

**Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles,
And Coping Mechanisms. An In-depth Interviews
with Indonesian Seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan.**

By

Nathania Cyrilla

謝娜塔

Submitted to the Faculty of
Department of International Affairs in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of
Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs

Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages
2023

WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

This senior paper was presented

by

Nathania Cyrilla
謝娜塔

It was defended on

November 18, 2023

and approved by

Reviewer 1: Philipp Fluri, Visiting Professor, Department of International Affairs

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reviewer 2: Yu-Hsuan Lee, Assistance Professor, Department of International Affairs

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Advisor: Yuan-Ming Chiao, Assistant Professor, Department of International Affairs

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Copyright © by Nathania Cyrilla 謝娜塔
2023

**Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, And Coping Mechanisms.
An In-depth Interviews with Indonesian Seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan.**

Nathania Cyrilla

Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, 2023

Abstract

More than 720,000 migrant workers are currently working in Taiwan. Indonesian migrant workers have a big share of it. They work as care workers for elderly and children, housekeepers, nurses, construction workers, mine workers, factory workers, and fishing vessel crew. Working away from home is not an easy decision to make. However, they chose to do it. That must be motivated by a push and pull factors to migrates to another country, Taiwan. As if work away from family in an unfamiliar place is not hard enough, Indonesian migrant workers are sometimes mistreated by their employer. They experience abusive treatment, overwork, late payment, underpaid or even unpaid work. Besides, it does not stop them to survive and stay in Taiwan. This research aims to answer three research question related to the push and pull factors that motivates Indonesian seafarers to work in Taiwan, their challenges, and how they overcome it. In order to find the answer of the questions the research will conduct in a qualitative in-depth interview method. Interviewing 7 Indonesian seafarers in Pingtung City to explore their story and life journey. The result of this research intended to bring new insight from Indonesian seafarers' perspective and channeling their voices to the new society that live nearby but might not aware of their existence.

Keyword: Migrant workers in Taiwan, Indonesian migrant workers, Indonesian seafarers in Taiwan, Motivations for working abroad, Push and Pull Theory, Mistreatment of migrant workers, coping strategies of Indonesian seafarers, Qualitative in-depth interviews, Indonesian seafarers' perspective.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
Research Background	1
Motivation	3
Research Purpose.....	4
Research Questions.....	4
Contribution.....	5
Limits.....	5
Delimits	6
LITERATURE REVIEW	7
Migration	7
Theory of Migration by Ravenstein, 1876	9
Theory of Migration by Lee, 1966	10
<i>Table 1. Example of Coding</i>	11
Migrant Worker	12
Indonesian Migrant Worker in Taiwan.....	13
Indonesian Seafarers in Taiwan.....	14
Hurdles and Coping Mechanism.....	15
Coping Mechanism Style and Type.....	16
Transactional Theory of Stress and Coping (TTSC) by Lazarus.....	17
<i>Figure 2. Diagram of Lazarus and Folkman's Transactional Theory of Stress</i>	18
Theoretical Framework.....	19
<i>Figure 3. Researcher's Theoretical Framework</i>	19
METHODOLOGY	20
Research Design	20
Research and Data Collection Process	20
DATA ANALYSIS	22
Reporting	22
<i>Table 1. Example of Coding</i>	23
Findings	23
<i>Table 2. Attributes of 7 Interviewees</i>	24
IS 1	24

IS 2	24
IS 3	25
IS 4	25
IS 5	25
IS 6	26
IS 7	26
Background	26
Push Factor	29
Insufficient Income	29
Improve Living Condition	30
Responsibility to Fulfil	30
Self-Courage and Dream	30
No Option	31
External Influence	32
Pull Factor	32
Higher Income, Incentive, and Opportunity	32
Easy Process	33
Nice Employer	33
Comforting Environment	33
Hurdles	34
Internal Conflict	34
Language Barrier	35
Abuse and Threat	35
Working System	36
Away from Family and Relative	37
Self-Potency	37
Nature Threat	38
Coping Mechanism	38
Having Community	38
Self-Control	39
Self-Assurance	39
Environment Support	40
Law Enforcement and Awareness	41

Adaptation.....	41
Discussion.....	41
Limitations.....	44
CONCLUSION.....	46
APPENDIX A.....	48
Interview Guideline in English.....	48
Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 1.....	50
Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 2.....	65
Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 3.....	72
Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 4.....	79
Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 5.....	90
Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 6.....	97
Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 7.....	112
APPENDIX B.....	116
Consent Form in English.....	116
Consent Form of Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 1.....	117
Consent Form of Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 2.....	118
Consent Form of Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 3.....	119
Consent Form of Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 4.....	120
Consent Form of Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 5.....	121
Consent Form of Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 6.....	122
Consent Form of Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 7.....	123
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	124

LIST OF TABLES

<i>Table 1. Example of Coding.....</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Table 2. Attributes of 7 Interviewees</i>	<i>24</i>

LIST OF FIGURES

<i>Figure 1. Lee's Push and Pull Theory Graphics</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Figure 2. Diagram of Lazarus and Folkman's Transactional Theory of Stress.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Figure 3. Researcher's Theoretical Framework</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Figure 4. Theoretical Framework and Findings Combination</i>	<i>44</i>

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Research Background

Based on the history records, migration of Indonesian was all started in the 1890s when Indonesian went abroad and became migrant workers. As time goes by, more and more Indonesians continue the wave of going abroad and working as a migrant shaped as a culture. The migration of Indonesian worker was caused by many factors. Those factors are defined as push and pull factors by Everett S. Lee (1966). Those factors are related to financial issues, low education background, and a high unemployment rate.

Everett S. Lee's theory of push and pull factor of migration is one of the most influential and used theory in this field. Push factor defined as situation or condition in the origin country that motivates person to move or migrate. On the other hand, pull factor determine as attracting feature from the destination country that motivates person to come as a migrates.

As an unskilled worker, the Indonesian migrant worker has some common occupations. For women, they are likely to be care giver for elderly and children, housekeepers, and nurses. Meanwhile, for men, they are likely to work as construction workers, mines, factories, and fishing vessel crew. It is interesting to investigate more about fishing vessel crew since they are not working on land but on the sea. They seem more vulnerable than those who work on land. Since they are far from society and have a high-risk occupation.

The first wave of Indonesian migrant workers went to Suriname. In the late 1960s, Indonesia experienced the second wave of migrant workers. They went to Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. At that time, the contract and recruitment were not under the law of the Indonesia government. It was not regulated and unwell organized. The contract and recruitment were taken care of by personals or private agencies.

The unprotected Indonesian migrant worker was put in jeopardy. They were fragile and likely to be verbally and physically abused. Even worse, there were some cases of murdered Indonesian migrant workers because of the abusive treatment they experienced.

In the late 1970s, the Indonesia government realized the need to protect their people who went abroad as migrant workers. Thus, they started to make the law and regulation about working contract and protection for Indonesian migrant workers. This began the unstoppable wave of Indonesian migrant workers.

