



CULTURAL POLITICS IN INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC BORDER AREA

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Abstract: The asymmetric decentralization policy that supports cultural development in the international strategic border region in Riau and the Riau Islands has not been implemented successfully. This paper aims to explain the relationship between asymmetric decentralization and cultural development, and the constraints of local governments in supporting cultural development in international strategic border areas in Riau and the Riau Islands. Cultural politics and decentralized politics are used as theoretical frameworks. The study uses a qualitative approach with descriptive analysis methods. Data is collected based on documents supported by interviews. After collecting the data, it is analyzed qualitatively. The study concludes, although asymmetric decentralization has a relationship with cultural development, its support has not been able to be carried out significantly by regional governments. Asymmetric decentralization as a national program reflects the failure of cultural political practices in the international strategic border region. Policies change and no local institutional support in the area become the obstacle.

Keywords: Cultural politics, asymmetric decentralization, Riau, Riau Islands.

INTRODUCTION

The International Conference, "On Language, Education and Culture", provides a reference to reminders of border issues related to asymmetric decentralization policies and cultural development [political culture] on the borders of Riau, and Riau Islands [Kepulauan Riau]. The Pasir Limau Kapas [Palika] sub-district in Riau, and the Belakang Padang sub-district in the Kepulauan Riau were chosen as the study area for several reasons. Riau, and Kepulauan Riau share a vision of cultural development (Albintani, 2016). Riau Vision 2020 which, makes Riau as the center of Malay culture in Southeast Asia, and Kepulauan Riau as "Mother of the Malay Land" [Bunda Tanah Melayu]. Second, the policy has not been implemented in the border region. Sub-districts that have direct border conflicts with neighboring countries, Malaysia and Singapore. The Border Management Agency was liquidated [in 2016] in Riau, while there is no regional apparatus organization [OPD] that manages borders in the Kepulauan Riau.

These three reasons are academically supportive if this study can contribute: [a] Introduction to the study of international strategic boundary areas related to culture is still minimal as a national cultural strategy. [B]. As a comparison, if the regulation causes the management of the border area of Rokan Hilir Regency, Palika District in Riau, and Batam Island [Pulau Batam], Belakang Padang District, Kepulauan Riau, the authority overlaps between the center-regions. Based on these explanations, this paper aims to explain the relationship between asymmetric decentralization and cultural development, and the constraints of local governments implementing asymmetric decentralization policies that support cultural development in international strategic border areas in Riau and Kepulauan Riau.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature review seeks to explain, first, previous studies used as references to compare the importance of this study. Second, it is to explain the use of politics-decentralization-culture to understand the relationship of asymmetric decentralization with cultural development in the strategic international border coastal areas of Riau, and the Kepulauan Riau.

Previous Studies

In carrying out various border area studies, especially areas that are considered strategic, it needs serious, focused and integrated attention. Related to this study are, JPP-UGM (2010), and Bappenas (2016), "Asymmetric decentralization policy for border development." While Halim (2016), Pamungkas (2018), and Peursen (1988), states the deal with border culture, and cultural strategies.

Based on this study, this paper focuses its study on the relationship of asymmetric decentralization with cultural development in the international strategic border areas in Riau and Kepulauan Riau. This study examines the perspective

of decentralization politics, and cultural politics becomes Politics-Decentralization-Culture. What distinguishes this study is related to limited studies of cultural development in international strategic border areas [especially on the East Coast of Sumatra, most study areas revolve around physical, legal, economic, not cultural specific development]; the dichotomy between decentralization policy [regional autonomy, symmetric] and asymmetric decentralization [local autonomy], and the promotion of the culture which provides the basis for the cultural strategies to counteract disintegration into dis-geographical [experience of Simpadan and Ligitan islands].

