

# The Role of Youth in The Development of Malay Culture-Based Tourism Destinations in Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this study is to find out how the Azizi Mosque as a Malay-based tourist destination and to determine the extent of the role of youth DPD KNPI Langkat in the development of tourism destination based Malay culture in Langkat of North Sumatra Province. The results of this study are based on observational data that researchers do is that the Azizi Mosque is a building that contains historical and cultural values of Malay in Langkat district, where, in addition to the architectural splendor of the Azizi mosque building with its wide area that fascinates tourists, the Azizi mosque building ornaments also is a symbol or shows the characteristics of Malay culture in Langkat district. There is also a complex surrounding the tombs of the kings or sultans who once ruled the sultanate period Langkat. Even according to historical records collected by researchers, the Azizi Mosque was once functioned as the Langkat Sultanate Palace. Until now, Azizi is a building that has witnessed the glory of the Langkat sultanate in the past.

**Keyword:** Azizi Mosque, Langkat, Malay Culture, The role of youth, Tourism destination.

**Abstrak.** Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui bagaimana Mesjid Azizi sebagai destinasi wisata berbasis budaya Melayu serta untuk mengetahui sejauhmana peran pemuda Dewan Pimpinan Daerah (DPD) Komite Nasional Pemuda Indonesia (KNPI) Kabupaten Langkat dalam pengembangan destinasi wisata berbasis budaya Melayu di Kabupaten Langkat Provinsi Sumatera Utara. Hasil penelitian ini berdasarkan dari data observasi yang peneliti lakukan adalah bahwa Mesjid Azizi merupakan bangunan yang mengandung nilai sejarah dan budaya Melayu di kabupaten Langkat, dimana, selain kemegahan arsitektur bangunan mesjid Azizi dengan area luasnya yang mempesona bagi para wisatawan, ternyata ornamen bangunan mesjid Azizi juga merupakan simbol ataupun menunjukkan ciri khas budaya Melayu di kabupaten Langkat. Disekitarnya juga terdapat kompleks makam para raja atau sultan yang pernah berkuasa pada masa kesultanan Langkat. Bahkan menurut catatan sejarah yang peneliti himpun, mesjid Azizi pernah difungsikan sebagai istana kesultanan Langkat. Hingga saat ini, Azizi adalah bangunan yang menjadi saksi kejayaan kesultanan Langkat pada masa lampau

**Kata Kunci:** Budaya Melayu, Destinasi Wisata, Langkat, Mesjid Azizi, Peran Pemuda.

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## **1. Introduction**

Tourism activities in Indonesia have become quite a strategic sector in the national economy, because they have contributed significantly to state revenue. This can be seen from the large value of benefits to tourist destinations, either directly or indirectly.

Indonesia as an archipelagic country, has a very varied tourist attraction that is not owned by other nations in this hemisphere. The tourism potential that Indonesia has is very prospective and the tourist objects contained in it are one of the most important links in a series of tourism industries to be managed and developed. As stated by Robert Sibarani (2017: 99) that in managing tourist areas, it is necessary to pay attention to the 4ASC concept, especially for the management of tourist destinations in Indonesia. The 4ASC concept stands for attraction, accessibility, amenity, ancillary, safeness, and comfort.

As time went by, from the beginning of the development of Malay culture pioneered by the Langkat Sultanate to the collapse of the Sultanate, many events had a negative impact on Malay cultural destinations. Until now, a cultural destination that is still intact and can be empowered by the community is the Azizi Mosque building which was founded on June 13, 1902 and inaugurated in December 1927 in Tanjung Pura District. The Azizi Mosque originally functioned as the palace of the Langkat sultanate, and after the collapse of the Langkat sultanate in the post-independence era of the Republic of Indonesia in 1946, a function change was carried out and until now it has functioned as the Azizi Mosque, a place of worship for Muslims.

Therefore, based on the above problems, the authors are interested in conducting a study entitled "The Role of Youth in the Development of Malay Culture-Based Tourism Destinations in Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province."