Taiwan became one of the countries that recruited huge numbers of Indonesian migrant workers. In the year of 2023 there are 349,000 Indonesian migrant workers in Taiwan.¹ The most common occupation of Indonesian migrant workers in Taiwan is care giver for elderly, nurses, factory workers, and seafarers.

Just like what happened in the past, although the government has laws and regulated Indonesian migrant workers, the issue of protecting Indonesian migrant workers' rights is still a thing. The real-world situation is changing faster than the government law, which leaves Indonesian migrant workers only partially protected when they work away from their home country.

Put the focus on the seafarers who still experiencing unpleasant treatment and working environment during their work experience here in Taiwan. Indonesian seafarers often being verbally and physically abused by the captain on the fishing vessel. Conflict between seafarers also happens at some working environment which lead into a fight. Late payment and deduction of their salary occurs in some cases. Without being inform about the deduction they left with a high hope to receive a full salary. Some of the seafarers also unaware of their working contract and easily manipulated by irresponsible party. Furthermore, they are unable to stay in contact with people on land because not all fishing

¹ Statistik Ekonomi dan Keuangan Indonesia Indonesian Economic and Financial Statistics, "Number of Indonesian Migrant Workers (Imws) by Host Country (Thousands of People)," (BI.GO/Seki2023).

vessels are providing them with sustainable and reliable phone signals. They are not able to ask for help and get medical treatment from people on land. This situation is very crucial for this unprotected self. If they are laid off from the fishing vessels before the contract is end, they have no places to go. They need a shelter to be their temporary accommodation.

Coming from those issues, the emergence of NGOs to give social support to migrant workers has started. In Taiwan, it was started by TIWA on October 30, 1999 as the first local NGO in Taiwan, which gives social support through their acts for both foreign spouses and migrant workers. It was followed by other NGOs and non-profit organizations, such as Stella Maris Kaohsiung Apostle of the Sea (AOS), FOSPI (*Forum Silaturahmi Pelaut Indonesia / Indonesian Seafarers Friendly Forum*) in Pingtung, and *Organisasi Kampo Bersatu* (United Kampo Organization) in Pingtung as well. The intention of the NGOs mostly to be the shelter for Indonesian seafarers whom in the need of guidance, social supports, and community to lean on.

Indonesian seafarers facing many hurdles that stress them out. In order to survive while working in Taiwan they need to form a coping mechanism. To examine their coping mechanism, I will use Lazarus and Folkman theory named Transactional Theory of Stress and Coping (TTSC).

In this research, I aim to investigate how push and pull factor motivates Indonesian to become a seafarer in Taiwan. The aims continue to understand the struggle and hurdle of being an Indonesian seafarer and explore how they form a coping mechanism. By look closer into TTSC this research will find out what coping strategy are they using.

1.2. Motivation

There are many Indonesian seafarers work in Pingtung, Taiwan. They did alot not only for themselves or their family, but also for the society and the government. By doing their job, they filled up the need of labor in Taiwan fishing industry. Which will fulfill the

demand of fish on the local and international market. Other than that, as migrant worker they pay taxes and contribute for the foreign exchange of the countries. Therefore, I motivated to pay some attention to their existence and contributes by raise a small awareness to my environment which are the university environment.

1.3. Research Purpose

The purpose of this research is to figure out the push and pull factors that motivate Indonesian to work as seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan. It follows by explore the hurdles encounter by Indonesian seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan. Then, conclude by understand how Indonesian seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan cope with the hurdles. These three purposes are in a sequential process. It will be achieved by performing well in-depth interview process and analyzing collected data effectively.

1.4. Research Questions

This research aims to answer three research questions in total. The research question made based on the gap on the existing literature reviewed by the researcher. Most previous research focus on the violation of law and regulation on Indonesian migrant worker. Thus, the researcher interested in the beginning of Indonesian migrant worker seafarers' journey when they decide to come and work in Taiwan. The interest continues to how are they living and working situation here and the way they deal with it.

The interest of researcher then poured into three research questions. These are:

1. How did push and pull factors motivate Indonesians to work as seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan?
2. How Indonesian seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan describes the hurdles they encounter?
3. How do Indonesian seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan form a coping mechanism to overcome the hurdles they encounter?

1.5. Contribution

The result of this research is expected to be contributed to society. On a small scale of society, as refers to the readers, the research is expected to raise awareness about migrant workers that are living among us and provide new insight into their existence. On a bigger scale of society, referring to both Indonesia and Taiwan Government as well as NGOs or activist in this field, the research may bring new understanding about how is the current situation faced by some of the Indonesian seafarers. By that information it may be an enlighten to the real-world situation and how to produce a law and how to take action to make the situation better. Lastly, their experience may be motivation and inspiration for society to cope with their own hurdles.

1.6. Limits

The limit of this research to gaining the main data source is the flexibility of interviewees to be able to be interviews. Regarding the potential interviewees packed working schedule it will limits the available time for conduct an in-depth interview. The distance between researcher and interviewees domicile is quite far. This will be another consideration.

Other than that, the language barrier may also limit respondents' capability to understand and give an accurate response. Although both researcher and respondents use Indonesian Language, there is a possibility that respondents are not fluent in the Indonesian language. This is possible since some Indonesians use their traditional dialect more than Indonesian Language itself.

Lastly, all interviewees are those who'd survived to cope with the hurdles in Taiwan. Therefore, no direct experience revealed about those who wasn't able to cope. The experience of Indonesian seafarers who wasn't succeed in Taiwan only revealed through the interviewees as the third point of view.

1.7. Delimits

Delimitation of this research is by focusing on Indonesian seafarers who works in Pingtung, Taiwan located in two specific harbors. The number of interviewees will not be a huge sample size. Thus, the result and findings will not represent all cases in Pingtung, Taiwan and might contradict with other cases.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Migration

Migration has varied definition from different subjects. In general, according to the Cambridge Dictionary, migration defined as the process of people travelling to a new place to live, usually in large numbers.² Although migration also defined as the process of animals travelling to a different place, usually when the season changes,³ this research focused on the first definition.

Some scholars form their own definition of migration based on their perspective and subject of study. In a Journal Statistical Society of London titled “The Laws of Migration,” Ravenstein defined migration as the process whereby people move from one place to another for reasons of economic, environmental, cultural or political change.⁴ Ravenstein promotes the aim for change as the reasons of migration.

William Julis Wilson in his second book of *The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy* explain migration as the movement of people from one place to another for the purpose of improving their economic and social status.⁵ This author promotes the idea of improvement as the purpose of migration.

James Clifford, as the author of *Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century*, unlike two previous scholars that only mention people as the moving objects, he also mentions goods and ideas as the moving objects. Precisely, James Clifford mention migration as the circulation of people, goods, and ideas across borders and cultures.⁶ Other than that, the author mention migration as a circulation not a movement. Circulation is

² "Cambridge Dictionary."

³ "Cambridge Dictionary."

