# POPULAR CULTURE OF JAPANESE ANIME IN THE DIGITAL AGE AND THE IMPACT ON NATIONALISM OF YOUNG INDONESIAN CITIZENS

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#### **Abstract**

This research explores the impact of Japanese popular culture in digital era to Indonesia's young citizen nationalism. Globalization make a life easier, include how to get information. With the digital era, people could get information in another country very fast and the research between globalization and nasionalism growing. This paper based on research of phenomenology about Anime's Japanese popular culture of Association of Highschool Nihon No Kurabu in Bandung. The amount of informants is twelve and the data collected through interview, observation and documentation study. The result of the research showed that anime's Japanese popular culture interested informants with the value, character, visual and storyline in that anime. Then, the informants would study about another Japanese popular culture than Indonesia's traditional cultures.

Keywords: Japanese popular culture; anime; nationalism; young citizen

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# Introduction

The spirit of nationalism of young citizens today is doubtful. Young citizens, especially students seem to be trapped in the life of his youth and forget his responsibilities as the next generation of nation and state. In fact, as a young citizen it is fitting to prepare themselves to be citizens who have the ability civic knowledge, civic skill, and civic disposition is good for the future of a better Indonesia.

Many factors caused the weakening of the nationalism of young Indonesian citizens. The rise of globalization is an important factor in the changing lifestyle of today's young development citizens. With the globalization make lifestyle becomes easier and faster. Moreover on the transfer of information and communication. Advances in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has made it easy for human life in interacting with other humans. Therefore, interaction with other citizens is very easy to do thanks to the progress in this field of ICT.

Progress in the field of ICT begins with the internet network so that the birth of websites, blogs, to mainstream social media currently popular like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr and others. This media is a bridge to connect human information with other humans and even other citizens. In the transfer of this information must also bring the values derived from the country.

The advancement of ICT field has changed the way people provide and obtain information with outside citizens so that the interaction becomes easier. This is also what makes the curiosity of young citizens to be higher so that makes young citizens feel more like culture than other countries than the local

culture of Indonesia. One culture that is currently favored by young citizens is Japanese popular culture.

With the ease of accessing various Japanese anime it is feared there will be a shift of values received by young citizens or teenagers who still do not have a strong identity due to the embedded values in the Japanese anime storyline. Then a filter is needed that can filter out the good value and also where the bad value so that young citizens can distinguish it. Furthermore, that with the increasing number of Japanese anime accesses it is feared that nationalism or love for the country of the young citizen can be eroded and more loving to Japan that it admired.

There are a number of reasons why this research is interesting to do. First, the rise Information indirectly, of Communication Technologies (ICT) in the era of ditchal can have an effect on the formation of cultural imperialism by a country against other countries. Second, young citizens like high school students and students do not have a mature identity as citizens. Third, young citizens by following Japanese popular culture. feared to have values that are not in accordance with the values that exist in Indonesia if it does not have good self-control. Fourthly, the not optimal learning of Civics in nurturing the nationalism of students who are young citizens. Fifth, there is no study on how optimize opportunities from development of Japanese popular culture in Indonesia.

From that reason, it can be seen that a filter is needed that can filter the values of good and bad from the influence of values that enter from other cultures and fortresses that can strengthen the sense of love of young citizens with their own country. Therefore,

this study leads the reader to understand about the possible impact Japanese popular culture can have on the digital age to the young citizen.

With the recent phenomenon, it is fitting that Civic Education (Civics) sees the phenomenon that occurs against these young citizens. Pancasila and Civics should be present as filters that can filter incoming values from other countries and also Civics should be able to play a role in fostering the nationalism of young citizens through learning Civics. Thus there is no need to worry about the waning nationalism of young citizens because Civics can be a filter of values that enter from other countries.

# Popular Culture as Japanese Soft Power

As we all know that Japan is a country with a unique cultural wealth. It is with this capital that Japan uses its power of soft power to influence other countries. Some research on Japanese soft power has been done by Iwabuchi (2015), Otmazgin (2012). With a variety of factors that support the Japanese government was not hesitant to do the "cool Japan" movement where Japanese popular culture is explored to introduce Japan to various countries.

