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THE PALEMBANG SULTANATE:
The Relationship between Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I and Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin I and The Indonesian Archipelago (Beginning Study)

Dr. Farida

Abstract

This beginning study would like to discuss about "how was the relationship which Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I and Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin II had with the other kingdoms in the archipelago and Southeast Asia". From the long history of the Palembang Sultanate, it was showed that since its early establishment, this kingdom has had relationship -especially through marriage bond, with other regions in the archipelago (Bangka and Jambi).

During the reign of Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I, there was a closed relationship with Siantan because of the marriage of the Sultan and a princess of Siantan. This marriage not only led on the relationship between two kingdoms, Palembang Sultanate and Siantan Kingdom but also Johor Kingdom. Therefore, Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I got more power to capture Palembang and opened a tin mine in Bangka island. From this mine –which was firstly managed by the Sultan's father in law (Wan Akub), Palembang became a major producer of tin in Southeast Asia and even in the world. The mine gave a great benefit for the Sultanate so that it grew as a very important sultanate at that time. Besides his first married with a princess of Siantan, Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I also got married with a princess of Bugis (in the 17th century the Bugis mariners controlled over the western part of the archipelago waterways). Broadening area and strengthening power through marriage was also done by Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin I. From the local chronicle, it was noted that the Sultan married a princess of Brunei, Masayu Kedaton (Masayu=very valuable, Kedaton=prince, meaning= a very valuable princess). Pangeran Surawijaya Syamsuddin was born from this marriage, furthermore he had a daughter named Raden Ayu Ber[q-l-y] Panembahan Iman Hani. The princess got married with a brother of Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin II, namely Panembahan Bupati Hanim (a grandchild of Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin I). Obviously, it was an inter-royal family marriage, however it was a customary happening in the sultanate. Furthermore, Raden Ayu Kasuma Naqqiyyah was born from this marriage. Inevitably, various inter-island and inter-nation marriage which have been shown above created an integrity. It must be considered by the young generations in order to recreate a closed relationship.

Key words: relationship, marriage, archipelago, Southeast Asia

Introduction

The Palembang Sultanate existed in the middle of the 17th century. It was established by Ki Mas Hindi, who became the first sultan entitled Sultan Abdurrahman Khalifatul Mukminin Imam (1659-1702). Palembang was a kingdom before this time, started from the middle of the 16th century. Sultan seceded from Mataram which was the prime of Palembang kingdom (a superior-subordinate relationship between Java and Palembang has lasted since
the period of Majapahit Kingdom, continued to the period of Demak/Pajang Kingdom and Mataram)²⁹¹ (Abdullah, 1996:208).

The transformation from the kingdom into sultanate led to a change of government structure which was based on the ideology of Islam. Islam was placed as a religion of state and in the governmental structure, there was an important official who concerned with religious matters of Islam. The official was Penghulu Nato Agamoin for the central level, while the religious function existed not only in the central level, but also it existed at the lowest level of government, that is village/kampung²⁹² (Java Gouvernement Gazette Mei 1812 No. 10; Masyhuri, 1983: 42-44; Peeters, 1997: 11-12; Sevenhoven, 1971: 25-26; Woelders, 1975: 85).

As a sovereign region, the rulers of Palembang had a good relationship with the surrounding and the Southeast Asia regions. The marriage of Sultan Abdurrahman princess of Bangka, a daughter of Bupati Nusantara demonstrated how was the relationship. This marriage strengthened the power of Palembang over Bangka Island which actually had been under control of Palembang since 1615 (Kielstra, 1892: 129).

In the reign of the second sultan, namely Sultan Muhammad Mansur (1702–1714)²⁹³ in order to reinforce his power and authority, sultan got married with some princess only came from Palembang but also came from other regions. who based on the local sources it was found out that Sultan Muhammad Mansur married Nyimas Sungai who was Jambi²⁹⁴ (mother of Pangeran Jaya Wikrama or Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I). The

²⁹¹ The separation was led by the two parties’ wishes for discontinuing the relationship they had developed. The ignorance of the deputy of Palembang who came to face King Amangkurat showed the importance of杜绝 the relationship. Even though the relationship of the two kingdoms was over, Sultan Abdurrahman still gave his assistance to Mataram in order to overcome Trunojoyo’s rebellion in 1677. However, it was the armada that Palembang delivered to Mataram. Palembang ended the relationship and proclaimed “a sovereign country” (Abdullah, 1996: 202; Woelders, 1975:74; Stibbe, 1932: 265; Faille, 1971:28).

