

## **Interethnic Social Distance of Students in Language and Literature Education Study Program in Faculty of Teaching and Educational Science of Nusa Cendana Kupang University**

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**Abstract:** East Nusa Tenggara has become a melting pot of 16 large ethnic groups identified and 33 sub-ethnic groups living and developing in this archipelago province. One of a number of ethnic smelters in East Nusa Tenggara is the University of Nusa Cendana (UNDANA). This study aims to conduct a survey of sociogram distances or social distances among ethnic students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program, Faculty of Teaching and Education Science, Undana. This study program is classified with the most students. Up to the initial survey the number of students of this study program reached 716 people. The results of the research is to find out the social distance between the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program, Faculty of Teaching and Education Science Undana students, and find out the potential conflicts they cause. The theory used in this research is Social Distance. The state of social distance is determined by the distance between ethnic members or a community with other social community members. This concept is categorically called in group and out group. In group refers to the social universe of (our) reality. While out group is a statement of it-ness or their-ness. Groups are often synonymous with the other (others). Regarding someone else as a member of an in-group and out-group causes three important consequences. The first is the in-group favoritism effect (Tajfel, Billing, Bundy, & Flament, 1971 in Taylor, Peplau, Sears, 2009: 230). This study uses a quantitative paradigm. The study population was all the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program students, 617 people. Such population characteristics contain consequences of sample selection strategies. In order to represent the population, the researchers used the Slovin formula with an error rate of 5%. The results of this study found: (1) Students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program, Faculty of Teaching and Education Science, Undanagenerally, choosing dating, discussing, choosing roommates (boarding), choosing a married partner, and choosing a partner of different religions from their own ethnic. (2) Two tribes that have a social distance that is close to or close to other tribes in the scale of the relationship of the five variables above are the Rote and the Alor. (3) The two tribes that are classified as exclusive, especially in discussing and choosing friends, are Timorese and Flores. (4) Like the most distant social distance from other tribes is the Timorese. (5) The smaller the tribe (Rote and Alor) the more inclusive and can get along with other tribes. Conversely, the greater the population of a tribe the more closed the other tribes. This situation can be seen in Timor and Flores. (6) Flores Tribe students are seen as a symbol of intellect because all students from each tribe choose students from the Flores Tribe to go on a visit. In contrast, Flores Tribe students can only discuss with students from the Sumba Tribe.

**Keywords:** social distance, ethnicity, exclusivity, ethnic diversity

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Different societies represent different forms of thinking and life and are often incompatible (Vico in Parekh, 2008: 78). In other words, no two societies are really alike. Each community has different customs, practices, methods, legal systems, family structures, and forms of government (Montesquieu, in Parekh, 2008: 84). On the other hand, plurality is a fascinating and frightening social reality. At one end of the spectrum, plurality is a natural truth, a universal law, a legal outlook on life, and a divine grace (Haddad in O'Dea, 1996: 61). Plurality, therefore, must be presented with all its uniqueness to launch a control mechanism and create social order. Gudykunst and Kim stated that cultural and ethnic diversity is very necessary for the community to exist (Tubbs and Moss, 2000: 61).

East Nusa Tenggara is an archipelago province consisting of four large islands namely Flores, Sumba, Timor and Alor which are commonly referred to as Flobamora. There are also two small islands that are quite

influential in NTT, namely Sabu and Rote. On top of the four large islands there are 566 islands and have 1 city, 21 districts. It is the territorial characteristics of the islands that show the diverse and exotic cultures of East Nusa Tenggara. In addition, the history and ways of entering certain ethnic groups into East Nusa Tenggara also give a unique style to the culture in this area. Such social reality makes East Nusa Tenggara a "national park" which is overgrown with approximately 16 ethnicities and more than 30 sub-ethnic groups, has 83 local languages, and 6 religions and 1 creed (Marapu).

Nusa Cendana University (Kupang) is one of the largest public universities in the province of East Nusa Tenggara. Undana is a meeting place for students from various ethnic groups, both living in East Nusa Tenggara and ethnic groups outside NTT. Counting 16 ethnic groups in East Nusa Tenggara who live and grow on five large islands namely, Flores, Sumba, Timor, Alor, Sabu and Rote. This situation shows that the undana is a melting pot (a place of ethnic smelting) from all over NTT.

The Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program is under the Teaching and Education Faculty of Nusa Cendana University. Until now the number of students studying at the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program is 617 people. These students come from various islands and ethnicities in East Nusa Tenggara. This situation shows that the study program is a meeting place for various ethnic groups. However, these students have daily choices of friends, dating options, or choices of discussion partners who tend to be different. This is made possible by consideration of the ethnic background of each student. That is an interesting thing that needs to be investigated to find out sociology among ethnic students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program, Faculty of Teaching and Education Science, Undana of 2018/2019 academic year.

## **II. THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE**

### **Social Distance (*In group to Out group*)**

Social distance is determined by the distance between ethnic members or a community with other members of the social community. This concept is categorically called in group and out group. In groups refer to our (our) social universe. Whereas out group refers to its-ness or their-ness. Out Group is often synonymous with the other (others). Regarding someone else as a member of an in-group and out-group cause three important consequences. First, in group favoritism effect (effect of favoritism in group), (Tajfel, Billing, Bundy, & Flament, 1971 in Taylor, Peplau, Sears, 2009: 230). People generally evaluate in-group members more positively, give more positive attributes to their behavior, respect them better, and find them more attractive than out-group members. Second, members in group tend to view members in group as having the same in themselves. Taylor et al. (2009: 231) provide an example of the results of a survey in which members of a student dormitory see themselves more similar to fellow dwellers than those who live outside the dormitory. Some originate from a general tendency toward favorite in groups such as, tend to give sympathetic assessments to the success of in group members rather than out group members.

Third, although we tend to view outgroup members as foreign and different from us, we also tend to view them as homogeneous in their characteristics, personality, and even the number of subtypes. They are all the same, whereas we are all different from them. This phenomenon is referred to as outgroup homogeneity effect (Taylor et al. Ibid).

The homogeneity effect of outgroups is clearly caused by ignorance. We generally have more experience with our own group members, so we most likely know more about them. Thus, our intimacy with any group will make the book see that there are more unique individuals among the members and more variations in their attributes. In-group favoritism is the most important effect because it influences the way a person is treated by another party. At this level the sense of self in the group becomes part of him. Because when someone is asked who you are, they will answer their name and follow it with their ethnic group.

## **III. METHOD**

This research uses a quantitative research design. Qualitative research is one of the research procedures that produces descriptive data in the form of numbers by measuring the behavior of the people studied.

The study population was all Indonesian students, namely 716 people. The document survey results do not show the number of students who are dominant from certain ethnicities. Such population characteristics contain consequences of sampling strategies. In order to represent the population, the researcher used the Slovin formula with an error rate of 5%. This error rate is very possible in social research. The Slovin formula is as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$N$  : Sample size  
 $N$  : The size of the population  
 $e$  : The desired critical value (accuracy threshold) (percent of allowance for inaccuracy due to sampling error) is 5% with a level of confidence 95%.

$$n = \frac{716}{1+716(0,01)^2} = 174$$

Based on the above calculation results obtained by the sample size of students by 174 people. Based on population, proportionately the number of sample students per tribe is as follows: Flores Tribe students are 68 people or 39% of the total sample; students from East Timor 67 people or 38.50% of the total sample; students from the Sumba tribe numbered 37 people or 21.26% of the total sample, students from the Rote tribe were 32 people or 18.39% of the total sample; 28 students from Sabu Tribe or 16.09% of the total sample; and students from Alor Tribe as many as 25 people or 14.37% of the total sample.

Based on the student population, each ethnic group is not the same number, so the sampling of students in this study uses Proportionate Stratified Random Sampling. Furthermore, samples will be taken proportionally and randomly by each ethnic formula:

$$x = \frac{n}{N} \times y$$

$x$  : The number of samples to be taken in each ethnic group  
 $y$  : The actual number of students in each ethnicity so we get a sample on each ethnic.

Data collection techniques used in this study were using a questionnaire. The questionnaire contains a list of questions compiled systematically, filled in by respondents. After being filled out the questionnaire is sent back or returned to the officer or researcher (Bugin, 2005: 123). The types of questions asked are closed questions, which are questionnaires arranged in such a way as to record data about the respondent's own circumstances. All alternative answers that must be answered by respondents have been stated in the questionnaire. Respondents must choose one of the answers in their opinion which is the most correct and not given the opportunity to provide another answer. Data analysis technique in this research is descriptive analysis, which is a technique to express and explain the opinions of respondents based on answers from research instruments that have been proposed by researchers. The data that has been collected is then analyzed descriptively by analyzing objectively and systematically the situation in the field.

