity that forms the basis for millennial behavior. Unfortunately, millenial students experience distrust on friendship and privacy.

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