⁴ Ravenstein, E. G. “The Laws of Migration.” *Journal of the Statistical Society of London* 48, no. 2 (1885): 167–235. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2979181>.

⁵ Wilson, William Julius. *The truly disadvantaged: The inner city, the underclass, and Public City*. University of Chicago Press, 1990.

⁶ Clifford, James. *Routes: Travel and translation in the late Twentieth Century*. Cambridge, MA, etc.: Harvard Univ. Press, 1999.

movement that keeps on repeating or more like a cycle.

In the other side, Massey, D. S., and Taylor, J. E. promotes migration definition as a non-cyclical, long-term change in residence by an individual or household,⁷ which contradicts the previous definition from James Clifford. They believe migration is not forming any cycle.

A Sociology Professor at Columbia University named Saskia Sassen emphasizes her perspective on migration as the importance of the social and economic relationships that are created and maintained across borders, as well as the political and cultural meanings that are attached to those relationships.⁸ Sassen promotes the connection between people who moved and the destination place. The connection includes social, economic, political, and culture.

David Harvey on the book *Seventeen Contradictions and The End of Capitalism* defined migration as well. He defines it as a form of displacement caused by the social, economic, political, and environmental conditions of a given place.⁹ Harvey promotes the conditions of social, economic, political, and environmental as the motivation of people to do migration.

Regarding to definitions above there are similarities and differences from one to another. One similarity among all definitions of migration mentioned above is there are people who move from a place to another. Each scholar promotes different reasons of migration, those are including social, economic, political, culture, and environmental whether from the origin or the destination. The other reasons of migration according to those definitions is to improve the quality of life. Improving the quality of life could be done in some ways such as work and pursue an education.

⁷ D.S. Massey and J.E. Taylor, *International Migration: Prospects and Policies in a Global Market* (Oxford University Press, 2004).

⁸ Sassen, Saskia. *Globalization and its discontents: Essays on the new mobility of people and money*. New York: New Press, 2010.

⁹ Harvey, David. *Seventeen contradictions and the end of capitalism*. London: Profile Books, 2015.

Throughout this research, migration will be defined as the movement of people from one country to another caused by social, political, economic, cultural, and environmental factors in order to improving their quality of life. This definition formed regarding to the scholars' explanations. The purpose of formed specific definition is a way to create clear understanding of a term in order to minimize an ambiguity throughout the research. Furthermore, this research emphasizes migration for working people or so-called migrant worker.

Lastly, quoting from Everett, no matter how short or how long, how easy or how difficult, every act of migration involves an origin, a destination, and an intervening set of obstacles. Among the set of intervening obstacles, we include the distance of the move as one that is always present.¹⁰

2.1.1. Theory of Migration by Ravenstein, 1876

International migration or migration between countries happens because of many factors. Hence, there are many theories of international migration. According to Caroline B. Brettell and James F. Hollifield in 4th Edition of Migration Theory: Talking across Disciplines, many scholars are not settled to one theory. The migration is an interdisciplinary phenomenon for many different subjects such as Sociology, Political Science, Law, Economic, Demography, Geography, Psychology, and Culture. However, there was one most influential theory about the migration produce by Everett S. Lee on 1966 on the demography journal called A Theory of Migration.

Although Lee's journal, A Theory of Migration, indeed influential, it was not the first journal about migration theory. Ernst Georg Ravenstein, a geographer, created Journal of the Royal Statistical Society called The Laws of Migration hundred years before. Precisely, Laws of Migration I on 1876, the II on 1885, and the III on 1889. Ravenstein

¹⁰ Everett S. Lee, "A Theory of Migration," Demography 3 (1966).
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.2307/2060063>.

aim to discover the causes of migration by examine the censuses, started with migration all over UK continue to US and later on to other countries. Laws of Migration by Ravenstein became the basis of migration topic in social science.

Laws of Migration by Ravenstein can be divided into 3 groups which are reasons, distance, and migrant's characteristic. B.D Grigg put the laws into 11 points.

1. Most migrants only go a short distance at one time.
2. Migration proceeds step by step.
3. Migrants proceeding long distances generally go by preference to one of the great centres of commerce or industry.
4. Every migratory current has a counter-current.
5. The natives of towns are less migratory than those of rural districts.
6. Females are more migratory than males within the kingdom of their birth, but males move more frequently abroad.
7. Most migrants are adults; families rarely migrate.
8. Towns grow more by migration than by natural increase.
9. Migration increases as industries develop and the means of transport improves.
10. The major direction of migration is from the rural areas to the towns.
11. The main causes of migration are economic.¹¹

These laws invented in the late of 19th century. The situation of society, government, and environment was developed through times. Later on, Laws of Migration by Ravenstein adopted and adjusted by another scholar named Everett S. Lee.

2.1.2. Theory of Migration by Lee, 1966

Everett Spurgeon Lee is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Georgia. He is famous for his migration theory and the use of Push and Pull Factors term. Lee beliefs making a big decision as migration people need some motivating factors. Those factors are the reasons why people do migrate. Among many factors, Lee classifies it into four categories. First, factors associated with the area of origin. Second, factors associated with the area of destination. Third, intervening obstacles. Lastly, personal factors.

¹¹ D. B. Grigg, "E. G. Ravenstein and the "Laws of Migration" " Journal of Historical Geography 3 (1997).

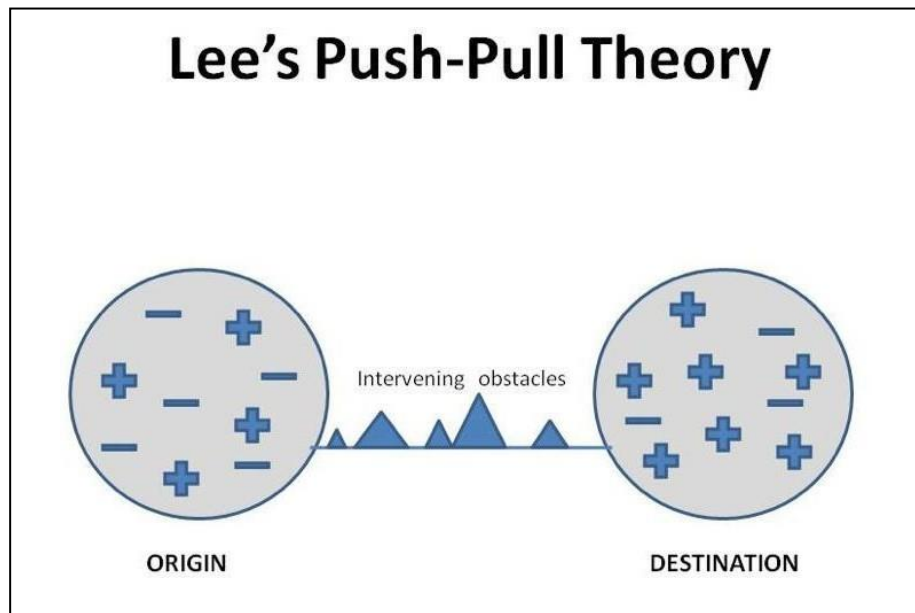


Figure 1. Lee's Push and Pull Theory Graphics

First, factors that associated with the area or country of origin known as push factors. The conditions and situation in the migrate hometown can force them to leave. It is possible that the circumstances make the migrate feels uncomfortable, unaccepted, or maybe unable to develop. Hence, it pushes themselves to leave. For example, the unavailable livelihood opportunity, high population number that exceed the available sources, poverty, undeveloped living conditions, desertification, natural disaster, and famine or drought, political situation or conflict, loss of wealth, and poor healthcare facility.

