

From culture of politics of culture: examining culture's position in building Indonesiaism

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Abstrak

Building Indonesiaism in cultural context is determined by the position of culture in the paradigm used. By understanding the cultural position in a paradigm, we can comprehend the mode of Indonesiaism. This article discusses the position of culture in the three paradigms of cultural anthropology, namely evolutionism, structural-functionalism, and symbolic interpretivism and their implications for development of Indonesiaism. First, historically the three paradigms represent the three dominant modes of thought in treating humans as study objective. Humans are consecutively positioned as very objective, objective and subjective. Second, as the effects of the first, researcher's or policy makers position is sequentially very authoritarian, authoritarian, and not authoritarian. The three paradigms had ever been operationalized in building Indonesiaism. In their subjective position people express their freedom to express thoughts and primordial identities in Indonesian present situation. There has been a shift from culture of politics to politics of culture. Unlike the authoritarian New Order positioning citizens as object in structural-functionalism paradigm that made strong national integration preserved for more than three decades, the paradigm shift to emphasize freedom nowadays leads to potentially degrading national integration.