CULTURAL APPROACH TO ELECTION CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN SOUTH BURU DISTRICT, PROVINCE OF MALUKU

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to analyze conflict resolution in South Buru during the regional election through a cultural approach. The conflict in the South Buru Regency was caused by dissatisfaction with the election results. This study uses qualitative tool analysis by choosing Nvivo as a computer assistant program to answer the question; the data in this study were sourced from direct observation and interviews during the conflict resolution process, and informants were selected based on the representation of each group. This analysis shows that the conflict in regional elections is caused by two dominant factors, namely the traditional doctrine of indigenous peoples. Meanwhile, the approach used in resolving regional election conflicts is an accommodation approach and a local wisdom approach. This study classifies that traditional communities in resolving conflicts tend to use a traditional approach, even though the category of conflict is not a cultural conflict. Exploring this conflict approach, Nvivo proves this by showing a correlation between the conflict approach and the conflict caused.

A. INTRODUCTION

Conflicts of local elections are caused by competition represented by political elites, poor regulation, pragmatic voter behavior, incompetent human resources, and unsupporting electoral infrastructure (Syarief Makhya, 2017), in addition to the presence of institutions that decide election disputes also still cause conflict (Nazriyah, 2015), the cause of which is dissatisfaction with the results of the election results. Conflicts studies such as the conflict of the destruction of campaign props in Aceh Besar District (Muhajir et al., 2021), Cimahi City (Humaedi et al., 2017), the impropriety of the results of the Tuban district elections (Puspitasari, 2019), Gianyar District (Febri & Putra, 2009), campaign conflicts (Legionosuko & Pertahanan, 2017), Blitar election administration conflicts (Moh. Fajar Shodiq Ramadhan, 2016), the money politics of Surakarta City (Harsasto, 2014), conflict resolution (Sri Anggraini, 2019) and the religious, ethnic conflict of Makassar City (Almunarto, 2015).

As a homo conflictus, human beings are involved in competition, difference, and opposition. Recently conflict has been developing in many paradigms, such as; democratic conflict (Paul K.

Huth, 2012), conflict management and engagement (Carr & Callan, 2002), election (Kusumaatmaja, 2015), and elite conflict (Ramdhani, 2019). The conflict had been explored; however, the cultural approach as a tool for conflict resolution is still lacking. Recently authors have classified it as a way out has not been so much. Some customary approaches such as maja la'bo dahu (Arihan et al., 2018) in ngali and renda community conflicts bima regency, hamemayu hayuning bawono approach in the conflict of Madiun pencak silat college (Widiyowati et al., 2018), the role of scholars in the conflict of West Kalimantan (West Kalimantan, 2013), and ambon conflict with pela gandong approach (Bakri, 2015).

Previous studies explore that the transition of local power had a potential conflict. Local democracy is not designed maturely by the political elite (Mark E. Warren 2008). Understanding democracy is overshadowing the deficit, and then society has a role in existing politically because it actively mer can change the democratic system directly. Democracy is now more formal and makes rational choices (Svolik, 2019). Formal politics and

rational choices show that democracy has been a healthy institution. Deliberative democracy is a form of democracy that provides a formal or non-formal discussion space to reach an agreement, especially in deliberative democratic conflicts giving space for decisions to be taken by putting forward prevailing values and norms. Based on the explanation above, this study has limitations to previous research, namely the causes of conflict and the approach used. First, the cause of conflict in the study, the second approach was used to resolve election conflicts.

The South Buru District conflict occurred between supporters of Top-Ayub and Rivai-Anthon. The conflict escalated after the recapitulation carried out by the Election Commission of South Buru. South's Buru Election Commission recapitulation results were the most votes obtained by Tagop-Ayub. The recapitulation result of the votes of Tagop-Ayub couples won elections in five districts of South Buru Regency.

The conflict began with the rejection of the Tagop-Ayub while campaigning. Therefore candidate pair could not campaign in Ambalau Subdistrict. For this reason, the political endorsement of the Ambalau community limited the occurrence of exclusion of supporters of the Tagop-Ayub couple. This was also exacerbated by indigenous support that gave legitimacy to the community to commit acts of violence and destruction of Tagop-Ayub supporters.

