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The Perception of Young Voters Towards the Integrity of the 2014 Election¹ A Survey in Special Region of Yogyakarta

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ABSTRACT

The research examines the perception of young voters regarding the quality of the implementation the 2014 election. There are six indicators to measure the integrity: 1) the election law, 2) the electoral procedure, 3) the voter registration, 4) the political party and its candidate registration, 5) the role of mass media, and 5) the candidate campaign. The research findings revealed that, in general, young voters have an adequate perception concerning the electoral integrity. More specifically, the good perception is only to two things namely political party and its candidate registration and the electoral procedure. The rest is adequate perception. In addition, the research portrayed that young people have highest trust merely to the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). On the other hand, they have lowest trust into two institutions: political party and parliament.

Key words: Young voters, perception, the 2014 election, trust

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is the fourth most populous nation in the world (Hefner, 2000: 6) and the product of Dutch colonialism although the Japanese was occupied in the early 1940s. It has a multi-ethnic society consists of about 300 ethnic groups with Javanese (47 percent) as a dominant ethnic. One study put forward more than 600 ethnic groups including sub-ethnic groups. However, the precise number of ethnic groups is debatable. In addition, Indonesia is a multi-religious state and has at least six major

religious namely Muslims (the largest group), Christians, Catholics, Hindu, Buddhists, and Confucians (Suryadinata, 2002: 1-3).

According to Geertz's thesis (1960: 4-6), Javanese society can be categorized into three groups i.e. *abangan* (stressing the animistic aspects and broadly related to the peasant element), *santri* (underlining Islamic aspects and related to the trading element in general), and *priyayi* (emphasizing the Hinduist aspects and related to the bureaucratic element). This theory is still relevant with current political dynamics that politics mostly divides the reality into various classifications such as Muslim and non Muslim, Javanese and non Javanese as well as young and old people.

The weather of Indonesian politics experienced rapid changes when New Order dictatorial regime under President of Soeharto breakdowns on May 21st, 1998. Afterward, since 1999 Indonesian people have been participating to give their vote in the election without any pressure which it was took place during New Order. However, according to Ufen (2009: 153), democracy in Indonesia is still fraught with many weaknesses. The protracted transition fosters uncertainty and, thus, exacerbates party institutionalization. In such a situation a mix of over-or under-centralization, internal conflict and money politics is common. Therefore, it should be evaluated.

In previous elections (1999, 2004, 2009), Indonesia was succeeded to produce local and national leaders through fair mechanisms without violence and separatism movements. The idiom "One person one vote one value" (abbreviated as *opovov*) eventually is part of societal values. Besides, people independently have rights to choose their candidates even to use their vote or not. As a result, civil liberties, law inforcement, against poverty, and corruption eradication are becoming common agenda for both government and society.

In 2014, Indonesian people cope with the democratic agenda for a fourth time both legislative and executive election. In the legislative election, people elect local and national parliament candidates which held on April 9th, 2014 while in the executive election, people choose the package of president and vice presi-

dent candidate which held on June 9th, 2014. Although it experienced long debates, the amount of permanent voters (*Daftar Pemilih Tetap* or DPT) in the 2014 election slightly above 180 million ([ww.kpu.or.id](http://www.kpu.or.id)). Among of them, the quantity of young voters is extremely significant. They are frequently just become a political exploitation which carried out by political parties rather than significant groups who play vital roles in the election.

There are two motives why young people are a fascinating subject to be studied. Firstly, the 2014 election is the first moment for young voters to give their vote although they have took part in the political campaign. It is the precise time to provide a comprehensive account on democracy and election to young generation in order to have a good explanation about it. Secondly, they are the Indonesian next leaders. It is a good moment to direct young voters' opinion regarding the electoral implementation since political party registration until the electoral evaluation. Thus, it is crucial that the government should present a positive understanding on democratic system and electoral procedure as a precise way to earn people welfare.