Second, factors that associated with the area or country of destination known as pull factors. Things that attract migrates to certain area or location. This is related to the advancement of technology, economy, education, public services, and so on. All the aspect that attracts migrates surely are better compare to their origin domicile. For example, the destination area is relatively not over populated and by that offer better job opportunity. It follows by a better government and political situation that led into better public services such as health access, education, and security. The advancement of technology usually led into better transportation system, communication facility, and quality of live. The destined area may also offer freedom for political or religious views.

The intervening obstacles is the obstacles that appear during the moving process. It usually related to the law and policy to migrate and permission grants. It could also relate to the restriction of both countries. Low population country with the needs of population most likely to be less strict or even offer some stipend and facility to attract migrates. Meanwhile, highly populated country would likely to be more selective to granted the permission. The distance and accessibility of transportation will also appear in intervening obstacles. Lastly, personal factor is cover under migrates thoughts. This is related to their willingness and mental readiness to leave and move. Hence, the migrates beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors.

2.2. Migrant Worker

Migrant worker, by International Labor Organization (ILO), defined as a person who migrates or who has migrated from one country to another with a view to being employed other than on his own account. Migrant worker has a unique role and contribution as they work for themselves. They not only contribute for their own but also for the hosting and sending countries.

Migrant workers filled up the demand of worker in the hosting country since hosting country is on demand of workers that are not be able to filled up by their own citizen. The availability of human resource will support the industry growth especially in, construction, factory, agriculture, fisheries, and health care. Hence, while migrant worker stays in the hosting country, they surely doing transaction on daily basis and it will stimulate the economic growth there.

The sending countries is another party who get benefit in this situation. The migrant workers help reduce unemployment rate in the sending countries. Since the human resource form the sending countries were absorbed as workers in the hosting countries. Furthermore, migrant worker is one of the contributors for foreign exchange in the sending country. The more migrant workers mean the more foreign exchange for the sending country. By that,

migrant worker also helps the economic growth in their own country.

Migrant worker divided into two categories, blue-collar and white-collar. Blue-collar workers are people who do manual labor. The other used term is unskilled migrant worker. Their job is care workers, housekeepers, construction workers, mines, factories, and fishing vessel crew. Meanwhile white-collar workers or skilled migrant worker are those who works as professionals or expert. Some of their jobs are teachers, translator, scientist, and administrative officer.

2.2.1. Indonesian Migrant Worker in Taiwan

In the first quarter of 2023, there are total 3,498,000 Indonesian went abroad to work as migrant workers. Taiwan is top four destination country for Indonesian migrant worker with Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and Hongkong in the top three position. There are around 349,000 Indonesian migrant workers in Taiwan.¹² Indonesia supplied 33,9% workers to reduce the labor shortage experienced by Taiwan.

Indonesian migrant workers spread around Taiwan cities with varies of occupation. Some of them serving local families as caregivers for elderly and household. Some other work in factories and construction. While, the rest works on the field of fisheries such as seafarers.

Living away from home as migrant workers does not make Indonesian losing their sense as social creatures. It initiates the first step of building an Indonesian community in the near area. Indonesian community can be seen in many cities in Taiwan whether in the northern or southern part. The community reflects on various form. For example, the market form such as Indonesian shop and restaurant. Another example is the social gathering such as association, religious community, and annual Indonesian festivals.

Taiwan chosen as the destination country by Indonesian migrant workers is not only

¹² Statistics, "Number of Indonesian Migrant Workers (Imws) by Host Country (Thousands of People)."

because the job offers. The other reason is because safe working environment and the easy process to get in. However, that does not guarantee the working condition will always keep Indonesian migrant worker safe in Taiwan. Some unfortunate cases keep happening to Indonesian migrant worker. Doing unpaid work, disrespected, unable to get their rights, and verbally or physically abuse is happened in some cases.

2.2.2. Indonesian Seafarers in Taiwan

Seafarers refers to someone who work to serve any type of marine vessel. This research will specifically be focusing on seafarers serves in fishing vessel. On the fishing vessel it is consist of the captain who rides the vessel and the crew which refers to the Indonesian seafarers in this research. They task is to catch the fish and store it inside the vessel. They will work in team not only with Indonesian but also people from different nationality. In Taiwan itself usually Indonesian seafarers work together with Filipinos, Vietnamese, and so on. The route and duration in the sea is depend. Some fishing vessel only head seaward on daily schedule. That means the fishing area is relatively near or so-called local fishing vessel. Some other fishing vessel might be on board for one to two weeks. The rest of the fishing vessel might be two months or even half-year. The first type usually known as trawler vessel or local vessel, while the last type known as longline fishing vessel.

Working on the fishing vessel is very different compare to work on land. Work on the fishing vessel required bravery and persistency of both physics and mental. The reasons are very clear. First of all, working on the fishing vessel mean be on water means there is no stability. The vessel will always be moving and unstable or even worse shaky due to the waves, wind, and weather. Next, to operate the fishing tools it required a lot of energy and muscles. Last but not least, the feeling of unsafety is a daily problem faced by the seafarers. Seafarers might be intimidated by the nature or by their own colleague.

The other issue is related to the communication device. Seafarers are allowed to bring with them their mobile phone. However, there is no signals or Wi-Fi on the fishing vessel. If it is only for one day it might not be a big problem. But how about one week or even half of the year. They cannot be in touch with people on land, whether their family or their community in the hosting countries. This kind of situation will put them on jeopardy. In a worst situation they are not able to seek for help. Their family and relatives on land have no idea whether they still alive or sink and die.

Most Indonesian seafarers in Taiwan are provided with housing facility form their employer. They usually call it employee mess. During their sailing times, all food and medication also provided by the employer. Most of their time are spent on the fishing vessel. It is one of the reasons why having a kind employer are very crucial for them. Since their working condition will be very dependent on their employer. Although all their rights are written on the working contract but the employer still be able to manipulate it.

The period of their working contract used to be 1-2 years in Taiwan. Lately, regarding to the enthusiasm of Indonesian seafarers, Taiwan Government extend it into 3 years working contract. There is also a total quota to be seafarers in Taiwan. The total quota is 12 years of working. However, there is a way to extend it by applying for APRC or Alien Permanent Resident Certificate to the Taiwan Government.