There has been conflicting during the campaign process; although the conflict does not surface but limits the insecurity of other spouses. Ramdhani (2019) assessed that in the fight of the local political elite, he played a role in small-scale and large-scale areas. This role created a stable situation for himself and unstable for other groups. Such conditions result in potential conflicts. Tuban district elections become one form of negative conflict arising from the role of the political elite and influence groups to reject the results of local elections. Puspitasari (2019) described the form of action in the South Buru Regency, the destruction and burning of the number 1 supporting house.

The South Buru Regency's election insecurity index is included the vulnerable areas and Maluku. Based on the IKP 2015-2018, the implementation of local elections from that period shows that the insecurity index increased significantly in Maluku; in 2015, IKP Maluku Province 2.74 entered as a region prone (Bawaslu RI, 2015), 2017 moderate insecurity 1.71 (Bawaslu RI, 2017), 2018 3.40 very vulnerable (Bawaslu RI, 2018). 2019 with IKP 51.02 very vulnerable (Bawaslu RI, 2019) with IKP 51.02 very vulnerable (Bawaslu RI, 2019). From this category, Maluku is one of the regions with the highest level of election insecurity in Indonesia.

This study aims to resolve conflicts in the South Buru district based on the explanation above. As a region with indigenous values, South Buru Regency has a tradition of solving problems,

especially conflicts. This study answers two questions; first, the cause of the regional head election conflict in South Buru district; second, the approach used in conflict resolution of south Buru district elections.

B. METHOD

This research uses qualitative research methods to explore studies (Drobot, 2012). Further, qualitative research is an excellent approach to understanding problems. Mohajan's (2018) qualitative research aims to explore a case of group or individual phenomena in more detail. This approach uses a qualitative tool to explore conflict resolution by analyzing interview documents (Bethea, 2015). Nvivo has developed and supported qualitative research in many subject areas (Dowling, Lloyd, and Suchet-Pearson 2016; Kallio et al. 2016). As a tool of research, Nvivo assists the researcher in visualizing data by comparing it with a lot of concepts and theories, notably in reducing data results (Salahudin et al., 2020).

This research was conducted in South Buru Regency by direct observation of the conflict resolution process. In the observation process, interviews were chosen to explore the ongoing resolution process to find out the group's wishes in the conflict resolution process. Direct interviews were conducted with each respondent representing their respective group. Respondents were chosen based on their role in the resolution process; respondents in this study included traditional leaders, campaign teams, government, voters for each candidate pair, government and regional election commissions, and the police.

The Crosstab analysis feature compares one node to another based on the responder's response or case. Cluster analysis determines the association between one case and one or more nodes. The Pearson correlation coefficient calculates the association between one example and one node, and the results are displayed numerically. The code that produces the number 0.0-0.50 has a low correlation, whereas the code that produces the number 0.51-1.00 has a high correlation—this study contrasts one subjected to considerable to the another.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The South Buru regent head election conflict occurred in 2015 and have resolved in 2018. The peak of conflict was initially during the pre-election period. According to Kammerud (2012), election conflict is divided into three; pre-election period, election period, and post-election period. The election conflict of the South Buru Regency occurred during this period with different scales of conflict. Pre-election occurs when the spouses of prospective regents and deputy regents

are announced, followed by two candidate pairs; Rivai Fatsey-Anthon Lesnusa [1] Tagop Soulisa-Ayub Seleky [2]

Pre-election periods, there have been conflicts such as campaign rejections, plots, and character assassinations against different groups of voters. Election period, the condition of conflict is at the peak of the destruction and burning of the house of the number [2] couple voters, post-election period as a condition of conflict that lasts for two years. Aspinall and Mas'udi (2017) local elections in Indonesia have been identified as elections followed by certain ethnic, religious, and identity groups. South Buru District elections are also the same, followed by certain groups and identities, resulting in group fanaticism.

The fanaticism of supporters number [1] leads to acts of violence against supporters number [2], violence and threats are inherent actions in humans (IFES, 2006), in addition to the election conflict in South Buru regent occurs due to the polarization of two different groups, where the two dominate each other. The polarization creates new boundaries for other groups. It provides social sanctions for different groups, a social sanction given to the number [2] pairs of voters to express the election results. The social sanction given to supporters is rejecting the right of indigenous peoples. After the election period, people cannot return to their territory.

