

Indonesian transcript:

Pewawancara: Apakah Islam menjunjung tinggi nilai-nilai demokrasi?

Dedi: Yah ... kalau saya sih berpendapat tergantung sudut pandangnya, hanya sejauh ini di masyarakat Indonesia, keterlibatan perempuan di dalam dunia demokrasi itu semakin tinggi dan semakin diterima di masyarakat, bahkan terbukti ternyata perempuan itu bisa lebih berkualitas daripada laki-laki sejauh ini yang diterima. Ada beberapa bupati yang ternyata perempuan di Jawa Tengah. Kemudian, bahkan Indonesia sekalipun disebut negara Islam terbesar di dunia tapi Indonesia pernah memiliki presiden perempuan yang belum lama ini ibu Megawati. Dan itu belum pernah terjadi di negara Islam sebesar Indonesia secepat itu bisa menerima pemimpin perempuan.

Pewawancara: Apakah prinsip demokrasi itu cocok untuk diterapkan untuk negara yang mayoritas Islam seperti Indonesia?

Dedi: Karena saya bukan pengamat politik demokrasi, saya melihat bahwa ada kecenderungan masyarakat Indonesia untuk mengawinkan antara demokrasi dengan Islam. Dan sejauh ini Indonesia jauh lebih damai ketimbang negara-negara Islam yang lainnya yang mengadopsi demokrasi seperti Pakistan atau di Palestina atau di Iran atau di mana saja. Indonesia jauh lebih damai daripada negara-negara yang lainnya, yang dalam kategori negara-negara Islam, di Bangladesh atau di mana.

Pewawancara: Sebagai guru dan kepala sekolah di pondok pesantren, adakah kiat-kiat tertentu untuk menerapkan nilai-nilai demokrasi di sekolah?

Dedi: Kami secara rutin dalam satu minggu sekali itu mengadakan evaluasi kelas namanya. Dalam evaluasi itu kami ber ... bermusyawarah dengan guru-guru, dan musyawarah adalah prinsip demokrasi, untuk menentukan bagaimana langkah kita minggu ke depan dan bagaimana apa yang sudah kita lakukan di masa lalu. Evaluasi itu rutin tiap minggu kami kumpulkan para wali kelas, wali kelas adalah guru yang bertanggungjawab terhadap satu kelas, mengelola kelas itu, bertanggungjawab terhadap raport, terhadap siswa dan lain-lain dan hasilnya semuanya atas dasar demokrasi atas dasar kesepakatan. Jadi kami tidak bisa melangkah tanpa ada kesepakatan dari semua para wali kelas yang kami kumpulkan pada saat itu. Itulah nilai-nilai demokrasi yang kami terapkan dalam level sekolah. Murid, misalnya pemilihan ketua kelas, itu ada nilai-nilai demokrasi yang diterapkan di antara mereka. Mereka itu bermusyawarah, menentukan siapa ketua kelasnya, bahkan kami sudah menerapkan bagaimana aturan kelas itu, terserah kepada kelas yang bersangkutan. Silahkan dimusyawarahkan apa yang kalian mau, kalian bicarakan, kalian tulis. Itu sebagai norma di mana kalian harus bertindak di kelas itu. Itulah yang kami terapkan selama ini.

Pewawancara: Kalau dalam pengajaran bahasa Inggris sendiri kira-kira nilai-nilai demokrasi itu bisa diterapkan ke pengajaran atau ke siswa?

Dedi: Sangat bisa, justru kami, kami sedang mencoba, mengembangkan bagaimana nilai-nilai demokrasi itu diterapkan ... di dalam bidang studi bahasa Inggris, misalnya, kami me.. menerapkan eh ... group work atau kelompok- em ... kelompok belajar ketika di kelas dan di situ akan terjadi perdebatan, akan terjadi negosiasi, untuk menentukan sesuatu kebijakan di kelas tersebut, sekalipun konteksnya dalam bidang bahasa.

Pewawancara: Bisa beri contoh dalam konteks apa dalam bidang bahasa itu apakah dialog-dialog?

Dedi: Umumnya, yang bersifat pembuatan norma. Misalnya kami berusaha menerapkan siswa untuk bisa bahasa Inggris tetapi isinya adalah dalam rangka membuat norma misalnya bagaimana nih ... kalau yang terlambat 5 menit, itu hukumannya apa, kalau guru sekian menit tidak ada apa yang harus anda lakukan, tetapi mereka membicarakan itu dalam ... dalam konteks bahasa, dalam bahasa Inggris. Itu sebagai contoh kecil.

English translation:

Interviewer: Does Islam appreciate the values of democracy?

Dedi: Yes ... in my opinion. It depends on how you look at it. But in my personal opinion, I see that women's participation in the process of democracy in Indonesia is highly engaged and more widely accepted in society. There are even women in some cases who prove themselves to be of better quality. There are some female provincial governors, like those in central Java. Then, even though Indonesia is considered the largest Muslim country in the world, we once had a female president, *Ibu*¹ Megawati, and there has never been any Muslim country which accepts a woman as the president of the country. And the Indonesian people have managed to accept having a female president that quickly in history.

Interviewer: Can democratic principles be appropriately applied to a country whose majority citizens are Muslims?

Dedi: Although I don't consider myself as an observer of democracy, I see that there is a tendency in Indonesian society that tries to merge democracy into Islam. And so far, Indonesia is more capable of maintaining national security than other Muslim countries that adopt the principles of democracy such as Pakistan or Palestine or Iran or somewhere else. Indonesia can sustain a higher level of security compared to other Muslim countries such as Bangladesh or somewhere else.

Interviewer: As a teacher and principal in the Islamic boarding school, are there certain ways to implement the principles of democracy at school?

¹ *Ibu* is a title given to a woman as a way to show respect.

Dedi: We regularly hold a classroom evaluation meeting once a week. In the meeting, we conduct a dialogue with the teachers and remember that conducting a dialogue is a principle of democracy. The dialogue is held to achieve an agreement on the next steps to be taken for the future of the school and to reflect on what we have done previously. In the classroom evaluation meeting that is conducted once a week, we invite all homeroom teachers, that is, teachers responsible for the progress of the class, the management of the class, the students' academic reports, and other matters. And the commitment taken is based on democracy and agreements. So, we cannot proceed with school policy without an agreement with the homeroom teachers. This is the principle of democracy that I've implemented at the school level. Another example, students nominate a head of the class through dialogues to achieve an agreement. We even leave it up to the students to determine classroom regulations. What they expect is discussed, spoken, and written. We suggest that they agree on the classroom norms to guide actions in the class. That is what I implemented.

Interviewer: In English language teaching, how is the principle of democracy implemented?

Dedi: It can really be implemented. Actually, I have been trying to develop how the principles of democracy should be implemented at the level of the subject matter. For example, in English language teaching, we conduct group work or learning groups to encourage debates and negotiations in achieving an agreement on a certain classroom policy, even though the context is designated for language learning.

Interviewer: Can you give me examples within the context of English language learning? Are they applied into dialogues?

Dedi: Usually, it is related to the creation of norms. For example, we ask the students to communicate in English throughout the process of the norm formulation. They determine the punishment for those who come to the classroom five minutes late. They also determine what they should do if the teacher doesn't show up after a certain amount of time, but they discuss this topic in English. This is just an example.

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