

UDC 332

CROSS-BORDER MOVEMENT OF INDONESIAN-MALAYSIAN BORDER COMMUNITIES IN THE RIAU COAST

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ABSTRACT

This research aimed to learn more about the different types of cross-border movements in which the Indonesian-Malaysian border population engages. As a border town in Indonesia's furthest reaches, relying entirely on their region for economic activity is not viable; aside from a lack of job opportunities, their income is often minimal. Therefore, many people choose to work outside the region and even abroad, Malaysia. This research starts with border difficulties and ends with cross-border migration to meet demands. In this situation, Pesisir Riau is one of the people who travel across the border to Malaysia frequently. A qualitative method in this study. Data collection techniques include literature studies from several journals, books, documents, websites and interviews. According to the findings of this study, Malaysian diplomacy is based on the four borderland interaction, including the Indonesia-Malaysia border area on the Riau Coast as an Interdependent Borderland type because the two nations' border areas are in mutual need.

KEY WORDS

Borderland movement, foreign workers, Riau coast, borderland interaction.

The border area, whether on land or at sea, has a vital and strategic role in a country. It is because the border area is not only a sovereign boundary but is also an area that reflects a country. For example, the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI) is geographically located between two continents, bordering ten neighbouring countries. In Southeast Asia, Indonesia is directly adjacent to Malaysia with a land border that now separates the territory of Indonesia and Malaysia on the island of Borneo. Sea borders the Straits of Malacca, the South China Sea and the Celebes Sea (BKKBN, 2012).

Border areas are usually known as areas far from the centre of government, with a life identical to society, state, and nation problems. Therefore, Indonesia can be said to have difficulties maintaining its territory's integrity and unity. Especially condition Indonesia, an archipelagic country, has borders that tend to be prone to debates and disputes with neighbouring countries that can endanger the integrity and honour of this nation.

Riau is an area that is very famous for its wealth. Riau is Indonesia's most significant contributor of natural products in the oil sector. Almost all coastal regions of Riau are directly adjacent to Malaysia, such as the cities of Dumai, Rokan Hilir, Bengkalis, and the Meranti Islands, even though the distance is only 30 minutes to Malaysia (the Malacca Line). At the same time, the travel time is 3-4 hours. To get to the city in the district. To the capital city in Pekanbaru takes 7 – 10 hours by road.

Malaysia is known as a country with a generally better economy than Indonesia. Although Indonesia's border region has abundant potential for Indonesian resources, it has not ideally. Causes the people in Pesisir Riau typically have a higher level of mobility to connect and direct contact with Malaysians from various groups and ethnicities. They communicate socio-culturally and economically to policy-centred issues. This intense interaction gave birth to multiple tendencies of non-border communities (Chuan & Cleary, 2005).

Historically, the Riau-Malaysia border began with former officials of the Riau-Lingga Kingdom organizing resistance against the Dutch by mobilizing Lanon after the Dutch captured the Riau-Lingga Kingdom in 1874. Attacks on foreign ships sailing through the islands of Galang, Kundur, Moro, Buru, and Karimun grew so common that the British and

Dutch colonial rulers became concerned. The *Andromache*, a ship of a British commercial airline, was hijacked in the waters off Galang Island that same year. The British fleet then sent troops to Galang Island to attack Lanon. The pirate ship has documentation stating that Prince Haji Abdulrahman bin Haji Idris organized Lanon around Galang Island. Worried about the invasion of the British Fleet, the Sultan of Riau-Lingga handed over his kingdom to the protection of the Dutch. Since Singapore and the Malay Peninsula belonged to the British. Still, Riau was under the Dutch; the 1824 Treaty of London between the Dutch and the British separated the Riau-Lingga Kingdom in Malaysia from the Riau Archipelago (Chuam & Cleary, 2005, 101). Since then, the concept of political and geographical boundaries has emerged that separates the Malay socio-cultural community from Riau from Johor, which used to have a kingdom (Alexander, 1992).

Therefore, the coastal community of Riau feels the emergence of a dual character in their daily life. Historically, the Riau Coastal community is part of Indonesian citizens. However, the Bengkalis people socio-economically tend to be part of the Malaysian state. So in this discussion, the author will discuss the cross-border movement of the Indonesian-Malaysian border community on the Riau Coast.