²⁹² Unfortunately, there was no further information related to the reaction of Mataram toward it. How was the relationship with VOC (Vereenigde Oost Indische Compagnie), the Dutch trading organization who was established in 1602 in Ambon, Indonesia.

²⁹³ Penghulu Nato Agamo, Penghulu Kecil, Lebih Penghulu/Lebai Penghulu, Khatib (Kampung village level). Besides that, there were some officials whose function as the sultan’s assistants, they were Pangeran Kerto Negoro who concerned with justice, Pangeran Notodirjo or Pangeran Perdana Mempu who concerned with administration and safety. The last official was Syahbandar who led the trading matters (Masyhuri, 1983: 47; Undang-Undang Simbur Cahaya, 1994).


²⁹⁴ From the local source of Bangka island, it was mentioned that Sultan Muhammad Mansur was married with Nyai Mas Senguk, a daughter of Sultan Gedeh from Jambi as a reward for his assistance defending Raja Batu. Sultan had five children from this marriage. They were Sultan Anom Muhammad Ali Muhammad, Pangeran Sutawijaya Keratuan, Pangeran Dipo Kesuma, Raden Ayu Karian, and Raden Lembu (Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I (Machmud, 1886: 21). Besides that, Sultan got married with three different princess who were from Palembang and other regions. However, there was no further information in terms of these Sultan’s wives. In the previous time, there was a political marriage done by the sovereign.
marriage showed that Palembang has had close relationship with its surrounding since the early time. The ocean and rivers were the main means for Palembang to get connected with and finally occupied the nearest regions, such as Bangka Island and Jambi. Based on the old stories which developed locally in the community of South Sumatera, the marriages of the royal families of Palembang Sultanate and princess from Bangka and Jambi were customary practice. These marriages were aimed to get close bond with the regions so that they would never rebel and secede from the authority of Palembang. In the capital city of Palembang, there was a sacred place namely Sigantung Hill (see The Malayan History which positioned Sigantung Hill as the origin place of their ancestor). If there was any kind of rebellions or any other serious matters, such as a murder to depati occurred in the subordinate regions, the sultan himself would adjudicate the doers. The sultan would give the appropriate punishment to them, besides that there would be a ceremony for taking an oath of the doers’ loyalty. The ceremony usually worked well for intimidating the doers. From the introductory study above, the writer is interesting to analyze “how was the relationship which Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I and Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin II had with the other kingdoms in the archipelago and Southeast Asia. The further discussion of the question is presented below.

2. Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I

Pangeran Jaya Wikrama was one of Sultan Muhammad Mansur’s sons. His elder brother was Pangeran Adipati Anom. When Sultan Muhammad Mansur passed away, they were very young so that their uncle (Sultan Muhammad Mansur’s younger brother), Sultan Komaruddin was crowned as the successor. When both Pangeran Jaya Wikrama and Pangeran Adipati Anom were grown up, they demanded for their right of the throne. Unfortunately the sovereign sultan, Sultan Komaruddin. Ignored the two brother’s claim. Inevitably, internal conflict occurred in the Palembang Sultanate. Finally, the two brothers left the sultanate followed by their loyal fellows. They sailed by using 18 ships. Bangka Island was the first place they visited, then they moved forward to Johor. The ruler of Johor was welcomed well the corners from Palembang. Furthermore, they had a good relationship. The two brothers tried to persuade the Sultan of Johor to assist them in capturing Palembang. However, the sultan refused it. Eventually, they left Johor and moved to the east to Siantan Island. Wan Amin (the son of Wan Awang), the ruler of Siantan also welcomed well the two brothers. In this place Pangeran Jaya Wikrama got married with the youngest daughter of Abdul Hayat, namely Zannah and change her name into “Mas Ayu”, meanwhile Abdul Hayat was entitled “Meratu Dalam” (Clerq, 1895: 132). Before his marriage with Zannah, Pangeran Jaya Wikrama has married Raden Ayu Ciblung (a grand daughter of the first sultan, Sultan Abdurrahman and a daughter of Pangeran Surabaya Wikrama Subekti). From this marriage, Pangeran Jaya Wikrama had a son who would be Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin I then (Naskah Silsilah Kesultanan Palembang, unpublished, page 5).

