

INDONESIAN CULTURAL DIPLOMACY THROUGH THE PA'GELLU DANCE (TORAJA DANCE) IN JAPAN

Wa Ode Rindang Alamiah
Paramadina University, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author:
rindangwaode273@gmail.com

Abstract

This research is about diplomacy effort to introduce Tari Toraja in Japan. Tari Toraja is one of the Indonesian cultures that originates from the land of Toraja, one of the regions in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. This dance is fun dance that is usually performed by Toraja people in traditional events or some important events in Toraja. Tari Toraja is one of the steps to introduce Indonesia cultural to Japan and this research aims to know the efforts of Indonesia diplomacy through Tari Toraja held in Japan. This study uses a neorealist perspective, which focuses on the state as the main actor in the international political system. Indonesia wants to introduce Toraja cultural dance in Japan. To describe this research, the author uses the theory of cultural diplomacy. This research is qualitative, this research uses library research technique, where this research with data collection technique from book literature, magazine, newspaper, and visit to internet and other sources. The results of this study indicate that Indonesia made efforts through multi track diplomacy to introduce Tari Toraja cultural in Japan through multi track Government, Non Government and private citizen, with the effort, Indonesia got the response by Japan community well.

Keywords: Toraja Dance, Cultural Heritage, Multi Track Diplomacy, Cultural Diplomacy

1. Introduction

There is a reciprocal relationship between humans and culture, where humans create culture, then culture provides direction in human life and behavior. And therefore, humans are categorized as cultural creatures (Dewi, 2014; Azis, 2004). Every human activity can have an impact on the socio-cultural environment. Humans must live in society, connect with each other and interact with each other with their groups in order to fight for and meet their needs (Tati, 2021). Indonesia is a country known for its cultural diversity. This cultural diversity is also used by Indonesia as one of the tools to attract foreign tourists to visit Indonesia. As stated by the Director General of Culture of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Dr. Hilmar Farid, that culture can melt difficult situations, the importance of the concept of people-to-people cultural interaction to create a more engaging and two-way interaction. In the world of international relations, this is also referred to as a form of diplomacy. Diplomacy is the application of skills, skills, and intelligence in the implementation of foreign relations between governments of sovereign countries. This definition is the definition of diplomacy according to Sir Ernest Satow. In line with the definition of diplomacy put forward by Lord Strang that diplomacy is the implementation of intergovernmental relations through representatives appointed by each country. Meanwhile, according to River, the definition of diplomacy can be divided into 3 types, namely:

- a. Diplomacy as a science and art in representing the country while negotiating;

- b. Diplomacy as all efforts to represent the country, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and/or all political agents of a country;
- c. Diplomacy as a career or profession of a diplomat.

Although the term diplomacy is getting more and more biased, if you look at various writings, it can be concluded that the definition of diplomacy is a means commonly used by a country to carry out international relations. In particular, the definition of diplomacy refers to various techniques and procedures commonly used by countries in order to carry out relations with other countries and/or subjects of international law other than states. Meanwhile, the main business of diplomacy is negotiations, namely discussions between diplomats in a peaceful manner to defend the interests of their respective countries and these activities are related to the implementation of a country's foreign policy.

Diplomats (i.e., diplomats) are not only ambassadors or ambassadors who are permanent, but also include traveling ambassadors (such as ambassadors at large), permanent representatives of countries in international organizations, special envoys of heads of state in certain regions (for example, special envoys of the President of the Republic of Indonesia in Latin America), special missions, and foreign ministers.

The main function of diplomacy, according to Lord Strang, is to resolve differences between countries with calm and friendship through discussion or negotiation. Meanwhile, the main goal is to ensure maximum benefits for diplomats' countries of origin. In practice, diplomacy and foreign policy go hand in hand, because in essence diplomacy is the implementation of foreign policy.

Currently, diplomacy between countries has a very broad scope, not only political issues, but has entered all humanitarian affairs, cooperation in the field of human resources, cooperation in the eradication of crime, and coalitions between countries. One form of diplomacy in international relations is cultural diplomacy. The cultural diplomacy approach is one of the ways used where various actors try to cure social diseases, apply cultural products with the aim of influencing or forming a collection of narratives or opinions about a country in the public opinion of other countries. Cultural diplomacy strongly believes that culture can show a nation's identity, attract people's attention, influence people's preferences, and ultimately can provide good results for the country.