Therefore, the research aims to describe in detail two things. First is the index of the perception of young voters regarding the integrity of 2014 election. Second is the index of young voters' trust toward huge institutions both state and private.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This research will apply two main analytical frameworks. First is explaining theories on perception. It is used to describe the variety of young voters' belief, knowledge, and opinion. Second is exploring some works on young people. It is employed to depict the features of young life and interests in contemporary politics.

Theory on perception – There are many theories which postulated about perception. In this sense, the research merely applies relevant thesis. First and foremost, perception can be defined as a function of stimulation. They assume the perceptual mechanism as a seeker of stimulation. The mechanism is a system, an apparatus which explores available stimuli and adjusts the sense organs in order to achieve optimum reception (Gibson and Gibson, 1972: 711). Moreover, the stimuli which give rise to any perception are always states and fluctuations. Stimuli should not be confused with the physical object, which along with the medium is their source. Therefore,

perception is a process by which an individual maintains contact with his environment (Gibson, 1959: 471).

Gibson thesis (1959: 465) that perceptual learning takes place when the phenomenal world and objects come into closer agreement with either proximal stimuli or physical objects suggests that we are to identify perception with being aware of phenomenal objects and events, and that perception becomes better when they become more like physical stimuli. In addition, Gibson (1966: 2) also underlines perception as the information detection about the world.

Other experts assume that perception estimates true properties of an objective world. They justify this assumption with an argument from evolution: Natural selection rewards true perceptions. Hoffman (2009: 21) proposes instead that if true perceptions crop up, then natural selection mows them down; natural selection fosters perceptions that act as simplified user interfaces, expediting adaptive behavior while shrouding the causal and structural complexity of the objective world. In support of this proposal, he discussed mimicry and mating errors in nature, and presented simulations of an evolutionary game.

Hoffman (2009: 21) claimed that natural selection drives true perception to swift extinction: Nowhere in evolution, even among the most complex of organisms, will you find that natural selection drives truth to fixation, i.e., so that the predicates of perception (e.g. space, time, shape, and color) approximate the predicates of the objective world (whatever they might be). Natural selection rewards fecundity, not factuality, so it shapes interfaces, not telescopes on truth. The challenge is clear: Provide a compelling counterexample to this claim.

Young people – In the British, during the 1990s academic debates and media speculations have been increasingly exercised over the alienation of young people from political life. Today's young people, like their previous generations, will acquire interest in politics as they grow older and as politics begins to have more relevance in their lives. The suggested decline in political interest and behaviour of young people, therefore, should be attributed to the changing social and economic environment in which young people now live (White, Bruce, and Ritchie, 2000: 1).

Young people believe that politics lacks relevance for their preoccupation with other interests and concerns. Other studies also highlight to the complexity of politics

and the difficulties young people have in understanding political life and processes (White, Bruce, and Ritchie, 2000: 1). With the exception of work carried out by Park (1999) that young people have also been found to hold politicians in low esteem, lacking trust in them (Bentley and Oakley, 1999), or respect for them (Pirie and Worcester, 1998).

Some researches which confront the image of young people as alienated and disaffected has uncovered a high level of voluntary and campaigning activity amongst 14 and 16 year olds (Roker *et al.*, 1997). Bhavnani's (1991) ethnographic study raised the possibility that young people could be involved in activities that they themselves would not define as politics, but which could be placed within a broad domain of political interest. Likewise, some of the participants in a Richardson's study (1990) had been involved in activities or committees at school, but they seldom saw this as a political activity. The reasons why young people do, or do not, participate in political activities is not well understood. Richardson, for instance, claims that politicians are not interested in young people's views. Jowell and Park (1998) suggest that their lack of participation results from other preoccupations and interests, such as finding partners, homes, and jobs.

Besides, Marsh (1989) argues that broader social changes are also undermining the extent to which existing institutions inform young people's political beliefs and actions. He claims that deindustrialisation, the demise of trade unions, and social and geographical mobility have all had an effect on the traditional political socialisation of young people. White, Bruce, and Ritchie (2000: 2) believe that there has been increasing concern that schools are not doing enough to educate children about political institutions and processes. Since the introduction of the National Curriculum, politics has only been covered in an *ad hoc* manner, as the 1998 Education Reform Act did not require schools to have any central responsibility for civic and political education.