ruler of Palembang, Ratu Mas Adipati (Ki gede Ing Suro Mudo’s daughter) with a prince from Jambi. The marriage was in order to strengthen the power of Palembang toward the surrounding region. Pangeran Adipati Jambi and Sultan Agung Jambi were born from this marriage (Naskah Silsilah Kesultanan Palembang, unpublished, page 2). Based on these facts, it can be inferred the relationship between Palembang and Jambi has been lasted since the first time of the establishment of the kingdom through marriage.

Wan awang was a son of Datuk Engku (Encik Engku) from Johor (descendant of menteri raja Johor (Trengganu) (Sujitno, 2011: 128).

According to Von de Wall in Clerq (1895:130), one of the rulers of Siantan was entitled Datu since he was a Brunei’s descendant.

Abdul Hayat was an Islam name of dari Lim Tau Kian, one who came from Cina. He had some sons and a daughter. The local source mentioned that Zannah was Abdul Hayat’s grand daughter, while her father was Abdul Jabar. It was also mentioned that Abdul Jabar’s daughter got married with Wan Awang (Sujitno, 2011: 128, 135-137).
In Siantan, Pangeran Jaya Wikrama collaborated with Wan Akub gathering power in order to fight over and took back Palembang. He promised Wan Akub a part of Bangka Island as a reward. Pangeran Jaya Wikrama got more power from Bugis-Malay people led by Daeng Barani (Clerq, 1895:132). In 1715 Messiah or 1717 according to Sujitno, Pangeran Jaya Wikrama and Pangeran Anom with their armada left Siantan to Bangka Island. The city of Bangka dan Nangka Island were both their central entrenchments. However, before their moving back to Palembang, Pangeran Jaya Wikrama had sailed to the east and stayed for a while in Makassar. In Makassar, he married a daughter of a Bugis’ aristocrat (Machmud, 1886:29). From the mentioned marriages, it was obviously seen that marriage was a political strategy of Pangeran Jaya Wikrama in order to get close bond and relationship with other regions.

In 1719-1722 a civil war between Pangeran Jaya Wikrama and the ruler of Palembang (Sultan Komaruddin) lasted. Pangeran Jaya Wikrama’s power was over the sultan of Palembang since VOC supported him and his armada. Therefore, Pangeran Jaya Wikrama and his armada won the war. Getting back Palembang, Pangeran Jaya Wikrama was crowned as the sultan entitled Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I. However, sultan had to renew his contract with the Dutch --VOC as the result of its assistance during the coup d’etats. The revision of the contract occurred on 2nd June 1722. The contract mentioned about the monopoly right of the Dutch for pepper and tin trading (Kielstra, 1892:79).

However, there were a little differences related to the roles of Pangeran Jaya Wikrama (Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I) and Depati/Adipati Anom during the civil war. Some sources focused on the great role of Pangeran Jaya Wikrama (Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I) (Clerq, Kielstra, Machmud), but some mentioned about the great role of Depati/Adipati Anom (Heidhues). In short, it can be said that the two brothers had important roles. However, the conflict between the two brothers was inevitable afterwards. It was started from the commitment between Sultan Komaruddin and Pangeran Jaya Wikrama. Sultan Komaruddin delivered his daughter, Ratu Rangdan (Ratu Gading) to be Pangeran Jaya Wikrama’s wife (Sujitno, 2011: 142). The Dutch’s source mentioned that a civil war was happening while Abraham Patras, the Dutch commissioner arrived in Palembang in 1721. Both of the disputing parties asked for the VOC’s assistance. VOC replied the request of Pangeran Jaya Wikrama by sending its military expedition in 1722. Finally, the conflict was ended with the victory of Pangeran Jaya Wikrama and his troops, meanwhile Pangeran Adipati and his followers retreated to Jambi (Heidhues, 2008:8).

