

## A Glance of Sea Tribes People in Batam, Riau Archipelago, Indonesia Multidisciplinary Perspective

Prof. Seno H Putra, Ph.D<sup>a</sup>, Assoc. Prof. Zulhelmy, Ph.D<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Teacher's Training and Education Faculty, Universitas Islam Riau, Indonesia

<sup>b</sup> Economic and Business Faculty, Universitas Islam Riau, Indonesia

**Abstract:** From this research, it is found that the Sea Tribes people in Batam at present have already developed rapidly in the aspects of their lives, for examples; in economy, education, culture, etc.. The development of these are caused by the development of Batam Island as Business City, Tourism City, Industry City, etc., which is also supported by its community and the Local Government. Besides that, Batam is also near Singapore and Malaysia, it has built many infrastructures, Tourism places, Departments, Housing complex, Harbours, Bridges, Schools, Modern Markets, Industries, etc. However, to those, especially (Sea Tribes People in there) who do not have houses, do not have jobs, do not get schools yet, etc., must be helped and supported by the community and Government, so that they have the same level of lifestyle as other communities surrounding them in Batam. Therefore, this research is only conducted to show a glance of Sea Tribes People in Batam generally.

**Keywords:** Culture, demography, economy, dialect

### 1. Introduction

Indonesia as areas of Archipelago from Sabang to Merauke, in which it has many local Dialects and Cultures which can be contributed to be National and Global ones. One of the areas in Indonesia is Batam, where this island is also a part of Riau Archipelago, and it is near Singapore and Malaysia. People who live in here are various people and ethnic groups of people that also encompass their own dialects and cultures. However, even though in such varieties of the people there, besides the local people who still use Malay language and Malay culture, it also has another ethnic group of people called as Sea Tribes.

“Indonesia is distributed by amount of tribes from Sabang to Merauke includes a complex variety of regional, class, and ethnic dialects, as well as culture. Furthermore, some regional languages that exist in Indonesia are, for example, Javanese language, Minangnese language, Bataknese language, Malay Language, and many others, the variations may be in terms of Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Lexicon, and Paralinguistics (Seno, 1998-2004).”

Sea tribes in Batam is the minority people who live in the sea with boat. The total of its population is about a thousand people, and the majority of them still live separated from other communities, or they do not assimilate yet with other people in Batam and other environments. In other words, Sea tribes still maintain its own dialect, culture, and demographical heritage.

In addition to this, although Batam island consists of various ethnic groups of people, such as Malay, Javanese, Sundanese, Minangnese, Bataknese, Bugisnese, Banjarnese, Madurish, Chinese, Floresnese, Ambonese, etc., or most of Indonesian ethnic groups are there in Batam Island, the local people in Batam is a Malay, in which the Malay people there still look after Malay culture and Malay dialects daily life (Seno, 1987 to 2019).

Historically, a long time ago, Batam island was only as island which did not many people call it on and no infrastructures and building developments, but in the year of 1980 above or until at present, this island has been quickly progress in any sectors in developing infrastructures, roads, streets, markets, houses, building harbors, schools, tourism places, bridges, etc. However, besides its progressing of any sectors fast, it still also has the minority people called as Sea Tribes. Therefore, in this study, the researcher would like to know at glance of the Culture, Demography and a little bit Dialect of Sea Tribes people in Batam, Riau Archipelago, Indonesia.

## 2. Context of the Problem

As sketch above, Geographically, Sea Tribes in Batam is one of among other regencies in the Riau Archipelago Province; regionally, this regency according to its border is close to Neighbor Countries, such as Singapore and Malaysia, as well as Others; and according to its community, the local people in Batam still use their own Malay Language and Malay Culture in speech community not only in non-formal setting but also somehow in certain Ceremony, including Sea Tribes whether this tribes still figures its own Culture, Demography, and Dialect or not. Therefore, the Sea Tribes in Batam to be the main context of this Study.

## 3. Formulation of the Study

This study is intended to find out the place of Culture, Demography, and a little bit of Dialect in Batam, the Province of Riau Archipelago. To avoid the large scope of problem in this study, the problems are formulated as follows:

1. How is the Description of Sea Tribe Culture at a glance in Batam?
2. How is the Form of Sea Tribe in Demography and a little bit of Dialect in Batam?

## 4. Limitation and Contribution of the Study

In the connection with the formulation of the problems above, the main problems of this research are focused on Cultural Heritage, Demography, and a little dialect of Sea Tribe in Batam. The contribution of this study is expected to be available either for practical significance or theoretical significance.