The concept of cultural diplomacy comes from two words, namely diplomacy and culture. Diplomacy is an instrument used in international relations to achieve national interests. Conventionally, diplomacy is an effort by a nation-state to fight for national interests among the international community.ⁱ Cultural diplomacy can not only be carried out by the government or non-governmental institutions, but can also be carried out by individuals and collectives or every citizen. So that the pattern of cultural diplomacy relations can occur between anyone, be it governments, private governments, private governments, individuals, governments, individuals and others, with the aim of influencing the public interest both at the national and international levels.ⁱⁱ

In this study, the author writes how cultural diplomacy carried out by Indonesia in Japan through the pa'gellu dance or commonly known as the Toraja dance. Not only the government, Indonesia's diplomacy efforts also involve Indonesian students who are continuing their studies in Shizuoka, Japan.

In the process of cultural inheritance, South Sulawesi is one of the provinces that has diversity in each region. Various rituals in ethnic cultures ranging from pregnancy, birth, transition to adulthood, marriage, illness, death and activities related to various death events become a place to organize education and socialization for the community (Mukhlis & et al., 1995). Culture that spreads in the surrounding community will give

birth to art and beauty. Art and beauty are a specific and direct experience of taste (Kistanti, 2013). One of the traditional arts in Makale District, Tana Toraja Regency is the traditional Toraja dance performance or commonly known as the pagellu' dance in the Rambu Tuka' ceremony. The pagellu' dance is a joy dance performed at traditional ceremonies that are joyful in nature such as house dedication and welcoming guests (Salam, 2017). Dance as one of the works of art is an expression of cultural statements expressed in motion, each region has special characteristics that show the nature of its own region, the background in terms of social history, form of government, environment, culture, beliefs and traditions are the distinguishing factors of each region (Kistanti, 2013).

The Toraja dance (pagellu') is a dance of joy, performed by girls with the accompaniment of drums and Toraja clothing. This dance is one of the cultures of the Toraja people that is still preserved today. Toraja dance is usually performed with weak movements that imitate the activities of Toraja girls, flying birds and swimming fish, as many as 12 movements that are loaded with messages about the values of living together. By wearing a uniform costume with a model and color, this dance is usually performed during thanksgiving ceremonies, weddings, and welcoming guests. According to the Toraja people, this cultural work is a spectacle, guidance, and order of life of the Toraja people.

2. Theoretical Background

To further examine the topic in this study, the author uses a neorealist perspective as the basis of the author's view. This neorealist perspective can also be referred to as structural realism. One of the differences between realism and neorealism is that although realists understand the different elements of power (economic and technological resources for example), they consider military power to be paramount. On the other hand, neorealists or structural realists think that military power is not the only essential. Military power is no longer a tool for a leader's diplomacy or statesmanship skills. According to neorealists, power is more than the accumulation of military resources and the ability to use them to coerce and control other countries, but is a combination of state capabilitiesⁱⁱⁱ. Because neorealism emphasizes structure as the main thing in every thought and action taken. The structure in question is an environment that contains units in relations between countries that are interconnected and mutually influencing. The originator of this perspective is Kenneth Waltz. Waltz considered that the fundamental concern of the state was security and survival, and considered that the main problem of state conflict was war, and that the main task of international relations among the great powers was peace and security.

In his book *Theory of International Politics*, Waltz seeks to explain the international political system which focuses on the structure of the system, the interaction between the units in it, and the continuity and change in the system.^{iv} The linkage and interaction between these units is shown by Indonesia as an effort of its diplomacy in Japan by performing Toraja dance which is one of the Indonesian cultures, by involving non-state actors, in this case Indonesian students who are continuing their school in Shizuoka, Japan.

Waiwai World Fair (WWF) is an activity held annually by the Shizuoka government of Japan. Not only Indonesia, in this activity several other countries such as Nepal, South Africa, Vietnam, Morocco, and the Philippines, also participated in displaying the culture of their respective countries. The Waiwai World Fair event was stopped during the Covid-

19 pandemic, but was held again on November 28, 2021 in front of the mayor's office in Shizuoka. At the event, the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia (KBRI) in collaboration with the Indonesian Student Association (PPI) Shizuoka, displayed one of the Indonesian cultures, namely the Tana Toraja dance. Several Indonesian students representing Indonesia appeared in front of Japanese citizens. This aims to introduce one of the Indonesian cultures, namely Toraja dance, to the Japanese people and other foreign citizens who attended the event.

