



The Development of the Indonesian Language in Egypt and Its Impact on Bilateral Relations between Indonesia and Egypt

Masukiplee Kuru
Winda Dewi Pusvita

mhdazmankiflee@gmail.com
windamusirawas@gmail.com

Al-Azhar University, Mesir
SMP Negeri 5 Surakarta, Indonesia

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Abstract

The interest in learning the Indonesian language is inseparable from the historical, cultural, and educational relations between Indonesia and Egypt. Increased cooperation in the field of education and diplomacy between the two countries has also encouraged the spread of the Indonesian language in Egypt. This article explores the development of the Indonesian language in Egypt in 2024, including the factors influencing its spread, the challenges faced, and the impact of learning Indonesian among the Egyptian people. The Indonesian language has experienced a significant increase in interest and use among the Egyptian people, both in the fields of education and culture. This study uses a qualitative approach with interview, observation, and literature analysis methods from various relevant international journals to collect data. The results of the study show that factors such as cultural diplomacy, educational cooperation, and the role of the Indonesian diaspora in Egypt are the main drivers in the development of the Indonesian language in the country. In addition, the results of the study show that Indonesian is increasingly in demand in Egypt, especially among academics and students who are interested in studying Indonesia and bilateral relations between the two countries.

Keywords:

cultural diplomacy; diaspora; education; Egyptian; Indonesian language development

INTRODUCTION

Indonesian, as one of the languages with the largest number of speakers in the world, has more than 270 million speakers. Indonesia's increasing role at the international level has made the Indonesian language attract the attention of other countries, including Egypt. In Egypt, the development of the Indonesian language is driven by various cultural diplomacy initiatives and educational cooperation that are increasingly carried out. One of the important factors influencing the development of the Indonesian language in Egypt is the existence of the Indonesian diaspora in Egypt, which plays an active role in introducing and promoting the language. Through various cultural and educational activities held by the diaspora community, the interest of the Egyptian people in the Indonesian language is increasing. This is in line with research that shows that the existence of diaspora communities can affect the acceptance of a country's language and culture in a market country (Mihailescu, 2019).

Support from the Indonesian government is also a key factor in the development of the Indonesian language in Egypt. In recent years, cooperation between the two countries in the field of education and culture has intensified, with various programs such as scholarships, student exchanges, and the organization of cultural festivals featuring the Indonesian language and culture. This is in line with the view that education diplomacy is one of the effective tools in building relations between countries (Kurlanta et al., 2020).

It is hoped that with the support from the government and the efforts made by the diaspora community, the Indonesian language can continue to develop and be better known in Egypt in 2024. This research aims to provide a deeper insight into the efforts that can be made to strengthen the position of the Indonesian language in Egypt. Cooperation between the government and the diaspora community is expected to continue to be improved, thereby creating an environment conducive to the growth of the language.

With the continuation of these efforts, there is hope that by 2024 the Indonesian language will be increasingly known and widely used in Egypt. This will not only open up new opportunities for cooperation between Indonesia and Egypt in various fields, but is also expected to strengthen relations between the two countries. With more and more people learning Indonesian in Egypt, interaction and mutual understanding between the Indonesian and Egyptian peoples will increase, as well as strengthen bilateral cooperation (Budiman, 2021).

The interest in learning the Indonesian language is inseparable from the historical, cultural, and educational relations between Indonesia and Egypt. Increased cooperation in the field of education and diplomacy between the two countries has also encouraged the spread of the Indonesian language in Egypt. This study aims to examine the development of the Indonesian language in Egypt, focusing on the influencing factors, challenges faced, and their impact on language learning.

This is in line with the results of the following nationally and internationally published researcher-researcher studies. The first study related to the main challenges in learning Indonesian in Egypt, including language barriers, lack of resources, and cultural differences. In addition, this article also explores the opportunities that exist, such as the growing interest of Egyptian students in

Indonesian culture and support from the Indonesian government in the form of scholarship programs and cultural exchanges (Hassan & Nurhaliza, 2023).

The second researcher highlighted the Indonesian language programs offered at universities in Egypt. This article examines the effectiveness of the program in improving cultural and linguistic understanding, as well as its impact on bilateral relations between Indonesia and Egypt. The study found that these programs are highly effective in engaging students and improving their language skills (Al-Fayed & Siregar, 2022). The third researcher examined the role of digital media in promoting Indonesian language learning in Egypt. The authors found that digital platforms such as YouTube, social media, and language learning apps are very helpful in increasing accessibility and interest in learning Indonesian among the Egyptian people (Mubarak & Az-Zahra, 2021). The fourth researcher explored the perspectives of Egyptian students on Indonesian language learning. Through surveys and interviews, the author found that most students felt interested and motivated to learn Indonesian because of their interest in Indonesian culture and better job prospects (Al-Mutairi & Kartika, 2022).

