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Toponymy of Indonesian Islands:
Historical and linguistic perspective

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Abstract
This study investigates the toponymy of the Indonesian Islands. The researchers collect data by tracing documents containing islands' names from colonial to modern times. The data are taken from written sources containing the names of the Indonesian islands. The study applies a historical and linguistic approach. The research results indicate that the naming of Indonesian islands mainly involved Portuguese, Dutch, the Indonesian government, and local people. The naming of the islands is closely related to the perspective and behaviour of the parties involved in naming the islands. Besides, the naming of Indonesian islands also contained political, social, economic, and cultural motives.

Keywords: toponymy; names; Indonesian islands.

1.0 Introduction
Indonesia is an archipelagic unitary state. As the largest archipelagic country in the world, Indonesia owns many islands. However, it still needs to confirm exactly how many islands Indonesia has. For instance, over a relatively long period, from 1967 to 1987, Indonesia has said the number of islands was as many as 13,667. There was a correction in 1987. The number of islands increased to 17,508. The Geographic National Standardised Nomenclature verified the islands' sum. Up to June 2008, the number reached 8,172 islands across 25 provinces. There are eight other provinces left unsolved. The team presumes that Indonesia's islands will be fewer than the current estimate of 17,508 islands when the verification is complete.

The label of the largest archipelagic state shows the number of islands left nameless. Indonesia owns so many islands that it was unable to name them all. Different institutions have varying opinions concerning the number of these unknown islands. The Marine Affairs and Fisheries and the Ministry of Home Affairs said that as many as 9,634 of the 17,508 islands Indonesia owns are still unnamed. The Indonesia Institute of Sciences noted that the number of islands with no name is as many as 6,127 islands. The Indonesian National Armed Forces said there are as many as 5,707 islands. The Coordinating Agency for Surveys and Mapping said there are as many as 6,489 islands.

Such a discrepancy in opinion over the number of islands belonging to Indonesia should end as soon as possible. Such different views demonstrate that this country must manage its wealth and property seriously. The best solution is to establish the exact number of islands Indonesia owns. The confirmation of the precise number of islands must also obligatorily declare the ownership of an island. Each island's ownership must also include its nature and coordinate status, establishing where the island is.

When there are still islands that do not yet have names or clear status, this is, of course, detrimental to Indonesia in general. Mapping the richness and uniqueness of culture is difficult. The government cannot map Indonesia's natural wealth correctly. If there is a cross-territorial conflict, especially in border areas with other countries having islands that do not yet have names, resolving the problem will be difficult.

In this regard, this study examines the naming of islands in Indonesia from the colonial era to the present time. This study focuses on the two main problems as stated in the following research questions.
(1) How are the islands in Indonesia named from the past to the present?
(2) Who gave the names of the islands in Indonesia from the past to the present?
In general, the purpose of this study is to describe the naming of the islands in Indonesia, which are Indonesia's regional wealth. Specifically, this study seeks to identify the parties involved in the naming of islands in Indonesia. This study will likely provide benefits for the development of the Indonesian region. Among the thousands of islands scattered throughout Indonesia, if their status and name are clear, these islands can be used to develop residential and tourist destinations. Of course, this can also have a positive impact on the development of Indonesia in general.

Naming the islands cannot be separated from historical aspects and language use. Therefore, this study was conducted from a historical and linguistic perspective. A study from a historical perspective was carried out to see the journey of naming islands in Indonesia from the past to the present. A study from the linguistic aspect is to investigate whether the naming of an island is closely related to the use of language.

2.0 Literature Review

Names are linguistic signs denoting entities (Cacciafoco, 2023). Linguistic signs indicating the names can be a single or compound word or phrase, depending on the semantic components of the entities being named. Entities can refer to a person, animal, object, place, or island. Every name has meaning. The meaning is constructed through semantic components of an object having the names. Then, names can refer to something or a place so that it is called semantically as referential meaning. For example, *Pulau Pisang* is a banana-shaped island (https://bit.ly/45QMXpq). The island is identical to the shape of a *pisang* 'banana.'

