Indonesian Metaphorical Conceptualizations of ANGER, LOVE and HATE: An Overview

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Cognitive linguistic and psychological studies show that metaphor is not only very central and influential in our cognition systems (Lakoff, 1993; Casasanto and Boroditsky, 2008; Thibodeau and Boroditsky, 2011), but also cultural embedded (Wierzbicka, 1986; Kövecses, 2000). Further, it helps us to depict our states of mind, such as emotion, which have elusive and incorporeal characteristics by conceptualizing them with our bodily experiences. Emotions are genetically hardwired in humans. Therefore, there seem to be some ‘universal’ conceptualizations of metaphor for emotions found in languages of the world. However, the way people view their emotions is also influenced by the environment they live in. A number of studies of emotion show that culture plays an important role in shaping perspectives on emotions (Fessler, 2004; Heider, 1991) and how it is conveyed through linguistic expressions (Siahaan, 2008; Yu, 2009, among others). The Indonesian language is no exception. I have previously discussed a variety of Indonesian metaphorical conceptualizations for ANGER, LOVE and HATE emotions (Yuditha 2010, 2012). In this paper, I want to present some of the universal metaphorical conceptualizations across the emotion domains previously mentioned in Indonesian, as well as looking at some culturally specific ones that are found. Also discussed will be some basic local wisdom that influences Indonesians to use the culturally specific metaphorical expressions presented here.

Keywords: cognitive linguistics, metaphor, metaphorical conceptualization, anger, love, hate, universality, cultural specific.

References