Following the Crick Report in 1998, which provided guidelines for effective education for citizenship, it was announced in 1999 that citizenship will become a compulsory subject for 11-16 year olds. It is planned that this will include learning about proportional representation, the operation of Parliament, resolving moral dilemmas and ways to participate in community service.

At primary school, citizenship lessons will be part of existing courses in personal, social, and health education (PSHE).

Moreover, according to US Census Bureau (2005), in 2004, young voter turnout in America improved more than in any election since 18 year olds won the right to vote 35 years ago. Turnout among American youngest voters' ages 18-24 increased 11 percentage points from 36 percent to 47 percent. Meanwhile, turnout among 18-29 year olds rose 9 points from 40 percent to 49 percent. Based on report of New Voters Project and CIRCLE (2005), this trend continued in 2005 when student-dense precincts in Virginia saw a turnout increase of 15 percent.

The research which was conducted by the Graduate School of Political Management, George Washington University (2007: 3) reported that analysts and academics agree that one of the key factors driving this recent increase in turnout is that there has been, for the first time in decades, a major investment in mobilizing these voters. Non-partisan organizations which ran peer-to-peer field operations, media, and visibility campaigns spent an estimated \$40 million on registering and turning out young voters, a presidential campaign made a media buy targeting young voters, and partisan organizations both inside and outside of the party structures mobilized supportive youth. These turnout efforts paid off on Election Day 2004 as more than 20 million 18-29 year old voters went to the polls. The lesson learned is that today's young adults are an engaged generation that will vote in higher numbers if they are asked. Given their sheer size—topping 42 million in 2006 and growing rapidly—it is a crucial demographic to engage and ask to vote.

Nevertheless, White, Bruce, and Ritchie (2000: 3) presume that the existing literature reveals that there is still a lack of understanding about how young people view the political world, both the political institutions and the people who operate them. It is also not obvious what aspects of politics attract young generation. Afterward, there is insufficient knowledge about the ways in which the young do, or do not, engage in the civic process. Given there is such concern about the disconnection of the young from politics, and the implications this will have on future democratic practice, there is a need to understand these issues in much greater depth.

TABLE I. THE LIST OF RESPONDENTS

No	Name of School	District/ Municipaity	Quantity of Respondent
1	SMA Negeri 7 Yogyakarta	Kota Yogyakarta	20
2	SMA Negeri 3 Yogyakarta	Kota Yogyakarta	15
3	SMA Negeri 5 Yogyakarta	Kota Yogyakarta	15
4	SMA Bopkri 1 Yogyakarta	Kota Yogyakarta	15
5	SMA Taman Madya Jetis Yogyakarta	Kota Yogyakarta	15
6	SMA Muhammadiyah I Yogyakarta	Kota Yogyakarta	20
7	SMA Negeri 1 Cangkringan	Sleman	24
8	SMA Negeri 1 Ngaglik	Sleman	20
9	SMA Negeri 1 Prambanan	Sleman	20
10	SMA Negeri 1 Sleman	Sleman	25
11	SMA Negeri 1 Tempel	Sleman	20
12	SMA Negeri 1 Minggir	Sleman	20
13	SMA Angkasa Adisutjipto	Sleman	24
14	SMA Ma'arif I Sleman	Sleman	20
15	SMA Immanuel Kalasan	Sleman	20
16	SMA Dr. Wahidin Mlati	Sleman	20
17	SMA Muhammadiyah Pakem	Sleman	20
18	SMA Muhammadiyah 1 Sleman	Sleman	24
19	SMA Negeri 1 Kokap	Kulonprogo	20
20	SMA Negeri 1 Sentolo	Kulonprogo	20
21	SMA Negeri 1 Wates	Kulonprogo	15
22	SMA Sanjaya XIV Nanggulan	Kulonprogo	15
23	SMA Ma'arif Wates	Kulonprogo	20
24	SMA Muhammadiyah Wates	Kulonprogo	20
25	SMA Negeri 1 Bantul	Bantul	25
26	SMA Negeri 2 Bantul	Bantul	25
27	SMA Negeri 1 Kretek	Bantul	25
28	SMA Negeri 1 Piyungan	Bantul	25
29	SMA Negeri 1 Dlingo	Bantul	19
30	SMA Stella Duce Bantul	Bantul	25
31	SMA "17" Bantul	Bantul	25
32	SMA Muhammadiyah Bantul	Bantul	25
33	SMA PGRI I Kasihan	Bantul	18
34	SMA Muhammadiyah Pleret	Bantul	25
35	SMA Negeri 1 Karangmojo	Gunung Kidul	25
36	SMA Negeri 1 Playen	Gunung Kidul	23
37	SMA Negeri 1 Semin	Gunung Kidul	25
38	SMA Negeri 1 Wonosari	Gunung Kidul	25
39	SMA Pembangunan 3 Ponjong	Gunung Kidul	25
40	SMA Muhammadiyah Rongkop	Gunung Kidul	25
41	SMA Dominikus Wonosari	Gunung Kidul	23
42	SMA Muhammadiyah Wonosari	Gunung Kidul	25
	Total	DIY	900