Cultural Politics and Strategic Border Areas

Facilitating the study of the concepts of strategic border areas, asymmetric decentralization, and cultural politics and their relationships, academic explanations are needed. It is important to say that the context of this explanation is the first step in understanding the importance of the relationship between the development of strategic border areas, asymmetrical decentralization and cultural politics. Various readings such as Prescott (1987), and Albintani (2016), mention that the country's border region is a region that has a strategic position. This position is due to the presence of a neighboring country located in the Straits of Melaka. Sovereignty, security and unity are strategic issues in the border region as the front porch of the state.

Cultural Politics in this context means various policies or regulations in the field of cultural development produced by the central government and blood as a cultural strategy. Meanwhile, the Politics of Decentralization is the transfer of planning, decision-making or division of authority from the central government to the branches of its organization, local administrative management units, local governments, or even non-governmental organizations.

In this context, Asymmetric Decentralization is a strategy of the central or regional government as an effort to fight for the rights, authority, and carry out the obligations of autonomous regions to regulate, manage government affairs and the interests of local communities. In the implementation of fighting for it, it is not uncommon to oppose laws and other regulations.

Politics-Decentralization-Culture is a perspective to understand the phenomenon of the asymmetrical relationship of decentralization with cultural policies in the international border region. The perspective explains the strategies, steps, or efforts in the form of central, and regional government policies to fight for cultural development in overlapping policy conditions in the international strategic border region, Riau and Riau Islands.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative approach with descriptive analysis methods. The data are collected based on documents supported by interviews. After collecting the data, it is analyzed qualitatively. To explain if Palika and the Belakang Padang are international strategic border areas, it can be seen according to Figure 1 below.

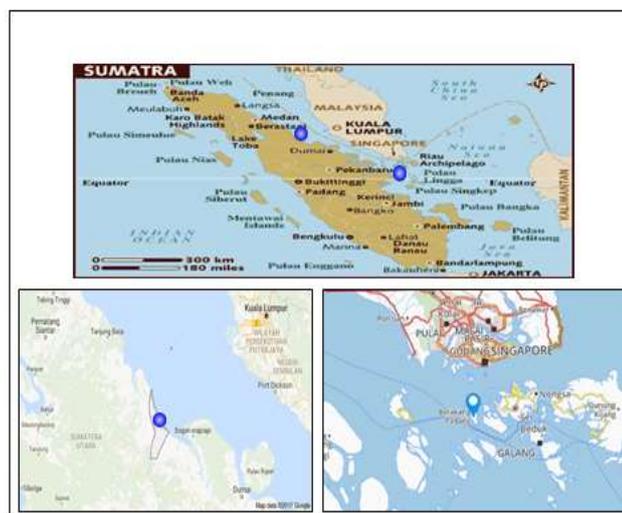


Figure 1. Research Location [Palika and Belakang Padang as international strategic border areas]

Source: Google Map and Processed 2019

POLITICAL CULTURE AND DECENTRALIZATION OF ASYMMETRIS

This section will answer in accordance with the objectives of the study relating to asymmetric decentralization with cultural development through policies in the field of culture in the area. The explanation is on the development of regional culture and culture with cultural politics in the border region.

Cultural Development and Regional Policy

The findings of this study show that if the relationship between asymmetric decentralization and cultural policies in the border region indicate that the two policies do not yet support each other. This is evidenced in relation to the regulation of cultural development which is very clear in Law No. 5 of 2017 concerning, "Advancing Culture". While in the regions, both Riau with the Riau Vision 2020 [local regulation/Perda 36/2001], and the Kepulauan Riau with the "Mother of the Malay Land" [Local regulation/Perda 8/2016], are also the same. In this context, the study's findings show that reality based on regulatory support shows that they are mutually integrated but have not yet been acted upon.

Regulation on the basis of cultural progress and regional regulations appears to be unimportant, when national and regional governments do not place it as an effort to develop culture in the region. Though various, regulations on culture can be a strong foundation in developing programs that are implementative in advancing or developing culture in the border region.

