STUDENTS ATTITUDE TOWARD GOVERMENT SCIENCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION STUDIES

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Abstract

The research purpose is to describe students' attitudes about their major studies in social and political faculty in Universitas Islam '45', which are goverment science (IP) and public administration (IAN). Attitude concern is if they regard that both major have similarities to each other since they have almost same competencies. The attitude levels are affective, cognitive, and behavior as for cognitive is the most dominant level evaluating both majors. This survey research uses descriptive method, with 27 respondents in the process of writing of final research from both major. The result shows positive tendencies from all level of students attitude (mode=4), especially cognitive. It means that both students group (government science =17 and public administration=10) has same attitude concluding that both of major studies are similar. T-test also shows no significant value ($p \geq .05$) which means both students group have no differences attitude.

Keyword: *Attitude, Cognitive Level, Government Science, Public Administration.*

BACKGROUND

In Indonesia, some major studies derived from political science develope in various form such as political science itself, international relation, government science, public administration, and the others.

In spite of its history and development in Indonesia, both majors has settled and run according to its function. Besides being taught in university, Indonesian government established the institutions such as Home Affair Government Institute (IPDN) and National Institute of Public Administration (LAN). Although those majors have already existed enormously in some private and public universities, they often make confussions to students, for example, when they try to choose topics of research or reason behind why they choose those majors. It happens to majors such as Government Science and Public Administration.

While students start to choose topics of research, some questions would come if their topics belong to Government Science or Public Administrasion. Becoming public servant is also most frequently answered behind the reason why they choose the major as their parent did.

Those conditions are not really big matter while the major is the only implemented in university or in seperated institutions, since the major might differ independently. However, some universities apply both major, govermental science and public administration in same faculty, for example is Universitas Islam '45' in Bekasi West Java.

Nowadays, all major faces huge challenges to increase their competencies and its standards. Fulfillment of lecturers, cooperation among universities, journal writings and research establishment, and all accreditation requirements shoud be fulfilled by all universities and faculty. The faculty should bear all those conditions in order to develop quality of its education and output (alumni) so that they are able to compete with job requirements and global challenge. Therefore, university and faculty should run all programs effectively with all available resources.

Generally, one faculty may have more than one major. If there are various and different majors, then faculty and its academic supports would focus more on their own fields. For example, accounting and management studies are always placed in economic faculty. Since they have different competencies, each major has directly developed its basic and concise competencies.

Nevertheless, both government science and public administration has no similar condition as previous example. Obviously, they have same object/focus of studies, similar competences, shared resources and literatures, and become a place to study for public servants or who are interested while their faculty members still hold own opinions and regard of its differences persistently.

This research tries to explore and answer those conditions according to the attitude of their students about their field of studies. By describing student attitudes, it will have real descriptions how they think and feel their major and field of studies. It will also help each members in faculty to develop (or change) so that they will run the programs effectively and efficiently.

This is only basic effort to know and system of education in university, since it might not only happen in Universitas Islam '45', but

also in other universities. However, it might not necessarily become solutions since there are always lot of aspects and causes to reform its education system in university.

Research Question

How are student attitudes toward Government Science and Public Administration Studies in Universitas Islam '45'?

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Attitude

Attitude is an individual evaluation to objects, individu, and issues (Taylor, Peplau, & Sears: 2006). The attitude has three levels; affective, cognititve, and behaviour which people apply everytime to anything. According to Bohner and Schwarz (2001), evaluation is an acceptance both favorable and unfavoable to any object around us, from simple object such as a thing, individual behaviour, traffic on road, issues, and impact of government policies.

On the other words, attitudes toward object appear to be positive and negative. Positive attitude is a favour while negative attitude is an unfavour. On attitude research, tendency of positive or negative is made on scales. It may also need elaboration if the attitude is consistent, changing, and influencing individual behaviour or decision (*behavioral level*). One example if there is an attitude change is through media, information, advertisement, campaign, and personal influence (Martin: 2001).

a. Affective.

Affective attitude is an individual feeling to some object or issues. Affective level is basic form of an attitude on individu. It happens to certain feelings such as like or dislike, happy or sad, when he/she sees or thinks an object. This display an honest form of attitude of individual. Any form of like or dislike to a person or object is a simple attitude appeared on individu.

b. Cognitive.

Cognitive level is form of thinking or belief of an attitude. Evaluation on objects or issues comes from this level. It happens how people give evaluations based on their perspective, opinion and also form of individual belief. Those come from experience and learning (Hovland, Janis, & Kelly, 1953).

The learning process shows how one individu concludes their opinion or belief in his/her life. For example, one might say, "it is good/bad" or "I think that is improper".

c. Behaviour

Behaviour level of attitude appears on individual behavior, act and desicions. Different to the previous levels, behaviour is not a feeling or an evaluation but kind of action that may be stimulated by both affective/cognitive or even none, since there might be behavior attitude against the other level.

McGuire (1969) tried to research the three level of attitudes though apparently those level would be consistent to each other.