South Buru District elections were won by the pair number [2], Tagop-Ayub, with the vote (21,987) votes of Rivai-Anthon with the vote (19,190). The result is dissatisfaction with the number [1] pair supporters, thus destroying and burning the house of the number [2] pair voters. According to the government's report, 97 electoral homes number 2 were damaged, with a category 30 severely damaged and moderately damaged 67. The destruction occurred in three villages in Ambalau sub-district.

The local political elite has a central role in these circumstances (Akbar & Purnomo, 2019), but in the conflicting circumstances, political actors who participate in local elections ignore the conditions of prolonged conflict; this means that there is also an interrelated conflict between peoples and the conflict between peoples (Arihan et al., 2018). In line with the Election Insecurity Index (IKP) report, one of the causes of conflict in Maluku is caused by the political elite (Bawaslu RI, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019). Political elites alongside political parties are slow in responding to political change, and developing countries tend to delegitimize power over the formal mechanisms of elections. Political content represented by the local elite (Aspinall and Mas'udi 2017) assessed that the Indonesian elections were quasi by several political actors such as; party and parliamentary elites, bureaucratic, executive elites. All three build a relationship in the form of excellent and detrimental policies.

Due to the election result, the South Buru elections made rejections, such as refusing to hold simultaneous village head elections in 2017-2018. The election results still give a sense of impropriety to the political elite by consolidating power through the rejection of other democratic agendas. Although the election results show a significant change in the votes for pair number 2, the results are still not a definitive decision from the election commission.

1. Causes of Conflict

South Buru District Election in 2015 as the second election in South Buru Regency, South Buru Regency is classified as a new district that was expanded in 2008 through Law No. 32 of 2008 on the Establishment of South Buru Regency and officially the implementation of the wheels of the government of South Buru Regency began running on September 16, 2008. One of the goals of expanding a new region is the existence of local leaders who came from the region or the distribution of power from the center to the region for regional autonomy. As regional head election organizers, local power is distributed through formal institutions.

Putra Daerah became the central issue in South Buru District Elections, and the sons of the regions are entitled to leadership in the region. However, in a democratic system, every individual has the right to vote and be elected; moreover, there is a guarantee of those civil rights. The issue of putra daerah served as one of the main issues to limit one of the candidates' spouses in the 2015 election. Tagop is a candidate for regent who is considered unreserved of the voice of the regional son and unfit to return to lead the South Buru Regency. However, Tagop represents one of the clans in Maluku, and Ayub represents the Buru islands clan. Culture creates the community's behavior to be antipathy towards others to commit acts of violence (Almunarto, 2015); the composition of the two contestants culturally represents their respective cultures, religions, and kingdoms. Rivai represents the Ambalau community with the Islamic group, and Anthon represents the people of South Buru from the Lesnusa clan with most Christian voters. Such conditions create a democratic situation that is not conducive because select group groups dominate it.

Based on the type of conflict, the conflict that occurs in South Buru Regency is a horizontal conflict (Galtung, 2000). However, superior groups dominate the conflict (MacQueen, 2009). Political conflicts involving many difficult times are challenging to resolve quickly because there are differences in the group. The South Buru District election conflict could not be resolved quickly due to differences in views in one group.

These different groups of voters usually do not have much influence, especially on religious issues, but the most dominant is the clan issue. Candidates

with large clans can win competitions compared to candidates with small clan groups. The south Buru district election conflict is an inter-marga conflict that is polarized because of differences in choice. Especially the clan in Ambalau Subdistrict is divided into two groups, the number 1 pair voter group and the number 2 pair group. The most dominant clans are those in the first voter group, while the voters are 2 with a small clan group.

The fermented clans in this election are some of the major clans that divide themselves between choosing the number 2 pair, resulting in inter-marga conflict as explained above about the election conflict in South Buru Regency. This conflict began with the issue of regional sons by the number 1 spouse voters, resulting in discriminatory actions against voters number 2, exclusion as indigenous peoples, and rejection as part of the clan group.
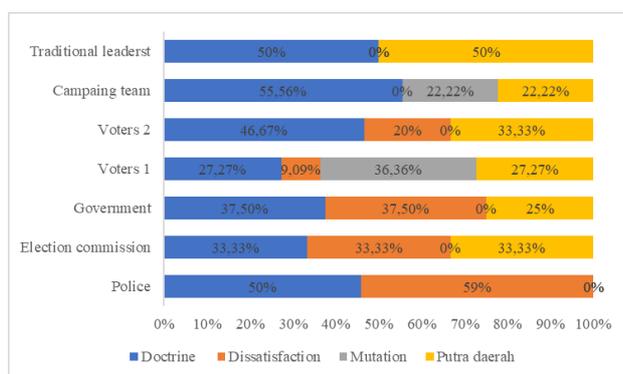