2.3. Hurdles and Coping Mechanism

Hurdles in this research context refers to challenge, obstacle, difficulty, and stress source. As we all know, hurdle will appear anywhere and anytime especially when we try to achieve something. It is also the case for Indonesian seafarers in Taiwan. They come to Taiwan motivated by many reasons but is certain they come to achieve something, either for their own or for their family and beloved one. However, during the journey they face many hurdles. The hurdle comes from their own self, the employer, or maybe their working

environment.

There is a natural response of human to solve a problem when they face ones. Indonesian seafarers face hurdle along the process until nowadays they survive and keep on working in Taiwan. They are able to survive because they find a way to deal with the hurdle by forming a coping mechanism. By doing that, they are be able to cope with the situation filled with hurdle.

Coping is a response of mind and body in a pressure situation as an effort to overcome the situation and find comfort. Coping formed into a mechanism or commonly known as coping mechanism. This is a strategy that consciously we generate to adapt in a stressful situation. For instance, Indonesian seafarers are unable to speak Chinese fluently and it cause a miscommunication, then they cope by learning Chinese more often.

2.3.1. Coping Mechanism Style and Type

Coping mechanism is a broad discipline in psychology, sociology, and behavioral science. There are many ways to explain and categorized coping mechanism style and type. This research will only focus on some style and type to make it narrow yet simple.

Alice Boyes Ph.D. (2013) states coping mechanism could be active nor avoidant. Active coping is a situation when person recognized the cause of their hurdle or stress and try to change the situation into the better circumstances. Meanwhile, avoidant coping is a situation when person recognized the cause of their hurdle or stress and try to avoid the circumstances. It is easy to distinguished based on the name itself.

Coping style classify into problem-focused coping and emotion-focused coping.¹³ Problem-focused coping will be applicable when a person has control over the stress source or problem. Since this coping style requires person to change or eliminate the stress source.

¹³ Crowe, Brandi M., and Marieke Van Puymbroeck. "Enhancing Problem- and Emotion-Focused Coping in Menopausal Women through Yoga." *International Journal of Yoga Therapy* 29, no. 1 (November 1, 2019): 57–64. <https://doi.org/10.17761/2019-00020>.

Emotion-focused coping is more suitable when a person has no control over the situation that cause stress. By doing this coping style, a person tries to control their reaction and emotion towards the stress source because that's all they can do.

Coping types unfortunately not always help a person to face the situation better, it sometimes possibly unhelpful to the situation. While adaptive coping mechanism help a person to adjust emotional response and change the situation, maladaptive coping mechanism on the other hand makes a person to do temporary distraction that led into physical or psychological harm.

2.4. Transactional Theory of Stress and Coping (TTSC) by Lazarus

Another approach about stress and coping mechanism was proposed by Lazarus and Folkman (1984) named Transactional Theory or model of Stress and Coping (TTSC). In this theory, Lazarus and Folkman believe stress appear because of a transaction (interaction) between a person and the environment. This theory implies as long as a person interact with their environment, stress will always appear and coping will always be needed.

Environment believed as the stimuli of stress. Everyone will perceive the environment differently depends on their own beliefs and fundamental. The environment will be filtered this process known as perception filter or selection process. What a person perceives going through two appraisal processes. The primary appraisal is the process of how a person interpret the stimuli or stress source. It is divided into three section, positive, dangerous, and irrelevant. The positive section will not cause any problem, irrelevant section will be ignored by a person, but the dangerous section including challenge or hurdle, threat, harm, loss, and so on will be going to the secondary appraisal. On the secondary appraisal a person will analyses the available resources whether do they have or have not sufficient resources to overcome and face things included in the dangerous section. When a person does not have sufficient resources available the dangerous section will cause them stress.

Facing a stressful situation requires a person to think how to deal with it. Coping or forming a coping mechanism to overcome stress is the way to deal with it. A person needs to decide which coping style that will do. Then, the theory ends the process on the reappraisal by pacing and learning to cope with the environment as the stimuli of stress.

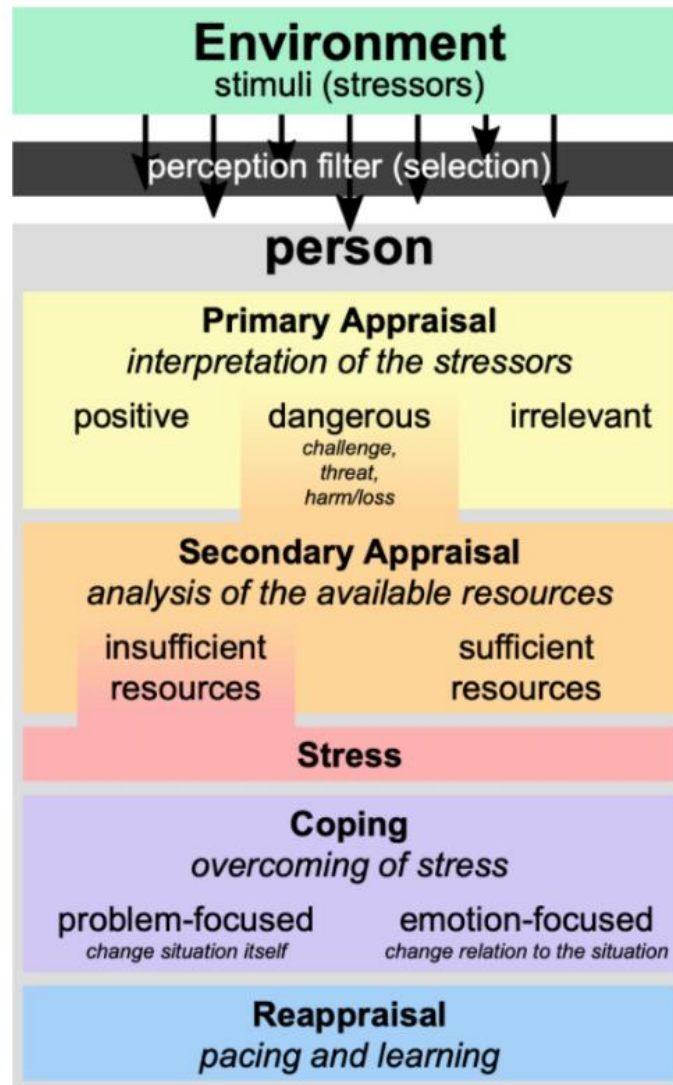


Figure 2. Diagram of Lazarus and Folkman's Transactional Theory of Stress

2.5. Theoretical Framework

This theoretical framework should compile the literature review and existing used theories regarding to the research's main focus. Main focus on this research is on Indonesian seafarers' motivation, hurdles and coping mechanism.

