

THE ANALYSIS OF STATE DEFENSE STRATEGY IN THE SEA OF THE MALAYSIA STATE IN ORDER TO FACE THE THREAT IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

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ABSTRACT

Malaysia, as a strategic country in the Indo-Pacific region, faces various complex maritime security challenges. In maintaining its sovereignty, Malaysia must manage threats arising from overlapping territorial claims in the South China Sea, piracy and maritime crime in the Malacca Strait, as well as geopolitical tensions between major powers such as the United States and China. Malaysia's centralized federal structure gives the federal government the authority to determine national strategic policy, including international cooperation and maritime defense. This research aims to analyze Malaysia's maritime defense strategy in facing threats in the Indo-Pacific region using game theory, maritime strategy theory, and collective security theory. This research identifies several strategies that Malaysia can take, including carrying out bilateral military exercises, joint patrols, exchanges of officers and students, as well as sharing technology and defense industry cooperation with neighboring countries such as Indonesia. Through game theory analysis, it was found that the optimal strategy for Malaysia is to carry out joint operations around the Malacca Strait and the waters bordering Indonesia, which will increase maritime security and prevent illegal activities. The research results show that a combination of bilateral military exercises and joint patrols, supported by personnel exchange programs and technological collaboration, is the most effective strategy to increase Malaysia's maritime defense capabilities. Implementation of these strategies not only strengthens diplomatic relations and synergy in developing human resources and defense technology but also creates stronger stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region. The recommendation from this research is that Malaysia and Indonesia actively implement the strategies that have been identified and continue to evaluate and adjust to ensure the sustainability and increased effectiveness of maritime defense and security cooperation in the region.

Keywords: Game Theory, cooperative games, maritime defense strategy, Indo-Pacific

1. Introduction.

Malaysia, as a country in the form of a federation and strategically located in the Indo-Pacific region, has unique challenges in maintaining its security and sovereignty. Consisting of thirteen states and three federal territories (Kuala Lumpur, Labuan Island, and Putrajaya), Malaysia must manage defense and security affairs effectively between the federal and state governments. The geographical situation consisting of Peninsular Malaysia in the west and East Malaysia in the east also adds complexity to its maritime defense strategy.

In Malaysia's federal structure, defense and foreign affairs powers are under the federal government, giving it ultimate authority in determining national strategic policy. As a country with a constitutional monarchy system, Malaysia's head of state is the Yang di-Pertuan Agong who is elected from and by the nine Sultans of Malaya in rotation for a five-year term of office. Meanwhile, executive power is exercised by a cabinet led by a Prime Minister.

This division of power leads to a centralized approach in handling external threats, including in the maritime area. In the defense context, the Malaysian federal government has full control over the strategy and implementation of military policy, including international cooperation and maritime defense. Malaysia adopts a parliamentary system with the Westminster model, where executive power is more dominant than the legislature and judiciary. Although Malaysia has a democratic political system, extensive authoritarian controls also exist to prevent effective opposition. This can be seen from the dominance of the ruling party

coalition, Barisan Nasional (BN), in every election. This political structure allows the government to implement defense policies with relatively high political stability.

Malaysia's geographical situation, which consists of two main areas separated by the South China Sea, makes it a country that is vulnerable to various maritime threats. Peninsular Malaysia borders Thailand to the north and Singapore to the south, while East Malaysia borders Brunei and Indonesia. Apart from that, the tropical climate and two monsoon seasons that pass through this region also influence operational conditions at sea. Malaysia is in a very strategic region in the Indo-Pacific, a region that is now the center of global attention because of its security and geopolitical dynamics. The South China Sea, which is part of Malaysian waters, is one of the hot spots in the region, with various conflicting territorial claims between the countries involved.