LITERATURE REVIEW

With the concept of identity, this study takes a constructivist approach, according to Alexander Wendt (1992). Constructivism is a way of viewing the world as a social construction. In the international system, the assumption refers to the quality of actors in deciding their actions. Unlike realists, who believe that the anarchic structure of the global system influences state behaviour, constructivists believe that anarchist designs result from social interactions among the people involved. Anarchy can be by actors based on how they do subjectivity to other actors and vice versa. As a result, anarchy can take on a variety of positive and negative connotations.

The author uses a constructivist perspective because this research focuses on the cross-border migration of the Indonesian-Malaysian border community in Pesisir Riau. Malaysia is closely involved with Indonesia as a policy-making actor, representing Indonesia through the border community.

The author uses the nation-state (Nation-State) as the level of analysis in this study. For reasons related to international relations, states assume that when faced with the same situation, all decision-makers, no matter where they are, behave essentially the same. As a result of political pressure, ideology, public opinion, or internal economic and social demands, diplomatic measures Domestic law determines which foreign policy through diplomacy (Martinez, 1994). The role played by the Riau Coastal community represents the State of Indonesia in interacting with Malaysia as the recipient of work.

This researcher will use the Borderland Interaction theory. First, each country must take steps to protect the security of its border areas because the border area is identical with different political policies in two or more border areas and the influence of state activities on the people living on both sides of the border. It becomes essential because the state's ability to maintain border security can guarantee state security and also survival in the future.

In terms of borders, O.J. Martinez (1994) divides them into four categories. Martinez defines four stages of border interaction, using the United States-Mexico border as an example. First, Alienated Borderland is a border area with no cross-border activity, mainly because of war, political problems, strong nationalism, ideological hostility, religious enmity, cultural differences, and ethnic rivalries.

The second is Coexistent borderland, a border area where cross-border disputes can be reduced to a bearable level while remaining issues, such as ownership of vital resources in border areas, remain unresolved. Third, Interdependent Borderland is a border area that both parties symbolically link by relatively stable international relations. Residents of the two border countries and residents of the two countries participate in various mutually beneficial and approximately equal economic activities. Fourth, in Integrated Borderland, a border area

whose economic activities, the nationalism of the two countries is still far from fading, and the two countries are absorbed in a close partnership.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

The authors used a qualitative data analysis method with a descriptive type to conduct this research. Various data and information from books, scientific journals, reports, and mass media releases, both online and offline, were collected to identify patterns of cross-border movement of people in the Indonesia-Malaysia border area.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The challenges often experienced at the border cannot be separated from Indonesia's border areas connected to other countries worldwide. In addition, Indonesia is the largest archipelagic country in the world, with islands spanning two continents and two oceans (BPS Provinsi Riau, 2020).

In Indonesia, border areas should be a topic of discussion to get more serious attention from border communities, local governments, and the central government. Several considerations support the importance of the border community issue. First, the border area is a crucial location in this situation as the face of the state. Because the area is the entrance for citizens and other external parties with interest in accessing the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, it is known as the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. (NKRI). Second, according to various facts, Indonesian border communities tend to fall into the category of disadvantaged communities in different aspects, especially in development.

The Riau Coastal area borders Malaysia, including the Rokan Hilir, Bengkalis, and Meranti Islands; the distance is only 30 minutes to Malaysia (the Malacca Strait), 3-4 hours to the Regency, and 7-10 hours to the Provincial Capital by road. It is, therefore, closer to Malaysia than Dumai, which is famous for its oil companies and factories, and Pekanbaru, as the capital and business centre of the provinces of Riau and Sumatra. Included in the area of Indonesia - Malaysia - Singapore (IMS-GT) Economic Growth Triangle (IMS-GT) and has indirectly transformed into the Hinterland Free Trade Zone (FTZ) Batam - Tj. Karimun Hall.

Meranti Islands Regency has the potential to function as a Cross Border Gateway / International Gate that connects mainland Riau with neighbouring countries by the sea to take advantage of the opportunities and advantages of geographical location and encourage economic growth at the border. This area, along with neighbouring countries Malaysia and Singapore, is in addition to Dumai City, which was once fortified and is now the State Strategic Activity Center, which functions as the country's front porch, international gateway, trade and industry.

