



Activities Of Japanese Traders In The Dutch Indies Period

Septina Alrianingrum¹, Wisnu Wisnu¹, Agus Suprijono¹, Nasution Nasution¹, Sri Mastuti¹, Agus Trilaksana¹, Riyadi Riyadi¹, Muhammad Yazid A.B¹.

¹ History Education, Faculty of Social and Political Science, Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia
septi@unesa.ac.id

Abstract. The increase in Javanese trade accompanied the migration process of the Javanese population to the Dutch colonial area. Trading activities are strengthened by formal institutions to protect political, economic and social interests. In big Indonesian cities such as Batavia, Semarang and Surabaya. Japanese trade grew rapidly due to the decline in European trade. However, during the crisis, Japanese trade experienced a decline due to the decline in people's purchasing power, only Japanese imports such as textiles, glass and bicycles still survived. In fact, most Japanese products are cheaper than European products. According to him, this Japanese product attracted the interest of Dutch people.

Keywords: Media Rhetoric, Sustainability, Higher Education Institution, Indonesia.

1 Introduction

The activities of Japanese traders were accompanied by the migration process of the Japanese population to the Dutch East Indies. These trade activities are strengthened by formal institutional relations between the two parties to protect political, economic, social and cultural interests. In large cities in Indonesia, such as Batavia, Semarang and Surabaya, Japanese trade flourished due to the cessation of trade from Europe due to World War I. However, during the crisis, Japanese trade experienced a decline because people's purchasing power decreased drastically. Only imports from Japan in the form of textiles, glass and bicycles are still surviving well. Almost all of these Japanese products are actually cheaper and the service is better than Europe. Therefore, it could attract sympathy from the people of the Dutch East Indies until the beginning of Japanese colonization in Indonesia.

The arrival of Japanese-made goods, which originally entered the markets on the banks of the Hyang Tse Kyang and Hoang Ho rivers, these goods made by Japanese industrialism, because of the boycott, could no longer enter China's territory. The gate to this boycott apparently could not be destroyed by the cannons of the army and fleet [1]. In 1931 Japan made a profit of 16.4% of all total imports, then in the last three years

31% of the total value - exceeding imports from three countries combined, namely: the Netherlands, England and Germany [2].

Japanese trade in the Dutch East Indies from 1909 until the depression period continued to increase. At that time there were only 614 Japanese people, consisting of 448 women and 116 men. The majority of Japanese women work as prostitutes. At the end of the 19th century, the number of Japanese residents in Batavia was 56 people, consisting of 12 men and 34 women, in Surabaya 3 people. Meanwhile, the Japanese population in the Dutch East Indies at that time was 463 people, 87 men and 376 women [3]. It is no longer surprising that Chinese people are the organizers of gambling places, drinking opium, embroidery houses or other things. This was indeed permitted by the Dutch East Indies government, although with various conditions (State Gazette of 1884 No. 182).

There are many romantic or otherwise stories about the lives of these prostitutes which are suitable in big cities, such as Surabaya. The story of the lives of these prostitutes is very clear when seen in the novel entitled *Earth and Humans* [4]. One episode of the book *Earth and Man* tells about this. This story can be taken as a fictional story that can describe the historical situation that occurred at that time.

In 1913, Semarang had the most Japanese shops and workers, but then in 1917 there were most of these things in Surabaya. This situation shows that several shops are growing rapidly, starting from retailers with a small number of imported goods and then turning into importers of goods to be sold wholesale. Surabaya, as the largest trading port city in the Dutch East Indies, is an export and import center, making it more profitable for the export-import business for Japan. This is supported by the fact that of the 29 people in Java who were classified as "large traders" in 1918, 19 were in Surabaya [6].

Since the Meiji era, the Japanese began to arrive in the Dutch East Indies. They made a living trading and founded the biggest grocery shops in Surabaya. Then in 1919 the condition in Batavia was promoted to consulate general. When a new consulate was established in Surabaya [7]. At that time, national industry in Japan began to develop because it was supported by a free trade system which then made Japan a supplier of its company's products to the Malay archipelago, including the Dutch East Indies.

The disruption in the supply of goods from Europe caused by World War I provided a good opportunity for Japanese traders to increase sales in the Dutch East Indies. After the end of the war, goods originating from Europe could be obtained again. This means that Japanese businesses cannot develop quickly [8].

Towards the end of the 1920s *Nikonjinkai* Local (Japanese associations) had become integrated into a vast intra-regional Japanese business network, including consulates, trade associations, newspapers and *Nanyo Kyokai* (Southern Sea Association) also participated in it. Japan increasingly focused on their own institutions and trade associations rather than relations with commercial networks and in Surabaya for the first time a Japanese School was founded on the initiative of the Japanese Association in 1925, then: Batavia 1928, Semarang 1929 and Bandung 1933 [9].

2 Methods

The research use the historical method [10] is a systematic set of procedures, principles, or rules to provide effective assistance in collecting sources, critically evaluating them to obtain historical facts, and then investigating the relationships until they become explanations in the form of written reports or historiography [11].