In the concept of diplomacy, this can be said to be a form of multi-track diplomacy. It is a form of diplomacy that involves several actors, both governments, individuals, and groups in order to achieve the goals of the national interests of the related countries. The collaboration between the Indonesian Embassy in Tokyo and PPI Shizuoka is one of Indonesia's concrete actions in introducing Indonesian culture in the international arena. The Toraja dance performed in the Waiwai event attracted the attention of foreign citizens, not only Japan but several other countries who participated. Multi-track Diplomacy is basically a conceptual framework in viewing the process of realizing international peace as a system of life. All of them are encompassed in a model of interconnected networks between activities, individuals, institutions and communities working together for a single goal: a world in peace. The concept of Multi Governm Track Diplomacy is actually an expansion of the Track One (ent) and Track Two (Non Government) paradigms that have shaped the study of this field in recent decades. In its historical development, the concept of these two paths originated from the realization that not always a formal, official and intergovernmental interaction between representatives assigned by their respective sovereign states is an effective method of achieving mutualistic international cooperation or resolving a conflict or difference. Even ordinary citizens and various backgrounds and expertise can present something credible and can make a difference.v

Similarly, the theory of neorealism explains this. Cooperation between one actor and another actor in international relations forms a structure that will ultimately lead to the same goal, namely peace and the achievement of national interests of each country. Grieco also claimed that the state was interested in increasing their power and influence and would then cooperate with other states or other actors. Nevertheless, they also see how the state also pays attention to the power and influence that a country may get in the many achievements of cooperation that they makevi.

3. Methods

This research uses a qualitative method, which emphasizes the quality of analysis by referring to the theory or concept used. In this study, the problem is described based on facts and then connected so as to produce the right argument. Djajasudarma (2009) also explained that qualitative research uses systematic descriptions of data, characteristics, and relationships between the phenomena to be studied and elaboration using words instead of numbers. Meanwhile, the data collection technique in this study is the author using library research techniques. Namely by examining theoretical data that has been collected from various literature such as books, articles, journals and other documents related to this research topic, both sourced from primary and secondary data.

4. Results and Discussion

The Waiwai World Fair (WWF) event organized by the Shizuoka government of Japan is an opportunity for Indonesia to introduce one of its cultures. In fact, not only to Japan, because the event was attended by several other countries such as Nepal, Vietnam,

Morocco, and the Philippines, the culture introduced by Indonesia was also widely looked at by other countries involved.

The diplomatic effort was also conveyed by the Indonesian Ambassador to Japan Heri Akhmadi. "Cultural diplomacy is very important in strengthening Indonesia-Japan relations, which will reach 65 years in 2023. People-to-people relations are the initial priority in a bilateral relationship before developing in other sectors such as politics or economics," said Heri.vii In line with what was conveyed by The Education and Culture Attaché (Atdikbud) in Tokyo, Yusli Wardiatno, who was present to accompany Ambassador Heri, said that the collaboration with PPI Shizuoka, community associations, and Jisshusei is part of the development of the young generation in the country of cherry blossoms. He also said that the younger generation must play a role in cultural diplomacy efforts. Because there is a lot of potential for cultural arts owned by the younger generations, and the Indonesian government will continue to support and encourage the young generation to become ambassadors of the nation in introducing Indonesian culture in the international arena.



Toraja Dance performance at the Waiwai World Fair in Shizuoka, Japan

Photo Source: Ministry of Education and Culture

The Toraja dance performed by Indonesian students in Shizuoka, Japan is a requirement for the meaning and culture and customs of the Indonesian people, especially for the Toraja people in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. On this occasion, Heri also explained the unique Toraja dance culture to visitors who were amazed by the performance. With the concept of Multitrack Diplomacy, where the cooperation of several actors involved in the diplomatic effort, both government agencies, groups and individuals, made Indonesia succeed in attracting the attention of Shizuoka Mayor Nabuhiro Tanabe as well as the Japanese community and several other countries who attended the event. As Milton C. Cummings said, Cultural Diplomacy is an exchange of ideas, information, values, systems, traditions, beliefs and other aspects of culture, in the spirit of mutual understanding and mutual respect between others.viii Quoted from the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs website that even though it does not have a cultural center abroad, Indonesian cultural representatives abroad also consistently promote Indonesia's cultural richness through an approach that is tailored to the situation, conditions, and

needs of the accreditation country. This is based on the fact that there is no "one size fits all" in cultural diplomacy.

By carrying out cultural diplomacy, Indonesia has tried to instill, develop and maintain Indonesia's image abroad as a nation that has a high culture. The governments of Indonesia and Japan are confident that with the participation of Japan and Indonesia in cultural events organized by each country, it will further strengthen bilateral relations between the two.

As J.W. Fulbright put it, "the shape of the world, a generation after this, will be more influenced by how well we communicate the values of our society to other countries. The great problem is how the aspirations of humanity can be fulfilled as best as possible in the human mind, not on the battlefield or at the conference table". Cultural relations can bring the two nations closer, for example by organizing cultural exchange programs and building permanent cultural centers in other countries. Cultural diplomacy in this context can be classified as multi-track diplomacy. As Louise Diamond and John McDonald said, "multitrack diplomacy" is a concept of diplomacy that explains the process of world peace in the international system through a combination of government diplomacy, group diplomacy, and individual diplomacy. The main goal of multi-track diplomacy is to create world peace and peacebuilding that is integrated with each other using soft power.