## 5. Theoretical and Empirical Significance

By finding this study of Sea Tribe Culture in Batam including Demography and Culture, Economy, the results can be considered to:

- a. Local Content Course of Teaching Learning Processes;
- b. Linguistic and Cultural World; and
- c. Local Government Documentation.

The results of this study can be considered as further research, particularly those who are interested to carry out research related to Linguistic and Anthropological studies.

## 6. Assumption of the Study

Many Malay Cultures, Demographies, and Languages (Dialects) in the World whether specific or universal, however, local culture, demography, and dialect of Sea Tribe People in Batam are known by global community, therefore, I assume that "the Culture, Demography, and Dialect of Sea Tribe People in Batam" might be different from others, especially the local culture, demography, and dialect used by other communities surrounding it.

## 7. Culture

Culture is the Creativity of human whether individual, a group, or the broad society, which expresses through out personality, behavior, attitude, ethics, norms, values, etc., in the forms of concrete or abstract based on the habits, then those can become culture specifically and universally carrying out the conventional processes that can be accepted by the largest society (Seno, 2008-2019).

Moreover, the National Culture is the collection and various Local Cultures to be National Asset, which also can be maintained, developed, and socialized, as well as being the contribution of Nation and State for the global world; while, global culture is various creativities, innovations, etc., in the human civilization and various cultures in the world, so that the global cultures in one side that can be accepted, and the other sides can be rejected depending on the society that evaluates them (Seno, 2006-2017).

## 8. Malay Language (Dialect)

Most of the areas in Batam (Riau Archipelago) in non-formal setting use Malay Language since a long time ago up to present. They use this Language, for examples; at home (Family), friends, Wedding Party, in the Markets, at the Harbours, at the Restaurants, Public Transportations, etc., to have communication among them in there; while, for formal setting, people in here use Indonesian Language, such as Schools, Offices, Ceremony, etc., (Seno Putra, 2016-2017).

## 9. Demography

Demography is a study about the characteristics of society or certain community in a state, for examples; studying about population, life style, areas of living, home building, character building of people, economy of people, education of certain community, religion, habits, customs, and culture, and language use, infrastructures of the areas, etc. Moreover, demography can also be focused on people particularly the gender, the size of ages of population, size of home living, the home tools of the community used by them in daily life activities.

## 10. Economy System

Economy system is a system that set of welfare for the society. The system usually create distribution of goods and service to community. In Islam, economic system is a system have three pillars namely ownerships, management of ownership and distribution of ownership to society. Therefore, Islam can fulfill welfare of state and society, because three pillars. In Capitalism, economic system just focus to production of goods and service or focus only growth. Distribution of goods and service is very important in eradicating poverty. So, the economy system in state must be applied by seriously and professionally that regarding good value or Islamic values (Zulhelmy, 2016).

## 11. Research Design

The design of this research is qualitative approach, where the obtained data are analyzed as pure as possible through out free talks and particularly topics obtained from the informants in the field. Moreover, the qualitative approach is suitable method in the elicitation of data from the informants, especially in the study of Linguistics and Culture (Seno H. Putra, 2004-2017). In other words, Qualitative approach is a method used to analyze corpora of the informants with words or sentences based on the main problems of this research.

## 12. Location and Time Duration of Research

Location of this Research is Tanjung Gundap, Tembesi Village, Sanggulang District in Batam, and the Time of Duration is a week.

## 13. Population

Population of this Research is all Indigenous People at Batam, particularly those who still use Culture and speak Sea Tribe Dialect both daily life and Ceremony activities of Village.

## 14. Informants

The Informants of this Research are selected and taken 2 people as a representative of all Population: one Male and one Female. The Characteristics of the Informants are as follows. (1) The Culture and Dialect used by them are still indigenous, and they use it in daily life; (2) they live at that village a long time, they also use their own culture in daily life, and they do not influence with other dialects and other cultures; (3) their ages are approximately 50 to 60 years, in these ages, they can still speak up normally (Seno Putra, 1998-2014-2019).

## 15. Instruments

The instruments of this Research are: (1) Tape Recording; (2) Camera; (3) The Researcher himself; (4) Other

Notes and Facilities to provide the Research.

### 16. Data Collection Techniques

The Data Collection Techniques of this Research are carried out as follows: (1) Elicitation Data; (2) Face-to-face Talks; (3) Speeches and Talks with other Topics; and (4) the Data is also taken by interactive communication and have mutual understanding one another, or among other Informants involve in this Research, as well as their own Demography and Culture.

