



## LIVE OF COASTAL PEOPLES IN THE MALACCA STRAITS

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**Abstract** : The article aims to reveal the coastal peoples in the Malacca Straits from pre-history to colonialism. Especially, the characteristics and social stratification of the peoples. This is very interesting because many articles have viewed that the development of marine fisheries occurred in the colonial period. The written wants to refute this view. The paper used the local and colonial data; Dutch and British reported. Even so, the criticism method will be very strict on government data because often government interests arise. The findings of the paper indicate that before the colonial in the east coast of Sumatra arrests were carried out by indigenous people or local communities. The social stratification of the coastal community is following the ownership of the fishing equipment which is generally held by the nobility and the important people of the kingdom. Fishing is carried out along the coast and in the Malacca Straits. The fresh fishes and the product of fishery industries have become trading commodities in the Malacca Straits.

**Keywords** : live, coastal peoples, Malacca straits

### I. INTRODUCTION

The Malacca Straits is an important area to trading begin 2th century. Trading and shipping had caused moving and mobility of the people in The Straits Malacca. At the First period had came and settle down trader from the East and South Asian. The China and India culture had sight in The Malacca Straits. The many information said China people live in Malacca. They were live together with Malacca indigenous. Part of the Chinese spread to other area in straits. the Chinese had gone to the Rokan estuary/Bagan Siapi Api and became the fishermen in it place. The question is how live of the indigenous people in the coast of the Malacca Straits before colonial period? In the research try to differencing of the indigenous people and comer. The indigenous is the local people. This paper studied the characteristics and social stratification of the coastal peoples. Until now, There is not written about living of coastal people before colonialisme. Many article is written in the contemporer period as likes Eko Budi Prabowo in “Act to Pirates in The Malacca Straits by Navy army”, in *Law Paradigm Journal* (2014). Kamarulnizam Abdullah, Muhammad Fauzi Abdul Kadir in “Trends, Problems and Challenge in Managing Piracy Threats in The Straits of Melaka” in *Journal of International Studies* (2006). Ibrahim Ahmad, Faris Ahmad dan Shariff bin Harun The Pirates in Malacca Straits at the 19 century: misinterpretation from West Party” in *Sultan Alauuddin Sulaiman Shah Journal* (2016). Avita Nariyanti Putri in The Collaboration between Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapura di Malacca Straits to Controll of the Pirates (2016). Muhammad Harry Riana Nugraha in “Maritime Diplomacy as Strategy of developing of Maritime Security of Indonesia” (2016) dan Arifin Sudirman have focus to maritime infrastructure Mohd Hazmi Bin Mohd Rusli in “Straits of Malacca and Singapore: Pride of Malay Archipelago, Priseless Maritime Heritage of The World (2012) discussed about the Malacca Straits and Singapore M. Saeri in “Characteristics dan Problematics of The Malacca Straits”. in *Transnasional Journal* (2013) interested about problematic in the Malacca Straits from the economic and politic paradigm Ingrid S. Mitrasing in “Negotiating a New Order in the Straits of Malacca (1500–1700)” in *Humanity Journal* (2014) written the fight when the European coming to the Malacca Straits. Solvay Gerke “Malacca Straits ; A Narrow Band for World Trade”, in *Akademika*



*Journal* (2011), Hans Dieter Evers studies of the trading. Ery Soedewo in *The Developing Pre-History Reseach in Kampai Island, North Sumatra*, in *Archipel* (2013) exposes Pulau Kampai archeological findings. M. I Bird in *The Age and Origin of the Straits of Singapore*”, dalam *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology Journal* (2006), W.C. Pang, K Lambeck studied natural structure of the Straits of Singapore Anderson written the generally of Sumatera.

## II. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### 2.1 Indigenous People and Activity in the Coastal Area

To catching fishes and collecting sea product had done concomitant with indigenous knowledge like as was people in the world.. In the pre history period had founded the clam shell waste. it was sea product had consumed by people in this period. In the Malay Peninsula (Malaysia) had used the clam shell for jewelry. In other sources the clam shell had function to medium of exchange. Primitif money was cham shell or other mollusc. It was called 'cowrie'. In Sartika, Resa, cowrie is the clam shell came from Maladewa archipelago in Hindia Ocean. Cowrie had been high value material since the beginning civilization of China and India From India, cowrie had brought to rute of Africa trade . Beside, the indigenous people of America- Indian tribeused white clam shell to ornamen. Eropean people called wampun. Wampum and cowrie had used as currency after European coming to America.



Perhiasan Kerang Elombo  
Foto oleh Marian Vanhaeren

Sumber :<http://www.wacana.co/2011/01/perhiasan-zaman-prasejarah/>

In Sumatera and Riau archipelago was met the heap of cham shell like as in Kampung Kawal, Gunungkijang Sub-District, Bintan District -Riau archipelago. The other place is Deli, Serdang, Tanjungban dan Pulau Galang island, Batam, North Sumatera dan East Aceh. All of the heap of the cham shell was in 4.7 km from the beach. The oldest of the heap of cham shell had attain the age of 7,000 BC. It is located in Aceh and north Sumatra. The mollusc had collected by women, children and old people.