In international relations, Japan has long been recognized as one of the industrialized countries with a strong economic system. With the mastery of advanced technology, Japan is able to develop automotive and other manufacturing industries that are able to control the world market. Japan's economic power has made Japan a country that has a major influence in the world economy. In contrast to the large influence of Japan in the field of economic and automotive industry as well as electronics are

considered a form of hard power, the influence of Japan in the field of popular culture that has attracted such attention is a form of soft power. Japanese popular culture, which has been well received by the public in other countries without any coercion in acceptance, are more "soft" when compared with other Japanese influence as in the fields of economy and technology.

Currently the term soft power is often discussed by academics and practitioners of international relations. The concept of soft power was first introduced by Joseph S. Nye Jr., he describes soft power as the ability of a country to achieve its goal by more use of appeal (attraction) of the force (coercion) and payment (payment). One of the forms of attraction (attraction) is the attraction of the culture of the country. The definition of soft power according to Nye (2004 p.5) is:

"Soft power is the ability to get what you want through attraction rather than coercion or payments. It arises from the attractiveness of a country's culture, political ideals, and policies.

According to Nye, soft power depends on the country's ability to set the political agenda in a way that could be a preference for other countries. One way to give preference to other countries is through attractive cultural attractiveness, ideology and institutions. Unlike military forces or economic forces used to "force" other countries to change their views or positions, soft power is more emphasis on the ability of a country to achieve its interests against other countries by using its cultural influence, political values, and foreign policy.

In the Japanese context, one of the cultural attractions it possesses is popular culture that can be utilized as the soft power of the **Wisnu Hatami**: Popular Culture of Japanese Anime

country. Nye revealed that Japan has more potential sources of soft power compared to other Asian countries. One source of soft power is Japan's popular culture that remains a potential source of soft power even after its economy weakens.

## The Digital Age as a Part of Globalization

With this global Era the standard in people's lives is increasing where today almost all of the world has a standard that is recognized jointly by the world community both in the field of service or in the form of goods. Without the ability to recognize the existence of global values the community can not become a competitive society in the global era and become a society that is not ready with the global era.

The current global era is an unavoidable phenomenon that encompasses every aspect of individual human life, so the country of Indonesia must have a young generation ready to face the global era. This globalization will lead to the loss of existence from the state, just as state power is weakened by international organizations, then globalization also threatens individually with the entry of information and culture of other countries into each individual that affects the way of life that has been built within the country.

The increasingly consumptive lifestyles of society and technological advancement make everything change so quickly. Now to interact with other citizens, one does not have to bother to pay a visit and cost a lot, they just use the technology that exists today. With the advancement of technology, to know information between countries now is not a difficult thing. However, the presence of

globalization creates some bad impacts as well as good effects.

The era of globalization that makes technology more advanced, allowing everyone to know the same information from a country you want to know. The era of globalization brings the impact of the unification of the world community in one bond dependence. The era of globalization has had such a significant impact on the development of the mindset and human life. With human globalization will be more active in utilizing and displaying human values and also the identity of the region and their respective culture.

However, globalization also has a negative impact as people's dependence on foreign culture is higher. Technological developments that increasingly sophisticated and intelligent, can trigger the crime rate that the higher the human will be more free and even forget the religious values they previously had.

## **Nationalism of Young Citizens**

The vounger generation is a translation of young generation versus old age. Youth means the population of teenagers / young people / youth who are forming themselves. Looking at the word "Generasi Muda" consisting of two compound words, the second word is the nature of the group and the individual group is still young in the young age group inherited the ideals that are burdened by rights and obligations, since the early has been colored by activities -community activities and political activities. So in these circumstances the younger generation of a nation is "Young Citizen". Understanding the young generation is closely related to the meaning of the young generation as the next generation. The meaning of "young generation" is definitely not a definition that is most appropriate to be treated with many views that mean it depends on the angle where the community saw it.