Malaysia's economy, which is the third largest in Southeast Asia and twenty-ninth in the world by GDP, is highly dependent on regional stability and security. Strong economic sectors, especially in agriculture, electronics, and coconut oil, require protection from maritime threats such as piracy, smuggling, and territorial disputes. Malaysia has a long history of international relations, especially with countries in the Southeast Asia region. Bilateral relations with neighboring countries such as Indonesia and Singapore play an important role in maintaining regional stability. Apart from that, Malaysia is also involved in various international military cooperation to strengthen its maritime defense. Defense agreements and joint military exercises with major countries such as the United States and other ASEAN countries are part of Malaysia's defense strategy. This includes joint exercises and maritime patrols to ensure security in strategic waters, especially in the Malacca Strait which is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. The main problems facing Malaysia in its maritime defense strategy in the Indo-Pacific region include overlapping territorial claims in the South China Sea, the threat of piracy and maritime crime in the Malacca Strait, as well as geopolitical tensions between major powers such as the United States and China which affect regional security. Additionally, Malaysia faces limited defense resources that hinder the modernization and upgrading of military capabilities, as well as ensuring effective coordination and integration between the federal and state governments. International cooperation is also key, but maintaining a balance between strategic alliances and national interests remains a challenge.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Game Theory

This theory is a branch of game theory that studies how groups of players (coalitions) can work together to achieve better results compared to acting individually. The main focus of cooperative game theory is on coalition formation, profit sharing, and mechanisms for reaching mutual agreements. The main components in cooperative game theory include players (individuals or groups who can form coalitions), coalitions (subgroups of players who work together to achieve a common goal), coalition values (values or outcomes that can be achieved by coalitions), and shared solutions (methods for share profits among coalition members). Some of the key solution concepts in cooperative game theory are Shapley Value, Nucleolus, and Core, each of which provides a different way to distribute profits fairly based on players' contributions to the coalition.

2.2 Naval Strategy Theory.

Naval Strategy theory is a concept in military studies and international relations that focuses on the use and control of the oceans to achieve a nation's political and military objectives. The maritime strategy covers various aspects, including naval deployment, control of shipping lanes, protection and utilization of maritime resources, as well as preventing and overcoming threats from the sea. This theory also involves the planning and execution of naval operations in war and peace, including blockades, surface warfare, underwater warfare, and amphibious assaults. Important figures in the development of naval strategy theory include Alfred Thayer Mahan, who emphasized the importance of naval power for global domination, and Julian Corbett, who focused on the use of navies to support land strategy. Implementing an effective maritime strategy allows countries to secure their national interests, maintain regional stability, and project power around the world.

2.3 Collective Security Theory

Collective Security theory is a concept in international relations that states that global peace can be achieved through cooperation between countries to face aggression. The main principle is that an attack on one country is considered an attack on all countries participating in that collective system. Member states are committed to uniting in response to aggression to prevent such acts and maintain international stability. The main examples of the implementation of this theory are the League of Nations after World War I and the United Nations after World War II. Both organizations were created to promote collective security through mechanisms such as economic sanctions and collective military action. This theory is based on the belief that a country's security can only be guaranteed through collective security supported by an international commitment to uphold peace and counter common threats.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

This research is a descriptive study using qualitative methods, where data and information related to research problems obtained through literature studies and field interviews are analyzed quantitatively, and then interpreted according to the meaning contained in the data and information. Data collection techniques are carried out through library research and in-depth interviews with parties who are considered competent and have information and data related to research problems.

4. Result and Discussion

4.1 Determination of Player Game Theory

In game theory, determining players is an important stage in analyzing and modeling strategic interactions. In this game, we will involve two main players: Indonesia as the first player and Malaysia as the second player. The first player, Indonesia, will be taken as the first point of view in this analysis, which means the decisions and strategies taken by Indonesia will be analyzed first. The second player, Malaysia, will be analyzed based on how they responded to the actions and strategies of the first player. Indonesia, as the first player, will act as the initial decision maker in this scenario, determining the strategic steps that Malaysia will then respond to. These responses will be analyzed from the perspective of how they respond to Indonesia's actions, including possible diplomatic or military steps they take to protect their national interests.