Related to the relationship of cultural development, for the context of Riau, the study found that examining local content in terms of organizing culture in the field of education, for example, had been done even though it was too late. While in Kepulauan Riau, it was not yet headed there [not yet available]. The findings of this study identified a significant relationship between cultural development and local policy. The Riau government's efforts through regional regulations in providing education for Riau are manifestations of maintaining local content as a local identity that is always referred to as local wisdom. In this connection also, asymmetric decentralization in the national context in the regions is also an important factor that will be directly localized [the term to indicate that there is participation], national media, and regions to disseminate local content, which is in Riau. Based on this inclusion is a lesson for the Kepulauan Riau to be able to emulate it.

In relation to this inclusion, it is necessary to say that Riau and Riau Islands have significant differences. Riau is the only one which has a vision beyond Indonesia. Even though it had become a polemic, the explanation related to the vision of Riau 2020 which made, "Riau as the center of Malay culture in Southeast Asia in 2020", is no longer a problem. The findings of this important study show that the Riau Vision 2020 is a 'trademark', a characteristic and also the success of cultural politics in real form. Riau Vision 2020 is also a protection related to local cultural identity that is used as the characteristics of local content in the development of border culture. While for the Riau Islands, progressive alignment efforts are needed in an effort to support national policies [asymmetric decentralization], and policies on the Mother of Malay Land [Bunda Tanah Melayu].

Cultural Politics in Strategic Border Areas

Based on the previous analysis, it appears that there is an important problem that becomes the obstacle which is in the form of the delay in the national and regional governments implementing policies in the field of culture related to local content, for example. Regulation on local content, or the language of the law supports broadcasting in local content in maintaining national and local culture, the fact is that it has not been done by the national government, so the Riau government has already issued it. Through Perda 36/2001 for example, "The Basic Pattern of Regional Development of Riau Province in 2001-2005", the substance of which is to present the Riau Vision 2020. This regulation is intended in the long term to be a local content protection based on local identity, or an inseparable part of local wisdom. Not only Riau, Riau Islands have also done the same thing. It is just that obstacles in the Riau Islands are very slow to be responded. This condition can be understood by reason of policies that support cultural development in the local realm only in 2016 through Local Regulation 8/2016 on RPJMD Kepulauan Riau.

In relation to local policies regarding local content in the context of cultural politics, this study found for Riau if the delay came from the national government, as well as the regional government. Local content regulation [local regulation/ Perda/5/2018] regarding, "Providing Education", for almost 17 years, the new local government has the opportunity to respond. While Law/32/2002, on "Broadcasting", and Law/5/2017 on "Cultural Advancement", has been

protective of local content to date as required, which cannot be realized. For Riau Islands, the support of the national government, and the regional government came almost simultaneously between 2016-2017 in the span of one year. This condition certainly affects the efforts of the Kepulauan Riau government compared to Riau.

Learning from the delay, this study found that the two provinces, Riau and Kepulauan Riau, which have international border areas, despite having the same vision regarding the protection of Malay culture, there were differences in responding. The relationship of cultural development, and regional policies, even though there is an intersection, there are still differences. The difference in this context is precisely the similarity which is the obstacle. Preparing for instrumentation in the form of local institutions through regional apparatus organizations (OPD), late responding, and repeated [overlapping] policy changes is his comfort in Riau and Kepulauan Riau. This equation in the framework of supporting cultural development is late in doing. From here, the study suggests the need for a progressive response and the consistency of the central and regional governments in implementing the resulting regulations. Among them is preparing the instrumentation of local cultural institutions especially in the border areas through the programmed, controlled and supervised education pathway.

CONCLUSIONS

The study concludes, although asymmetric decentralization has a relationship with cultural development, the support of the central government has not been able to be responded to, let alone implemented by the regional government for a while. Asymmetric decentralization as a national program for the cultural context reflects the 'delay' in the practice of cultural politics in the international strategic border region. Changing policies, weak local institutional institutions, the absence of local institutions in the field of culture are considered to be obstacles. This study found that even though cultural development is linear with local policies, it is necessary to be clear and integrated of the central and regional programs in realizing it.

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