2. Government Science and Public Administration.

Although both major could be found at some institutes and have grown independently, deeper studies and understanding always be needed through research or philosophical approach.

a. Government Science

According to Herman Finer, government is basically a combination of both politic and administration (Ndraha, 2008). The model then becomes applied science (*bestuurkunde*) run by some institute, such as Home Affair of Government Institute (IPDN).

To tracing back its core studies, government science if part of political science. Political science focuses on state, authority, decisions, policy, and distribution (Budiharjo, 2006). Those concepts are very close to government basically.

Van Ylst (2008) explained that government science develop from state studies; ideas of state how it grew. It continues to how run state and form government in order to create good governance on government. Ndraha (2005) tried to explain the growing of government science to the new paradigm that he called kybernology. The new paradigm bring government science over other diciplinaris such as administration, management, and technology.

Government science becomes multi-diciplinary studies that involves many aspects such as empowering organization, human resource, leadership, financial, and so on.

b. Public Administration

As government science, public administration developed from political science. Public administration was inseperately political studies (Thoha 2003). As government science, public administration was about state. Dimmock dan Dimmock (1992) explained how political administration wor ked as it happened because of pressure group. According to Thoha (2003), there are old and new paradigm of public administration. Old paradigm tried to make dichotomy between political science and administration studies. There was an effort to bring administration to be not part of political science. Second, as new paradigm, it shows that old paradigm had started to be left since public adminstration is not to be understood as the administration of state. Public administration works as an administration of public interest.

Fesler dan Kettl (2002) have closer opinion to government that public administration activity is governmentl studies.

c. Developments of Government Science and Public Administration.

Generally, curriculum developments and changes in college follows some needs: stakeholder, social and global issues, and its academic associations.

To make it short, both major (IP & IAN) have basic competencies derived from their curriculum.

a. Political Science.
   Political science is expanded into some courses: introduction to political theory, Indonesia political system, and political comparative system.
b. Public Policy
   Public policy is begun from planning and development, policy analysis, including to impact of policy socially and environmentally.
c. National and local government.
   Generally, government topic is studied as introduction to government science, local autonomy, government finance, and government control.
d. Public Administration.
   It also has some courses such as introduction to administration,

Indonesia administration system, and public administration.

e. Management

Management and its derivation have some course to both major such as introduction to management and some topics

1) Human resource.

Mostly focus on public servant and government human resource.

2) Planning and Development

One aspect of management and learnt as part of policy process.

3) Organization Development

It is basic competency how to run organization and its behavior in government scale. Both major has it as a course.

4) Leadership.

Most important course students must take its course that is how leadership works in public.

f. Social

It is social aspects although all students from both major must take social studies course such as sociology, social system, political sociology, and community development.

g. Information and Communication Techology.

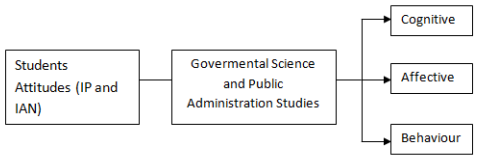
Information system is a technology aspect, that students should learn its implementation in government. It is called in some ways, such ICT-Government or E-Government.

Although general distributions course listed above, each program basically develop rest courses to suit them to qualification student needs.

Those courses are to describe cognitive level of attitude. Other indicators are to conclude generally whether both field of studies has similarity. Affective and behavior level are also observed though it less describes directly to similiraty of governemtal science and public administration.

Framework Research

The framework research is described below:



Cognitive level is most dominant level of attitude in order to

know students attitude toward Government Science and Public Administration Studies. It is because of that cognitive level shows evaluation of students by their experience and academic process. Then, cognitive level is more suitable than the two levels.

RESEARCH METHOD

The research is using survey method to collect data from students. It is also known as descriptive method because the collected data will be used to describe fact of research object (Neuman, 2007). The variable is students attitude.

Data analysis is using descriptive statistic which is precentage, frequency mode and t-test to describe the data. The respondents are students both government science (17) and public administration (10) (N=27) who are in the process of final research writing (*skripsi*). Questionnaire is used as an instrument to collect the data and using Likert scale (5 scales).

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

1. Political science.

Both groups show high favourable score around 70% and 22.2%. It means that political science must be studied to both major.

Table 1
Political Science

	%
Disagree	7,4
Agree	70,4
Strongly Agree	22,2

2. Public Service.

Both students shows high favourable (44% and 51.9%) to public service courses.

Table 2
Public Service

	%
Disagree	3,7
Agree	44,4
Strongly Agree	51,9

3. Leadership

Leadership also show high percentage of favourable score (48.1% and 51.9%). As aforementioned, leadership is very important course and topic for both studies.

Table 3
Leadership

	%
Agree	48,1
Strongly Agree	51,9

4. Government System (National and Local).

Although, government terminology is close to the government science, there is no unfavorauble score. There are high score (51.9% and 48.1%). On the other hand, public administration students also regard that government is one their object.