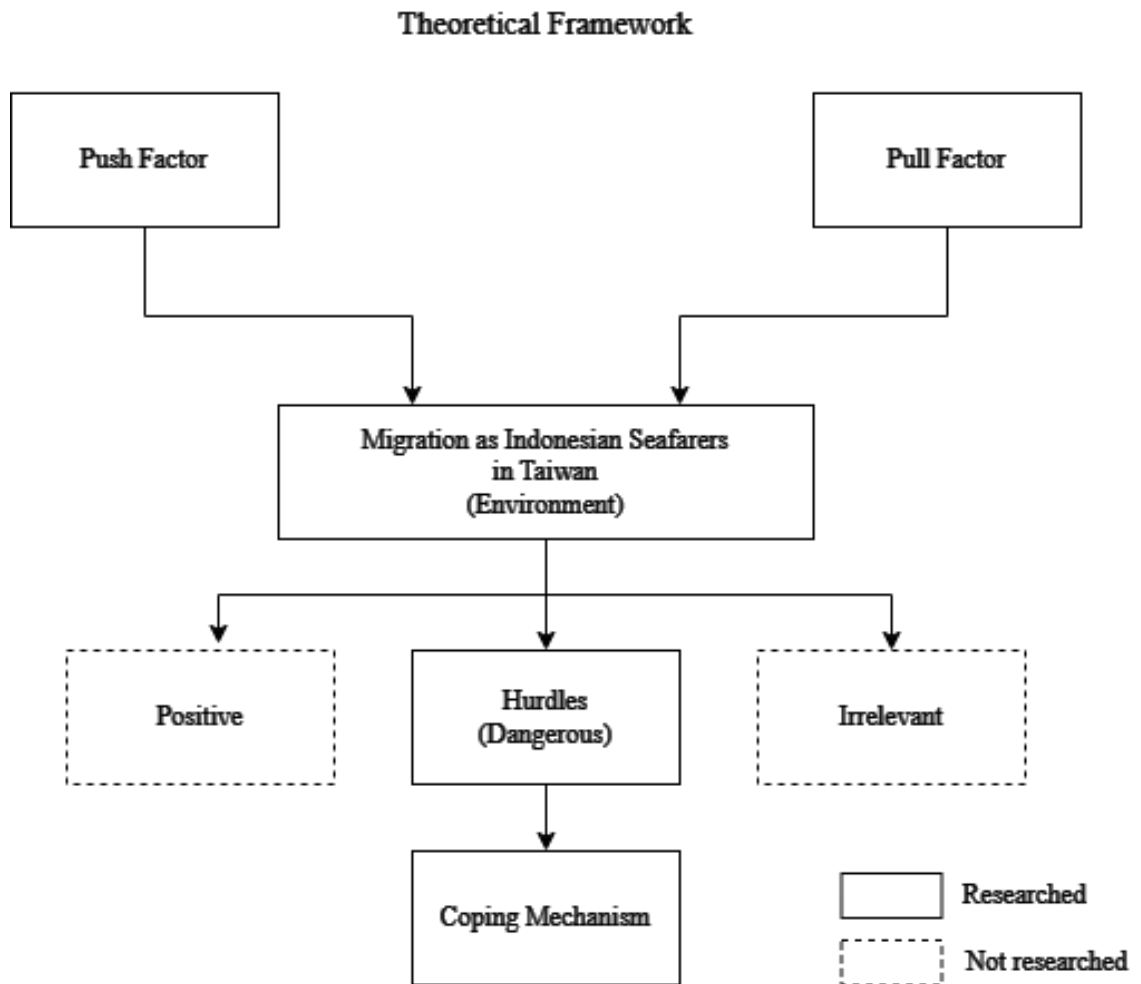


Figure 3. Researcher's Theoretical Framework

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research Design

This research will be conducted in qualitative method. The main purpose and goals of the research is to reveal and explore Indonesian seafarers' personal experience. Gaining and digging into someone personal experience, feelings, and perspective requires flexibility and privacy. By doing data collection with in-depth interview Indonesian migrant worker seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan it will offer interviewees privacy and freedom to tell their story the way they wanted to. They are not pushed and obligated to only answer some specific question but freely share other related insight. Talking directly will also provide comfort rather than have to type the story it into some kind of questionnaire.

Considering interviewees working schedule and availability, the data collection process will take place where the interviewee located, which in FOSPI and Kampoa, Pingtung, Taiwan. This will also broader opportunity to get interviewees since they don't have to do the effort by going places.

The criteria of interviewee are they have to be Indonesian seafarers working in Taiwan until the data collection time, voluntarily without pressure to participate, and give consent to be recorded while willingly share their personal experience. Consent and willingness are at the top of mind while looking for interviewees.

The interview guided by an interview guideline made by me and supervised by advisor. The original interview guideline is in Indonesia Language but translated to English on the appendix. There are 12 questions in total.

3.2. Research and Data Collection Process

The data collection process started by contacting the leader of FOSPI. I was introducing my research and asked for his help to connect me with Indonesian seafarers in order to conduct this research. After he agreed to help and set a meeting time the process

continues.

To be exact there were two times of data collection dates. Both were in Saturday evening when most of Indonesian seafarers having their free time and spend time together in FOSPI and Kampoa. First Saturday of data collection taken place in FOSPI, 3rd floor. Then the next Saturday taken place in Kampoa. I took some times to break the ice and mingle with Indonesian seafarers there before start the in-depth interview.

In the beginning of interview, I introduce myself and the purpose of interview. All of the interviewees also asked to fill in a consent form to be the proof as they give their consent to share their story to be analyze in research and being audio recorded.

The interview going on based on the interview guideline. However, this is a semi-structured interview. Thus, there was initiated question along the interview based on the situation and responses from interviewees.

The number of interviewees is 7 people. All interviews were audio recorded with the consent of interviewee and all the name will be anonymous. Interview duration was varied from 20-60 minutes. The recorded audio was transcribed manually in Indonesian language first. Then coded manually, each transcript for 2 times. Coding process started with highlighting relevant answer and give it topic ideas. Then, the topic ideas were categorized into formed coded according to the research question and main focus. The rest of unfitted topic ideas were grouped into immediate formed code.

DATA ANALYSIS

Reporting

Interview was taken place in Donggang Township, Pingtung City Taiwan. It was the place for many Indonesian seafarers work and live in Taiwan. The neighborhood was surrounded by many Indonesian seafarers as well as Indonesian food kiosk, and store. To be exact there were two places visited by the researcher to do the interview and met Indonesian seafarers. Those places were FOSPI or short for Forum Silaturahmi Pelaut Indonesia (Indonesian Seafarers Friendship Forum) and Yanpu Fishing Harbor or so called Kampoa by many Indonesians.

There was total 7 interviewees with varies background and experience in the working field. All interviewees had long enough experience to work as Indonesian seafarers in Taiwan and that is the other concern to include them in the interview. By having enough experience, they will be able to tell a lot of useful insight. Each interview was audio recorded with the duration of 20 to 60 minutes with a consent from the interviewees. During data collection, I start all interview by making conversation and build the relaxing ambience first. Thus, the recorded audio started in the middle of the conversation after they giving consent to record the interview. They all seems easily giving consent and don't even bother whether they identity will be cover up or not.