Data that has been obtained from respondents, tabulated according to the answers of respondents in the questionnaire into the table. Then the percentage is calculated and analyzed. The calculation is done using the formula proposed by Kountur (2005) as follows:

$$P = \frac{f}{n} \times 100\%$$

$P$  : Scoring percentage  
 $f$  : Number of answers got  
 $n$  : Number of respondents

#### **IV. RESULT OF STUDY AND DISCUSSION**

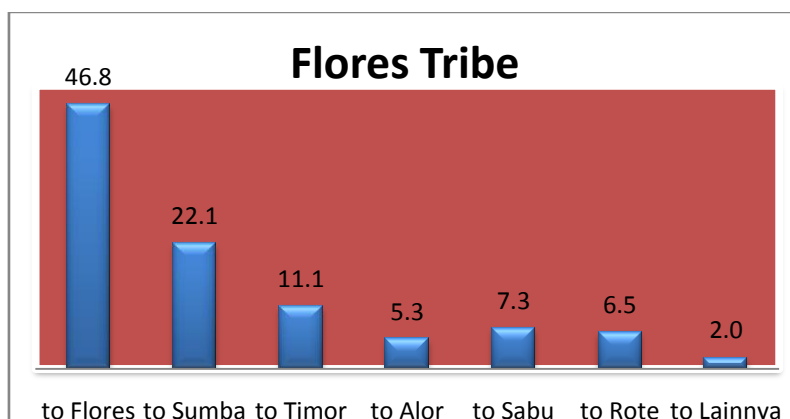
This research was conducted in the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program, Faculty of Teaching and Education Science, Undana. Founded in January 1976, through Decree No. Mendikbu No. 0183 / U / 1976. The number of students up to the academic year 2018-2019 is 716 people. While there are 18 lecturers, one contract lecturer, and one administrative staff. The Indonesian Language and Literature Study Program has 5 lecture halls and one reading room (mini library) that can be used by students and lecturers. The social distance of Indonesian Language Study Program students can be concluded based on various trends, ranging from the tendency to choose a girlfriend, the tendency to choose a life partner, the tendency to choose discussion partners, the tendency to choose boarding friends, to the tendency to marry with a partner of different religions.

The findings of these various trends present unique facts. Flores and Timor ethnic groups were found to be very clustered in choosing discussion partners and choosing spouses with other religions. The two tribes choose their own tribe for these two variables. This situation shows the level of social distance, because it only

accepts his own tribe. There are six terms which are indicators of social distance measurement. Social distance is relatively close when one tribe can choose more than 4 other tribes besides its tribe. Medium social distance, if one tribe chooses 3 other tribes besides its tribe. Social distance is far if one tribe chooses 3 tribes down besides its tribe.

### 1. Flores Tribe Students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program

The Flores tribe is among the most chosen by six other tribes for discussion. This tribe can be seen as an icon of intellectuality among students of Indonesian Literature and Study Program. However, the Flores tribe is an exclusive tribe and has a low social distance with other tribes. This can be seen in the graph below:

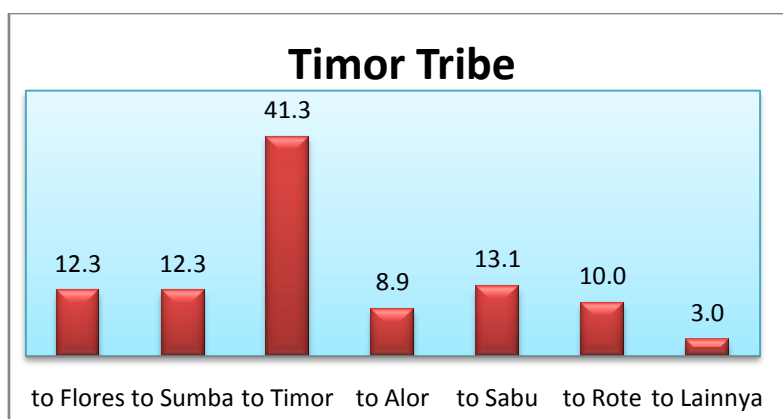


Source: Result of data primer, 2019

The figure above shows the level of Flores ethnicity towards their tribes which is high at 46.8%. The amount is very much different from the tendency towards other tribes. This fact proves that the social distance of Indonesian language study program students who come from Flores is categorized low. The interesting tendency of the Flores tribe is that they are affiliated or have close social relations with ethnic Sumba students, especially in two variables, namely as discussion partners and as boyfriends. All variables show that the Flores people are more open to the Sumba and Timorese.

