

# Interaction Community in Indonesia – Philippines Border (Studies Crossing Borders in Sangihe Island)

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**Abstract.** This research takes a place in the region of Sangihe archipelago, with qualitative-research method, aimed to reveal the meaning of crossing border. The process of crossing will be deeply motivated and motivated through in-depth interviews, the observation process takes into account aspects of the cross border activities, the documents and literature related to crossings and policies are part of the data used. The entire data is then analyzed using spatial geography approach. The results found in this research revealed that the interaction is influenced by economic motive (dominant economic motive) and is the interaction of spatial unbalance between regions (imbalance interaction), Sangihe archipelago region showed dependence on economic aspect especially trade. The intensity of interactions marked by the border crossing activity found to be solid and massive between the two regions is measured by the frequency of crossings and laws and the supervision of the border areas ignored by the crosser's.

## 1. Introduction

The Southeast Asian region is closely related to the nation-state and therefore its boundaries are clearly visible [1], although there are active regional links between regions, but, the management of border areas is still under strict jurisdiction rules. It is not surprising that there are negative cases in the border area due to community activities. The consequence of this is that borders are no longer a functioning demarcation that should properly limit the state and its population administratively, but only to a physical feature or a shared consensus between countries within a regional unit. According to Anderson, in Southeast Asia countries are determined by their centers not by their border areas, the presence of people in the border areas is not to be considered, even though it has clear and decisive borders but the border regions are marginalized [2].

Indonesia is administratively adjacent to the territory of other countries, not less than 10 identifiable countries bordering the country of Indonesia, including: Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, India, Thailand, Vietnam, the Republic of Palau, Australia, East Timor and Papua New Guinea [3]. The abundance of territorial boundaries in Indonesia, in the perspective of Political Geography, is an area that belongs to the category of the vicinal location, the vicinal location is, the location based on the position of the environment or the location of a country in relation to its neighbors in the immediate vicinity [4]. It further explained that, the more a country borders on other countries, the more complex the problems of location and the vicinal it faces, a country with many neighboring countries, has more border problems than those with few neighboring countries.



The borders of the country were born together with the birth of the state. The border is a geographical space that was originally an area of inter-state power struggle, especially characterized by the struggle to expand the boundaries between countries [5]. The designation of state boundaries is used as a separator of the regional units of physical geography [4]. That is, the boundaries are determined by geographical units to impose restrictions on what lies within them, which are then managed on the basis of legal and administrative rules to safeguard territories Terrorism within the principle of sovereignty.

Seeing the borders as a territorial element results in the view of community activity that leads to a negative definition. For example, community activity often ignores border regulation, can be seen from the picture of border areas to smuggling and illegal entry, boundary crossings, ideological political, social economic influence to Centers and regions [3]. The example of cross-border cases between the Thai and Cambodian borders proposed by Ardhana is that Cambodians on the border were originally from the same ethnic group and coexisted, but after the creation of a modern state they were politically separated, Although socially and culturally needed each other, this is reflected in trading activities in the border region, which is characterized by human mobility and goods that are quite high from morning to night [6].

Cross-border activity also occurs in various border areas of Indonesia, one of which is on the border of Indonesia-Philippines. One of the problems in this region that is the indication of this region into illegal trade routes, traditional trades of island communities crossing state borders and other cases, such as found citizens border that has two resident cards (Indonesia-Philippines) and found about 200 family heads settled in the Philippines to work [7]. In the Indonesia-Philippines border region there is also a migration process in which approximately 88 percent of Sangihe people migrate to the Philippines before 1973 [8] in the same area of border populations (Marore) in the period of 1989-1994 circulated as many as 33 people even though they repeatedly went to the Philippines, like other residents of Sangihe, they circulate to the Philippines almost all of them educated elementary school with age between 25-54 years [9]. Departing from the negative case of border in the border area, especially crossing the border to be appointed as a research problem.

## 2. Aim and purpose

The purpose of this study is to identify the form of interaction in the border region of the interaction driving factor in the form of cross border crossing state, the influence of border policy on cross border.

## 3. Literature review

Spatial interaction is a reciprocal relationship of mutual influence between two or more areas, giving rise to new or indirect symptoms, appearance, and problems. According to Daldjoeni, Spatial interactions are derived from Ullman to identify interdependencies between geographical regions [10]. This type of dependence complements ecological dependence on a human region's. by Ullman) which states that "*spatial interaction emphasizes the interdependence of the area and implies the movement of commodities, good, people, information etc. Between areas ...*" [11,12] "

Borders refer to two definitions, first as Boundary/Boundaries and Frontiers. According to Bammer, Boundary / Boundaries have an inward meaning, the Boundary / Boundaries are the transformation and Deinstitutionalization of the concept of territoriality, which in some ways is a consequence of the revival of the movement Ethno-regional, migration, forced movement or exile, displacement in response to the introduction of foreign culture due to colonialism [13].