Toponymy is the discipline that studies place names (Cacciafoco, 2023). This definition can also refer to the names of a set of islands or places. Thus, there will be the term of the toponymy of Indonesian islands. It refers to the names of all islands in Indonesia. Toponymy is an interesting topic to study. Tent (2015) stated that toponymic studies consist of two types. The first type is the study of etymological meaning and the origin of toponyms. The second one is the study of the toponyms of the region and the patterns of the names. These two types of toponymic approaches in studying the names of the islands can uncover things behind the names of the islands. The researchers can also identify specific characteristics of a region through these approaches.

The primary motivation for naming a place, including an island, is to differentiate it from others (David, 2021). Each island, of course, has a different shape, characteristics, and location. Therefore, naming by taking the shape and characteristics will also enrich the islands' treasures in Indonesia. The beauty and attractiveness raised by each island can contribute to the recognition of these islands at the local, national, and even international levels.

Nash (2012) conducted a study on Dundley Penisula, Kangaroo Island, using the concept of pristine place-naming. This researcher stated that the study of toponymy should cover cultural aspects. Thus, the term toponymic ethnography emerged. Toponymic ethnography is an essential concept for seeing the relationship between ecology, language, and culture in an area in a broad sense ((NN Afida et al., 2022; Kembayeva, 2022). It will make it easier to name islands because people name them by looking at and paying attention to the earth's shape and all its characteristics.

The toponym of an area is very important. A study conducted by Choi (2018) in Macao stated that the toponyms of an area or island in some parts can influence tourists to come to the area. The arrival of tourists to the area, of course, has multiple effects on the development of the economic, tourism, and cultural sectors.

A study of the semantic relationship of the toponymy of place names in the West Coast Region of Sumatra showed variations in the meaning of the islands (Trianna, 2022). This study only focuses on the semantic relationship of place names in the West Coast region of Sumatra. In terms of meaning, the researchers grouped place names into five meaning categories: place names that contain lexical meaning, grammatical meaning, referential meaning, denotative meaning, and connotative meaning. The study conducted by Trianna (2022) has solely examined island naming from a semantic aspect without connecting it to a historical one. However, this study can also be a starting point for this research.

The studies carried out by previous researchers, as described above, have shown the importance of naming an area or island. However, studies regarding the naming of islands in the past to the present times and how the names changed have not been widely exposed. Therefore, this research examines in more depth the naming of islands in Indonesia by examining the historical and linguistic aspects of naming the islands in Indonesia.

3.0 Methodology

This study uses a historical toponomastics and diachronic toponymy approach, that is, the study of place names, including the names of islands over a long period (Cacciafoco, 2023). The study was carried out by tracing the names of the islands from the first arrival of Europeans in the archipelago until the contemporary period. The research steps are collecting primary and secondary sources, interpretation, and historiography (Salevouris & Furay, 2015). The data for this research are the names of islands in Indonesia collected from various sources, such as books and articles written by geographers, cartographers, travelers, and government officials. The selected data is interpreted into meaningful facts. The interweaving of these meaningful facts ultimately becomes a historical story called historiography. In interpreting these facts, a historical way of thinking is used, which includes a way of thinking about changes, causality,

context, complexity, and contingency. Therefore, naming the islands will show their continuity and discontinuity. The linguistic approach applies because toponymy is the study of geographical names under the discipline of linguistics.

4.0 Finding

4.1 The Naming of Islands in Indonesia
Many maps or atlases contain information on the islands' names, made in the era of the Dutch. The naming was done in several ways. Firstly, the renaming of the islands that have had the name The names, in this way, tended to be identical to the ones used by the local people. Supposing there was a change, it was mainly due to the mishearing. The most notable example of such a naming pattern is in the book of Tome Pires entitled *The Suma Oriental*. Pires named *Camotora* for *Sumatra Island*, *Pullo Piçam* for *Pulau Pisang* 'Banana Island,' *Pullo Cariman* for *Pulau Karimun* 'Karimun Island,' *Pullo Baralam* for *Pulau Berhala* 'Idol Island,' *Pullo Bamca* for *Pulau Bangka* 'Bangka Island,' and *Minhac Barras* for *Pulau Nias* 'Nias Island' (Cortesao, 1967).