### 17. Data Analysis Techniques

The Data Analysis Techniques in this Research are as follows: (1) The Obtained Data are separated, and these must be related to the main Problems of the Research; (2) The Separated Data are analyzed throughout detailed explanation accordance with problems

### 18. Research Findings

#### 18.1. Demography of Sea Tribes People in Batam

There were some their own life applications and demographies applied by the Sea Tribe People in Batam, They are: The Arts done by them were still primitive, the region was applied by them was also still animism and shamanism, no structure or organization of government or community, yet, most of them were still illiterate and not get formal education yet, to maintain their life in economy, they only hunt and get the food from their own environment, and to get the other food to provide their life, they applied barter exchange from the modern people in there. Moreover, they live from one place to another one depending on the situation and condition, as well as the weather and natural environment. However, recently, because of developing era (Modern Era) and developing infrastructure, building, housing complex, harbours, markets, schools, etc., most of them have lived together with other people nearby them. Therefore, their life styles have been influenced by the modern people.

#### 18.2. Culture of Sea Tribes People in Batam

The Social and Culture of Sea Tribes in Batam Islam since a long time ago, they have lived on the sea with their sampan (Boat) as their own houses. Their environment is sea, they looked for the food in the sea to provide their life with the family.

The sea tribes also has arts, such as dance and song. All their dances and songs only indicated to be happiness. The famous dance was (Tarian Hujung and Ketimpang Burung). The dance of Hujung belongs to the young People to describe that they have caught up the fish. The dance of Ketimpang Burung is only to describe the happiness among them in accordance with proverbs with the Malay Language.

However, the song of (Ulah Besin) is a kind of song to toss away of setan and also to protect with Dewa and their Ancients (Arwahroh Nenek Moyang), and this song is always

presented in each their ceremony. Besides that, they also like to get dance, in which they were dancing each other, as well as sing the song together.

Most of young and old people were used to drinking beer, Tuak, and smoking cigarettes. Somehow, because of this habits, they were drunk.

#### 18.3. Education of The Sea Tribes People in Batam

Most of the people of the Sea Tribes in Batam, Riau Archipelago, Indonesia did not have education, but only half of them, it is approximately fifty percent (50%), especially for children between six to twelve years old got education, that is only Elementary School, and after they graduated from that school, they did not want to continue their studies to the following schools, and they prefer hunting fish in the sea, or being jobless rather than looking for serious work, or other works, if not they got married to each other in the ages of young, and their staying in the sea with their boats.

#### 18.4. Economy System of Sea Tribes People in Batam

Economy system of Sea tribes people in Batam was they usually change their tools, such as fish with other food and their needs in the market. In other words, they did not use money to buy something, they only exchange the things that they need, this economy system called as traditional. However, for those who begin to be modern people, they use money if they want to buy something in the market, the money which they got from their hunting fish that has been sold to other merchants in the market.

#### 18.5. Language Use of Sea Tribes People in Batam

The Language used by the sea tribes people in Batam was Malay, where they use this language in daily life, and this language was also similar to Malay language used by other communities, particularly the Malay language in Riau Archipelago. Therefore, in this study, we do not describe the components of dialect itself, since after finding from the informants in the field, forms and devices of Sea Tribe People in Batam are almost similar to other Malay Languages in Riau Archipelago whether in terms of phonology (Pronunciation), Morphology (The Use of Words), or (Structure), etc. Moreover, Most of them at the present, they are able to use Indonesian Language and communicate among people nearby in daily activities.

#### 19. Conclusion and Recommendation

After conducting this research in the field, it is concluded that the Sea Tribes people in Batam at present have already developed rapidly in the aspects of their lives, for examples; in economy, education, culture, etc.. The development of these are caused by the development of Batam Island as Business City, Tourism City, Industry City, etc., which is also supported by its community and the Local Government. In addition to this, Batam is also near Singapore and Malaysia, it has built many infrastructures, Tourism places, Departments, Housing complex, Harbours, Bridges, Schools, Modern Markets, Industries, etc. However, to those, especially (Sea Tribes People in there) who do not have houses, do not have jobs, do not get schools yet, etc., must be helped and supported by the community and Government, so that they have the same level of lifestyle as other communities surrounding them in Batam. Therefore, this research is only conducted to show a glance of Sea Tribes People in Batam generally, but it is also to be expected this research can also be continued for those who are interested to carry out the following research related to other problems of Sea Tribes People in Batam.

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