Pepper was the important commodity of Palembang. Since the early of 15th century, the demand of pepper in the European countries increased three times as much as before. Therefore, pepper became more exclusive. The phrase of “as expensive as pepper” appear to show the pepper’s high value at that time. It seemed that pepper was as expensive as diamond. The high value of pepper led to the planting of pepper in some places in the archipelago, such as Aceh, Riau, west coast of Sumatera, especially Pariaman, and Palembang, and Lampung. The popularity of pepper was lasted until the 17th century. In Palembang itself, the sovereign sultan ordered the people to have pepper plantation in order to provide the contract claims with VOC, as well as to provide the needs of local and global.

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298 The similar marriage occurred again, it was between Pangeran Adipati Abdurrahman (Sultan Mahfudz Bahauddin’s son) and Raden Adipati Sarimah. Raden Adipati/Ayu Sarimah was a daughter of Mulyo Kusumo (King of Matan’s son) and Daeng Maliyah (King of Bugis’ daughter). Pangeran Abdurrahman and Raden Ayu Sarimah had a son named Pangeran Purbaya Abdurrahman (Silsilah Kesultanan Palembang, unpublished, page 8).
The great and important plantations of pepper were in Rawas (uluan), Bangka and Belitung. Inevitably, Palembang became the major producer of pepper in the archipelago. This fact led to more interest of European countries, especially the Dutch in Palembang. The Dutch offered a business contract to the sovereign sultans for the pepper monopoly trading. Realizing the unfair contract, the rulers of Palembang did smuggling practices by selling the pepper to other countries; Britain, America, France, Cina and other traders. Absolutely, they got more benefit from these trading since the price was higher than that of the VOC offered. Realizing the smuggling practices done by the rulers of Palembang, VOC did many things to minimize and stop those illegal practices. (ANRI, Bundel Palembang No. 62.2; Bundel Palembang No. 15.7, Leur, 1967:125).

Meanwhile, tin was firstly found in 1709/1710 in Bangka Island. The old mine of tin was in Belo. Firstly, it was the local people who did the mining. Then, the mining project developed in the reign of Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I. Sultan asked Wan Akub to manage and take in charge of the mining. In addition, he delivered many labors who came from Cina, Johor, Siam, and Cambodia to Bangka. Therefore, Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I was mentioned as the pioneer of the Palembang empire as one of a great kingdoms in the archipelago. Tin was the major source of the Palembang’s affluence. Tin was the biggest and commodity of Palembang which was very popular in the archipelago. Palembang became a rich kingdom because of it. Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I was able to develop Palembang and prospered his people so. Some monumental buildings were built in this era. Some buildings still exist until now, such as Agung mosque, the graveyard complex of Tengkurep, and Kuto Lamo palace. It was mentioned that the Sultan had a great wealth. The sultan’s wealth reached to sixty millions dollar of Spain (Vos, 1993:23). Palembang sultanate had its own currency, which was called as Pitis was made from tin (Wursden, 2008:333). It was mentioned that Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I purchased 22 ships from Raja Alam Siak (Raja Laut) at a high price; senilai 2000 dollar of Spain (archive of Palembang in Erman’s article, 2013: 14). Based on the facts related to the wealth and prosperity of Palembang during his reign, it can be said that Palembang had its greatness in the era of Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I.

After Pangeran Jaya Wikrama has crowned, he was rewarded a descendant title of Siantan in Muntok, the titles were “Bang” for males, and “Yang” for females. Those titles were affected by Johor, that was “encek Wan equal to Wan” which derived from the word “Bangsawan”. This title was equivalent with “Masagus for males, Masayu for females”. All of these titles meant “aristocratic people/privileged class”, a high class level which was directly under “Radfen”, a king’s descendants. In the original text as cited by Sujitno, it was mentioned that “…and it is prohibited for others to get the titles besides those who were the descendants of the titles themselves (Bang and Yang)”. Furthermore, “it is no one from Palembang or other country who permitted to get marry with those of the privileged class except the sultan of Palembang, however it is excepted that if they got married with their own relatives who were from those privileged class”. (Sujitno, 2011:143-144; Machmud, 1886:33-34).