The fifth researcher explored Indonesian language teaching strategies at Al-Azhar University, Egypt. The authors found that the use of communicative methods and the integration of local cultures in learning materials was very effective in improving the understanding and language skills of Egyptian students. "The communicative approach and integration of local cultures have proven to be effective in teaching Indonesian to Egyptian students" (Santoso & Hidayati, 2023).

The sixth researcher examined the use of digital media in Indonesian learning in Egypt. The results show that platforms such as YouTube, language learning apps, and social media help increase students' interest and engagement in the learning process. "Digital media plays an important role in facilitating Indonesian learning in Egypt" (Fauzi & Agustina, 2022).

This article discusses the challenges and opportunities faced by teachers in teaching Indonesian in Egypt. Key challenges identified included differences in language structure and lack of educational resources, while opportunities included increased student interest in Indonesian culture and support from the government. "Differences in language structure and lack of educational resources are the main challenges in teaching Indonesian in Egypt" (Aminah & Kuswandi, 2021).

This article examines the role of student exchange programs in Indonesian language learning in Egypt. The study found that the student exchange program provides Egyptian students with invaluable hands-on experience in understanding the Indonesian culture and language. "The student exchange program provides a hands-on experience that enriches Indonesian language learning" (Rahman & Sartika, 2023).

The results of these studies provide valuable insights into the developments and challenges in Indonesian language learning in Egypt and can show the important role played by various factors in supporting this learning process. In addition, the results of these studies also provide an in-depth view of the strategies, challenges, and opportunities in learning Indonesian in Egypt, as well as show the important role of digital media and student exchange programs in supporting this learning process.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study adopts a qualitative approach with three main methods to collect data related to the development of Indonesian language use in Egypt and its impact on bilateral relations between Indonesia and Egypt.

Interview: This method is conducted with Indonesian language teachers, students learning Indonesian, and staff of the Indonesian embassy in Egypt. The interview aims to gather first-hand information about the development of the Indonesian language in Egypt and its impact on the relationship between the two countries. The results of the interview are expected to provide a clear picture of the effectiveness of the Indonesian language learning program and the potential for cooperation that can be established in the future. This qualitative approach is expected to yield in-depth insights into the relationship between increased use of the Indonesian language and possible opportunities for bilateral cooperation (Flick, 2018).

Observation: The researcher made observations on activities involving the use of the Indonesian language in educational institutions and cultural events in Egypt. Through this observation, researchers can collect concrete data on the implementation of Indonesian language learning programs. The results of the observation are expected to show the extent of the effectiveness of the program and the potential for cooperation that can be developed. In addition, this observation aims to identify the necessary steps to increase the use of Indonesian in Egypt as well as strengthen relations between the two countries (Kawulich, 2005).

Document Analysis: This method is carried out by reviewing official documents, reports, and publications related to the Indonesian language program in Egypt. The analysis of the document is expected to provide a clearer picture of the objectives, methods, and outcomes of the Indonesian language learning program. Through this analysis, researchers can identify the shortcomings and advantages of the program and evaluate the success of its implementation. In addition, the analysis of the document also provides information about the government's support and commitment to increasing the use of Indonesian in Egypt. With a deeper understanding of current conditions, future improvement and strengthening measures can be taken more appropriately (Bowen, 2009).

For example, an analysis of documents on an Indonesian language learning program in Egypt may reveal that one of the program's shortcomings is the lack of qualified human resources to support its implementation. On the other hand, the advantages of this program can lie in the cooperation between the Indonesian and Egyptian governments in providing facilities and curricula that are suitable for Indonesian language teaching.

RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Development of the Indonesian Language in Egypt

The Indonesian language was introduced in Egypt through close diplomatic and educational relations between the two countries. Many Indonesian students continue their studies at Al-Azhar University and other universities in Egypt, bringing with them

the Indonesian language and culture. In addition, the existence of student and lecturer exchange programs between Indonesia and Egypt also plays an important role in the spread of the Indonesian language in this country.

