

## Conference Paper

# Youth in Social Science Research in Indonesia (Reflection on Directions and Perspectives in Anthropological Approaches)

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**Abstract.**

This case study was done in an urban environment to investigate intercultural interaction in the multiethnic context of Makassar City. The research aims to understand how intercultural interactions occur in the daily lives of the residents of Makassar, which is a city rich in cultural and ethnic diversity. Data were through direct observation and in-depth interviews. Seven local residents with diverse ethnic backgrounds were selected as informants for the study. Intercultural communication, acceptance and tolerance, cooperation and collaboration, the influence of intercultural interaction, and challenges and barriers are some of the elements studied. According to the results of the study, intercultural communication in Makassar City requires the use of language and special signs to overcome language differences. The majority of Makassar City residents appreciate and accept ethnic diversity. However, there are still problems in overcoming differences in tradition and culture. In various initiatives and activities involving multiethnic communities, there is cooperation and collaboration between ethnicities. The social, cultural, and economic life of Makassar City is greatly enhanced by intercultural interaction. However, there are some challenges faced, such as language differences and cultural stereotypes, which can make inter-ethnic communication and understanding difficult. This study enhances our understanding of cultural interaction in a multiethnic urban environment and offers suggestions for improving inter-ethnic understanding, tolerance, and collaboration in Makassar City.

**Keywords:** research, children, anthropological perspective

## 1. Introduction

Studies on children or youth in the social sciences and humanities are still minimal, only sociology seems to be quite friendly with studies that specifically and specifically study children and youth. Meanwhile, social sciences and other humanities such as anthropology, communications, history, and even political science have not paid much attention to the lives of children and adolescents. If in sociology one can read several reference books on child sociology, in anthropology, especially in Indonesia, there is no one that can be used as a comprehensive reference. The humanities are not much different, although recently, especially in history, there has been criticism from regarding

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the lack of attention from historians when explaining history as if the perpetrators were all seen as adults.

Bambang Purwanto's criticism of the tendency to write history is at least an inspiration for this paper to give place to social and cultural realities, especially in future anthropological studies, which are currently felt to be lacking. Because the supporting literature for dissecting children's lives in the context of anthropology is not much (to say nothing at all), then at least this will be an initial record that in the future studies on children or adolescents are in an anthropological approach with all approaches that is in it will become a matter of urgency.

Children or in this context adolescents are within the relative age limit, in Indonesia in general it is mainly related to studies on reproductive health of adolescents and youth from the age of 15-24 years. Meanwhile, referring to the National Family Planning Coordinating Board (BKKBN), the age limit for adolescents is 10-12 years. Likewise, the Ministry of Health stated that adolescents are between 10-19 years old ( <https://perpustakaan.komnasperempuan.go.id/> )

According to the BKKBN and the Ministry of Health, the age limits for adolescents and youth above provide an indication that between the ages of 15-20 years, adolescents are looking for their identity both through their experiences in the family, society, formal education, and of course in the current context. through massive electronic media. This means that it is during this period that adolescents will learn a lot whether later they will become transmissions or connectors of culture and culture from the previous generation or even during their youth the culture that previously developed was cut off, this is important to be part of the anthropological study of children.

One approach that can reveal the study of anthropological approaches in understanding children is psychology. Through psychology, for example developmental psychology, it will be understood how the psychology of adolescents is so important at that time in understanding the cultures that will shape them when they become adults later in life. An interesting example is what was conveyed by Erikson [1] regarding the psychology of child development that adolescence is a period when there is a search for identity. For Erikson, he called this period the moratorium period, namely the time when teenagers would prepare themselves to organize their future.

Referring to the assumptions of developmental psychology above which illustrates that adolescence is very important as a phase of introducing the culture of a society, it should also be a lot of attention from social science experts even though basically some social sciences and humanities such as sociology and history although recently just starting but not in the context of youth studies as a phase of cultural transformation but

more in studies of juvenile delinquency, or at least regarding how in formal education youth are taught about local wisdom, but it seems not much (to say nothing at all) ) which tries to examine in depth how the cultural transformation of adolescents is in a non-formal context.

Departing from the explanation above, this brief paper aims to analyze the direction and perspective of the study of children and adolescents in the future, especially from an anthropological perspective. To understand what trends are the interesting themes in this study as well as to explore some of the results of previous scientific research related to youth, although not in the context of cultural transformation in society, through this exploration at least many interesting things will be found, especially from an anthropological perspective.