In general, based on economic conditions, the Riau Coastal Community works as fishermen. However, apart from fishermen, some people have free time for side professions such as trading, farming, and handicrafts (Bengkalis.go.id, 2019).

However, the fishing trade has become obsolete over time because being a fisherman carries significant risk. It makes the Rupert Community switch professions to look for low-risk jobs, especially for those who depend on marine products for their livelihoods. In addition, the fishing gear used to catch fish, such as nets, safety suits, and boats, is also a challenge for fishing groups.

Moreover, the wages earned by border communities are lower when compared to Malaysian incomes. In 2020, the Governor of Riau (Gubri) H Syamsuar issued a Decree on Regency/City Minimum Wages. The governor sets the minimum wage by Decree Number: Kpts.1198/XI/2019, dated November 21, 2019, the local minimum salary in Riau in 2020 is IDR 2,888,563 [9]. Compared to Malaysia, woodworkers can earn 3000 ringgit, equivalent to around Rp. 10,000,000 per month.

It also motivates people to choose to run their businesses in Malaysia. Along with dominating the Riau coastal community in choosing to work in Malaysia, Pesisir Riau has a

Malaysian culture and identity that tends to be the same. In fact, because of its close location, it is often referred to as the Malaysia of Indonesia.

Due to the two countries' proximity, many Rupert people have relatives in Malaysia. As a result, there are few cultural differences between Pesisir Riau and Malaysia. Malay is the most common language among residents. Even unexpectedly, the use of two currencies, Ringgit and Rupiah, was widespread in meetings when the barter system was still operating. However, trade and the Malaysian Ringgit currency in Rupert have decreased due to the increasingly stringent border and immigration rules.

In addition to conducting transactions using Ringgit as a medium of exchange, the Riau Coastal Community has obtained several sources of information and entertainment from Malaysia, including Malaysian TV, Malaysia Radio, and Malaysian News. Furthermore, after negotiations at the 2017 Indonesia-Malaysia Joint Committee Communications (JCC) Summit on coordination and harmonization, the use of radio frequency spectrum in the two countries began to decrease (Arif, 2021).

Malaysia is becoming more famous because of the media and relatives who used to live there, and this is one of the factors that will increase the cross-border mobility of the people of Riau. The number of people who prefer to do business in Malaysia shows this. So it is by the statement of the Deputy Regent of Bengkalis Bagus Santoso during a visit to the Bengkalis Office.

Fishermen, for example, often sell fish to Malaysia. It is a fact because the demand and demand for fish in Malaysia are relatively high. According to 2016 data, Indonesian fish exports to Malaysia amounted to US\$ 140 million. This amount exceeds Indonesia's total imports from Malaysia, which almost reached US\$ 19 million. Apart from high demand, the price is higher than sales outside the region. Of course, coastal communities primarily working as fishermen will benefit from this.

The Riau Coastal Community is also known as one of the borders where cross-border trade activities have been for generations. It significantly impacts regional economic growth, community income, job creation, and foreign exchange. These cross-border commercial activities include natural resources such as plantations, fisheries, and tourism—most of the fishery products by North Rupert fishermen to Malaysia through fish collectors [12]. According to information from the North Rupert Fisheries UPTD, more than 90% of North Rupert's fishery goods are to Malaysia. Exports are carried out by legitimate exporters such as valid CV Mekar Raya and CV Melayu Perkasa Mandiri, as evidenced by an export permit from the Customs Office (Ani, 2019).

Based on data submitted by the Head of the Immigration Office Class II TPI Bengkalis, Toto Suryanto, through the Head of the Traffic Section and Immigration Stay Permit, Jose Rizal, from January to May 2019. Indonesian citizens (WNI) who go to Malaysia use the Bandar Sri Setia International Port crossing route The King of the New Straits BSSR continues to grow. 31,360 people, from January 5,350 people, February 5,963 people, March 6,409 people, April 6,200 people and May 7,438 people. This data is classified as high because most local people and other areas intended to seek treatment and migrate to work in Malaysia (Rucianawati, 2017).