Figure 1. Causes of Conflict

Based on crosstab Nvivo analysis, four factors caused the conflict in south Buru district elections: first; orthodox doctrine, second; son of the region, third; dissatisfaction, fourth; employee mutations results of interviews with respondents assessed that the conflict started from established doctrine, namely pair number 1 had been given a mandate by traditional leaders so that voters felt that customary support was a non-formal legitimacy for Rivai and Anthon. The traditional doctrine also legitimizes repressive actions such as voter number 2 and the support of indigenous figures as the initial cause of conflict. The issue of regional sons reinforces traditional doctrine. The issue of regional sons is made legitimacy by figures and voters number 1 in committing acts of violence. The third and fourth causes are part of the expression of disappointment. The conflict arises on the surface and destroys the house of voters number 2. From the cause, the cause of the election conflict affects each other and creates harmful conflicts.

Pearson correlation analysis aims to measure or see the answer of each information whether it has the same level of similarity to the first analysis using crosstab; crosstab analysis performs a comparison between one indicator with another indicator, more ever the answer obtained is the cause of the conflict, while in the analysis Pearson correlation sees the relationship or answer of the

respondent about the cause in the conflict, Pearson correlation measures the similarity of words between based on coding, the results show the highest value, the highest value explains that between case and node has coefficient correlation. Cluster analysis shows the relationship between the case and the node; the relationship is seen based on the results of coding against the node and case; the code will show the relationship with the highest number so that these two analysis models can be measured the relationship and can be collected that the node with the case has an influence.

The measurable power of local politics is undoubtedly predictable. The political power of political capital is very different in terms of the experience of Politic Tagop-Ayub, who was more professional and established in building political relations with parties in the region. Tagop-Ayub, as an incumbent, has solid economic capital in economic capital. Unlike Rifay-Anthon, as a challenger, Rivai-Anthon does not have the same political capital as Tagop-Ayub.

Cluster analysis in figure table 2 shows a correlation between each node and case, the case in this study is an informant that becomes a source of information for researchers. In contrast, the node is a variable used in this study. The cluster analysis results showed that the four variables closely correlate with three cases: number 1 voter, number 2 voter, government, and successful team. At the same time, indigenous figures and the election commission do not have a strong relationship with the nodes/indicators causing conflict. The cluster above also explains the informant's opinion on the conflict. Each informant's answer in the cluster analysis will connect with the node or indicator causing the conflict.

Table 1. Pearson Correlation Coefficient Analysis

Case	Nodes	Pearson correlation coefficient
Voters 2	doctrine	0.81
Voters 1	doctrine	0.80
Voters 2	dissatisfaction	0.79
Government	dissatisfaction	0.78
Voters 2	putra daerah	0.77
Voters 1	putra daerah	0.76
Camping team	doctrine	0.75
Government	doctrine	0.74
Voters 2	mutation	0.73
Camping team	dissatisfaction	0.72
Selector 1	dissatisfaction	0.70

Pearson correlation analysis has similarities with crosstab. Pearson correlation analysis looks at the relationship between informant/case opinions about the cause of conflict. According to voters, number 1 and 2 conflicts are caused by doctrine with values (0.81), (0.80). In addition to considering

the conflict is caused by the doctrine of voter number 2, assessing conflict is also caused by dissatisfaction (0.79), as well as the opinion of the government (0.78). The issue of regional sons with a score (0.77) as the third cause in the election conflict according to the voter number 2 answer is based on the opinion code informant/case; voter number 1 also so assessed that the conflict is caused by the issue of regional sons (0.76). Doctrine (0.75) according to Election Success Team, (0.74) government. According to the government and the victorious team, conflicts are caused by doctrine, successful teams (0.75), and governments (0.74).