The recorded audio was transcript and check manually by the researcher. The process continues to manual coding and analysis. Manual coding process is including setting a code, labelling the data, make topic ideas from the labelled data, and categorizing labelled data into the code. I conduct the deductive coding which setting the codes before start labelling data. It is because the interest of the research was clear since the beginning. However, during the categorizing process some new codes formed to meet the need.

At the end, to provide the suitable proof all transcript will be translated to English.

	Conversation Quote	Topic Ideas	Sub-Code	Code
41	Yes. So that suggests that there has been a change in the awareness of employers. But when it comes to verbal abuse, it's quite common. Because the nature of seafarers is rough, not in Indonesia, not in Taiwan, it's the same.	Verbal Abuse	Abuse and Threat	Hurdles

41	Color	→ Indicate Interviewees (Yellow: IS1)
	Number	→ Indicate code order (41: 41 out of 207 codes)

Table 1. Example of Coding

The legitimacy of collected data was proven by compared it to online newspaper and website. It is also confirmed by looking into one and other insights given by each interviewee. During the interview, I would like to ask an interviewee to support or reject the statement given by other interviewees. When they support the statement, I consider the statement is legit since they experience the same thing or they have been heard about the same story. One of the interviewees is one of the key people in FOSPI which should be trustworthy. Most of the statement were implying similar point and main ideas. However, I assure beyond the similarities there obtained uniqueness of each interviewees experience.

The data analysis process will be divided into two methods. First, in order to interpret interviewee's stories and provide complexity of participants' lives, feelings, and attitudes the narratives method will used. In the first method, narrower and more details explanation will be provided. Afterwards, to present a broader view of the phenomenon, the appeared patterns, and concluding the overall findings researcher choose thematic method.

Findings

I start the interview by doing a background check on each of the interviewees. They start their story in a different point. Based on their story and the data analysis process, I synthesize their story into a brief paragraph. The purpose is to make it easier for the readers get to know each of the interviewees without reading all the transcribe of the whole

interview.

Code name	Working Year in Taiwan	Age	Hometown	Marital Status	Working Experience in Indonesia	Working Experience in other country	Interview Length (Mins)	Highest Education
IS1	11	40	Rembang	✓	✓		60	JHS
IS2	3	55	Pekalongan	✓	✓	✓	28	ES
IS3	12	44	Bali	✓	✓	✓	20	SHS
IS4	6	42	Slawi	✓	✓	✓	28	SHS
IS5	6	27	Brebes	✓	✓		20	JHS
IS6	13	43	Blora	✓	✓		60	SHS
IS7	6	28	Rembang		✓	✓	20	SHS

Table 2. Attributes of 7 interviewees

IS1

He went to Bali to work in Taiwan Fishing Vessel after graduate. Then, he continues to work in tuna processing for sashimi. The total working period is 3 years. On that moment, he realizes that he wasn't had enough money to live by working there. He hopes to make more money to pay his living cost and save up for his future. With that in mind, he heard about job opportunity as seafarers in Taiwan with better salary. It was the beginning of his journey as Indonesian seafarers in Taiwan and his active participation in FOSPI. He was there before FOSPI formed and still there until FOSPI became a shelter and a solid community for many Indonesian seafarers in Donggang, Pingtung.

IS2

He was working in Japan fishing vessel but end up choosing Taiwan over it because of the rumour spreading at that time. The rumour said, "Japan salary will be standardized into Indonesian fishing vessel salary," which will decrease a lot amount of money. Then, with that in mind he decided to start applying for Taiwan fishing vessel job. He is currently unemployed and waiting for new employer.

Recently, he quitted from the contracted job because of internal conflict between him

and the earlier coworkers. He chooses to remain silent and left the fishing vessel rather than stay in a toxic working environment. During this unemployed time, he stays in FOSPI office.

IS3

Started his career as hotel employee in Bali. 2002 Bali Bombings changed many things including his career. Lack of tourist causes bankruptcy on many tourist attractions as well as hotel. It was hard time to find a job as the economy slumped. It was the turning point he starts being a seafarer and continue until now. He had years of experience as seafarers in many countries. For now, he chooses Taiwan over the others because the lack of money. Other countries administration and registration requires a lot of money. Meanwhile, Taiwan requires the lowest amount of money. They only pay to the agency for registration fee and administration necessity.

IS4

Graduated from seafaring vocational school made him start the career in cargo ship. He aims to get a higher proficiency in order to get a better position in his job. Turns out it was not his destiny. He destined to get married and blessed with a child. Due to the obligation to provide live for his family, he put aside his aim and try many unskilled jobs to make money. One day, he had a pretty good career as a technical team leader in Indonesia telecommunication SOE, Telkom Indonesia. However, he said "we are just human, we always feel unsatisfied" That is the turning point he started his job as Indonesian seafarers in Taiwan.

IS5

He was informed by a friend about the job opportunity as seafarers in Taiwan. The curiosity and excitement of getting new experience push him to give it a try. He doesn't seem to think about the decision a lot, he seems more of the person that Latin phrase says as

carpe diem person. Take opportunity and see what can we learn from it after.

IS6

He is a man who interested in his religion. He dreams to be a religious mentor or even better a religious leader. He was graduated during Indonesia financial crisis 1998. Finding a job was harder than ever. Since religious mentor is not a paid job, he still has it as an option. As time goes by, his parents who were proud starts to worry about the future. His parents concerned if he has no paid job, he will not be able to provide for his future family. It starts the journey of his job as seafarers. The dilemma wasn't stop there. During his working period in Taiwan, he offered some other job opportunity. His family moral support succeeds to convince him to stick on this job since it's the best option for now.

IS7

Experiencing some fishing vessel started in Bali make him eager to try other country's fishing vessel experience. Besides, due to new regulation implementation in Indonesia by Susi Pudjiastuti the Minister of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Indonesia at that time his fishing vessel stop the operation and laid off the vessel crew. Just after that, his colleague offers a new job in Taiwan with a very easy process. Then just so, he came and work as Indonesian seafarers in Taiwan.

I analyzed the transcript and categorized the findings into some codes. Categorizing the findings is important to help us understand and explain it at the most systematic order as possible, since, the interview was semi-structured and went to a very rich and broad topic. In total there is 207 labels that categorized into 10 codes as attached on the appendix.

Background

Go to Taiwan to work as seafarers is not an easy decision to make by Indonesian. Leaving hometown and move away from family and relatives to a new country with different

language, culture, and environment. Wonder whether will they survive or not. Wonder how life would be if he decides to give it a try. Will it be better? Will they be proud of themselves of all the things they will achieve? There is so many things running around in their mind.