Affandi (2012)states that the nationalism of young generation should be based on the spiritual mental conception, that is a psychological attitude, based on the culture and personality of the person who coaching nationalism contains three things: (a). Fostering the love of the homeland, as a manifestation of faith and piety to God Almighty, (b). This coaching is accompanied by the management of the love of the homeland, and the natural wealth for the greatest prosperity of the people, and (c). The result of coaching in the end tangible loyalty defending the homeland, while independence (self reciance) is the opposite of the attitude of begging (mencicancy). Independent attitude is a real expression of the spirit of nationalism and patriotism. Ranjabar (2014, p.225) states that:

Nationalism is a buffer for the life of nation and state. Therefore, present and future Indonesian nationalism must be dynamic with the style of 'humanistic nationalism' imbued with justice, peace and prosperity in Indonesian society, with a slogan; "United, open, progressive, intelligent and constructive." This means more emphasis on the educated and knowledgeable human parameters produced for use, as well as practical and pragmatic deeds in the pattern of national development.

From that opinion we can take a meaning, that the nationalism that color the life of nation in Indonesia is humanistic nationalism, or in other words, humanitarian nationalism. Indonesian nationalism must be united, open and progressive for the sake of national

development process. Komalasari and Syaifullah (2009, p42) say:

Indonesian nationalism must be reconstructed and no longer face the invaders that appear to have their noses and weapons as their tools, but face the invaders who use cultural instruments as a means of colonization. Thus the unity of Indonesia is no longer unity to face the outer enemy but the unity to reach a new Indonesia fair and sejaahtera whose leaders bring the mandate of the people, so feel the pulse of the people.

The above opinion seems to illustrate the concerns about the situation facing our country today. Where the soul of nationalism must be grown not only to resist physical colonization. But more than that to face attacks from other countries are done in a more subtle way through a culture that is very easily loved by the teenagers today.

#### Research methods

The approach used in this research using qualitative approach with phenomenology method. Research subjects or participants in this study are high school students who are members of the Association of Highschool Nihon No Kurabu or Soshonbu Bandung. Soshonbu is an association of learners who come from the extracurricular Japanese Club in their respective schools. In this study, the research participants are 13 high school students in Bandung who are interested in Japanese anime. 13 students were selected based on Creswell's opinion that the participants in the study of phenomenology studies recommended 5-25 respondents.

#### **Results and Discussion**

Nationalism is a thought to defend the integrity of the nation and the State by appreciating and animating both the culture, customs and history and the struggle of the Indonesian nation that has been independent. In this case, the keyword of nationalism is the supreme loyality of the nation. This loyalty arises because of the awareness of collective identity that is different from the others. Usually it happens because of the similarity of heredity, language or culture. Komalasari and Syaifullah (2009, p42) say:

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This opinion illustrates the concerns about the circumstances facing the State of Indonesia at this time. Where the soul of nationalism should be grown not only to resist physical colonization. But more than that to deal with attacks from other countries are done in a more subtle way through a culture that is very easily loved by young citizens today.

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The nationalism of young Indonesian citizens is lacking The nationalism of young Indonesian citizens can be said to be very lacking. Based on the results of interviews with research subjects, found the findings that in general the nationalism of young Indonesian citizens are currently not good. This can be seen from the opinion of research subjects presented in the following table:

Table 1 The Research Subjects' Opinion on the Nationalism of Young Indonesian Citizens

		Today
No	Name	Statement
1	Agung	Currently what I see is still lacking a sense of nationalism. There is still a deviation from the sense of nationalism. From high school students to jejepangan students, their sense of nationalism is declining because of their habits that lack the view of culture or everything about Indonesia
2	Alfredo	I think many citizens are influenced by outside cultures that forget their own culture because the outside culture is more interesting and perhaps more modern so many are affected and forget their own culture.
3	Angela	I think the faded sense of youth nationalism today because of the outside