By analyzing the interactions between these two countries within the framework of game theory, you will gain a better understanding of the strategic dynamics that occur, as well as predict the outcomes of various possible scenarios. This approach makes it possible to see how each country tries to achieve maximum profits

within the constraints of predetermined game rules. Through this modeling, we can see the potential for cooperation or conflict that may arise, as well as the optimal strategies that can be taken by both countries to achieve the desired results. The following are the players from this game theory.

a. Indonesia

Indonesia, located in the middle of the Indo-Pacific region, is the world's largest archipelagic country with more than 17,000 islands, including large islands such as Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, and Papua. This geographical location makes Indonesia a strategic point between two oceans, the Indian and the Pacific, as well as important trade routes such as the Malacca Strait, Sunda Strait, and Lombok Strait. With a coastline of more than 54,000 kilometers, Indonesia has a vast Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), allowing the exploration of rich marine resources, including fisheries, oil, and natural gas. This geographic potential also places Indonesia in a vulnerable position to maritime disputes and regional security threats, as seen in the conflict in the South China Sea.

From an economic perspective, Indonesia is the largest economy in Southeast Asia and a member of the G20 with a significant Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is supported by sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services. Indonesia's steady economic growth over the past few decades has been driven by urbanization, increased domestic consumption, and commodity exports. In terms of military technology, Indonesia is trying to modernize its armed forces through the procurement of advanced military equipment and increasing domestic defense technology capabilities. However, challenges such as limited budgets and the need to increase human resource capabilities still exist. Indonesia's human resources, with a population of more than 270 million people, provide great potential in the workforce and domestic market, although improvements in education and skills are needed to face the demands of the global economy and modern technology.

b. Malaysia

Malaysia, located in the heart of the Indo-Pacific region, consists of two main regions separated by the South China Sea: Peninsular Malaysia to the west and East Malaysia located on the island of Borneo. This geographical location makes Malaysia an important maritime trade center, with the Strait of Malacca being one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world. With a long coastline and extensive EEZ, Malaysia has significant access to marine resources, including fisheries and hydrocarbons. Being in this strategic area also makes Malaysia involved in various regional geopolitical dynamics, especially related to maritime disputes in the South China Sea.

Economically, Malaysia is one of the most advanced economies in Southeast Asia, with key sectors such as manufacturing, oil and gas, and services driving its economic growth. The country is known for its exports of electronics, palm oil, and petroleum products. Malaysia's military technology is developing with a focus on modernizing the armed forces and increasing international cooperation in the field of defense. Despite facing challenges such as a limited budget, Malaysia continues to strive to strengthen its military capabilities through the acquisition of advanced equipment and increased training. In terms of human resources, Malaysia has a diverse and well-educated population, with high levels of literacy and various government initiatives to improve the skills of its workforce to face the demands of an increasingly complex global economy.

4.2 Strategy Determination

Determining strategy is the next important step in game theory. The strategy in question is a series of actions that will be taken by both players. The first player will determine the first strategic move, and then the second player will respond with their strategic move. This process continues in turns until the first player plays his final strategic move. In this game, each player has four strategies which are assumed to be the same. The difference lies in the payoff or results obtained by each player from each strategy taken. The following is a breakdown of the strategies of each player.

- a. Carrying out bilateral military exercises in the waters of countries in the Indonesia-Malaysia region.

Carrying out bilateral military exercises in the waters between Indonesia and Malaysia is part of the two countries' efforts to strengthen military cooperation and increase the operational readiness of their navies. These military exercises are often carried out both in Malaysian waters and in Indonesian waters, with the main aim of increasing interoperability, coordination and combat capabilities of the two navies in facing various maritime threats in the region. With a strategic geographical background in the Indo-Pacific region, this bilateral military exercise also aims to maintain regional stability and security. The continuation of such exercises shows Indonesia and Malaysia's commitment to strengthening their maritime defenses and facing common security challenges, such as piracy, smuggling and territorial disputes. This exercise also shows the close cooperation between the two countries in supporting security and peace in the wider region.

This bilateral military exercise can be linked to Collective Security Theory, which emphasizes that global peace and security can be achieved through international cooperation and a joint commitment to confront aggression. In this context, cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia in military exercises is a real effort to build collective security in the Indo-Pacific region. The exercise strengthens bilateral relations and creates a safer environment by addressing joint maritime threats, as advocated by collective security theory.