Based on the background of the problem above, the existing problems can be identified as follows:

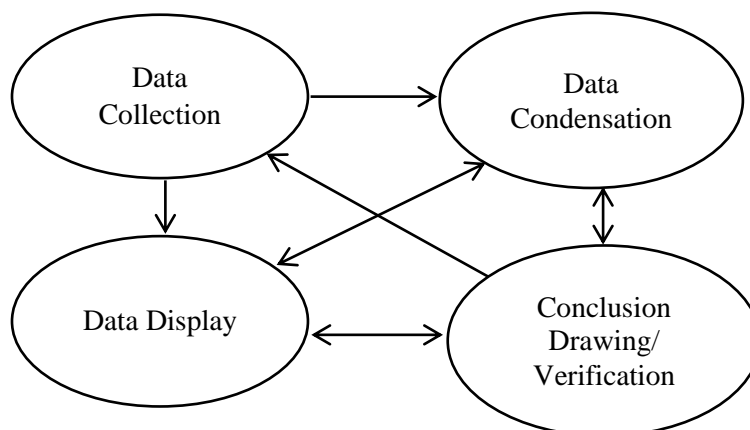
- 1) The importance of the tourism sector as a means of community commodity to improve the economy of the community and government.
- 2) The importance of developing tourist destinations based on Malay culture in Langkat Regency as an icon of regional tourism.
- 3) Mesjid Azizi as a cultural destination left over from the time of the Langkat Sultanate has become a testament to the glory of the Langkat Sultanate.
- 4) It is necessary to develop the area of the Azizi Mosque as a tourist destination based on the Langkat Malay culture.
- 5) The role of youth in Langkat Regency is deemed necessary in the effort to develop tourism destinations based on Malay culture in Langkat Regency.

Given the variety of problems outlined in the identification of problems above, it is necessary to limit the problem to make it easier for the author to carry out this research. The limitation of the problem in this study is "The Role of Youth in the Development of Malay Culture-Based Tourism Destinations in Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province." The youth in this study are youth organizations whose researchers view that they are actively involved in Malay culture in Langkat district, namely the Regional Leadership Council (DPD) of the Indonesian Youth National Committee (KNPI) Langkat Regency. Meanwhile, a destination based on Malay culture is Mesjid Azizi, which is located in Tanjung Pura District, Langkat Regency.

## **2. Method**

Based on the problems that have been formulated in this study, the appropriate type of research is descriptive research with a qualitative approach, namely a research approach that can use words in presenting research data. This is very useful in helping to describe facts and

phenomena that occur and are the focus of research. Researchers used a qualitative descriptive interactive model approach (Miles: 2014), namely by conducting an analysis in 4 stages of activity as seen in the following table:



In carrying out this research, the steps taken to achieve the research objectives are to collect several data sources as follows:

#### 1) Primary Data

To achieve the objectives of this study, the researcher carried out a data collection process in the following steps:

- a. Observation (observation)
- b. Interview

The primary data sources in this study are informants who directly provide research-related information to researchers through people or documents relevant to the research. The main informants in this study were the Executive Board of the KNPI Langkat Demisioner (2015-2018 Period) and the Active Langkat KNPI DPD Management for the 2018-2021 Period.

#### 2) Secondary Data

Secondary data is data that has been collected by other people, usually from research conducted by institutions or organizations such as BPS and others with the aim of complementing research needs. Secondary data in this study is documentation which includes organizational history, archives, and images relevant to the research. In this study, the documentation used was in the form of destination photos, activity notes and various information used to support the research results that came directly from the Azizi Mosque Building Area and the KNPI Langkat DPD organization.

The informants involved in this study were:

- a) Key informants, namely informants who know and have the main information needed in a complete and in-depth study. In this study, the key informants were the KNPI DPD Board of Demisioner (2015-2018 Period) and the Active Langkat KNPI DPD Management for the 2018-2021 Period, including the Chair or Deputy Chair, Secretary or Deputy Secretary, Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer, or the Education Commission. , Sports, Arts and Culture of Langkat KNPI Council.
- b) Main informants, namely informants who are directly involved in the research process. In this case, the informant in question is the board of the KNPI Langkat DPD for the 2015-2018 period and the 2018-2021 period.
- c) Additional informants, namely informants who can provide information even though they are not directly involved in the research process. In this case, the informants referred to are OKPs who are under the Langkat KNPI, or artists, or community leaders.

After the researcher carried out the data collection process (Data Collection), the data were then grouped into two parts, namely main data and supporting data. As previously explained, primary or primary data is obtained through research subjects, namely people who are directly involved in research activities. Meanwhile, supporting or secondary data is obtained from documents in the form of pictures, recordings, notes, and other forms that can support this research. The entire data that has been collected then begins to be analyzed using the interactive model qualitative research method (Miles: 2014) as previously described.

### **3. Result and Discussion**

#### **3.1 Area Overview**

The Langkat Malay community is a Malay ethnic group living in the Langkat Regency area, which is located in the Province of North Sumatra, Indonesia. Its capital is in Stabat, and has the motto "Unite, Sekata Combines Berjaya". Langkat Regency consists of 23 sub-districts, 240 villages and 37 sub-districts with an area of 6,320 km<sup>2</sup>. Based on the results of the 2017 Census of Langkat Regency, the population is 1,028,309, consisting of 517,804 men and 510,505 women. The average population density of Langkat Regency is 154 people per square kilometer, the sub-district with the highest density is Binjai District with a density of 1,005 people per square kilometer, while the lowest density is Bahorok District with 36 people per kilo. square meter.