Secondly, some islands have been named with new names different from the ones pronounced by the local people. The characteristic of the new names is that they were usually Western-like. Some examples are *Nassau Eilanden* for *Mentawai Islands*, *Lubeck* for *Bawean Islands*, *Sandalhout* for *Sumba Islands*, *Schilpad* for *Togian Islands*, and *Freewill Eilanden* for *Mapia Islands* (Cribb, 1998). Other than new names in Western sound, the names also used Roman numerals on a particular occasion. There are several instances. One was by the Maritime Expedition on the West Coast of Sumatra in 1834–1838, led by H.L Oosthoff. The team renamed seven islands standing in front of Kota Padang as *Poelo I* for *Sibontar Island*, *Poelo II* for *Bindallang Island*, *Poelo III* for *Thoren Island*, *Poelo IV* for *Pandau Island*, *Poelo V* for *Aijer Island*, *Poelo VI* for *Pië Island* and *Poelo VII* for *Bando Island* (Oosthoff, 1840).

Thirdly, some islands previously had no name. The name was usually of Western origin. Most of which were given according to what the name givers thought of. Sometimes, it sounds funny. The names are in the sense of the West and sound heavy as it was the names of famous figures and cities in Europe or the Netherlands. The name of *Enggano Island*, for instance, was given by a Portuguese. This name was issued following the first Portuguese armada visiting the West of Sumatra's coast in 1519. It was under the leadership of Diogo Pacheco, deceived by the population of Barus town told that there was a region located approximately 300 nautical miles northwest of the city. The area produced gold. After sailing for a long time and predicting they had already reached the region, they found no gold. Therefore, the island they found was named *Enggano*, a word in Portuguese meaning deception or mistake (Thomaz, 1992). Another example is the name of *Onrust Island*. A seaman named it. Due to the big waves, harboring the islands was rugged. The other examples include names such as *Alkmaar Eiland, Amsterdam Eiland*, and *Princess Amelia Eiland* (Ministerie van Marine, 1899).

Without looking down at previous attempts, the government of Indonesia started paying serious attention to studying the geography of the islands and maritime area in the 1970s (Kotter, 1979). It is due to the government's wish to empower and exploit the natural resources of the various islands and maritime areas. At that time, the islands and the sea bed contained numerous natural resources such as oil and Liquified Petroleum Gas. The mineral richness of the islands and the sea bed is promising. Unluckily, the geographical study of the islands is limited to relatively large islands primarily populated and reasonably accessible from the national, regional, or provincial centers of government and economy. The islands studied are the ones that have long been well-known and studied by scientists.

The government's serious attention to naming the Indonesian islands also occurred coincidently. The United Nations Organization Resolution Number I/4 1972, declaring that each State UNO member must invent its island's name and geographical position, triggered the government to name the islands. The result of the invention will determine international recognition of the ownership of an island by a country. Since then, there has been an attempt to name most islands. The publication and correction of Indonesia's islands, from 13,667 islands to 17,508 islands in 1987, were immediately associated with the issuance of the United Nations Organization Resolution above. Unfortunately, the correction of the island number ignores the correction of the names and their geographical position.

Sipadan and Ligitan "incident" occurred at the beginning of the 1990s. It reached its climax in 2002 when the ownership of two islands moved from Indonesia to Malaysia. From such an experience, the Indonesian government considers it necessary to accelerate the standardization of the island's names. Naming and recording the islands' geographical location was a noticeable agenda of the Indonesian nation in the third millennium's first decade. Therefore, based upon an Indonesian Presidential Decree, Indonesia commissioned The National Team of the Standardization of Geographical Names.

As mentioned above, in June 2008, this team released its progress report. The team already has a working guideline. The guideline refers to the United Nations Conference on The Standardization of Geographical Names number 4 of 1967. There are four main principles to obey in doing a survey. Firstly, at least three residents could only name the island. The purpose is to know the island's history well. Secondly, it is necessary to record the geographical position, width, and administrative territory. Thirdly, the local people are consulted for the local pronunciation (phonetics) of the island name – which is to record using a recording device, in addition to the written form of the name. Fourthly, the entire result of the survey is delivered to both local people and the government for approval (Toruan, 2007)