### 2. Timor Tribe Students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program

The social distance of Indonesian study program students who came from the Timorese Tribe was almost not much different from the social distance of Indonesian study program students who came from the Flores Tribe. The dominant level of tendency towards the tribe itself is a characteristic of Indonesian Language Study Program students from the Timorese. The following figure shows the tendency visually.

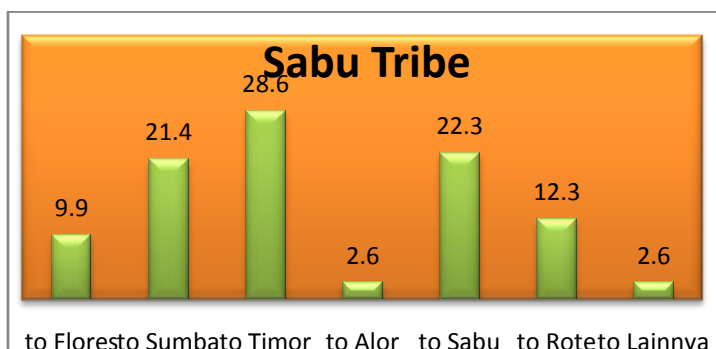


Source: resul of data primer, 2019

A small percentage of Timorese people choose boarding friends, boarding friends, and the choice to make other tribes husband or wife classified as low or insignificant (not reaching 15%). It also means that the social distance of the Timorese from other tribes is quite far. Timorese for all generally choose their own ethnicity or 41.3%. It can be said, students from Timorese people are classified as closed and difficult to accept updates. Ethnocentrism easily arises in closed tribes.

### 3. Sabu Tribe Students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program

Different from Flores and Timorese, the tendency of Indonesian Language Study Program students from Sabu to the other five tribes is almost evenly distributed with the level of difference in tendencies that are not so significant as shown in the following figure.



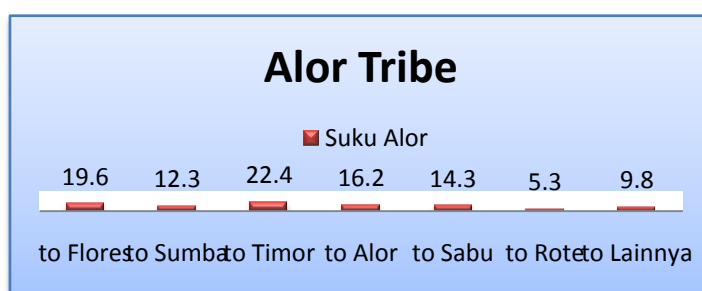
Source: result of data primer, 2019

The graph above shows the level of tendency of students from Sabu Tribe towards other ethnic students. The Timorese are the most dominant (28.6%). The data presented in the figure shows that the tendency of the Sabu tribe to other tribes is almost evenly distributed among the Timorese, Sumba, Sabu, Rote, and Flores tribes which have no significant difference. Whereas the tendency of Alor is relatively small (2.6%) with a significant percentage distance compared to other tribes.

Based on these data it can be concluded that the social distance of Indonesian study program students from the Sabu ethnic group is close to other tribes, especially for the four tribes outside their tribes namely Timor, Sabu, Sumba, and Rote.

### 4. Alor Tribe Students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program

The tendency of Indonesian Language Study Program students towards the other five tribes for all variables (choice of dating friends, boarding friends, choice of husband and wife or choosing husband and wife of different religions) shows a tendency to be inclusive (open with other tribes). The findings of the study found that the Alor ethnic was the most open with close social distance with other tribes as shown in the following table.

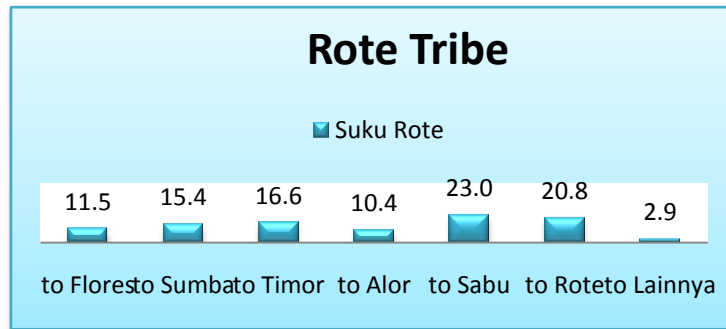


Source: Hasil data primer 2019

The graph above illustrates the Alor Tribe is the most open tribe. He can associate with all tribes with insignificant differences. However, the Timorese social affiliation tends to be stronger or closer to the Timorese, and is followed by the Flores, the Alor, the Sabu, the Sumba, the other and the Rote.