No	Name	Statement
		culture that has entered
		our country is very
		influential.
4	Arya	Very less, many already
	J	like to boast Japanese
		culture than Indonesian
		culture
5	Aulia	Admittedly, the
	114114	nationalism of most
		Indonesian teenagers has
		declined. This is also one of
		the inevitable negative
		effects of cultural influx
		coming from abroad.
6	Aurora	Honestly, perhaps because
U	Aurora	of the state of the country
		is still a lot of
		shortcomings, many young
		citizens who can not love
		their own country due to
		one thing or another. So
		Indonesian youth
		nationalism is still easy to
		falter.
7	Bagas	Increasingly faded, seen
,	Dagas	with many cases of
		contempt for national
		heroes, Pancasila, and
		other cases. Means that
		Indonesian citizens do not
		yet have a strong sense of
		nationalism.
8	Emi	Most young citizens today
U	Liiii	are more likely to like the
		culture of other countries
		than their own, although a
		sense of nationalism for
		Indonesia still exists, but
		interest in other countries
		is very high.
9	Mutiara	It's a little bit odd because
J	mullal d	the outside culture greatly
		affects the mentality of
		y
10	Nela	young citizens.
10	iveia	Sometimes young citizens talk too much more than
		action. If asked to act for
		the people of Indonesia is
		not necessarily willing.

No	Name	Statement
11	Raffyanda	Less, many are beginning
		to leave their culture and
		most young citizens now
		have an indifferent attitude
		towards their own nation.
12	Vania	Perhaps less, because of
		the influence of the culture
		of other countries.
13	Yasmin	Pretty bad especially in big
		cities like Bandung, I'm
		also included. If you talk to
		NKRI still very supportive
		but for real action is less.
		Most can only chatter on
		social media only.
ource: Primary data processed		

Source: Primary data processed by researchers (2017)

From the data shown in table 1 can be illustrated that the nationalism of young Indonesian citizen is not strong yet. According to the subject of research that the easy to get information and the influx of culture of other countries become the cause of the love of the country of Indonesia to be reduced. But it should also be understood that Indonesian citizens still want to become Indonesian citizens. Although in the level of action is still very minimal.

Sukadi (2013, pp. 274), "nationalism must be manifested in everyday life. Especially for the Indonesian nation that has the nature of plural (diverse) in all aspects of life ". Nationalism must be realized in everyday life. If the people do not have an attitude of nationalism, then the State seems not owned. Nationalism must be nurtured from an early age so that later when adolescence even grow up, the love of the country has been cultivated high. The soul of nationalism and patriotism must be realized in all aspects of life, both political, economic,

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defense, and socio-cultural. (Sukadi, 2013, pp. 274). In the field of socio-culture, should always develop the culture of the noble nation, filtering out every foreign culture that destroys the personality of the Indonesian nation.

Furthermore, Sukadi (2013, pp. 274) reveals the spirit of nationalism among students can be developed through:

- a. Maintain and familiarize yourself speak Indonesian well and correctly.
- b. Get used to carrying out flag raising ceremonies.
- c. Become a member of the flag raising troop.
- d. Learn diligently to welcome the future.
- e. Maintain environmental sustainability by planting degraded forest with trees.
- f. Respect the symbols of Indonesian unity.
- g. Understanding the concept of insight into the archipelago.
- h. Loving and using domestic products.
- i. Prioritizing the interests of the nation and the State above personal and group interests.
- j. Assisting government programs in building the nation and the State of Indonesia.

Based on the results of the interview found suggestions for the nationalism of young Indonesian citizens can be well preserved. As disclosed in the following table:

Table 2 Suggestion of Research Subjects for Nationalism of Young Indonesian Citizen Can Be Awake Well

No	Name	Statement	
1	Agung	With	the
		socialization,	

No	Name	Statement
		seminars that can
		awaken
		nationalism. If the
		person likes the
		anime, can also
		show anime that
		can enhance the
		sense of
		nationalism, invites
		to the historic
		places of Indonesia
		to remember the
		history of
		Indonesia who also
		struggled more
		than Japan, and
	A1C 1 -	even against Japan.
2	Alfredo	We must learn
		about our own culture first if we
		already understand
		the culture itself
		then we do not
		need to fear if we
		learn the culture
		outside because the
		tip of our tip will
		assume our culture
		better because
		from the beginning
		we have studied it
		and we will not be
		influenced by
		outside culture
3	Angela	Young citizens
		should now be
		introduced to this
		diverse Indonesian
		culture to know
		and understand
		that our culture is
		equally unique and
		interesting from
		other countries by
		actively
		participating in