3 Results and Discussion

The value of imports from Japan remained stable until 1931, and the spread of the depression caused prices to fall. Goods originating from Japan during the depression in the Dutch East Indies were sold at very cheap prices. Indeed, seeing with a glimpse of the naked eye, the import of goods from Japan was a *deus ex mouchina*, a god's help from heaven. It was seen in passing that the *marhaen* (poor people of the Dutch East Indies) deserved to burn incense to keep the import from Japan sacred as a sign of gratitude. As if *Marhaen* deserved to join in the cheers, in "Dai Nippon Banzai!" - "Japan is the most thumbs up!".

According to Soekarno, what we got from Japan to Indonesia was the result of the boycott of Japanese imperialism by the Chinese people. The flood of goods made by Japanese imperialism, which previously entered the markets on the banks of the Hyang Tse Kyang and Hoang Ho rivers, this flood of goods made by Japanese industrialism, because of the boycott, can no longer enter China's territory. The gate to this boycott apparently could not be destroyed by the cannons of the army and fleet. In 1931 Japan made a profit of 16.4% of all total imports, then in the last three years 31% of the total value - exceeding imports from three countries combined, namely: the Netherlands, England and Germany [12].

Japanese trade in the Dutch East Indies from 1909 until the depression period continued to increase. At that time there were only 614 Japanese people, consisting of 448 women and 116 men. The majority of Japanese women work as prostitutes. At the end of the 19th century, the number of Japanese residents in Batavia was 56 people, consisting of 12 men and 34 women, in Surabaya 3 people. Meanwhile, the Japanese population in the Dutch East Indies at that time was 463 people, 87 men and 376 women [13]. These brothels/"pleasure" places were mostly organized by Chinese people.

It is no longer surprising that Chinese people are the organizers of gambling places, drinking opium, embroidery houses or other things. This was indeed permitted by the Dutch East Indies government, although with various conditions (State Gazette of 1884 No. 182). There are many romantic or otherwise stories about the lives of these prostitutes which are suitable in big cities, such as Surabaya. The story of the lives of these prostitutes is very clear when seen in the novel entitled *Earth and Humans*. One episode of the book *Earth and Man* tells about this. This story can be taken as a fictional story that can describe the historical situation that occurred at that time.

The Japanese government tried to establish a consulate in Batavia with the aim of protecting legal migrants, most of whom consisted of traders. They buy and sell several kinds of merchandise originating from Japan, such as medicines, confectionery, children's toys, porcelain and textiles. Some of them were able to collect capital quickly and then opened shops, known as Japanese shops [14].

In 1913, Semarang had the most Japanese shops and workers, but then in 1917 there were most of these things in Surabaya. This situation shows that a number of shops are growing rapidly, starting from retailers with a small number of imported goods and then turning into importers of goods to be sold wholesale. Surabaya, as the largest trading port city in the Dutch East Indies, is an export and import center, making it more profitable for the export-import business for Japan. This is supported by the fact that of the 29 people in Java who were classified as "large traders" in 1918, 19 were in Surabaya [15]. Since the Meiji era, the Japanese began to arrive in the Dutch East Indies. They made a living trading and founded the biggest grocery shops in Surabaya.

Then in 1919 the condition in Batavia was promoted to consulate general. When a new consulate was established in Surabaya [16]. At that time, national industry in Japan began to develop because it was supported by a free trade system which then made Japan a supplier of its company's products to the Malay archipelago, including the Dutch East Indies.

The disruption in the supply of goods from Europe caused by World War I provided a good opportunity for Japanese traders to increase sales in the Dutch East Indies. After the end of the war, goods originating from Europe could be obtained again. This means that Japanese businesses cannot develop quickly.

By the late 1920s, the local Nikonjinkai (Japanese Association) had become integrated into a vast intra-regional Japanese business network, in which consulates, trade associations, newspapers, and the Nanyo Kyokai (South Sea Association) also participated. Inside Japan increasingly focused on their own institutions and trade associations rather than relations with commercial networks and in Surabaya for the first time a Japanese School was founded on the initiative of the Japanese Association in 1925, then: Batavia in 1928, Semarang 1929 and Bandung 1933 [17].

Companies such as Mitsui Busson, Nippon, Shoji, Taiwan Bank, Yokohama Speciebank, Daido Boeki, and Goshō also became members of trade associations controlled by the Dutch East Indies government in large cities in Java. Thus, they can gain access to information generally beyond the knowledge of indigenous and Chinese entrepreneurs.

However, Japanese business was affected during the recession in 1921. A 1922 report from Kawai Shoten, a company whose stores were based in Mojokerto with two branches, said: "In that year sales were 20% higher than last year, but net profits fell 40%." This time it is because Japan/Kawai Shoten is concentrating on high volume sales and low profits in order to keep going during the recession and because people's purchasing power in general is declining. Perhaps the recession will continue until the first half of 1923 [18]. Strange Junpei, a Japanese consul in Surabaya, said: "... this is of course the result of each person's diligent and steadfast efforts and activities accompanied by rationality. However, on the other hand, it must also be acknowledged that

we live under the auspices of the Dutch East Indies government which is wise in governing. Therefore we must thank him [19].