It is called monumental for its big shape and its stone material. As its topography and name, Palembang the capital city is 25 meter above the sea surface. Most of the land was swamp and there were tens of rivers (Palembang is known as “the city of twenty rivers”). The name of “Palembang” or originally “Palimbang” derived from Javanese language referring to “swamped”, since the land around Palembang the capital city consisted of mud sediment. Meanwhile, another opinion stated that Palembang derived from the “lemba” referring to swamped land. Generally, all of these illustrated Palembang as a watery land (swamped) (Sevenhoven, 1971: 12; Veth, 1869: 654; Stibbe, 1932: 270). In the old times, the sultans prohibited the people to build brick houses. Therefore, they established wooden houses instead. It was caused by the condition of Palembang and the difficulty of getting brickstone.

The mosque was built in 1740. Originally, it was a square building made of stone with marble floor and surrounded by strong pillars. There were also three cement ponds in the front and the both sides of the mosque. At that time, this mosque was the greatest and the most beautiful building in the Dutch East Indies (archipelago). (Gravesande, 1856: 456).
The wealth and prosperity of Palembang attracted some countries in the especially the Dutch to control over this kingdom. The Dutch got a chance from the civil war between Pangeran Anom Pangeran Jaya Wikrama which occurred in 1719. The Dutch supported Pangeran Jaya Wikrama who finally won the war. After enthroning, Pangeran Wikrama was entitled Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I. Meanwhile VOC asked for a contract renewal in 1722 as the reward for its assistance during the civil war. The contract was about the monopoly right of the Dutch toward the tin trading, the right to build warehouse mouth of Aur River (a stream of Musi River), and the restriction for Palembang to have business for tin commodity with other countries. Even though it was obvious stated in the contract that the Dutch had a full of power toward Palembang tin, the reality was not as clear as the contract. Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I played his role cleverly in order to get benefit from the tin without ignoring his obligation to fulfill the contract. He negotiated the VOC policy toward the restriction of other countries coming. Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I asserted that the restriction of the coming of the ships and junks from Siam and Cambodia would trigger the people to a boycotting action toward tin and pepper commodities. Sultan had to maintain the relationship with Siam and Cambodia because they were suppliers of rice for Palembang. The prevail of the restriction policy would lead to a termination relationship between Palembang, Siam and Cambodia which would also influence people’s orientation. Instead of planting pepper and mining, people would concern farming of paddy in order to provide their needs. The sultan’s intimidation worked VOC could accept his evaluation. The free coming of these countries was a great chance for the sultan and Palembang people to do the trading (tin and pepper), which gave more benefit to Palembang. Some VOC’s officers also included in such an illegal trading for their personal or group advantages.

**The Reign of Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin I**

Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin was a son of Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I, his mother Raden Ayu Ciblung. Raden Ayu Ciblung was a daughter of Pangeran Surabaya Subekti, and a grand daughter of Sultan Abdurrahman, the founder of the Palembang Sultanate. It means that Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I married his own cousin. Sultan Najamuddin got married with Raden Ayu Murti or Ratu Sepuh (Ratu Agung). Ratu Sepuh was a daughter of Raden Arya Kesuma Jengi, a grand son of Pangeran Purbaya, and a great-grand son of Sultan Muhammad Mansur. From her mother line, Ratu Agung was a daughter of Ratu Mugni, and her grand father was Abdullah al-Haddarri (Al-Haddat) (Naskah Simon Kesultanan Palembang, unpublished, page 5). Abdullah Al-Haddarry was originally from Arabia.

It seems that the rulers of Palembang had relationship with various ethnicities archipelago, even with the Arabia land. The Arabian people who stayed in Palembang were commonly Hadramaud. Their number in the sultanate was the second biggest after Aceh in Sumatra. In addition, it was also a custom for the rulers of Palembang to

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302 Firstly, Palembang kingdom had a formal relation with VOC in 1641. The contract signed by both parties stated that VOC was permitted to have some trading businesses in Palembang. The next renewal in 1668 the contract was renewed. It contained about the right VOC on the pepper monopoly trading in Palembang (Ricklefs, 2005: 154, 157; Kielstra, 1892:79; Faille,1971: 28; Bleeker, 1848: 397).