Geographically, Langkat Regency is located in the position 3o14 'North Latitude (North Latitude) up to. 4o13 'North Latitude (North Latitude) and 97o 52' East Longitude (East Longitude) up to. 98o 45 'East Longitude (East Longitude).

The name Langkat is taken from the name of the Langkat Sultanate which used to be in what is now a small town called Tanjung Pura, about 20 km from Stabat. The sub-district area in the Langkat Regency area is divided into three regions, namely:

- I. The Langkat Hulu area, which is a high-lying area, includes: Kuala District, Sei Bingai District, Sal Api District, Bahorok District, Serapit District, Kutambaru District, Selesai District, and Binjai District.
- II. The Langkat Hilir area, which is a low-lying area, includes: Stabat District, Wampu District, Secanggang District, Hinai District, Padang Tualang District, Batang Serangan District, Sawit Seberang District, and Tanjung Pura District.
- III. Haru Bay area which is a coastal area which includes: Babalan District, Gebang District, West Brandan District, Sei Lapan District, Pangkalan Susu District, Besitang District, and Pematang Jaya District.

The Langkat Malay people live in these three areas. Due to their domicile, the Langkat people are considered as part of the Malay people on the island of Sumatra. This community was formed due to the migration or migration of the Karo Batak people who came from Tanah Karo which is located in the south of Langkat Regency. Thus, the Langkat Malay community has the same line as the ancestors of the Karo Batak people, especially for the Langkat Malay community in the Langkat Hulu area (west-south Langkat).

#### **3.2 Azizi Mosque as a Malay Culture-Based Tourist Destination**

The Azizi Mosque is a heritage mosque of the Langkat Sultanate located in the city of Tanjung Pura, Langkat Regency, North Sumatra, which was the capital of the Langkat Sultanate in the past. This mosque is located on the edge of the Sumatra highway that connects Medan with Banda Aceh. This mosque was built with profits derived from oil mining in the Pangkalan Berandan area. This oil mining is one proof of the glory of the Langkat earth at that time.

When Sultan Musa was in power, this mosque was used as the center of government for the Langkat Sultanate. After this building was completed during the reign of Sultan Abdul Aziz, this building was then used to make policies with religious leaders at that time. In designing the

mosque building, Sultan Abdul Aziz Djalil Rakhmat Syah seeks to instill the concept of development by combining 5 elements in society as the philosophy of the Malay community, namely the power of leaders (umara), scholars, cleverness (zuamah), the rich (aghiya), and the power of prayer. 'a poor man (fukara). These five elements make the main force that supports the founding of the mosque so that the mosque building is better than the palace building of Sultan Langkat. The beauty of the Azizi Mosque was then used as a reference for the construction of the Zahir Mosque in Kedah - Malaysia, so that the two mosques have similarities with one another.

The area of the Azizi Mosque also contains historical relics, such as the tombs of the former ruling kings of Langkat (Sultan Langkat) which are still well-preserved in the burial complex of the Tanjung Pura Azizi Mosque, and the tomb of the National hero T. Amir Hamzah which is also a burial complex for the general public. Another legacy of the Langkat Sultanate is the library hall of T. Amir Hamzah, which stores books about Islam and several books by T. Amir Hamzah. T. Amir Hamzah and the Tanjung Pura area museum. The Tanjung Pura area museum is a compact building that was built in 1905 with European-style architecture which holds several relics of the Langkat Sultanate and the legacy of T. Amir Hamzah. This is what makes the potential of a mosque area as a culture-based tourist destination with its historical, architectural, and ornamental values.

### 3.3 The Role of Youth in the Development of Malay Culture-Based Tourist Destinations in Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province Based on the Concept of Attraction, Accessibility, Amenety, and Ancilliary

The role of youth in developing tourist destinations based on Malay culture in Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province based on the concept of attraction, accessibility, amenety, and ancillary can be seen in the following table:

**Table 1.** The Role of Youth Based on the Concept of Attraction, Accessibility, Amenety, and Ancilliary

No	Development Concepts	The Role of Youth
1.	The Role of Youth Based on <i>Attraction</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Fostering and coordinating several dance studios in Langkat district.</li> <li>2) Directly involved in the performance of Malay cultural arts such as dance, pencak silat, theater / drama, typical Malay music and literary arts (such as poetry and typical Malay cultural rhymes) in every activity carried out by the manager at Mesjid Azizi.</li> <li>3) Conduct scientific studies in the form of discussion forums for the development of the tourism sector in Langkat district.</li> <li>4) Utilizing the Azizi Mosque area and being involved as the organizing committee in Islamic Holidays (PHBI) activities such as the Prophet's Birthday, Isra 'Mi'raj, Tabligh Akbar, and the Azizi Festival which were held in the Azizi Mosque area.</li> <li>5) As a facilitator in providing needs for visitors who wish to make the Azizi Mosque a spot for pre-wedding photos, collections, and so on.</li> </ol>
2.	The Role of Youth Based on <i>Accessibility</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) As individuals, they act as providers of transportation or travel services.</li> <li>2) As individuals and groups, they act as guides for tourists who come to visit the Azizi Mosque, both for domestic and foreign tourists.</li> <li>3) Informing about the Azizi Mosque through internet media</li> </ol>

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3.	The Role of Youth Based on Amenity	<p>such as Youtube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and so on.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) As a business actor doing culinary business such as restaurants, cafes or coffee shops, snacks such as Langkat typical lunkhead, various types of chips, candied fruit.</li> <li>2) As a business actor doing souvenirs or souvenirs or typical Langkat souvenirs, such as souvenir shops or handicrafts, woven fabrics typical of Langkat Malay.</li> </ol>
4.	The Role of Youth Based on Ancillary	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Sanggar Seni Tari Melati Suci</i></li> <li>2. <i>Laskar Pemuda Melayu</i></li> <li>3. <i>Laskar Melayu Bersatu</i></li> <li>4. <i>Kesultanan Langkat</i></li> <li>5. <i>Pemuda Melayu Langkat</i></li> </ol>

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### 3.4 Inhibiting Factors for Youth in the Development of Tourism Destinations based on Malay Culture in Langkat Regency

The internal inhibiting factors of the KNPI Langkat DPD researchers have summarized as follows:

- 1) The lack of cash for internal operational funds of the KNPI Langkat DPD which led to limited activities in achieving organizational goals, including efforts to develop tourist destinations based on Malay culture in Langkat district.
- 2) The lack of interest from some of the Langkat KNPI DPD administrators to play an active role in the development of Malay culture-based tourist destinations in Langkat Regency is due to weak human resources (HR), such as their lack of insight into Malay culture itself.
- 3) Many of the board members of the KNPI Langkat DPD are married, causing their limited space for activities.
- 4) Many administrators of the Langkat KNPI DPD work as State Civil Servants (ASN) and private employees which resulted in paralyzing organizational movements in achieving organizational goals.

The external factors have been summarized as follows:

- 1) The government through the Langkat Regency Tourism and Culture Office has not yet involved the KNPI Langkat DPD in efforts to develop tourist destinations based on Malay culture in Langkat Regency.
- 2) The government through the Langkat Regency Tourism and Culture Office has not prioritized the development of culture-based tourist destinations, seen from the slow response of the government to the use of Tanjung Pura as a City of Culture.
- 3) The government, through the Langkat Regency Tourism and Culture Office and the Langkat Regency Youth and Sports Office, has not been able to become the main facilitator in every activity of the Langkat KNPI DPD.

### 3.5 Research Limitations

The interactive qualitative research on the role of youth in the development of tourist destinations based on Malay culture in Langkat Regency, North Sumatra Province, which researchers conducted certainly has limitations in the research process such as:

- 1) Researcher's limitations in accessing the board of the KNPI Langkat DPD who acted as the main informants in this study resulted in the lack of information that the researchers obtained. This was due to the dense activity of the board members who were difficult for researchers to meet to interview them in relation to this research.
- 2) Limited accommodation for researchers in reaching informants given the vast area of Langkat district and their domicile which is spread across nearly 23 sub-districts in Langkat Regency.

## 4. Conclusion

The Azizi Mosque is a building that contains historical and cultural values of Malay in Langkat district, where, in addition to the architectural splendor of the Azizi mosque building with its wide area that enchants tourists, it turns out that the ornament of the Azizi mosque is also a symbol or shows the distinctive features of Malay culture in the district. Leave. Around it there is also a tomb complex for kings or sultans who once ruled during the Langkat Sultanate. In fact, according to historical records collected by researchers, the Azizi mosque was once functioned as the palace of the Langkat Sultanate. Until now, Azizi is a building that has witnessed the glory of the Langkat Sultanate in the past.

Youth DPD KNPI Langkat, with all their limitations, both internally and externally, have not been able to fully play a role in the development of the Azizi Mosque as a tourist destination based on Malay culture in Langkat district. But in terms of attractions, the youth of the KNPI Langkat DPD have played a good role in the development of the Azizi mosque as a tourist destination based on Malay culture in Langkat district, North Sumatra Province.

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