2. Conflict Resolution Approach

The 2015 conflict lasted until 2018, and various approaches have been taken both by mediation and legal process, but the conflict cannot be resolved quickly. Several demands cause the dynamics of conflict resolution, so conflict resolution is hampered. The conflicting approach accommodates two common interests so that the resolution process runs well. In the first case of the election conflict, some groups rejected the resolution efforts; as well in the second year of the conflict; a resolution offer could not be agreed upon, so the conflict continued, Gunkel, Schlaegel, and Taras (2016), due to differences of views on the sides' demands and offers desired by the conflicting parties.

Conflict resolution measures in post-election conditions, voter dissatisfaction number [1] to the election results hinder the conflict resolution. Communication was traditionally used but has not been able to defuse the conditions. A year of conflict has not been found the right step. After two years of conflict, both sides understood the situation and opened up. Both took a stand to communicate openly (Fomin & Yakimova, 2016), aware of the potential conflicts that can arise at any time. Then both sides communicate as a preventive measure. This step is taken to reduce the conflict (Kammerud, 2012).
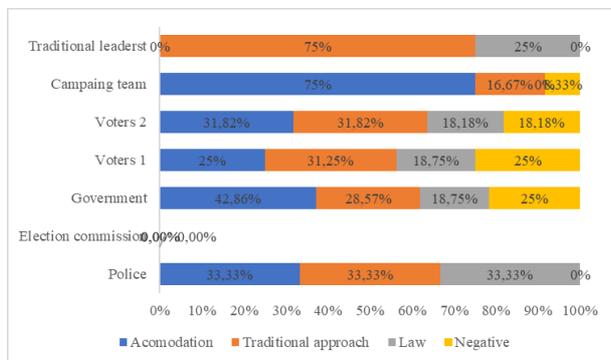

Figure 2. Conflict Approach

The primary approach in resolving this conflict is the accommodation of demands by one of the parties as an offer of conflict resolution. Conflict resolution is eliminated by the barter of power and

positions, especially in the districts, some employees who have been mutated are returned to their original place, and the implementation of the duties of the head of the village to the number [1] voter, this is done in order to open up and accept victims of the conflict. Meanwhile, voter number [2] in his lawsuit asks for protection and guarantees from the government in the form of money repatriation for victims of vandalism.

After the accommodation of a win-win solution, the second approach is customary, and the approach is customary as a binder so that there will be no rejection or physical action. This approach is made formally through the customary procession in order to have a fixed law that anyone who violates the agreement has violated the customary law, so it is denied using customary law as a reward (Carr & Callan, 2002); the resolution step of both groups were born from the wishes of individuals and competing groups. Although slow in responding to conflicts, the course of election conflicts in Indonesia can still be resolved. This also applies to national political contests that are ended by dissatisfaction with the election results. This means that the democratic process is procedurally sound but not substantially because maturity in democracy shows an attitude to accept defeat and conflict can be resolved (Humaedi et al., 2017).

Parker's (2015) conflict can be resolved by creating a circle of peace. The circle includes dialogue, mediation, and negotiation. These measures follow the process of resolving election conflicts and promoting harmonious relations—efforts to resolve election conflicts to maintain relations because the conflict occurs between different clans selectively. In addition, conflict management will change the community's behavior to engage in it and resolve the conflict (Wang et al., 2016).

Conflicts that arise from the democratic agenda should be resolved through the decision of the Constitutional Court. However, the Constitutional Court's decision is not a fair verdict for the number 1 supporter, so the step that can be taken is conflict management to limit the role of conflict actors with a traditional approach. After considering the condition of the conflict that has not been completed within two years, the conflicting parties reduce the ego and consider persuasive principles to resolve the conflict. In this case, the consideration taken is the consideration of religious leaders and indigenous figures (Sholeh, 2017).

The cluster analysis in table 2 describes the relationship between node and case, a node in this study is a conflict resolution approach. The approach in conflict resolution is property, customary, legal, and negative. Cluster analysis shows that demand accommodation is the most powerful relationship in conflict resolution. The accommodation of demands has a solid relationship with the cases (actors) involved in conflict resolution. Second is the traditional

approach as a conflict resolution approach, the law as the third option in conflict resolution. In contrast, the steps not taken in this approach are negative approaches. Negative approaches are avoided so that conflicts do not widen and involve many parties.

Cluster analysis also shows the involvement of actors in the conflict resolution program; table 3 shows that the police do not have a role as mediators in the election conflicts of South Buru Regency as law enforcement or as a third party. Likewise, with indigenous figures, his role is not dominant; he is passive in taking policies on conflict resolution. The absence of the two actors resulted in this protracted conflict.