### 5. Rote Tribe Students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program

The social distance between the Rote and 6 other tribes is relatively close. In other words, this tribe can get along with any ethnic or tribe in East Nusa Tenggara. Social distance for all tribes is almost the same. However, social affiliation or social distance that is close to the Rote is the Sabu, Timor, Sumba, Timor and Flores. The table below shows the social distance between the Rote and the six other tribes in East Nusa Tenggara.

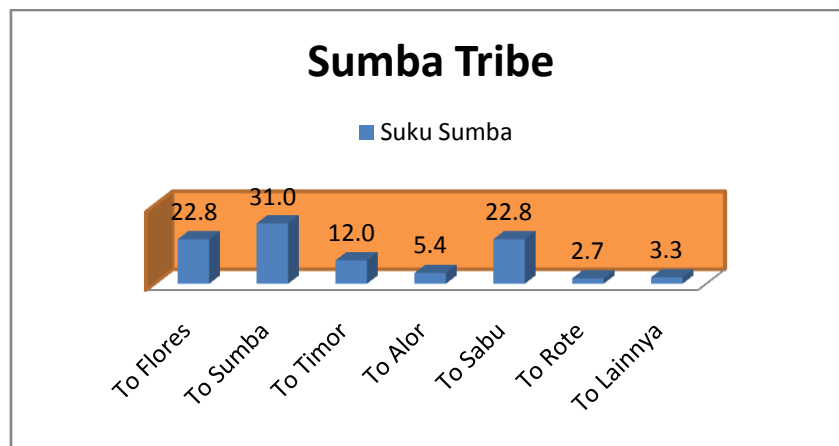


Source: result of data primer, 2019

The graph above shows the range of social distances between the Rote and six other tribes belonging to the close. That is, the Rote tribe is classified as being able to accept other terms in the five variables studied. The situation shows, Rote is an inclusive tribe that can accept change and willingness to get along with any ethnic group in NTT.

### 6. Sumba Tribe Students of the Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program

Almost the same as Timorese and Floresese, the tendency of social distance of Indonesian Language Study Program students from the Sumba ethnic group is dominant towards their own tribe (31%). Although the tendency is towards the other five tribes, the difference in presentation is quite significant as shown in the following figure.



Source: result of data primer, 2019.

The graph above shows that in addition to their own tribes, Indonesian Language Study Program students from the Sumba ethnic group tend to choose the Flores and Sabu tribes with a percentage of 22.8% each. While the tendency towards Timorese, Alor and Rote is relatively low. This situation shows the social distance of Indonesian Language Study Program students from Sumba and six other tribes from five variables which are relatively low.

## V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

### 1. Conclusion

Based on the research findings, it can be concluded as follows:

1. The Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program, Faculty of Teaching and Education Science, Undana students generally, choose dating, discussing, choosing boarding roommates, choosing married couples, and choosing partners of different religions with their own ethnic groups.
2. The two tribes that have social distance are classified as close or familiar with other tribes on the scale of the relationship of the five variables above are the Rote Tribe and the Alor Tribe.
3. Two tribes that are classified as exclusive, especially in discussing and choosing girlfriends are Timor and Flores.
4. The most socially distant tribe from other tribes is the Timorese.
5. The smaller the tribe (Rote and Alor) the more inclusive and can get along with other tribes. Conversely, the greater the population of a tribe the more closed the other tribes. This situation can be seen in Timor and Flores.

6. Flores Tribe students are seen as a symbol of intellectuality because all students from various ethnic groups choose students from the Flores tribe as discussion partners. On the other hand, Flores Tribe students can only discuss with Sumba students.

## **2. Recommendation**

From the research findings it can be recommended as follows:

- 1) There is a need for dialogue, especially two tribes that are classified as a long-distance social group with other tribes such as Flores and Timor.
- 2) An understanding of religious diversity is needed, so that everyone can accept making friends with any religion.
- 3) Extra activities are needed which try to blend especially the two ethnic groups (Timor and Flores) with other ethnic groups.

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