RESEARCH METHOD

The research employs descriptive-qualitative approach which describing data systematically in order to be scrutinized and concluded. To data gathering, it utilizes survey method by giving 33 statements to respondents.

The survey was carried out during four weeks between November and December 2013.

The respondents were selected purposively accross five districts and municipality in Special Territory of Yogyakarta (well known as *Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta* or

DIY) i.e. Kota Yogyakarta, Sleman, Kulonprogo, Bantul, and Gunung Kidul. They are pupils in 42 senior high schools by covering minimum 17 years-old (on April 9th, 2014). Selecting these locations as a research area is based on a consideration that DIY is one of the education cities in Indonesia which has swift changes amongst other regions. Therefore, young people in DIY can become main benchmark for the quality of young people's view concerning the 2014 election.

The amount of respondents is 900 out of approximately 163.912 young voters in DIY with margin of error 10 percent. Moreover, the amount of young voters is 6 percent out of 2.731.882 permanent voters in DIY. To data gathering, the research team can meet respondents even after fourth visit due to intricate school bureaucracy. After the data were collected, the next step is entering the data into the program of *Statistical Product for Service Solution* (SPSS) and analyzing to obtain a precise conclusion.

In term of respondent features, the research considers four things. First is the geographical feature between urban and rural/hinterland area. Second is the equality between state and private school – including Muslim and Non-Muslim schools. Third is the sexual category. Fourth is the religion representative. As a result, 900 pupils can be divided into 42 schools at Table 1:

DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

1. RESPONDENT IDENTITY

The target of the respondents' age is 17 years on April 9th, 2014. It is main condition for Indonesian people to gain their rights as a voter in the election. The research demonstrates that the majority of young voters' age is 17-18 years (88 percent). The rest (12%) is between 19 and 22 years. Thus, there is no one under 17 years. Meanwhile, the number of girl voters, according to the Regional Election Committee (*Komisi Pemilihan Umum Daerah* or KPUD) DIY, is higher than boy voters although its difference is not too significant. Thus, the research also presents similar data that those boy voters (49.2 percent) are lower than girls (50.8 percent).

Regarding determining respondent's faith, it is based on selecting schools. There are two types of schools i.e. state school and private school. In term of private school, the research chooses Muhammadiyah's schools, Nahdhatul Ulama's schools, Catholic's and Christian's schools as well as other private schools. As a result, the

research shows that 87 percent are Muslims. The rest are Catholics (7.9), Christians (5.1), and Budhists, Hindu as well as Confucions respectively reached 0.1 percent.

More interestingly, the research postulates some evidences on young voter's features. Firstly, urban voters are more materialistic than rural voters. It can be proven by giving funds to urban voters in order to attract their desire to fulfill the question sheets. Secondly, rural voters are more serious in answering the questions than urban voters. It can be shown by rural voters' attitudes when they frequently ask for some difficult questions. Consequently, they need much time. In addition, they give different answers for each question. Meanwhile, urban voters answer the questions swiftly with same choice for each question.