Apart from that, this exercise is also in line with **Naval Strategy Theory** which emphasizes the importance of controlling the sea to achieve political and military goals. By conducting military exercises in strategic waters, Indonesia and Malaysia strengthen their capabilities in securing international shipping lanes and maintaining maritime sovereignty, by the principles of maritime strategy advocated by experts such as Alfred Thayer Mahan and Julian Corbett.

This military exercise also supports the provisions of the 1945 Constitution, especially Article 10 which states that the President holds supreme power over the Army, Navy, and Air Force. This exercise is part of the President and government's efforts to maintain the country's sovereignty and security by increasing naval capabilities. Furthermore, this exercise supports the implementation of Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning National Defense, which regulates national defense policies, strategies and systems including international cooperation in the defense sector. Through bilateral exercises, Indonesia and Malaysia demonstrate their commitment to international cooperation to strengthen regional defense and security. Apart from that, this exercise is also relevant to Law Number 34 of 2004 concerning the Indonesian National Army (TNI), which stipulates that the TNI plays a role as a state tool in the defense sector to defend state sovereignty and protect the territorial integrity of the Republic of Indonesia. Bilateral military exercises with Malaysia are part of the TNI's

efforts to increase professionalism and operational readiness in facing various threats, both from within and outside the country.

Through this bilateral military exercise, Indonesia and Malaysia not only strengthened their respective countries' defenses but also contributed to regional stability and security, in line with the principles of collective security, maritime strategy, and applicable national legal provisions.

b. Carrying out joint patrols in the waters of the Indonesia-Malaysia region.

Carrying out joint patrols in the waters of the Indonesia-Malaysia region is a strategic step to strengthen maritime cooperation and increase security in the Indo-Pacific region. These joint patrols are often carried out in important areas such as the Malacca Strait and the South China Sea, which are vital international trade routes. By carrying out joint patrols, the two countries seek to prevent and deal with maritime threats such as piracy and smuggling and strengthen their presence in this strategic area.

Patrolling the Malacca Strait, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes is vital to ensuring the security and smooth flow of global trade. The presence of joint patrols from Indonesia and Malaysia can significantly reduce maritime crime incidents and improve safety. In the South China Sea, joint patrols help maintain stability and prevent the escalation of territorial conflicts. These joint patrols enhance interoperability, intelligence sharing, and rapid response to threats, benefiting the international community.

This joint patrol is in line with Collective Security Theory, which emphasizes cooperation to face common threats. It also supports the Naval Strategy Theory by ensuring control of important maritime routes. This patrol supports the implementation of Article 10 of the 1945 Constitution, as well as Law No. 3 of 2002 concerning National Defense and Law No. 34 of 2004 concerning the TNI, all of which emphasize the importance of international cooperation and increasing military capabilities in maintaining national sovereignty and security.

c. Officer/student exchange to improve human resources in each country (Sesko Force Students, Courses, and other Military Education).

Program exchange of officers and students between Indonesia and Malaysia aims to improve the quality of military human resources (HR) of the two countries through various educational and training activities. In this program, officers and students from each armed force, including students from the Force Command and Staff College (Sesko), take military courses and education in partner countries. These exchanges cover a wide range of educational levels, from basic military education to advanced courses and specific specializations.

During exchange programs, officers and students gain the opportunity to learn about partner countries' military doctrine, strategies, and tactics, as well as broaden their horizons about various approaches to military operations. In addition, this program also strengthens professional ties and networks between the armed forces of the two countries, which in turn enhances operational cooperation and interoperability in the future. These activities include group exercises, seminars and academic discussions that enable the exchange of knowledge and practical experience.

Another benefit of these exchange programs is improved language skills and cultural understanding, which are critical in multinational and coalition operations. Participants gain valuable experience that not only enriches their knowledge but also builds mutual trust and deeper

understanding. Thus, this officer and student exchange program plays an important role in strengthening military capabilities and diplomatic relations between Indonesia and Malaysia.

c. Sharing technology, and working together in the defense industry to increase the military capabilities of both countries.