303 In the reign of Sultan Badaruddin II, Arabic ethnic got more convenience to stay and live in Palembang. They were permitted to build big wooden houses in the edge of Musi river, meanwhile Cina ethnicity were not.
and more wives. Their wives came from those various ethnicities, such as Arabia, Cina, and other ethnicities in the archipelago or even in the Southeast Asia. Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin I, for instance, married Masayu Kedaton, a princess of Brunei. It was mentioned that Masayu Kedaton (Masayu means "very valuable", Kedaton means palace. Sin, the name means "the very valuable princess") was a daughter of king of Brunei. The princess' name was obviously not her real name. Since "Masayu" was the name of aristocratic people of the Palembang Sultanate. It means that the princess changed her name after entering the palace of Palembang. In the local manuscript about the lineage of the Palembang Sultanate (written in Arabic and used Malay language), did not have further explanation about the princess of Brunei. In the article written by Mr. Firdaus Moerdin, which was presented in the National Seminar of Indonesian Historians of Minangkabau History: Sumatera Level in Palembang, 4th May 2013, it was mentioned that Brunei was one of subdued regions in the early of 9th century. From 7th to 10th centuries, it was believed that Palembang was the centre of the Srivijaya kingdom. Obviously, the direct and indirect connection between Palembang and Brunei which reached until 18th century (the reign of Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin I 1757-1776) has been lasted for more than 200 years. However, there were some kinds of connection which were unidentified yet nowadays. This is the work of historians and other interest people to do some researches and studies toward the relation (Brunei and Palembang).

From this marriage, Sultan had a son named Pangeran Surawijaya Syamsuddin. Furthermore, Pangeran had a daughter named Raden Ayu Ber[?] Panembahan Ilman Ilmi. The prince got married with a younger brother of Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin II, namely Panembahan Bupati Hanim (a son of Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin I). In fact, Panembahan Bupati Hanim got married with his cousin. Raden Ayu Kusuma Naqqiyah was then born from this marriage (Naskah Silsilah Kesultanan Palembang, unpublished, page 8).

Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin I has ruled Palembang for 19 years. During his time, Palembang was in a stable condition and wealth, as the heritage of his father, Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin I. It was mentioned that the sultan established the tower of Agung Mosque (1755). Besides, the stone fence was also built around the mosque. The tower was 100 feet high (31 meter) and it was octagon shaped. It functioned to broadcast the azan, a call to prayer (Gravesande. 1856: 456-457).

In the reign of Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin I, the trading developed rapidly. It was mentioned that a big business transaction with the value of three dollar of Spain between Palembang and King Ismail happened. Furthermore, in 1774, King Haji led a big trading to Palembang. It was a group of 35 ships loaded by trading commodities and most of the commodities were purchased by Sultan Ahmad Najamuddin I. This is a real illustration of the Palembang sultanate's wealth. Besides, Palembang had a large number of ships and boats. In 1759, there were ten ships of Arabic-Palembang ethnic (the archive of Palembang cited in Ilman, 2013: 14). The number of the ships was increased as the progress of the trading and sailing in the Palembang Sultanate.

The biggest foreign ethnic in Palembang (in the early of 19th century, their number was 800 people) were only permitted to live in the raft houses in Musi river. In the early of 19th century, the number of Arabic people was 500. Their professions were traders and entrepreneurs. (Berg, 2010: 108-109)
3. Closing
Marriage was an effective means to get close relationship between ethnics and kingdoms as well as to enlarge and strengthen authority and power. This is the customary way chosen by the rulers of Palembang kingdom and sultanate. As a new kingdom established by a comes from Java (Demak), marriage was an integrated part of political strategic in order to introduce and maintain the existence of this kingdom. This strategy was kept going by the next rulers. The sultans of Palembang from one generation to the next generation adopted and applied this strategy well. It is proven that the “method” became “a bypass” to be welcomed in other regions and to enlarge the authority as well. Nowadays, in the era of high technology of communication, communication is getting easier and easier crossing the space and time. As long as people can maintain the communication well, the friendship and even marriage between regions will be possible in order to tighten the relationship between countries and nations.
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