Some of the factors that affect the development of the Indonesian language in Egypt include: (1) Diplomatic Relations: Diplomatic cooperation between Indonesia and Egypt is getting closer; (2) Education: There is a scholarship program for Egyptian students to study in Indonesia and vice versa; (3) Culture and Tourism: The interest of the Egyptian people in culture and tourist destinations in Indonesia; (4) Media and Technology: Dissemination of information about Indonesia through social media and the internet.

Although Indonesian is growing in popularity, there are several challenges in its teaching in Egypt, including: (1) Limited resources: Lack of textbooks and learning materials available in Indonesian; (2) Language Barriers: The difference in language structure between Arabic and Indonesian makes the learning process more challenging; (3) Institutional Support: Further support from educational institutions is needed to develop Indonesian curriculum and study programs.

Beyond the existing challenges, Indonesian language learning in Egypt has had a positive impact, including: (1) Increased Cultural Understanding: Egyptian people have become more understanding of Indonesian culture and traditions; (2) Job Opportunities: Increase job opportunities for graduates who have Indonesian language skills; (3) Strengthening Bilateral Relations: Helping to strengthen bilateral relations between Indonesia and Egypt.

In 2024, the development of the Indonesian language in Egypt continues to show significant progress. Many Indonesian students who study at well-known universities in Egypt are starting to master Arabic well. This not only enriches their knowledge in communicating with the local community, but also opens up wider opportunities for cooperation between the two countries. In addition, more and more Indonesian cultural events are being held in Egypt, so that more and more locals are interested in learning Indonesian. With the increasing interest of the Egyptian people in Indonesian culture, the demand for Indonesian language courses is also increasing. This has led educational institutions in Egypt to start providing Indonesian language programs as part of their curriculum. It is hoped that with this effort, the relationship between Indonesia and Egypt can be closer and support each other in various fields, be it economic, political, and cultural. Thus, the two countries can enrich each other and broaden each other's horizons. In addition, the close relationship between Indonesia and Egypt can also open up wider opportunities for cooperation in the future. With the increasing number of Egyptians who understand Indonesian, it is hoped that communication between the two countries can be smoother and more effective. Hopefully this cooperation can provide great benefits for both parties and strengthen the friendly relationship that has been established for a long time. Hopefully this collaboration can also create opportunities for cultural exchange and increased cooperation in the fields of tourism and education. By understanding and respecting the diversity of each country, it is hoped that the relationship between Indonesia and Egypt can continue to develop and have a positive impact on both countries. Through solid and sustainable cooperation, the two countries can support each other in

achieving the common goal of creating peace and prosperity for all their peoples. For example, Indonesia and Egypt can work together on student exchange programs to enhance cultural understanding between the two countries. Through this activity, Indonesian students can learn about Egyptian history and culture, while Egyptian students can understand more deeply about the richness of Indonesian culture. However, there are also instances where cooperation between the two countries has not gone well. For example, when there is a conflict of political interest between Indonesia and Malaysia that hinders cooperation in the economic and trade fields. This could hamper efforts to create peace and prosperity for both countries.

A. Cultural Diplomacy

The role of cultural diplomacy is very significant in promoting the Indonesian language in Egypt. Various cultural activities such as Indonesian film festivals, art exhibitions, and traditional dance performances are often held by the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia (KBRI) in Cairo. These activities not only attracted the interest of the Egyptian people in Indonesian culture, but also increased their interest in the Indonesian language. With the cultural activities held by the Indonesian Embassy in Cairo, the relationship between Indonesia and Egypt is getting closer and harmonious. In addition, cultural diplomacy also helps in introducing Indonesia's cultural wealth at large to the Egyptian people. Through these activities, interest and appreciation for the Indonesian language is increasing among Egyptian society. With the increase in interest in the Indonesian language in Egypt, the relationship between the two countries can be increasingly strong and sustainable. Cultural activities carried out by the Indonesian Embassy in Cairo also help in expanding the cooperation network between Indonesia and Egypt in various fields. The more Egyptians are interested in and involved in Indonesian cultural activities, the closer the relationship between the two countries will be. Cultural diplomacy has proven to be one of the effective ways to strengthen relations between nations. The increased interest in the Indonesian language in Egypt also provides opportunities for educational cooperation between the two countries, such as student exchanges and the development of joint academic programs. In addition, through cultural activities, the two countries can introduce and understand each other's cultures, which will further deepen the friendly relationship between them. With the support of the Indonesian Embassy in Cairo, it is hoped that Indonesia-Egypt relations can continue to develop positively and provide benefits for both parties.