Program Sharing technology and cooperation in the defense industry between Indonesia and Malaysia aims to increase the military capabilities of both countries through joint development and technology transfer. This is in line with Collective Security Theory, which emphasizes that international security can be achieved through cooperation in facing common threats. By sharing military technology and cooperating in the defense industry, the two countries can strengthen their positions in facing external threats, thereby contributing to regional stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

In the context of Maritime Strategy Theory, this sharing of technology and cooperation allows both countries to improve control and operational capabilities at sea, which is very important for defending strategic trade routes such as the Malacca Strait and the South China Sea. Advanced technology such as radar systems, drones, and modern warships jointly developed will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of maritime operations between the two countries. This also strengthens their presence in a strategic area, helping to maintain sovereignty and protect national interests in waters that are often a point of dispute.

This collaboration supports the implementation of Article 10 of the 1945 Constitution, which states that the President holds supreme power over the Army, Navy, and Air Force. This program is also by Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning National Defense, which regulates defense policies and strategies including international cooperation in the defense sector. Apart from that, this collaboration is in line with Law Number 34 of 2004 concerning the Indonesian National Army (TNI), which emphasizes the importance of professionalism and operational readiness of the TNI. Through the development of military technology and defense industry cooperation, the TNI can increase its capabilities in facing various threats and maintaining national sovereignty.

4.3 Discussion

a) Matrix and Payoff Determination

In determining the matrix and payoff, there are 16 combinations of strategies and payoff values. The following is a combination of strategy and payoff value from game theory.

Table 1. Strategy and Payoff for each Player

No	INDONESIA	MALAYSIA	Payoffs
1	Carrying out bilateral military exercises in the waters of countries in the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	Carrying out bilateral military exercises in the waters of countries in the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	8.8
2	Carrying out bilateral military exercises in the waters of countries in the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	Carrying out joint patrols in the waters of the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	8.7
3	Carrying out bilateral military exercises in the waters of countries in the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	Officer/student exchange to improve human resources in each country	8.6
4	Carrying out bilateral military exercises in the waters of countries in the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	Sharing technology, and cooperation in the defense industry in increasing the military capabilities of the two countries.	8.6

No	INDONESIA	MALAYSIA	Payoffs
5	Carrying out joint patrols in the waters of the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	Carrying out bilateral military exercises in the waters of countries in the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	7.7
6	Carrying out joint patrols in the waters of the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	Carrying out joint patrols in the waters of the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	7.8
7	Carrying out joint patrols in the waters of the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	Officer/student exchange to improve human resources in each country	7.6
8	Carrying out joint patrols in the waters of the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	Sharing technology, working together in the defense industry to increase the military capabilities of both countries.	6,7
9	Officer/student exchange to improve human resources in each country	Carrying out bilateral military exercises in the waters of countries in the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	7.7
10	Officer/student exchange to improve human resources in each country	Carrying out joint patrols in the waters of the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	7.7
11	Officer/student exchange to improve human resources in each country	Officer/student exchange to improve human resources in each country	6.6
12	Officer/student exchange to improve human resources in each country	Sharing technology, working together in the defense industry to increase the military capabilities of both countries.	5,6
13	Sharing technology, working together in the defense industry to increase the military capabilities of both countries.	Carrying out bilateral military exercises in the waters of countries in the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	7.7
14	Sharing technology, working together in the defense industry to increase the military capabilities of both countries.	Carrying out joint patrols in the waters of the Indonesia-Malaysia region.	7.8
15	Sharing technology, working together in the defense industry to increase the military capabilities of both countries.	Officer/student exchange to improve human resources in each country	6.6
16	Sharing technology, working together in the defense industry to increase the military capabilities of both countries.	Sharing technology, working together in the defense industry to increase the military capabilities of both countries.	6,7

Source: Author's Process

After getting the strategy combination and payoff value, the next step is to make eliminations from the strategy matrix. Elimination will be carried out using the minimax model. Minimax elimination will be carried out in the next sub-chapter.