Besides the team commissioned based on The Presidential Decree, almost all provincial governments with maritime and island territory must name the island in their region. Furthermore, due to the activeness of the local government to invent, name, and establish the geographical position of its islands, it is inseparable from the opportunity to empower the potency of the islands. The region has to fulfil its necessities. It has something to do with the spirit of regional autonomy and governmental decentralisation. The province's guide refers to one of the United Nations Conferences on the Standardisation of Geographical Information above. However, the achievements of the various regional governments could be more satisfactory. It is due to ineffectiveness, inefficiency, and misinterpretation in naming

islands (Toruan, 2007). Regarding the current efforts of the central and local governments, the naming and geographical position-confirming programmes of the Indonesian islands have recently gone well, and the past efforts were never as severe as the current ones.

The name of Indonesia's island changed according to the authorities' policy. The naming of the islands relates to political and economic expansion and cultural penetration. The government agencies for marine affairs name the islands. Besides, geographers and marine observers also played a role in naming the islands. Several official institutions are part of the government, such as the Department van Marine, Indische Hydrographie, Cartographie, Geographische Diensten, Koninklijke Nederlandsch Aardrijkkundig Genootschap, Oceanography Research Expedition, scientists, amateur researchers of the ocean, and seamen who participated in naming the islands. However, the Japanese occupation army with its three units of government in Indonesia was excluded because, during the 3.5 years of its colonialism in Indonesia, the Dai Nippon troops engaged little in geographical activities. They were busy with the business of regional economic exploitation, such as mining, factory building, and plantation opening, as well as with war affairs. At this time, the names of the islands are relatively unchanged.

Currently, the island is defined in detail as stipulated in Chapter VIII, Article 121, Verse 1 of UNCLOS. An island is a land mass formed naturally and surrounded by water that consistently appears at high tide. In the past, an island was simply a piece of land surrounded by water. Some of the names were units of land surrounded by water, whereas others were clusters of islands. Naming based upon the island cluster, for instance, was seen in the naming of Indonesia, a group of islands between the Asian and Australian Continents and between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Another example of this pattern is the *Mentawai Islands*. The names are *Mentawei Eilanden*, *Mintao*, and *Nassau Eilanden*. Riau Islands were named *Eilanden van Riouw*, *Rhio*, and *Rio*; *Pandaidori Islands*, also called *Schouten Islands*; and *MisoreEilanden*. Several islands have particular names within the cluster of islands, such as *Siberut Island*, named *Noord-Pora*, *Goed Fortuin, Datu*, and *Batiooa*. *Sipora Island* was named *Sikobo*, and *North Pagai was* also called *Noord Pagai*, and *South Pagai*, also named *Zuid Pagei*. Secondly, an island's name is particular to that island. Sumatra Island has the names *Camotora*, *Percha*, and *Andalas*. Kalimantan Island's name is *Borneo*. Sulawesi has the name *Celebes*. Papua Island has the names *Irian Jaya*, *West Papua*, *Irian Barat*, and *West New Guinea*.

4.2 The Parties Involved in Naming the Islands

Naming the islands has begun since Europeans first entered the archipelago. This activity kept on going until the third decade of the 20th century. Coming into the fourth decade, mainly in the second half of that decade, starting from the point of the Second World War, the government of Dutch India was much busier with the world's political and internal political development. The Dutch Indian Government was an actor in naming most islands across Indonesia. It was surprising because the range of Dutch power was the longest compared to the other Europeans. The naming of the islands was also a part of political expansion, economic exploitation, and cultural penetration within this territory. Although the Dutch were an actor in naming the islands across Indonesia, the Portuguese were the first to name the islands across Indonesia systematically. The naming of the islands means to state, actualize, and introduce the islands' names in the sailing notes, particularly on the expedition map and numerous maps in general. The words *state, actualize*, and *introduce* are identical in meaning but have slightly different senses. It is common in language that several words have similar meanings but in somewhat different senses (Lyons, 2009). Local people are the parties who have significantly contributed to the naming of islands in Indonesia

Since 2006, the government has begun naming previously unnamed islands. The naming is based on the names given by the local people of the island. Local people have named the islands before, but since the colonial period until the early 2000s, the government has not named or recorded them on geographical maps (atlases). The reason was that, at that time, the unnamed islands were generally small and did not provide economic benefits.