For example, cooperation between universities in Indonesia and Egypt in student exchange programs can help broaden students' horizons and knowledge and strengthen bilateral relations in the field of education. In addition, Indonesian cultural festivals in Egypt and vice versa can also be a platform to promote the culture of each country and strengthen the bonds of friendship between Indonesia and Egypt. Another example is the cooperation between Indonesian and Egyptian companies in infrastructure investment projects that can increase the economic growth of both countries and create jobs for the community. In addition, art and cultural exchanges between Indonesian and Egyptian artists can also enrich cultural life in both countries and strengthen diplomatic relations in b Counterexample: Although Indonesian

cultural festivals in Egypt and vice versa can strengthen relations between the two countries, there are cases where political conflicts between the Indonesian and Egyptian governments hinder such cultural cooperation. For example, the Egyptian government's rejection of Indonesia's foreign policy could hinder art and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

B. Educational Cooperation and the Role of the Indonesian Diaspora

Educational cooperation between Indonesia and Egypt has increased significantly. Several universities in Egypt, such as Al-Azhar University and Cairo University, have opened Indonesian study programs. In addition, student and lecturer exchanges between the two countries are also increasingly frequent. The scholarship program offered by the Indonesian government also provides opportunities for Egyptian students to learn Indonesian directly in Indonesia.

The Indonesian diaspora in Egypt, especially students and professionals, play an important role in introducing and spreading the Indonesian language. They are often involved in community activities that promote the Indonesian language and culture. The presence of this diaspora community also facilitates Indonesian learning for the local community.

They are not only ambassadors of Indonesian culture, but also a source of inspiration for Egyptian people who are interested in learning more about Indonesia. Through various social and cultural activities, members of the Indonesian diaspora in Egypt are able to expand their knowledge and understanding of Indonesia's cultural richness. Thus, the role of the Indonesian diaspora in Egypt not only helps to promote the Indonesian language, but also strengthens relations between the two countries. Through collaboration with local educational institutions, members of the Indonesian diaspora also provide opportunities for Egyptians to learn about Indonesian art, music, dance, and cuisine. With intensive cultural exchanges, the relationship between Indonesia and Egypt is getting closer and enriching each other. This shows how important the role of the diaspora is in strengthening relations between nations and promoting cultural diversity. To ensure this development is sustainable, it is important to carry out continuous efforts in strengthening cooperation between Indonesia and Egypt. In addition, the promotion of the Indonesian language through various media and activities also needs to be improved (Sari, 2023).

For example, the Indonesian diaspora community in Egypt often holds cultural events such as art festivals and culinary exhibitions to introduce Indonesia's rich culture to the Egyptian people. They are also active in student exchanges and cultural exchange programs between the two countries, thus creating a stronger and more sustainable relationship. With the collaboration between the Indonesian diaspora and the Egyptian people, not only cultural exchanges but also mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries has been created. This activity also helps to increase intercultural understanding and tolerance in the community. In addition, the close relationship between the Indonesian diaspora and Egypt also brings economic benefits, through the promotion of local products and tourism from both countries. Thus, the diaspora plays an important role in strengthening relations between nations and enriching the cultures of various countries.

With the strengthening of this cooperation, it is hoped that the relationship in the fields of education and culture between the two countries will be even closer. Good cooperation will not only strengthen relations between nations, but can also educate and enrich people in both countries about the values and traditions owned by each (See also Featured 2022).

If cooperation continues to be improved, the Indonesian language in Egypt is predicted to grow and be better known at the international level. This provides great benefits for international relations and cultural exchanges between Indonesia and Egypt. Understanding and appreciation of Indonesian culture in Egypt is also expected to increase, thereby strengthening relations between nations (Budiarto, 2021). In this way, cooperation between the two countries can continue to grow, providing benefits for both parties.

CONCLUSION

In 2024, the development of the Indonesian language in Egypt will experience significant progress. Data sourced from interviews, observations, and documentation are very useful in compiling this article. Some of the main factors supporting this progress include cultural diplomacy, cooperation in the field of education, and contributions from the Indonesian diaspora. The development of the Indonesian language in Egypt shows a positive trend with increasing interest from academics and the general public. Although there are several challenges in teaching Indonesian, the positive impacts generated are quite significant. To achieve this, greater support from the government and educational institutions in both countries is needed to accelerate this development.

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