2) Cooperative Game Theory Strategy Elimination

Table 2. Matrix Game Theory

INDOMALAY	Bilateral Lat	Joint Operations	HR Exchange	Technology Sharing
Bilateral Lat	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6
Joint Operations	7.7	7.8	7.6	6,7
HR Exchange	7.7	7.7	6.6	5,6
Technology Sharing	7.7	7.8	6.6	6,7

Source: Author's Process

In the table above you can see the value of each strategy for each player. The payoff value for each first number is the value of the first player, namely Indonesia. For example, the value of bilateral training for Indonesia is 8, meaning the profit from bilateral training is 8, if player 2 plays the same strategy, then Malaysia also has the same advantage as Indonesia, namely 8 points. The next

steps are the same up to the last payoff. Next, we will look for the saddle point value using the maximin method, as in the table below.

Table 2. Game Theory Elimination Matrix

INDOMALAY	Bilateral Lat	Joint Operations	HR Exchange	Technology Sharing
Bilateral Lat	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6
Joint Operations	7.7	7.8	7.6	6,7
HR Exchange	7.7	7.7	6.6	5,6
Technology Sharing	7.7	7.8	6.6	6,7

Author's Processed Source

The table above shows that the compromise or saddle point value is 8.7, namely for Indonesia to carry out a bilateral training strategy with Malaysia to improve global security in the Indo-Pacific region, while Malaysia carries out joint operations to secure the Malacca Strait and its territorial waters to maintain security stability in the waters of the Indo Pacific region.

5 CONCLUSIONS.

5.1 Conclusion

Based on a series of data processing, scenario preparation and analysis of research results, some conclusions can be drawn as follows:

a. Determining the best strategy for Malaysia and Indonesia, which was carried out using a game theory approach, involved various strategies. These strategies include the implementation of bilateral military exercises in the waters of the Indonesia-Malaysia region, joint patrols in the waters of the Indonesia-Malaysia region, exchanges of officers or students to increase the human resources of each country, as well as sharing technology and cooperating in the defense industry to improve military capabilities of both countries. Through this analysis, it can be concluded that the most effective and profitable strategy for both countries is a combination of bilateral military exercises and joint patrols, reinforced by personnel exchange programs and technological collaboration. This approach not only increases maritime security and defense capabilities but also strengthens diplomatic relations and synergy in the development of human resources and defense technology. Implementation of these strategies will result in stronger stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region, providing strategic advantages for Malaysia and Indonesia.

b. The optimal strategy for Indonesia is to carry out bilateral joint exercises with Malaysia to increase security in the Indo-Pacific maritime region. This step will strengthen bilateral cooperation and increase maritime defense capabilities in the region. For Malaysia, the most effective strategy is to carry out joint operations around the Malacca Strait and the waters bordering Indonesia. This operation will strengthen maritime security, prevent illegal activities, and increase regional stability in these strategic waters. Implementation of this strategy will provide significant benefits for both countries in maintaining territorial sovereignty and creating a safer and more stable environment in the Indo-Pacific region.

5.2 Suggestion

Based on the results of the research that the author has done, there are several inputs in improving and developing this research in the future, namely:

- a. for Indonesia and Malaysia to actively implement strategies that have been identified as most effective through a game theory approach. For Indonesia, it is important to prioritize the implementation of bilateral military exercises with Malaysia regularly. This step will strengthen maritime defense capabilities and increase cooperation in maintaining the security of the Indo-Pacific maritime region. In addition, Indonesia must continue to encourage officer and student exchange programs to increase the competency of military human resources.
- b. For Malaysia, it is highly recommended to focus on joint operations around the Malacca Strait and the waters bordering Indonesia. This operation will play a crucial role in preventing illegal activities and increasing maritime security stability in the region. Malaysia must also strengthen cooperation with Indonesia in sharing technology and developing the defense industry to increase the military capabilities of both countries.
- c. Both countries must develop better communication and coordination mechanisms to ensure the implementation of these strategies runs smoothly and effectively. In addition, Indonesia and Malaysia need to continue to evaluate and adjust the implemented strategies, to ensure sustainability and increase the effectiveness of maritime defense and security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors greatly acknowledge the support from Indonesia Naval Technology College STTAL Surabaya Indonesia for providing the necessary resources to carry out this research work. The authors are also grateful to the anonymous reviewers and journal editorial board for their many insightful comments, which have significantly improved this article.

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