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Unraveling the Social Meaning of Community Members to the Covid-19 Outbreak (Pandemic) in East Java, Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to understand the social meaning of some community members for the occurrence of the covid-19 outbreak (pandemic). The method used to reveal the social meaning is descriptive qualitative. In practice, the writers use Max Weber's theory of social action based on "verstehen" and analyzed by Mile, Huberman and Saldana's interactive model to reveal the social meaning of several community members in East Java, Indonesia. The results of this study are as follows: Some community members believe that this covid-19 outbreak (pandemic) is truly seen as a test from God. Some other members of the public think that the COVID-19 outbreak (pandemic) is an engineering or scenario by certain countries to weaken the nations of the world, including Indonesia, for the sake of mere (material) power ambitions. Several other members of the public assumed that this COVID-19 outbreak (pandemic) did exist but had been engineered in such a way that it tends to be exaggerated as a form of terror to the community and tends to blame the government. And, some other community members consider this a disaster and indeed the time has come for the calamity to come during the twin year, 2020 AD.

Keywords: Meaning, Covid-19, Pandemic Outbreak, Community Behavior

INTRODUCTION

As we all know that the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia is in a big test with its citizens, together with its people or society with the occurrence of the COVID-19 (pandemic) that is hitting the Territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, it can even be said to have hit the whole world. With the occurrence of the COVID-19 outbreak (pandemic), it certainly brings a very powerful affect to all Indonesian people, including specifically the people of the City of Tuban, Lamongan, Bojonegoro. We often listen to various complaints from the public, ranging from mild to severe, until they invite a sense of desperation, giving birth to various responses, including the most narcissistic being the abusive words that blaspheme the government and the health workers who handle it.

Regardless of who is at fault or blaming each other on the one hand, on the other hand, we are actually facing a major disaster, a major national and even global test with the outbreak of COVID-19, which to this day has not ended, but instead caused many deaths here and there. which all of us often witness this phenomenon. Because it is a problem and concern for the

whole community, the author is interested in examining the meaning of the behavior of various community responses to the Covid-19 outbreak (pandemic) in a sociological meaning (behavior) study. Then look at the study of meaning carried out by previous research, which is very relevant to current contemporary research regarding the covid-19 outbreak. The author is interested in exploring the works of Weber [1], [2], Hamidi [3] on the meaning, where some people carry out the conversion of understanding from *NU* to *Muhammadiyah*. As a study of meaning, it really tickles my heart and intellectually to conduct research on the study of meaning in different themes even though the context is the same, namely doing the same as doing sociological studies of meaning in social science disciplines. From the background of the problem, an urgent problem can be formulated from the study of the meaning of behavior as follows: What are the motivations behind some community members giving birth to various behavioral responses? What individual, social meanings were found after several members of the community made a behavioral response to the COVID-19 outbreak (pandemic)? How do the Government and related stakeholders respond and respond to the behavioral responses of several community members related to the outbreak (pandemic) of covid -19?

LITERATURE REVIEW

In social life we always find many meanings because of the heterogeneity and plurality of a society as its characteristics. Physically, humans may be the same, hair can be as black, lips can be as thin or as thick, but this is not the case with individual orientations, thoughts, behaviors, hopes, etc., so that the meaning found will also be different from differences. his behavior.

The meaning itself as a definition is defined as a deep understanding of the language (Indonesian Dictionary). However, the meaning itself according to sociologists is the ability to organize observations related to other objects or situations or more precisely, it can be said to be an assessment. Weber said that human actions will be distinguished by the meanings that form the basis (orientation) for taking action. In contrast to Ferdinand De Saussure, he understands meaning as what is signified or signified. Then, the meaning itself as the purpose of life is put forward by Rahardjo [4] in the main point of his entire book emphasizing that meaning is aimed at obtaining the happiness of a meaningful life. Similarly, Tan [5] in his work asserts that the meaning of life is if you are able to understand life full of meaning. Humans are not only in the physical world alone. Humans live in a symbolic world. Therefore, symbols are not only universal but also diverse. It takes a deeper understanding to understand a symbol. A symbol can be interpreted in various forms. The meaning of symbols is not only in the dimension of reality, but the meaning of symbols can also explain the dimensions behind reality. The use of symbols can describe the social motives of users in society [6].

Likewise with regard to behavior, every human being who is still soulful has one behavior which of course has different motives. The definition of behavior itself is a series of actions made by each individual in relation to himself or his environment. But actually every behavior contains meaning as an action that is always based on certain motives. Qurtubi, [7] in his work "Organizational Behavior" asserts that every action is based on certain needs. However, in Weber's view [8], every behavior is based on a certain rationality known as action rationality as a response to human rationality acting or taking action.

Response is an answer, reply or response. It can be said to be more specific as an answer, reply or response to events that arise. Nugroho [9] implicitly mentions that the response is a form of

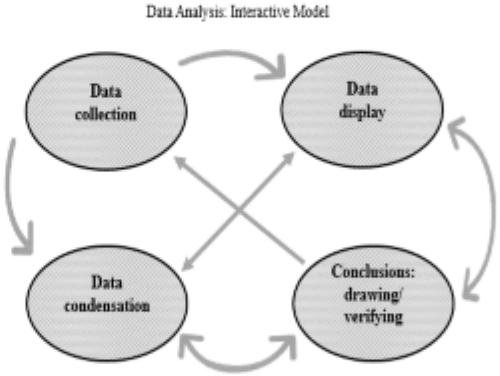
responsibility. Being responsive means being responsive, moved, likes to respond well in other words very responsive and not ignorant. So the meaning, behavior, and response of each individual is basically not the same, it will always be different to a problem that arises or a phenomenon that arises because of differences in perspective, life orientation, interests, and values that exist in each individual are not the same level caused by many things, can be parenting family childhood, education, religion, and so forth form a different response. In connection with the covid-19 outbreak (pandemic), the author wants to know the meaning of the response behavior of several community members regarding the covid-19 outbreak (pandemic) that is currently engulfing the world, including Indonesia, including people in the cities of Tuban, Lamongan, and Bojonegoro. The definition of a pandemic is an epidemic that spreads simultaneously everywhere or covers a wide geographical area. So the meaning of the response behavior of some members of the community piqued the curiosity of the author to conduct this research to find the answer in depth (verstehen) and comprehensively.