Based on what the author has said above, the Riau Coastal Community that decides to carry out economic activities in Malaysia is more dominant than Pekanbaru and even the Regency.

At the border, cross-border movement is no longer a taboo subject. However, the high mobility of the population between the walls of the two countries, on the other hand, often becomes an obstacle in managing border security. Also, customs and immigration administration problems are often associated with criminal operations such as trafficking and smuggling. One of the triggers is the dependence of the Indonesian people on Malaysia for basic needs.

The seriousness of the Indonesian government in structuring border areas through a series of paradigm changes, rules, institutional arrangements and authoritative authorities, and finances since the reform era has not resulted in efficient border area management. This

situation is still a factor in the long-term sustainability of socio-economic and political security problems at the Indonesia-Malaysia border

Based on the conditions of movement in the Riau Coastal Border stated above, it can be that the Indonesia-Malaysia border on the Riau Coast, namely the Interdependent borderland. The inclusion of the Indonesia-Malaysia border area on the Riau Coast as an Interdependent Borderland type is because the two countries' border areas are in a state of mutual need. Dependence on Malaysia for some basic needs has become an inevitable feature of life for Indonesia's border towns in Riau. On the other hand, Malaysia is interested in and dependent on the population and natural resources in Indonesia's border areas, mainly from the plantation, agricultural and fishery products, as well as the delivery of labour. As a result, according to Rucianawati (2017), the geographical boundaries of the two countries reflect a mutually beneficial symbiotic relationship.

However, on the other hand, factors such as excessive immigration, trade competition and ethnic nationalism can negatively affect cross-border relations and border regimes. Because borders by dynamic international developments caused by free trade and globalization, they are not only tied to their strategic position as the front line. The interdependence and interpenetration of globalization. Have created a massive problem in national boundaries, such as the Indonesia-Malaysia Riau Coast boundary. The ever-increasing flow of goods, people, and services across borders, linking regions and policies, poses a challenge for border management. Border management reforms that rely more on networks involving multiple stakeholders rather than on the state's internal capacity, which has been the leading force for border management, seem to be needed, including stakeholders from neighbouring countries.

CONCLUSION

As a border area, Pesisir Riau faces various problems, including social welfare, human resources, territory, and natural resources that are underutilized and not by the government. For the Riau coast. For example, Malaysia provides employment, while Indonesia includes labour. Political nationalism remains strong in the border areas in this interdependent relationship, but economic and cultural ties are equally strong. So it also is in the cooperation between the Indonesian-Malaysian governments, which seek to improve welfare in the economic and social fields of the two countries. Especially around the Coast of Riau, which is directly adjacent to Malaysia. The Riau Coastal community has long interacted with Malaysia in the economic, social and cultural fields without an MoU between the two countries.

The ever-increasing flow of cross-border products, people, and services connecting areas and policies is challenging in managing border areas. It is due to the Indonesian government's lack of character and preventive attitude in maintaining the stability of border security between the two countries. The Malaysian government also relies heavily on the initiatives of the Indonesian government in resolving border-related issues. However, the lack of good coordination between the respective entities involved in border management in these two countries, the lack of institutions that explicitly address border issues, and the lack of progress in the development of border infrastructure make field coordination between the agencies involved difficult. It results in a border that should be a good thing but becomes less than optimal.

In practice, however, these elements fail to bring the expected benefits to individuals living along the Riau border. The uniqueness of border management during the reform period includes accelerating the growth of border areas, among others. So it is through establishing the National Border Management Agency (BNPP). In addition, it increases the central government's authority in managing and utilizing border areas, as stated in Article 361 of Law Number 23 of 2014 concerning Governance.

Cross-border Command Posts and Supporting Infrastructure in Border Areas also have failed to overcome the underdevelopment of the Kalimantan border in development. Therefore, the condition of the Indonesian border community with Malaysia still has gaps or inequalities.

Limitation of the Study

This research is limited in terms of the qualitative method used. However, the qualitative approach applied in this study opens up opportunities for future research to elaborate on this study's qualitative findings—furthermore, the elaboration of quantitative data and information related to the structure of the Indonesia-Malaysia border. Society will complement the comprehensiveness of border studies in general—the Indonesia-Malaysia border in particular.

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