## 2. Research Methods

This paper was compiled based on a literature review from several sources that are considered relevant to support an analysis of how children or adolescents are, especially in social science research, especially anthropology in the future. Articles used as references are generally the result of in-depth research or at least are the result of in-depth analysis relating to children and adolescents. These studies are then reviewed to look for directions and perspectives that in the future there are many themes that should be of concern to the study of child anthropology.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Description of children's knowledge of local culture in Indonesia

An interesting problem faced by teenagers today almost all over the world is the alienation of local cultures which were previously highly respected by the community as the owner of the culture, issues of cultural systems, social systems, and physical culture according to [2] being a concern of anthropology in the current context there are lots of changes, where this can be noticed in the younger generation, especially teenagers, most of whom are already alienated from their cultural world but are closer to the culture learned from social media.

Such a problem, according to many experts, must be a very serious concern in Indonesia. One of the causes of the disconnection of local cultural knowledge in

the younger generation is the increasingly massive technological developments as previously described [3]. The existence of these challenges must be answered by involving multi-sectors starting from academia including in this case anthropologists who concentrate on culture, community leaders, formal education, families, communities, and all other related parties so that this local cultural crisis can at least be minimized along with the onslaught of culture from social media[4]

Small examples and cases that often arise in society, one of which is juvenile delinquency, one of the reasons for this is that they are alienated from eastern culture which has a value of wisdom, where the values of unity, obedience to parents, a sense of mutual cooperation and so on are no longer integrated with most teenagers today. Studies of this kind have not been touched by anthropological studies, but are studied more by other social scientists.



- (Source: <https://www.google.com/search?q>)

**Figure 1:** Example of Juvenile Delinquency.

Following are some examples of studies on juvenile delinquency which in certain contexts can later also become the concern of anthropology: 1) [2] study regarding the phenomenon of juvenile delinquency. In general, this paper tries to identify juvenile delinquency which is not only limited to mediocre but has led to criminal violence such as mugging, raping, stealing, fighting, fighting parents and so on. Seeing the symptoms of juvenile delinquency, various alternatives are offered which involve the role of the parties to be able to minimize juvenile delinquency starting from religious leaders, the community, parents, formal education and others; 2) the study of [5] on how to handle juvenile delinquency. This paper also provides an overview of how the background attention to juvenile delinquency began with the existence of a juvenile court in Illinois, United States of America in 1889. In general, the focus was on the factors that led to juvenile delinquency, namely factors internal and external factors

such as parental attention to other cultural influences caused by social media. Likewise, the consequences of juvenile delinquency are another important part of this article.

The two studies above are just examples that there are too many adolescent problems that need serious attention, including in this case related to cultural issues which cause so many problems in adolescents, many of which are caused by adolescents' misunderstanding related to local customs or wisdom . they get both from parents, family, society, even from school. Thus, including how culture is transformed in the younger generation in this digital era can be one of the interesting themes of anthropological studies.

### **3.2. Themes, directions, and perspectives on children and adolescent studies in Indonesia**

Understanding the direction and perspective of studies on adolescents, which has been the focus of research in Indonesia, can be reviewed from several sources that have been published so far, both in the form of scientific journals and in the form of books, news and so on. As a specification of the study, this section will only take samples from reviews of several relevant scientific journals. The following are some of the trends in research themes regarding children and adolescents in Indonesia:

*First* , the development of local wisdom in formal and informal education. Research on the development of this kind seems to be carried out quite a lot by educational researchers in particular using classroom action research, quantitative research, qualitative research, as well as research and development. The following are some examples of research in this genre: 1) Writing by [6] regarding the study of literary anthropology which pays attention to the educational value of folklore contained in teaching materials in junior high schools. The results of his research illustrate that Kalantika's story which is used as teaching material for junior high schools contains many life stories that students can internalize including about lessons about social and moral systems both about nature and traditional knowledge; 2) the results of research by [7] regarding the socialization of character education in children using audio media. The results of his research show that children really like it when they are given an understanding through videos, including those relating to character videos based on culture that are inherent in the life of the society in which they live.

*Second* , related to street children. Each generation has its own characteristics, from how they dress to how they speak. Included in this case, street children in the current context have characteristics that are different from other children who are sometimes

paid more attention to by their parents. An example of this jaian is the result of research by [8] on how languages develop, especially among street children, which he also sees as part of a multicultural culture among adolescents. This study is not an anthropological study but rather a study of language or linguistics. The results of the study show that for street children who in fact sometimes come from the same entity but hang out in the same place as in the terminal, for example, they will make a language and code that they can understand, so this causes their coded language to be plural from the identity that was originally different; in the case of street children in Java they tend to use ngoko Javanese.