5. Discussion

This research has revealed two significant findings related to the naming of islands in Indonesia, namely how the naming was done and which parties were involved in naming islands. These two findings need to be examined again critically to reveal other essential things in naming islands in Indonesia**.** An interesting thing is that the names of islands in Indonesia are related to linguistic aspects. Europeans spell the names of islands in Indonesia in ways that are not the same as those of local people. It can be seen in some examples presented in the following table.

Table 1. The naming of the islands by local people and Europeans in the past.

Local People	Dutch Era
Pulau Pisang	*Pullo Pecam*
Pulau Berhala	*Pullo Baralam*
Pulau Bangka	*Pullo Banca*
Sumatera	*Comotora*
(Source: Cortesao, 1967)	

The data in Table 1 is linguistic evidence that shows the limitations of European people in pronouncing certain sounds in Indonesian, such as [h] in the word *berhala* and [ng] in the words *pisang* and *bangka*. Besides, the sound [k] also shifts to [c]. It is common because language is human (Bolinger, 1981). Language is human, which means that language becomes something peculiar and distinctive when

it is embedded in and becomes part of a person's life. The language is sometimes difficult for other people to imitate, especially for non-native speakers, as in the example in Table 1.

Linguistic evidence also shows that the naming of islands in Indonesia in the past reflected colonial power. It is also a reflection of the relationship between language and power. It can be seen from the names of the Indonesian islands in Dutch, as presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2. The naming of the islands in Dutch and Indonesian language.

Names of The Island		Location
Dutch	Indonesia Language	
Alkmaar Eiland	*Pulau Damar*	Teluk Jakarta
Amsterdam Eiland	*Pulau Besar*	Papua Barat
Prinses Amelia Eiland	*Pulau Putri*	Teluk Jakarta
(Source: Ministerie van Marine, 1899)		

The Dutch, who colonised Indonesia over a long period, starting from the control of the trade organisation (VOC), the Dutch East Indies colonial period until before the Japanese occupation, had a significant role in naming the islands in Indonesia. However, the islands named by the Dutch underwent nationalisation so that the Dutch trace in the island names was no longer visible.

The naming of islands during the colonial period and even today makes it easier to recognise these islands when carrying out economic, cultural, and political missions. It is just that the motive is different. For the Dutch governments, naming islands in the colonial era was to defend and develop their colonies. For the Indonesian government, the motive is to ensure and protect every inch of Indonesian territory. However, the Dutch and Indonesian governments have the same motives for naming the islands, namely, navigation in shipping.

6.0 Conclusion

After conducting research on the naming of islands in Indonesia through this study, the researchers can conclude five essential points. *First*, historical documents have shown that the naming of islands in Indonesia has begun since Europeans came to Nusantara. *Second*, the dominant parties involved in naming islands in Indonesia are the Portuguese, Dutch, Indonesian governments, and local people. *Third*, at present, the names given by foreign parties have experienced Indonesianization. The Indonesian government completed the naming of Indonesian islands using the Indonesian language. *Fourth*, about the naming of the islands by local people, the Indonesian government just approved it. It indicates the unique names of the islands in each region of Indonesia. Fifth, the naming of islands in Indonesia is closely related to the perspective and behaviour of the parties involved in naming these islands. Political attitudes, social, economic, and cultural aspects of all parties involved in naming islands are essential factors in naming the islands in Indonesia.

This study implies that parties, both foreign nations and Indonesians, have contributed to the development of Indonesia's territory, especially in giving the names of islands. In other words, all parties have a role in introducing Indonesia to the international community through the name of the islands. Furthermore, it is recommended that future studies regarding the names of islands in Indonesia still need to be carried out for at least two reasons. First, Indonesia's vast territory may still contain islands that have not yet been discovered and have not yet been named. Second, related parties still need to brand the islands in Indonesia so that the attractiveness and uniqueness of the islands are familiar to the world communities.

Acknowledgment

Paper Contribution to Related Field of Study

This research will have a significant contribution to studying human behaviours, mainly in the history and linguistic aspects of naming things, especially the naming of islands.

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