

Indonesian transcript:

Pewawancara: Ehmmm ... Masih ada gitu korupsi di Indonesia sedangkan sekarang sudah masa reformasi?

Agus: Wah ... kabarnya lebih banyak, tapi satu sisi kita lebih terbuka sekarang, sehingganya setiap hari kita nyaris membaca berita tentang korupsi para pejabat yang ketahuan. Bedanya dengan masa Suharto, media tidak bebas memberitakan itu. Jadi ini satu sisi yang men ... menarik dan barangkali juga dari sini bisa ada penurunan tingkat jumlah korupsi di Indonesia tapi korupsi tetap masih banyak.

Pewawancara: Eh ... sebagai pengamat ilmu sosial terutama esai dari esai-esainya tentang yang memperhatikan masalah-masalah sosial di Indonesia, kira-kira yang menyebabkan orang bertindak korupsi itu apa?

Agus: Pertama sikap serakah, kedua serakah lagi, ketiga serakah juga.

Pewawancara: Apa itu artinya?

Agus: ya ... kita ini berhubungan dengan sejarah, sejarah kita sejarah kolonial yang panjang, kolonial VOC itu kolonial yang sangat korup di dunia. Dilanjutkan kemudian dengan pemerintahan era Belanda. Belanda yang paling jahat itu sebenarnya demang-demang itu, nah di sinilah kemudian, demang-demang ini yang kemudian menjadi priyai-priyai dan kemudian anak keturunannya melanjutkan tradisi itu tapi tetap saya bukan menyalahin tapi yang penting bahwa kita punya landasan kolonialisme dan feodalisme yang memungkinkan korupsi itu tumbuh dengan subur di lingkungan para pejabat kita. Ada tradisi upeti, misalnya. Nah ... ada tradisi nepotism. Ini erat kaitannya dengan sejarah masa silam kita. Saya pikir itu.

Pewawancara: Apakah itu merupakan hambatan bagi negara kita untuk menjadi negara yang demokratis?

Agus: Satu sisi iya, satu sisi saya ... saya ... saya ... saya yakin iya, tapi pada sisi lain eh ... kita bisa belajar dari situ untuk bisa memahami demokrasi eh ... dalam pengertian yang sebenarnya.

Pewawancara: Demokrasi yang sebenarnya itu menurut mas Agus seperti apa?

Agus: Ya ... tidak seperti eh ... saya mengagumi Hatta karena dia berpikir kita punya hal ... tiga hal yang penting dalam demokrasi saya pikir. Pertama, demokrasi politik seperti di Indonesia hari ini. Orang bebas untuk memilih, bebas untuk ngomong, okay. Demokrasi pada tataran ekonomi, okay misalnya ada kebebasan untuk berusaha, untuk membuat usaha dan bekerja. Tapi yang ketiga yang tidak kalah pentingnya adalah demokrasi sosial,

pada konteks keadilan sosial. Jadi yang ... yang barangkali banyak kita lupakan bukan pada tataran politik tapi merupakan keadilan sosial.

English translation:

Interviewer: Eh ... is there still any corruption in Indonesia during this era of reformation?

Agus: Wow ... I heard there is even more corruption nowadays, but now news on corruption is more open, so almost everyday we hear about the government officials' alleged corruption. It is different from the Suharto era in which media didn't have freedom to report on corruption. What is important here perhaps is the decreasing number of corruptors in Indonesia, while the corruptors are still operating their evil deeds.

Interviewer: Eh ... as a social observer especially as an essayist on social problems in Indonesia, what do you think of the reasons why people commit corruption?

Agus: First, it is greed, second, it is again greed, and third it is greed as well.

Interviewer: What does it mean?

Agus: Yes ... We have been dealing with history. Our history consists of long colonial periods, and the VOC¹ colonial system is the most corrupt in the world. The system proceeded with the Dutch governmental system in Indonesia. The most malicious people are the Indonesian district chiefs in the Dutch colonial periods, and then they became members of the upper class society. They inherited the evil and malicious deeds from the Indonesian district chiefs appointed by the Dutch colonizer. I am not blaming them, but we have colonial bases to understand why government officials tend to be corrupt and corruption is mushrooming in our society. For example, the tradition of giving bribes to the authority, and ... nepotism. This is quite related to our past colonial history.

Interviewer: Is it the result of a blunder in the democratization process in our country?

Agus: On the one hand yes it certainly is, but on the other hand ... we can learn from the history to understand democracy ... in a real sense?

Interviewer: What is this true democracy like?

Agus: Yes ... it is not like ... eh ... I admire Hatta² because he thinks that there are three important aspects in the democratization process, and this is also what I think. First, from the political aspect, Indonesia has been democratic; people have the freedom to elect, and to speak, okay. From an economic aspect, it's okay. For example, there is freedom for operating businesses and for working. But the third aspect, which is very important, is

¹ VOC is Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie; the Dutch East Indies Company who came to Indonesia to do trade before launching into practices of colonialism.

² Hatta is the name of the Indonesian first vice president

often forgotten. That is social democracy, or democracy for social justice. So what we often forget is not the political aspect of democracy, rather, social justice.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

© 2003-2009 Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and Five Colleges, Incorporated