*Third*, related to the theme of village farmer children. The lives of children or adolescents in the village, whether as farmers, fishermen, laborers, etc., are actually very few objects of research study, although there are some who have started doing so. The following is an example of a study of village children, which can be seen from the results of [9] research on the lives of children working in smallholder oil palm plantations located in East Luwu, South Sulawesi. This research using ethnographic methods illustrates that the reality of work in the smallholder oil palm sector for children is the reality of “working children” and not in the context of “employing children”. This means that children working in smallholder oil palm plantations are not based on coercion from their parents but on the pleasure of these children to work because they enjoy the moment.

*Fourth* , related to maritime children. It is the same with the study of children of farmers, how maritime children or youth, especially in the study of social sciences, are still very rare, even though there are quite a number of studies on education, for example regarding the education of beach children. The following examples regarding research on beach children can be seen from the writings of [10] regarding how visual expression in maritime children who are in Tanjung Mas Semarang in the perspective of maritime or coastal Ecology and Culture. One interesting conclusion from the results of this study is that the forms of expression of the beach or coastal children in Semarang indicate an ecological artistic expression.

*Fifth* , regarding local cultural literacy for children or adolescents. Studies on cultural literacy in children are generally related to formal education. The following is an example of research that has been conducted related to this theme: 1) Writing by [11] about literacy regarding local culture in children in Jatisura Village. This research provides information that children in Jatisura Village with the initiation of Jatiwangi Art Factory (JAF) guide many children to become more familiar with their cultural environment either by playing, identifying local culture and in the end they can internalize several aspects of local

culture in their lives. Their life; 2) an article written by [12] regarding instilling literacy values in children, especially at an early age in the digital era.

*Sixth* , related to the cultivation of character in adolescents. The following is an example of research on this theme which can be considered in research conducted by [3] regarding how to instill politeness and courtesy in Javanese children. This article provides an illustration that the learning of manners to children in Java has been carried out from an early age by families, communities and formal education institutions, while the manners that are taught are related to the style of language used, how to behave with older people. and so forth.

1. Seventh, related to communication media between children and parents. An example of this study can be seen in an article written by [13] regarding the media used by children in communicating with their parents. This article illustrates that with the development of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and so on, it sometimes causes communication between children and parents to sometimes be disrupted. They sometimes tend to be more familiar in cyberspace than in the real world, such as when they are together at home, they will be preoccupied with communicating with each other's social media.

## 4. Recommendation

Referring to the tendency of research themes regarding adolescents or children in some of the journal review results above, especially from an anthropological perspective, there are many interesting and attention-grabbing themes. Following are some recommendations for important research themes to be carried out in the future and at the same time as an effort to provide a separate place for the study of child anthropology. Some of the recommended themes are as follows:

*First*, regarding the influence of social media on adolescent identity: This research can explore how social media influences the construction of identity of adolescents in their cultural context. Focus on how youth use social media platforms, how they gain knowledge and experience, and how it shapes their understanding of social and individual identity.

*Second*, regarding inclusive education for children with special needs: Through an anthropological approach, this research can explore how inclusive education practices are implemented in various cultures. This research can highlight local perspectives, social norms, and community attitudes towards children with special needs.

*Third*, regarding the effect of migration on the experiences of children and adolescents: This research can examine how the migration experience influences the identity, socialization process, and daily life of children and adolescents in families who change their place of residence. Focus on how cultural shifts affect their interactions with their peer group and how they maintain ties to their culture of origin.

*Fourth*, regarding the role of children in environmental preservation: This research can explore the role of children in environmental preservation and conservation practices in various cultures. Focus on how children engage in traditional or innovative activities aimed at preserving their natural environment and how they develop an understanding of their responsibility to nature.

*Fifth*, regarding adolescents' understanding of health and well-being: This research can explore adolescents' understanding of health and well-being from their cultural perspective. Focus on their perceptions of the body, nutrition, mental health and other health practices. Also, looking at how youth interact with the local health system and what influences their health decisions.

## 5. Conclusion

Research on children and adolescents is not a new study, it's just that in several social sciences including anthropology there are still few experts who focus on research on children in various aspects, so this also results in the absence of comprehensive guidelines if you want to research children in from an anthropological perspective, this is different for example from other themes such as health anthropology, legal anthropology and so on, while with regard to the anthropology of children currently many problems tend to get less space.

Apart from the absence of specific books that can be used as references related to child anthropology, some previous writings can be used as good examples regarding the themes, approaches and methods used when researching related to adolescents or children.

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