2. THE PERCEPTION TOWARDS THE INTEGRITY OF THE 2014 ELECTION

According to Oxford Dictionary (2008: 232), the term "integrity" means honesty goodness. In this sense, the electoral integrity can be seen from the entire process of the election since registration of political parties until the day of voting. To measure the integrity, the research provides six indicators and 23 statements. The six indicators are the election law no. 8 2012, the electoral procedure, the voter registration, the registration of political party and its candidates, the role of mass media, and the candidate campaign. Meanwhile, the 23 statements will be explored in each indicator.

Furthermore, the indicators and statements will be scored by applying interval scale from "not good" until "very good" (1-5) as below:

Very good	: 4.21 - 5.00
Good	: 3.41 - 4.20
Adequate	: 2.61 - 3.40
Less good	: 1.81 - 2.60
Not good	: 1.00 - 1.80

Concerning the answer for each indicator, the research employs optional answers from negative to positive. More specifically, there are six alternative answers namely not know, extremely not agree, not agree, hesitant, agree, and extremely agree. The answer choices certainly will be presented with model of percentage (%) and horizontal bar charts.

A. THE ELECTION LAW NO. 8 2012

One of the changes in the current election law no. 8 2012 is increasing the parliamentary threshold from 2.5 percent in the 2009 election to 3.5 percent in the 2014. The statement 1-3 describes the percentage of young voters' perception towards three indicators of the election law.

For the first statement "The election law is fair for small parties", the majority of respondents hesitate and not know (49 percent) whether the current election law is fair for small parties or not. It implies that young people obviously not know about the law. Afterward, most respondents agree with the statement 2 that "The 2014 election law discriminates the small party group and in turn more profitable for the ruling party". Meanwhile, a large majority of respondents agree with the statement 3 that "The election law preserved the people rights".

If the statement 1-3 is measured with the scale, the index of the perception of young voters concerning the election law is 3.12. It means adequate. Their perception is neither positive nor negative. Nevertheless, this score enables to become a good perception.

B. PROCEDURE OF THE 2014 ELECTION

The electoral procedure is mechanisms and the rule of the game during electoral process. The statement 4-7 explains the proportion of young voters' perception to four indicators of the electoral procedure. The statement 4 points up that a large number of respondents tend to hesitate the management of electoral procedures although it is also noticeable that other significant opinions agree with the election was organized very well.

Regarding the statement 5 "It is easy to find the information on techniques in voting", a large amount of informants agree this statement. It implies that they have excellent knowledge on how to vote precisely. Moreover, concerning the statement 6 "The election committee is honest and fair", the largest parts of respondents are not sure with the statement. It can be seen from their answer that 52 percent stated negative perception. Meanwhile, when the respondents comment to the statement 7 "The realization of the election was appropriated with the law", most of them (62 percent) not reject it.

If the statement 4-7 is measured with the scale, the index of the perception of young voters toward the procedure of the 2014 election is good (3.53). The positive perception should be appreciated and flourished

continuously. It portrays that the election committee's performance succeeded to gain the positive perception of young people.

C. VOTER REGISTRATION

The process of voter registration is one of the important steps for people to obtain their rights as a voter. The statement 8-10 focuses to explore the percentage of young voters' perception regarding three indicators of the voter registration. Concerning the statement 8 "Most people who have the rights they are not registered", young voters tend to agree and really agree (58 percent) with this perception.

Regarding the inaccurate data of the permanent voter (*Daftar Pemilih Tetap* or DPT), the statement 9 namely the list of the permanent voters is inaccurate is describing that the majority of informants agree with the statement although another important answer decided to give a hesitant perception. Meanwhile, most perceptions to the statement 10 that "Many ineligible people are registered as a voter" are agreed. It depicts that the clash between the KPU and other interest groups inserts the voters' faith that the process of voter registration is not running very well.

If the statement 8-10 is measured with the scale, the index of the perception of young people concerning the process of voter registration is 2.61. It implies adequate.

D. REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTY AND ITS CANDIDATES

When the respondents fill the answer sheets, the registration of political parties and their candidates is finish. Thus, it is easy to identify their perception. The statement 11-13 concerns to illustrate the proportion of young voters' perception towards three indicators of the registration of political party and its candidates. Regarding the statement 11 that "Some opposition candidates are obstructed when they register as legislative contenders", most respondents didn't know and hesitate (58 percent) with the statement. It demonstrates that they really not understand with the topic.

Concerning the statement 12 that "Women have equivalent chances to register as candidates", a large majority of respondents agree and really agree (80 percent). Meanwhile, young voters not reject (63 percent) with the statement "Insignificant ethnics have similar chances to fight as candidates in the election".

If the statement 11-13 is measured with the scale, the index of the perception of young people toward the registration of political parties and their candidates in the 2014 election is good (3.61). It implies an excellent perception and proves that young voters appreciate with the KPU performace in the topic.

e. Roles of mass media

During reformation era, mass media have vital and significant roles in influencing and persuading public opinions even the government policies. The case of the clash of KPK *vis-a-vis* the police force (famous as *Cicak versus Buaya*) and the breakdown of the renovation of the parliament building are some evidences of the mass media roles. The statement 14-19 reveals the percentage of young voters' perception to six statements of the role of mass media in the 2014 election.

On the topic of "Newspapers and magazines present equivalent and accurate news on election", respondents mostly assume to give a positive perception (70 percent) with the statement 14. Furthermore, on the subject of "Television is more advantageos for the ruling party", respondents generally not refuse (57 percent). The statement 16 is "Television merely tends to publish certain parties". Young voters agree and really agree (60 percent) with this statement.

Afterward, a large amount of pupils agree (31.6 percent) with the statement 17 that "The political party and its candidates got equal chances in advertising themselves" although other respondents hesitate (26.2 percent) with the statement. Meanwhile, concerning the statement 18 that "Journalists presented fair newcasts and reports on the election", respondents mostly agree (34.6 percent) although some of them hesitate (27.6 percent) it. The last indicator of the roles of mass media is the statement 19 that "Social media such as facebook, twitter etc are utilized to uncover electoral deceits". A large number of respondents decided to agree (25.7 percent) with the statement although some of them also refuse and hesitate (37.8 percent) it.

Nevertheless, although most respondent's answers are positive as pictured in the statement 14-19, the index concluded that the perception of young people concerning the roles of mass media on the 2014 election is 3.10 (adequate). It implies that their perception neither good nor awful although it has possibility to become a good perception.

F. CANDIDATE CAMPAIGN

When the survey is conducted, the process of candidates' campaign is still running until around March 2014. Therefore, respondents at least have knowledge to show their views to the topic. The statement 20-23 demonstrates the proportion of young voters' perception concerning four statements of the candidate campaign during the 2014 election. In term of the statement 20 "Candidates' campaign through television and banners affects electorates to vote", most respondents agree (36 percent) although a lot of them not agree and hesitate (44.2 percent) it.

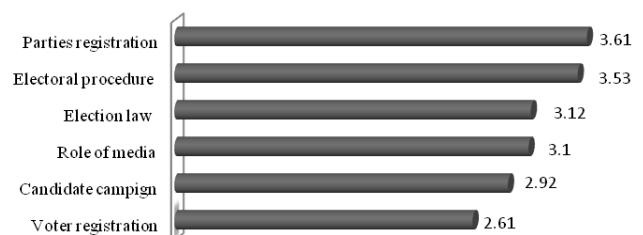
Afterward, concerning the statement 21 that "There is no different campaign between Muslim and nationalist candidates", young voters mostly agree and extremely agree (54 percent). Meanwhile, the popular answer to the statement 22 that "Some candidates are obstructed in conducting campaign" is not know and hesitant (54 percent). It implies that young generation not concern and care with this affair. The last statement is "Only party's elites who have chances to be elected in the 2014 election". The majority of young people agree (26.2 percent) with the statement although a lot of them not agree and hesitate (41.2 percent) it.