Tablel 4
National And Local Government

	%
Agree	51,9
Strongly Agree	48,1

5. Administration

It also shows high score for both students (63.0% and 25.9%) though there is little score of disagree score (11.1%).

Table 5
Administration

	%
Disagree	11,1
Agree	63,0
Strongly Agree	25,9

It means that government science students also think that administration knowledge also important for them though it might not be directly becoming specific course. They benefit it primarily as resource and readings to government studies.

6. Public Policy.

As leadership aspect, public policy plays very important role for both major. Its score is (59.3% and 40.7%)

Table 6
Public Policy

	%
Agree	59,3
Strongly Agree	40,7

7. Management.

Though it has no character of political science, both students really know the importance of management for both studies with score 77.9% and 14.9%. Governance and administrations develop from management studies after all.

Table 5
Management

	%
Disagree	3,7
Do not know	3,7
Agree	77,8
Strongly Agree	14,8

8. Planning and Development.

It has a combined aspect of policy and management which also give high score from both students (77.8% and 18.5%).

Table 8
Planning And Development

	%
Disagree	3,7
Agree	77,8
Strongly Agree	18,5

9. Organization

As a management, an organization studies also become

important for both students how to understand and run government organization or institution. Both students groups positively give high score (44.4% and 48.1%).

Table 9
Organization

	%
Disagree	3,7
Do not know	3,7
Agree	44,4
Strongly Agree	48,1

10. Control System

Control of government system also reaches high score (55.6% and 40.7%). Both students know that policy process needs control in order to create good governance.

Table 10
Control System

	%
Disagree	3,7
Agree	55,6
Strongly Agree	40,7

11. Human resource

This aspect focuses on government employee and still connects to leadership since the relation of leader and staff often become focus for both majors. The score is also high (51.9% and 40.7%).

Table 11
Human Resource

	%
Disagree	3,7
Do not know	3,7
Agree	51,9
Strongly Agree	40,7

12. Information System

Although it is studied as new approach – applied technology, which had no necessarily need for students competencies, students now live with those technology. Nowadays, Information Communication and Technology (ICT) aspect could not be seperated from human life. Learning ICT in government is widely impemented in for both major. The score is also high (66.7% and 22.2%).

Table 12
Information and Communication Techology

	%
Disagree	3,7
Do not know	7,4
Agree	66,7
Strongly Agree	22,2

13. Government Finance.

As information system, students regard this also important for them to understand tax and government finance. The score is 70.5% and 14.8%.

Table 13
Government Finance

	%
Disagree	3,7
Do not know	11,1
Agree	70,4
Strongly Agree	14,8

14. Social studies

Like politics, social studies is fundamental for both majors. The score is 44.4% and 55.6%.

Table 14
Social Studies

	%
Agree	44,4
Strongly Agree	55,6

On similiraties

The next aspect is a question if there is similarity between government science and public administration. The result show variance. Those answers indicate that first, student regard both major is similar (40.7% and 7.4%). Second, there are students who are still in doubt (14.8%). Third, students who think that both major are different (33.3% and 3.7%). The last answer is also caused by some factors such as the existences of both programs in faculty and students pride of their major.

Table 15
If there are similiraties on both major

	%
Strongly Disagree	3,7
Disagree	33,3
Do not know	14,8
Agree	40,7
Strongly Agree	7,4

To strengthen the result, question is asked to students if they have confussion in creating research topic, such as which topic belongs to government science or vice versa. Result shows rather positive tendency (59.3% and 22.2%). It means that students have confussions and also regard both major as the same, since they research same object and use same resource in their writing.

Table 16
Confussions to distinguish both major

	%
Disagree	14,8
Do not know	3,7
Agree	59,3
Strongly Agree	7,4

For the affective level, the score (55.6% and 37%) shows that students really like their field of studies. For the behavior level, students are asked if they are in right job or will find suitable job as their major. The result shows various answer since some students already have job and some do not, though most of them want to get jobs that suit their major.

Table 17
If they like the studies

	%
Do not know	7,4
Agree	55,6
Strongly Agree	37,0

Table 18
Finding job following their education

	%
Disagree	14,8
Do not know	11,1
Agree	55,6
Strongly Agree	18,5

In conclusion, all students both government science and public administration program give positive result with high value of favourable percentages. By using frequency of mode, most students give favour answer (agree) with mode=4. It also explains that both groups think that both majors are basically similar, if it is not said as the same.

The data is also analysed using t-test to know if there is a difference between two groups of student (IP & IAN). T-test result shows that there are no significant values (.371) which means for *p* value ≥ .05. Therefore, both groups have same attitude toward their own major compared to other major.

CONCLUSION

1. Both students of government science and public administration think that their major is basically formed by same studies and competences; such as political and social science, public policy, management, etc.
2. From all cognitive level, mostly score as a frequency mode is 4.
3. On question "if there is differences between both studies", it also shows unfavorable answer higher than the other questions though the favorable is still the highest score. It might be caused by some factors such as the existence of both program for long time and students pride to their major. Generally, most students still think that both major are similar.

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