

ABSTRACT

CULTURAL IDENTITY OF THE CHILDREN WHOSE MOTHER TONGUE IS JAVANESE. Thesis. Yohanes Lilik Subiyanto. Graduate Program in Religious and Cultural Studies. Yogyakarta Sanata Dharma University. Year: 2006.

This thesis aims to understand the cultural identity of the children whose mother tongue is Javanese and actively speak Indonesian. The research subjects were six elementary school children living in Griya Dharma Asri I Complex, Jebresan, Kalitirto, Berbah, Sleman. The method applied in this research was qualitative. The subjects were observed and interviewed for six months. Furthermore, the researcher observed the parents' language tradition background and read their writings.

The findings of the research reveal that the subjects possess liminal identity not only in terms of their language performance which renders the elements of language interferences but also there exists a phenomenon of split mind world which is consecrated by cultural content of both languages. Javanese language is a mother tongue acquired naturally and a little cultural portion through Javanese education at school. Whereas Indonesian language that is more dominant, acquired both naturally in the environment and culturally and dominantly at school. The hybrid character of the children culture reflected by bilingual practiced is an intersection and interdependence of both language, which are synergistically supportive for the children ability to use the language. There exists a potential of transculturation in their mind world in the future, as far as they acquire an 'empty space' to lighten a creative autonomy they have. Within the creative autonomy in that liminal condition, the childrens' mind not only become a contest arena of two languages and two inclusive cultures, but also become a symbolic space to negotiate and to give meaning to their world with creativity they have. Bilingual becomes a means to reveal cultural identity, as well as a medium of transculturation.