5. Conclusion

Indonesia is a country consisting of many islands that stretch from Sabang to Merauke. As the largest archipelago country in the world, Indonesia is also known as a country that has a diverse culture. One of the cultures owned by Indonesia is the Toraja Dance. As the name implies, this dance is a dance that originated from Tana Toraja, one of the regions located in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. This Toraja dance is often also called the Pa'gellu dance, but most people know it better as the Toraja dance. Toraja Dance is a joyful event that is usually staged at traditional events in Toraja, South Sulawesi which are cheerful in nature.

In this study, the author carried out a data collection technique by reviewing the literature, namely by examining theoretical data that has been collected from various literature such as books, articles, journals and other documents related to this research topic, both sourced from primary and secondary data.

Diplomacy efforts carried out by Indonesia by performing Toraja dance at the Waiwai World Fair in Shizuoka, in theory diplomacy can be categorized as multitrack diplomacy. Where the concept explains the process of world peace in the international system through a combination of government diplomacy, group diplomacy and individual diplomacy. This can be seen in the collaboration between the Indonesian Embassy in Tokyo and PPI Shizuoka which has introduced and displayed one of the Indonesian cultures, namely the Toraja dance at the Waiwai World Fair in Shizuoka, Japan.

In addition to introducing Indonesian culture in Japan, Indonesia's participation in the Waiwai World Fair event also aims to further strengthen the cooperative relationship between Indonesia and Japan as conveyed by the Indonesian Ambassador to Japan Heri Akhmedi and the response from the mayor of Shizuoka Japan Nabuhiro Tanabe. This is also in line with the neorealist thinking that cooperation between one actor and another in international relations forms a structure that will ultimately lead to the same goal, namely peace and the achievement of the national interests of each country.

References

- K.J.Holsti, (1984). International Politics, A Framework for Analysis , Third Edition, New Delhi: Prentice Hlm of India
- Kenneth Waltz, (1979). Theory of International Politics new york: McGraw Hill. Multi-track Diplomacy. <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/multi-track-diplomacy>.
- Muhammad Rendra Saputra, Pelaksanaan Multitrack Diplomacy dalam Kerjasama Kanada Asean (1977-2018).
- S.L.Roy, (1991). Diplomasi, Terjemahan Harwanto dan Miraswati, Jakarta:PT. Raja Grafindo Persada
- Widodo, (2017). Hukum Diplomatik Mahkamah Pidana Internasional, Yogyakarta: Aswaja Pressindo.
- Winarno Budi (2011). Isu-Isu Global Kontemporer, Yogyakarta:CAPS
<https://www.viva.co.id/berita/dunia/1427820-publik-shizuoka-jepang-terpukau-tarian-tana-toraja>.
- https://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?en_culturaldiplomacy.
- <https://mediaindonesia.com/humaniora/450968/tampil-di-waiwai-world-fair-2021-tim-seni-budaya-indonesia-pukau-warga-shizuoka>.
- <https://www.kemlu.go.id/tokyo/id/news/17709/walikota-warga-shizuoka-antusias-melihat-penampilan-seni-budaya-indonesia-di-waiwai-world-fair-2021>
- <https://www.studocu.com/id/document/universitas-pembangunan-nasional-veteran-yogyakarta/hubungan-internasional/konsep-multitrack-diplomasi/46672615>

-
- ⁱ K.J.Holsti, "International Politics, A Framework for Analysis", Third Edition, (New Delhi: Prentice P. of India, 1984): pp. 82-83
- ⁱⁱ S.L.Roy, Diplomacy, Translation of Harwanto and Miraswati (Jakarta :P T. Raja Grafindo Persada) page 95
- ⁱⁱⁱ Prof.Dr. Budi Winarno, Contemporary Global Issues, p.105.106
- ^{iv} Kenneth Waltz, Theory of International Politics (new york: McGraw Hill, 1979), p. 97
- ^v Multi-track Diplomacy. <http://www.beyondintractability.org/essay/multi-track-diplomacy>, Retrieved April 10, 2023
- ^{vi} Budi Winarno (2011). Contemporary Global Issues, p.107
- ^{vii} <https://www.viva.co.id/berita/dunia/1427820-publik-shizuoka-jepang-terpukau-tarian-tana-toraja>
- ^{viii} https://www.culturaldiplomacy.org/index.php?en_culturaldiplomacy, retrieved April 11, 2023