Nevertheless, if the statement 20-23 is measured with the scale, the index of the perception of young voters regarding candidates' campaign is adequate (2.92).

G. INDEX OF YOUNG VOTERS' PERCEPTION

Previous accounts have explored the proportion of young people's perception. In this section, the research will present the index of young voters' perception regarding the integrity of the 2014 election.

FIGURE I. THE PERCEPTION TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE 2014 ELECTION



The horizontal bar chart 1 illustrates that the most prominent feature is the highest score of the young voters' perception is registration of the political parties and their

candidates by grade slightly above 3.6. The following degree is procedure of the 2014 election. Inasmuch as young people are the next leaders, these positive perceptions should be flourished amongst them. If they have a positive perception to democracy, people prosperity will be implemented as soon as possible.

In contrast, the process of voter registration becomes the least grade with just above 2.6. This grade almost reaches a negative perception. Therefore, it is part of vital evaluation for the government particularly the *KPU*. Still other indicators received adequate perception namely the election law no. 8 2012, the role of mass media, and candidates' campaign.

In general, the index of young voters' perception regarding the integrity of the 2014 election is adequate (3.15). It implies that young generation has neither good nor awful perception. Nevertheless, this score has good potential to become an outstanding perception if the government and society perpetually work together to evaluate Indonesian democratic system. In addition, having a serious commitment is an obligation and responsibility for each Indonesian citizen.

3. INDEX OF YOUNG VOTERS' TRUST TOWARDS THE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

In this part, the research will present the index of young voters' trust toward the national institutions both state and private sectors which have significant roles in the 2014 election. To measure the quality of the trust, the research applies score with distance from 1 (lowest trust) until 10 (highest trust) as below:

Very good	8.21 - 10.0
Good	6.41 - 8.20
Adequate	4.61 - 6.40
Less good	2.81 - 4.60
Not good	1.00 - 2.80

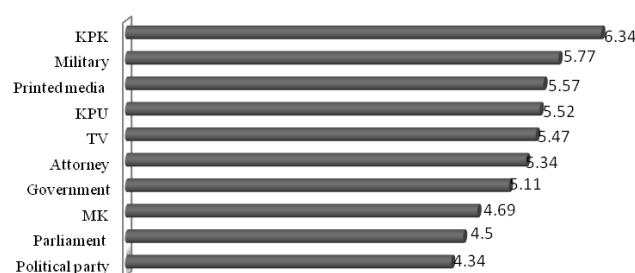
After the gathered data are to be processed, the research presents the result as demonstrated in the horizontal bar chart 2.

The bar chart 2 portrays that the most distinguishing feature is the Corruption Eradication Commission (*Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi* or *KPK*) obtains the highest trust amongst other. Although the score is adequate the *KPK* has potential grade to become a credible institution. In contrast, the parliament and political parties receive the lowest trust. It implies that young people have terrible belief, experiences, and opinions to both institutions. It

can be seen from current cases which are suffered by some elites in political parties.

In the case of *Hambalang* and *Wisma Atlet*, some elites in the Democrat Party (Yudhoyono's party)² are decided as suspected persons. They are Anas Urbaningrum (general chairman of the Democrat), Andi Mallarangeng (concellor of the Democrat), Muhammad Nazaruddin (treasurer of the Democrat), and Angelina Sondakh (Democrat's cadre). These four persons are young elites who have significant roles in the Democrat Party. Consequently, the protracted clash among the party's elites took place particularly conflict between Anas group and Cikeas group.³

FIGURE 2. THE DEGREE OF TRUST TOWARDS THE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



Moreover, in the case of beef bribery, the *KPK* arrested the top leader of the Islamist party Prosperous Justice Party (*Partai Keadilan Sejahtera* or *PKS*)⁴ namely Luthfi Hasan Ishaq or LHI in the early of 2013. LHI's case also dragged other elites in the *PKS* such as Hilmi Aminuddin (founder and chairman of *PKS*' Consultative Council), Siswono (*PKS*' cadre as well as minister of agriculture), and Ahmad Fathonah (LHI's closed friend). Both Democrat Party and *PKS* are major political forces in Indonesia which represent nationalist and Muslim groups. Similar cases definitely can be found in other parties.