Frontiers according to Hayati and Yani have meaning as the boundary of relations between two neighboring countries. Border as Frontiers related to living space where process and activity of society take place, in this case can be interaction [4]. According to Prescott and Trigss both (Boundary and Frontiers) are two different definitions though often used to describe the same region [14].

#### 4. Methods and sample

The approach used in this research is qualitative research approach with research method is qualitative-verifikatif. According to Bungin, this design is constructed from the foundation of phenomenology in qualitative by emphasizing inductive approach to the whole process of research conducted and used by researchers to see the objectivity of cross border problems, and to criticize / verify the data in this case management border areas [15]. According to Alwasilah, the use of qualitative approaches is due to the very difficult behavior of the community to be explained by causal logic, since too many variables are mutually bound [15]. The role of theory according to Bungin in qualitative research design-verification is used as a guide to understand the data to be studied. qualitative basically assume that social phenomenon of society which become center of attention of social sciences involving human being as perpetrator of practitioner / social activity, always loaded with world of meaning attached to subject perpetrator [15].

Sources of data determined in the interviews in this study are subjects who have information (informan) related to the problem and focus of research, selected informants must have sufficient knowledge and be able to explain the actual situation about the object or activity (the focus) of research. Criteria of informants are grouped in basic informants and basic informants, principal informants, is subjects directly involved with cross-border activity while the base informant is, the subject know or have information related border crossing activities, the process in determining the research informants conducted by Snowball (Linear snowball sampling). This type of data source is extracted through gradual (sequential) and in-depth interviews.

#### 5. Data collection methods

In this study data collection using observation techniques, gradual interviews, documentation and literature study. The advanced data collection procedure ie field stage is described as follows:

##### 5.1. *Exploration or general observation*

This stage is done to obtain a general transparency about what exactly should be done on the object of research. In this research that will be exploration of the people who are in the border region of Indonesia, mengai activities and patterns that lead to the interaction with the border region of the Philippines country

##### 5.2. *Focused exploration*

A more focused phase on the previous findings of the general observation stage, in this case the factors driving the public interaction on the form of cross-border crossing of the country, in addition to exploration focused on the background of boundary crossing by the community either individually or group In the border area, the focus of exploration is also aimed at factors outside the form of the conditions, conditions and situations that underlie the occurrence of boundary crossings.

##### 5.3. *Data collection*

At this stage, data are collected from observations (general and local), data found in gradual interviews, data relating to the focus of research sourced from non-human sources. The data collected and coded based on the similarity of similarity will be categorized based on shape, situation and driving factors, subject background, motives. Categorization by Maleong relies on an orderly stage [15]:

- a. Categories must relate to the problem and purpose of the study.
- b. Category must complete, meaning that each data must be placed in one of its categories.
- c. Categories should not be interdependent, there should be no data content that can fit into more than one category.
- d. Categories must be free, data entry in any way should not affect the classification of other data.
- e. Categories must be obtained on the basis of a single classification.

#### 5.4. Data confirmation

Confirmation of data is done to test the validity of data, this can be done with Tringulation technique.

### 6. Data analysis methods

The inductive phase analysis model refers from Bungin [15] as follows:

1. Observing phenomena, identifying, revising, and re-checking existing data;
2. Categorize the information / data obtained;
3. Tracing and explaining categorization;
4. Explain categorization relationships;
5. Drawing general conclusions;
6. Build or explain theory.

### 7. Findings

Acquisition of data reveals that the basic motive of the crossing as a marker of interaction as follows:

#### 7.1. Simmilarity of culture and history of society on the border

The story of the origin of the formation of culture sangihe society is based on ketokohan derived from the mindanao is the figure *Gumansalangi*. The detention continues to be transmitted and associated by sangihe about Mindanao is the ancestral land, which underlies cultural connectivity in interaction activities. Sangihe people admitted their ancestors came from mindanao.

#### 7.2 Language

The study conducted by Dyen, grouping Sangihe languages and places around the Sulawesi Sea into the *Austronesian* language family [16]. The similarity of language results in many similarities between Mindanao's languages and sangihe languages, some places in Mindanao, especially in Balut and Sarangani, many places are named in Sangihe. Sarangani or "sarangini 'itself in sangihe language means" up here ". Naming places on the island of Mindanao with sangihe vocabulary also clarified the existence of people sangihe on the island of Mindanao. Communication contributes to the creation of contacts and social networks that are good enough to lead to the ease of building mutual understanding between the two parties.