Bukit Kerang Kawal Darat Di Kampung Kawal,  
Kecamatan Gunung Gijang, Kabupaten Bintan, Kepulauan Riau.  
sumber: [https://daerah.sindonews.com/read/1259973/29/jejak-manusia-purba,](https://daerah.sindonews.com/read/1259973/29/jejak-manusia-purba-daratan-diatas-bukit-kerang-kawal)  
<https://www.kompasiana.com/ikamayasusanti/55002a44813311791>

In the coastal of Malay Peninsula lived the indigenous people. In the Guar Kepah Seberang Perai-Pinang Island had done burning of the clam shell. The mollusc had become the important fooding. In this area had met the heap of clam shell as long as 200 feet (Evans, I.H.N: 1931). In the coastal of Kelumpang Island, Matang, Perak had be found the one ground stratum alternately with one stratum of the heap of clam shells. The estimated is *Anadara granosa* species

In the next phase had develop of material to catching fishing. People had use material like as spears, rocks, nets and etc. The indigenous people of Bagan Siapi Api area is Bonai and Sakai had use tuba (J.Tideman in“Land en Volk van Bengkalis”). They live in Kubu that the marshy area and Rokan Estuary. Until the year 1905 in Edwin M. Loeb (1972), Sakai and Bonai people amount to 150-200. The colour of the skin them is dark, small body, and curly hair. It was characteristics of archipelago.

The growth of knowledge about ship and making of ship had push the people to had ability to control the sea. Also, in catchig the fishes. People of Kelumpang Island-malay Peninsula had high knowledge about shipping. There is species of fishbone from the deep sea had be found in this area. Beside, their work in the sea/ fishermen, the people of Kelumpang island had work as trader. There is fact that the Parsi ceramics and The Middle East mirror had been found in Kalumpang Island. In Nik Hassan Shuhaimi dan Abdul Latib (1988) in Zuliskandar Ramli, (2014), in other side, Lembah Bujang had become entrepot port of the old of Kedah kingdom. Kedah Kingdom was places in North of Malay Paninsula. It the oldest kingdom in Malay Paninsula. The Kedah Kingdom is maritime kingdom. It had began 2 century. Kedah Kingdom dominated before Malacca Kingdom. (Nasha Radziadi Khanu, etc: 2008). The archeology fact describes about using of mangrove for make of the houses in the coastal of Guar Kepah, Kuala Selinsing and Mas River, and Kedah. The houses was built on the wate and the coastal people used the ship to transportation. In the Malay Peninsula lived malay and 'Orang laut'.

In the East Coast of Sumatra had many areas that their people live as fisherman like as Siak, Batu Bara, Deli, Langkat, Serdamg, Panai, Bila, and Asaham. The other places are Rokan, Kubu Estuary (Schaap in “Memorie van Overgave Gouverneur der Oostkust van Sumatera”) Aceh, Riau, Bangka and Palembang. In the 18 century, Bengkalis most popular than other places sea fishing



activity. In the Kubu River was Sakai people as fishermen. They are indigenous people. They had catching the sea fishes with distance until 10 kilometers from the beach.

In East Coast of Sumatra in the period had estimate 350,000 people. In this area had formed plural society like as Aceh, Melayu, Batak, Minangkabau, Bugis dan Java people. The indigenous lived in port, river area and outside the city. There was 6.600 people in Aceh. As much 5,000 people at Jejulo River, 1,000 people in Purla, 600 people in Langsa River. As much 45,000 people in Langkat River and Soonghal. In Deli area was 7,000 Malay people. People of Serdang and Battas were estimate 300 dan 8,000 people. Batu Bara had 10,000 people and Asahan had 400 people. If we voyaged on the Rokan River would found as much 2,090 people (John Anderson: 1971 in *Mission to The East Coast Sumatra 1823*)

The interesting realiry is fishery industry. Many of the places East Coast of Sumatra had producted dried fishes, shrimp paste, and dried shrimp. The places were Asahan, Serdang, Rokan, and Bengkalis. The England document Malay Peninsuka had described the egss and terubuj fishes from Rokan Estuary. The ship of East Coast Sumatra was regularly to came the port of Malay Peninsula. On year 1785-1786 had came as much 152 ship to Malacca Port (VOC 3702: Mikrofilm). In the period had known of transportation like as *kakap, bedar, boat, pencalang, cialup, pelayang, banting, small boat, penjajab, penjalang, perahu, julong-julong, pagar tangalong, ship, brigantijn, baluk, lancang, gonting, mayang boat, padowakang, dan slup* (Halimi, Ahmad : 2006). Besides, it had used *tongkang, swakao*, pinas boat, dan Gulf Siam.

### III. CONCLUSION

The pre-history period had been relating between people and sea in the coastal of the Malacca Straits. It had facted from many of mound of the clam shell waste. At high level the people had made clam shell jewelry and using the clam shell as money. In the kingdom period had been growth of knowledge and people had ability to made the ships. It had impact to distance of catching fishes. The fishermen had ability to cacthed the fishes in the deep sea. Also, The people could preserved of the fishes. The fishery industry from the east Coast of Sumatra had exsport to many port in Malacca Straits.

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