In different cases, overwhelming clashes among elites in the party can be found in the traditionalist-Muslim party the National Awakening Party (*Partai Kebangkitan Bangsa* or *PKB*) between Abdurrahman Wahid or Gus Dur (the founder of *PKB*) and Muhaimin Iskandar (general chairman of *PKB* and young generation). Meanwhile, sexual cases also aggravated the emage of some parties such as sexual scandal between a Golkar cadre Yahya Zaini and a *Dangdut* singer Maria Eva. Similarly, a controversial issue on sexual deed also suffered by one of the cadres in the Indonesian Demo-

cratic Party-Struggle (*Partai Demokrasi Indonesia-Perjuangan* or PDIP) namely Carolina Margareth Natasha.

Meanwhile, other institutions earn adequate grade respectively. They are printed media, KPU, television, the attorney, government, and the Constitution Court (*Mahkamah Konsitusi* or MK). It is also noticeable that the MK almost receives the grade "less good" as shown in the figure 2. It can be seen from the case suffered by Akil Mochtar (chairman of MK) who is an alleged person who took a part in the corruption of regional election (*Pilkada*) in District of Lebak, Banten. As a result, the MK's good impression immediately changes to an awful image.

CONCLUSION

By considering the given data and previous discussions, the research has, at least, two theoretical implications. Most studies postulated that young people are alienated from the political live and having no rational purposes to engage in the political dynamics. In contrary, the research found distinctive evidences. It can be seen that, indeed, the democratic system provides entire accounts to young people on the political dynamics. Various dilemma and obstacles under democratic systems eventually produced young people as rational voters and have their own perceptions. Besides, there is no different perceptions between Muslim and non-Muslim youths. They are not trapped in the social cleavages due to their ethnicity, religion, and other emotional factors.

In addition, the research rejects the assumption that young people's perception is not too important for the government and political affairs because they are immaturity people group. On the contrary, due to rapid psychological development among young people in the contemporary live, young people can assume not only how to earn numerous achievements in the educational world but also to create precise strategies to gain the triumph even in the political world. The elected young leaders in some cities in the USA and other states as well as Indonesia revealed that their perception should be appreciated and managed in order to give constructive suggestions to build the nation.

To sum up, the research demonstrates that the perception of young voters regarding the integrity of the 2014 election is neither positive nor negative. Nevertheless, the perception tends to become positive if the government and society have a commitment continuously to evaluate and improve people prosperity-based demo-

cratic system. Additionally, the research has some recommendations to the vital institutions.

1. The KPK is becoming the most credible institution amongst other. On the contrary, the political party and parliament are the most notorious institute. It is a critical note that those two political institutions should repair their performance rather than advertise in mass media everlastingly.
2. It is part of responsibility of KPU, *Bawaslu* (the Election Supervisory Board), and other independence institutions to give more political educations to young people. These institutions should control the implementation of election and brave to cope with all sorts of infractions. Furthermore, political parties not only conduct pragmatical campaigns in the certain time but also take part to implement one of their responsibilities namely a political education in order to give a noble heritage to society on politics and democracy. Meanwhile, the KPK should protect itself from other interest groups and any pressure. Likewise, people must reinforce the KPK to become a clean and independent institution in Indonesia.
3. The college and school should stress the important of political education to pupils in order to have good and right awareness on politics. The education can be presented through certain lessons such as civic education or short courses.

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(FOOTNOTES)

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- ² Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono or SBY is the sixth president of Republic of Indonesia during 2004-2014. He is the founder of the Democrat Party which became the ruling party in the 2009 election.
- ³ "Cikeas" is name of village in Bogor, West Java. It is also well know as SBY's home and frequently becomes central of Democrat's consolidation and informal meeting amongst the party's elites. There are many Democrat's activities which hold in the place.
- ⁴ PKS obtained significant votes and seats in the parliament during 2004 and 2009 elections. The party can be named as the most influential single Islamist party for Indonesian Muslim people during reformation era.