No	Name	Statement
		local cultural
		events.
4	Arya	My advice is to
		instill a love for
		Indonesia from an
		early age even, so it
		can not be
		influenced in the
		future.
5	Aulia	Quoting Bung
		Karno saying that
		never forget
		history!
6	Aurora	Keep moving
		forward without
		listening to
		negative comments
		and of course
		forward with
		positive intentions.
7	Bagas	With the norms
		that already exist
		in society, apply
		the norms and give
		examples to the
		younger generation
		so that the spirit of nationalism itself
		1.1
0	Emi	young generation.
<u>8</u> 9	Mutiara	In order to further
7	Munara	enhance
		nationalism, it
		must be educated
		trum a cman rangur
		from a small taught
		national insight,
		national insight, and other things so
		national insight, and other things so as not to
		national insight, and other things so as not to undermine the
		national insight, and other things so as not to undermine the spirit of
10	Nela	national insight, and other things so as not to undermine the spirit of nationalism.
10	Nela	national insight, and other things so as not to undermine the spirit of

No	Name	Statement
		History.
11	Raffyanda	Studying your own
		culture in order not
		to assume a better
		foreign culture
12	Vania	Following the
		angklung as well as
		traditional dance
		we can improve
		nationalism. But it
		is possible that
		other ex- ecils can
		not improve
		nationalism. Like
		Paskibra, Scout, it
		can also enhance
		our sense of
		nationalism.
13	Yasmin	Learning hard at
		school, watching a
		lot about
		nationalism
		because there are
		many exciting
		shows too. Be more
		open to tolerance
		and realize that
		this nation has
		enormous potential
		but not much with
	Duimar	other nations.
rce:	Primary	data processed

Source: Primary data processed by researchers (2017)

As a generation that will continue the life of nation and state next, it is fitting to be more loving and have a sense of high nationalism to the state of Indonesia. Because however the direction of the Indonesian state will be like the responsibility of the young generation today. Globalization makes the distance between countries narrow so that the movement and dissemination of information

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becomes very fast. With such a rapid transfer of information it is possible to enter values derived from other countries. Especially in Indonesia itself there are many countries that try to enter through the cultural path. Therefore, it is fitting for Citizenship Education to take an important role in this attitude because one of the duties and studies of Citizenship Education is to foster a sense of nationalism of citizens.

From the opinion previously mentioned, it can be understood that the solution to the impact of popular culture of Japanese anime in the digital era against the nationalism of young Indonesian citizens is by optimizing the role of Citizenship Education (Civics) as the nationalist in the school as well as the application of Pancasila Education in Civics Learning. Karim Suryadi states:

Japan has the meiji restoration that is to accept the outside culture without leaving the values and culture of the country. They accept the values, religions and foreign cultures that enter Japan and do not forget their native culture so that there is no clash between tradition and modernity among them. It can be our example in maintaining our character and culture as Indonesian people. (on Untad.ac.id, 2016).

#### **CONCLUSION**

Japan has been known as a developed country that retains and maintains its culture. In addition to maintaining traditional culture, Japan also developed its popular culture. Japanese popular culture or often called Japanese popular culture has managed to attract the attention of the international community. Some examples of Japanese popular culture are manga / comics, anime / animation, games, j-music, and dorama

(television dramas). One that stands out is the Japanese animation or so-called anime, has attracted many audiences around the world. Various popular Japanese cultural products are very popular all over the world spread through various media such as television, internet and others. Through its popular cultural products, Japan indirectly introduces traditional Japanese values and culture.

With the growing globalization make the current era into the digital era. With the digital age makes things easier. From the start of ease of transportation, service, to the dissemination of information. Japanese popular anime culture also experienced ease of dissemination in this digital era. By using the internet teens in Indonesia can easily access and get the anime they want.

The solution to the impact of Japanese popular anime culture on the nationalism of young citizens is by optimizing the role of Citizenship Education (Civics) as a nationalist fertilizer in schools and the application of Pancasila Education in Civic Learning.

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