METHOD

This research is basically trying to find out, understand and reveal how the real meaning of the behavior of the response of some community members to the COVID-19 outbreak (pandemic) is. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative which is carried out to understand and explore a social phenomenon based on the construction of meaning or human understanding. It is very dependent on one's knowledge, understanding, perception, understanding and assumption [10]. The world of meaning and understanding will then be illustrated through words, both written and oral as well as in the behavior of the human concerned as expressed by Denzin [11], [12], Wahidah [13] "The qualitative approach is participatory observation and in-depth interviews are research procedures that produce descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observable behavior", (2). In qualitative research, the process is more important than the result. (2) Analysis in qualitative research tends to be done inductively. (3) Meaning is essential in qualitative research. In this study, researchers present descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from respondents. After that, analyze and interpret the data, in other words using an "emic" perspective with the understanding that the data collected is attempted to be described based on expressions, language, ways of thinking and views of research subjects. So that it can reveal the behavior of meaning contained in the responses of some members of the community. Then to maintain the validity of the data validly, in-depth interviews were carried out until no other opinion was found, religion in the form of the meanings implied in it. In summary, it can be stated that the stages of research methods carried out in research in order to obtain the validity of the data include:

1. Research paradigm: the naturalism paradigm is methodologically oriented to examine social life in natural settings such as describing, understanding, and analyzing social life that is free from scientific manipulation.
2. Research approach: a phenomenological approach used to understand the symptoms that appear as a unified whole which has the basic concept of the problem caused by a subjective perspective.
3. Types of research: including qualitative research, which collects data and interpretation is not in the form of numbers. Qualitative research method as a procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people or observed behavior.

4. Research Location: several community members in the City of Tuban, Lamongan, Bojonegoro as the objects research.
5. Research subjects and information data sources: using purposive sampling (purposed samples) and data sources, namely 20 people who really felt the impact of the covid-19 outbreak (pandemic).
6. Research data analysis techniques: data collection, data presentation as well as data reduction, data verification: deepening (extending research), adequacy of references, focused discussion, triangulation (examination) of data, sources, and theories. In his analysis using model analysis, Mile, Huberman, and Saldana [14].



RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

After carrying out a series of research activities from the beginning to the methodology, several research results were found as follows: first, some community members believe that this covid-19 outbreak (pandemic) is really a test from God. Those who say this kind of thing are religious people and are true advocates of God. All forms of disease are from God and are a test for humans. Only now is the only disease or virus that is deadly and spreads to all corners of the world without exception.

Second, some other members of the public think that the covid-19 outbreak (pandemic) is an engineering or scenario by certain countries to weaken the nations of the world, including Indonesia, for the sake of mere (material) power ambitions. Those who hold this kind of view are those who have been influenced by the incessant social media that provides information and news whose sources need to be questioned. Especially now that the production of hoax news is increasingly being associated with politics, especially in Indonesia. The issue of the Chinese communist party wanting to dominate Indonesia.

Third, several other members of the public think that the COVID-19 outbreak (pandemic) exists but has been engineered in such a way that it tends to be exaggerated as a form of terror to the community and tends to blame the government for not being able to handle the pandemic. The group believes that a pandemic does occur but that it is a common disease that can be treated like any other disease. However, this event coincided with the globalization of the world and the world of politics so that this pandemic is a terror for developed countries to pressure other countries in the economic and political fields, including Indonesia, which is affected by this so that it experiences economic losses and quite a lot of debt to other countries.

Fourth, several other community members consider this to be "*pagebluk*" and indeed the time for "*pagebluk*" has come during the twin year, 2020 AD. They assume that this pandemic is a time loop that has occurred in the past. Now comes again just a different disease. Or the same but different shape.

This is the response of community members which is reflected in the expressions conveyed through in-depth interviews and how they understand the covid-19 pandemic that is currently engulfing Indonesia, from urban areas to Indonesia's spiciness.

CONCLUSIONS

After carrying out a series of research activities from the beginning to the end of the study, it can be concluded that: Various community response behaviors related to the outbreak (pandemic) of covid-19, there are those who respond spiritually in the form of surrender and do not need to blame anyone, it is more about introspection of themselves each of them has become the best servant of God so as not to invite His wrath, there are also those who respond that this epidemic (pandemic) is a fabrication or scenario by certain countries for the sake of power (materials). Then, others assume that the covid-19 outbreak (pandemic) actually exists but is exaggerated so that they are provoked by their emotions and tend to blame the government and health workers. In their language, they accuse health workers of being "covided". Some say and believe that this epidemic (pandemic) is indeed the time to come. They respond to the covid-19 outbreak (pandemic) because the materialism is too strong, as well as people who are emotional in responding to the outbreak (pandemic) because they think the covid-19 outbreak (pandemic) is exaggerated and becomes a business arena for certain people or forces, then those who The last thing is to consider this covid-19 outbreak (pandemic) as a "*pagebluk*" whose time has come, this assumption often comes from rural people who are "mainded" with their traditional beliefs.

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