Table 2. Pearson Correlation Coefficient Analysis

Case	Node	Pearson correlation coefficient
Camping team	accommodation	0.88
Voters 2	accommodation	0.88
Voters 2	custom	0.83
Voters 1	custom	0.81
Voters 1	law	0.79
Voters 2	law	0.79
Government	law	0.78
Government	accommodation	0.77
Government	custom	0.77
Camping team	custom	0.74
Camping team	law	0.70

Pearson's correlation analysis shows that conflict resolution approaches increase accommodation demands by successful teams on the repatriation of victims and the return of employees who have been mutated during the election process. Accommodation demands based on Pearson correlation analysis with a value (0.88), accommodation demands voter number [2] with a value (0.88), in addition, the approach that is also the focus is the traditional approach (0.83) as described above with cross tab analysis tools.

The conflict approach taken by both parties focuses more on accommodation between the two. This approach is an effort to restore conditions, such as putting up a puzzle. (Paul K. Huth, 2012). Based on the answer response, the dominant approach in the conflict is to accommodate the demands. According to Hipel and Bernath (2011), the path of accommodation demands a form of cooperation between the two parties in conflict. In the election conflict of the South Buru Regency, both sides cooperated with deliberations and conducted traditional processions to resolve the conflict. For the conflict resolution process to run well, customary law is carried out. The goal is to avoid actions that limit conflict (Surwando, 2016), steps taken through deliberations by community

leaders and indigenous leaders as part of conflict management, conflict management by Ho-Won Jeong (2010) as a step to resolve the conflict altogether, to find common opinions between conflict groups (Bush & Folger, 2005).

Conflict relates to the political culture elite and social group to build a single value and assumption that the approach of conflict must go through the political elite (MacQueen 2009), so it is necessary to identify the value between the group the elite. The approach in conflict traditionally also represents the institution. It requires a democratic and accountable approach (Paul K. Huth 2012). The conflict approach is the same as reattaching a different puzzle to form a re-image (Paul K. Huth, 2012). Starting this, Carr and Callan (2002) assessed the need for conflict management, which can be done through trusted institutions. In the election conflicts, institutions believed to institutionalize conflict are a conflict with society itself and strengthened by greater institutionalization of institutes.

Democratic approach (Paul K. Huth, 2012), using a suitable communication model (Fomin & Yakimova, 2016), cross-culture communication model that brings together two opposite directions, this communication model will affect both sides, provide a cyclical effect for both parties, the effect arises from the impact of destruction and acts of violence (Fomin & Yakimova, 2016). Cross-culture communication is an agreement to avoid conflict, mutual respect, and recognition.

The approach taken by both sides is nonviolent. A nonviolent approach sees attitude, the behavior of both actors' conflicts, and the situation. The resolution of the election conflict takes advantage of the momentum of the great days of Islam and the cultural traditions of conflicting communities so that the conflict can be resolved even over a long period (Jacoby, 2007). The behavior of the two conflicting groups can also be restrained, the choice of a traditional or cultural approach to avoid a rejection attitude towards conflict resolution (Syafrita & Murdiono, 2020).

Nonviolent approach as a democratic approach, conflicts born of the democratic process need to be resolved through the democracies process (Paul K. Huth, 2012), by Mark E. Warren (2008) referred to as deliberative democracy. Deliberative democracy is a model of democracy that promotes ways of mutual consensus to reach an agreement. This approach was carried out by actors involved in the south Buru district election conflict through government deliberations, community leaders, indigenous shops, and successful teams of both groups. Both groups agreed to end the election conflict.

D. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the description above, this analysis answers that conflict is caused by two of the most dominant things, namely, traditional doctrine and regional son issues. In contrast, the approach used in resolving election conflicts is the approach of accommodation and the approach in a customary manner. The two approaches have similarities in cluster analysis. There is a strong relationship between the causes of conflict with indigenous doctrines and regional sons issues and the traditional and accommodating approach to resolving conflicts. The traditional approach uses *sasi* law as a traditional ceremony to bind each other without conflict. Nvivo software in this study helped map respondents' answers about the causes of conflict and the approach used in conflict resolution through crosstab, cluster, and person correlation coefficient features.

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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