In 1924, apart from being active in trade in the Dutch East Indies, the Japanese also had a plantation company. In Mojokerto the Japanese have a sugar factory whose plantation is located in Sumengko covering an area of 645 shoulders. Then in Jombang, there is a lemongrass and kapok plantation located in Jurangjero, covering an area of 422 shoulders, which during the crisis decreased to 300 shoulders.

4 Conclusion

The increasing flow of Japanese trade to the Dutch East Indies was followed by the migration of the Japanese population to the area. To protect trade interests, the population needs good bilateral relations. The growth of Japanese trade in the Dutch East Indies region was due to World War I where production from Europe was stopped in the Dutch East Indies region.

Japanese trade activities are well integrated into intra-regional business supported by consulates, trade ties, the press, and the nation *kyodai* (South Sea Association). Therefore, Dutch East Indies trade exports to Japan also increased. Even in the late 1940s, Japan wanted all commodities.

This need could be fulfilled by the Dutch East Indies government. However, this request was rejected because it was alleged that the items were to strengthen Japan in facing World War II.

5 Acknowledgments

Japanese spies disguised themselves as journalists, fishermen, portraitists, coolies, grocery store waiters, operating brothels and film stars. This can be done because of the similarity of physical form with the Chinese nation.

They are free to roam and have access to learn many things such as environmental, social, economic, political and cultural aspects in the Dutch East Indies. Not only individual movements, but some Japanese companies are also believed to have collected special maps of the port area.

References

1. Soekarno, *Di Bawah Bendera Revolusi Jilid 1*. Djakarta: Panitia Penerbit di Bawah Bendera Revolusi, (1963).
2. Jan O.M. Broek, *Economic Development of Netherlands Indies*. New York: International. Secretariat Institute of Pasific Relation, (1942).

3. Peter Post, *Japanese Bedrijvigheid in Indonesie, voor ourlogse economische expansie in Zuidoost Azie*. Amsterdam: Centrale Huisdrukkerij Vrije Universiteit, (1991).
4. Pramudya Ananta Tower, *Bumi Manusia*. Jakarta – Amsterdam: Hasta Mitra, (1980).
5. Shigeru Soto, *War, Nationalism and Peasant: Java under Javanese Occupation 1942 -1945*. New York: M. P Sharpe, Inc, (1994).
6. Aku Shiraishi and Takashi Shiraishi, *Orang Jepang di Asia Tenggara*. Jakarta: Yayasan Obor, (1998).
7. Peter Post, *Japanese Bedrijvigheid in Indonesie, voor ourlogse economische expansie in Zuidoost Azie*. Amsterdam: Centrale Huisdrukkerij Vrije Universiteit, (2000).
8. Aku Shiraishi (ed.), *Orang Jepang di Asia Tenggara*. Jakarta: Yayasan Obor. (1998).
9. Ken Ichi Goto, *Jepang dan Pergerakan Indonesia*. Terjemahan Hiroko Otsuko, dkk. Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia, (1998).
10. Garraghan, Gilbert J., *Guide to historical method*, New York: Fordham University Press, (1957).
11. Wisnu, Rojil N. Bayu Aji, *Metode Penelitian Sejarah*, Surabaya : Unesa University Press, (2018).
12. Jan O.M. Broek, *Economic Development of Netherlands Indies*. New York: International. Secretariat Institute of Pasific Relation, (1942).
13. Peter Post, *Japanese Bedrijvigheid in Indonesie, voor ourlogse economische expansie in Zuidoost Azie*. Amsterdam: Centrale Huisdrukkerij Vrije Universiteit, (1991).
14. Shigeru Soto, *Nationalism and Peasant: Java under Javanese Occupation 1942 -1945*. New York: M. P Sharpe, Inc, (1994).
15. Aku Shiraishi and Takashi Shiraishi, 1998. *Orang Jepang di Asia Tenggara*. Jakarta: Yayasan Obor, (1998).
16. Peter Post, *Japanese Bedrijvigheid in Indonesie, voor ourlogse economische expansie in Zuidoost Azie*. Amsterdam: Centrale Huisdrukkerij Vrije Universiteit, (2000).
17. Ken Ichi Goto, *Jepang dan Pergerakan Indonesia*. Terjemahan Hiroko Otsuko, dkk. Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia, (1998).
18. Aku Shiraishi, *Orang Jepang di Asia Tenggara*. Jakarta: Yayasan Obor, (1998).
19. Ken Ichi Goto, *Jepang dan Pergerakan Indonesia*. Terjemahan Hiroko Otsuko, dkk. Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia, (1998).

Open Access This chapter is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits any noncommercial use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made.

The images or other third party material in this chapter are included in the chapter's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the chapter's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder.