#### 7.3 Social relation

Various forms of social relations involving individuals or groups of people, one of which is due to the presence of contacts located in Mindanao or sangihe that still have family ties and have been domiciled in one of the border areas. Some people who actively cross the border admit that they have a "double" family residing in the Mindanao region other than those in Sangihe. Some admitted deliberately headed to Mindanao in order to visit their long-serving relatives in Mindanao.

#### 7.4 Economic activity

Variations in economic activity of the sangihe community encourage regional interaction and border crossings, triggered by market purchasing power and more lucrative affordability in General Santos. Forms of economic activity such as, fishing in the sea of sulawesi, copra trade. Fishermen and copra traders acknowledge that it is more profitable to sell the proceeds of the mindanao market, coupled with the increased demand resulting from the industry growth in mindanao. Later also took the change of types of merchandise that enter illegal categories such as liquor and firearms.

#### 7.5 Distribution of sangihe in mindanao

The existence of a sangihe society in mindanao is recognized by the government of the Philippines, marked by the issuance of Alien Certification of Registration card or valid ACR Card. Almost all border crossers admit to having ACR cards and only a few have gone unnoticed on the grounds of no longer paying taxes and refusing to extend. Rights earned are allowed to live and earn a living but can

not utilize public facilities and services. The Census of the Philippines in 1980 also recorded the existence of Sangil people, the Filipinos who have direct relation with the sangihe people, are estimated to be spread in Mindanao in some places in Davao del Sur, Balut Island and Sarangani Island, Jose Abad Santos Province, while the Sangihe people are recorded As an *undocumented citizen* totaling 7,483 Souls [17]

### 7.6 Legality of border crossing

Border crossing procedures must legally cross border crossings on marore and miangas islands. While illegal crossings occur when border crossers do not go through established procedures, or in terms of "shoot" communities, this is due to the time-consuming and costly administration process as well as the large number of croser's who trade the types of items that are wasted to carry across (liquor, cigarettes , Firearms) or avoid import duties from and to Indonesia.

## 8. Discussion

The Indonesia-Philippine border region geographically enables the separation of inter-regional social realities on socio-economic and political aspects. Different realities occur in the Sangihe region which in fact presents an unification between regions, unlike the border areas where the strict physical and legal limits separate between the two, the Sangihe community crossings show that the people assume that the border region is not a geographical transition zone nor a country border transition zone.

Ease of communication into a stimulus for mobility movement across the boundary, it takes empirical experience in the form of direct observation on a region. This experience gained momentum when crossings were conducted on the basis of kinship on religious festivals.

The mobility of people on the border that has a tendency to move across state borders can be seen on the scale of spacial behavior. Cultural and historic associations that grow into complex networking relationships. The development of cross-border interaction on the basis of kinship, social relationships, economic networks and the development of types of economic activity in the crossings, makes the dominant motive of perlintasa is based on economic motive (dominant economic motive).

Borders do not affect people's decision-making processes to cross those limits, legal categorization or illegal a crossing is no longer a problem as long as the needs of the people at the border are met. The choice of community mobility between choosing legal and illegal passengers is no longer influenced by the legal factors on which the boundaries are based, but the decisions are based on aspects of needs that take into consideration both costs and time. The basis of interaction in the form of crossings found in the sangihe society gives the appearance of strict regional interaction namely:

*First*, Complementary Region, crossing activities in the form of movement of goods and barter transactions conducted is an attempt to complement the needs and availability of goods on both sides border areas. Dependence on the needs and development of the trading network.

*Second*, Intervening opportunities are characterized by service sector opportunities that are described from the presence of Sangihe people in non-fomal jobs, Sangihe people's dominance in fishing and fishing activities in General Santos city, supported by marine cultural factors that have developed in the Sangihe community , Thus making their presence in General Santos indispensable in the growing fisheries industry in General Santos City. The attitude of the Philippine government that tends to ignore and not question the administrative completeness of the Sangihe people in the Philippines also signify how the influence of the existence of Sangihe people for regional development in Mindanao.

*Third*: the ease of transfer (Transferability) between space, the ease of moving the movement of people and goods is strongly influenced by the change of transportation mode passing the motorized boat.

The cross-border activity that occurs reflects the border permeability. Border permeability that connotes negatively to the activities of border crossers, because some items and types of goods carried by passers are categorized as forbidden as well as violations of the rules of running administration.

## 9. Conclusion

Interaction forms that occur in Indonesia-Philippines region theoretically refers to the form of spatial interaction. Marked by complementary regions, opportunities for interference and ease of transfer between space.

The driving factor of interaction is the economic factor that continues to develop complex motives. Economic motives based on historical and cultural similarity and integrated spatial understanding.

The prevailing border policy in the Indonesia-Philippines border region, appears not to accommodate and conform to the border community context. Border perception is still the boundary of demarcation that separates the cultural entities and economic activities of border communities.

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