All interviewees have started their working journey before they come to Taiwan. They started working in Indonesia with varies job. Even for some other, Taiwan is not the first country they visit for work. Many of them had the experience of working on ships before went to Taiwan. Some of them doing it as a preparation for working abroad as seafarers. They realize skills are important to keep up on working abroad. Besides their inability to fluently speaks Chinese they want to make it up by having the needed working skills.

As for IS 1, he was working on a fishing vessel and fish processing field in Bali.

... my journey started after school. I first joined a ship to work in Bali. I started my journey in 2002 when I went to Bali to join a Taiwanese ship.¹⁴

IS 3 was wander to some countries as a seafarer before. He seems familiar and immerse himself very well in this field.

I worked on Japanese ships, Spanish ships, Korean ships, and many others. I worked on an Arab tanker, Arab ships, Turkish ships.¹⁵

Quoting from IS 4 he coincidentally went to a maritime vocational school. He graduated and start working in a cargo ship.

Coincidentally, I graduated from a maritime school.¹⁶

For IS 6, he formerly has a dream to serve in his village as a civil servant. He soon realizing the how corruption, collusion and nepotism dominating through the recruitment process and he has no money to compete. He doesn't have a choice rather than give it up. IS 6 started helps children to learn religion in the nearest mosque. Although it is one of his dreams as well, unfortunately it makes no money. IS 7 was

¹⁴ Indonesian Seafarer 1, interview by Nathania Cyrilla, 3 June 2023, 2023, Pingtung, Taiwan.

¹⁵ Indonesian Seafarer 3, interview by Nathania Cyrilla, 3 June 2023, 2023, Pingtung, Taiwan.

¹⁶ Indonesian Seafarer 4, interview by Nathania Cyrilla, 3 June 2023, 2023, Pingtung, Taiwan.

working on a fishing vessel started in Bali and sailing to other country.

I worked in Indonesia, but it was in Bali, on a longline fishing vessel. ... after Bali, I went to a Chinese ship, but my contract was signed in Hong Kong. Then, I joined a ship in Fiji, and I returned to Indonesia from Fiji. After that, I came to Taiwan. ... I came here directly after Fiji. I worked in Bali again for about five to six months, and then I processed my journey to Taiwan.¹⁷

On the other hand, some of them was working in Indonesia with unrelated job with their job now. IS 5 was working in glasses optic before come to Taiwan.

I had several jobs. I worked at an optician, selling eyeglasses, and I gained experience there. ... I also worked with salted fish, managing the salted fish business. But I mainly worked in the optician business.¹⁸

According to the IS 1 explanation, to come to Taiwan they need an agency to channeling people with the employer in Taiwan. People are not allowed to me without having employer in the first place. They will not be able to get the working visa as well. Here comes PJTKI (Indonesian Labor Service Company) as the agency located in Jakarta that help them to process their job in Taiwan. PJTKI will recruit Indonesian worker while Taiwanese agency connect itself with Taiwanese employer. Then, PJTKI as Indonesian Agency and Taiwanese agency will collaborate to make supply meet the demand. Both countries government, TETO and KDEI, will legalize the working contract and working visa.

... they only handle the recruitment of Indonesian labor services. They work in collaboration with agencies here in Taiwan. The employer takes the recruitment through a Taiwanese agency. The Taiwanese agency submits a recommendation to the KDEI (Indonesian Trade and Economic Office) in Taiwan. The KDEI will then verify the data. If it matches, it will be legalized by the KDEI. After that, the documents are sent to PT Indo, the Indonesian agency. Once it's received by PT Indo, the documents go through a legal process by the KDEI. Then the TETO (Taipei Economic and Trade Office) process takes place.¹⁹

After all the administration process, Indonesian seafarer obligate to join the competency test to get a certificate and join the final briefing as well. The final briefing, or

¹⁷ Indonesian Seafarer 7, interview by Nathania Cyrilla, 10 June 2023, 2023, Pingtung, Taiwan.

¹⁸ Indonesian Seafarer 5, interview by Nathania Cyrilla, 10 June 2023, 2023, Pingtung, Taiwan.

¹⁹ 1.

PAP in Indonesian, only takes a day and handled by BP3MI (Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Agency). They provided with several pages of Taiwanese language (台語) as a go-to-dictionary for them.

... before the flight, there is usually a program called PAP (Final Departure Briefing). It used to be done outside of the BP3MI (Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Agency) building. But for departures in 2018, the briefing was held inside the BP3MI building in Kampung Rambutan.²⁰

Push Factor

Push factor is factor that come from the origin country and the situation there. In this research most of the push factor related to economy and salary. The interviewee states that they also have dream for themselves and responsibility to fulfil. Not forgetting about how Indonesia is highly populated that makes the job opportunity is not as available as in Taiwan. All the push factors are sub-coded into 6 sub-codes.

Insufficient Income

The main push factor mentioned by most of the interviewee is they have insufficient income while working in Indonesia. They have to find a way to get better income and as an unskilled worker it is not easy. Meanwhile they must do something to fix it. They need to pay for their own live and their family if they are married.

Quoting from IS1 experience when he was work in Bali, there was a moment of realization and become the turning point of him make the decision to work abroad. He realizes that the income was only sufficient to pay his own living cost. There was nothing left to be saved up. Thus, he needs to take a step to change the situation.

... those three years in Bali, I realized that all the money I earned was just enough for my living expenses. I had no savings, and I worried about my future.²¹

²⁰ .

²¹ .

Improve Living Condition

Regarding to the interviewees' stories their living condition in Indonesia is not good enough. They eager to improve the condition. The main problem is they got no money to improve it. They all wish to earn more money and make their financial more stable and secure. By make more money they will be able to afford their primary needs and even better the secondary and tertiary needs. They all wishto live a sufficient life.

Responsibility to Fulfil

Most of the interviewees are married and have a family to provide. As the head of the family, father and husband they have to provide for their family needs. It is including primary needs, secondary needs, and even tertiary needs. They have to provide housing, food, education, and many more. They attitude shows how they really wish to give their family a great live ahead. They want to fulfil all the necessities. They do aware of the responsibility to take a good care of their family. Be a seafarer in Taiwan is one of the sacrifices they made for the family.

Two of my children are in college, and I was in a dilemma. ... my mother-in-law was ill. ²²

... my salary was not sufficient to cover all the expenses for my child, whoneeded milk and other necessities. ²³

Self-Courage and Dream

There is nothing motivates someone better than their own. Knowing this is not an easy job and has a high risk, they still manage to do it. It takes nothing rather than a courage comes from inside. IS3 dreams to travel the world but his situation makes it impossible to afford. Being a seafarer that wanders around the world is a way the choose. IS5 thrilled to try a new thing for him and gain a rich experience from this job. While IS6 realizes this is

²² 3.

²³ Indonesian Seafarer 6, interview by Nathania Cyrilla, 10 June 2023, 2023, Pingtung, Taiwan.

the only field that he's shine on. This is his talent and skill to work as a seafarer. That is why they willing to choose this job. Most of them also try to earn more income in order to saves it and one day use it asthe capital to start their own business back in their hometown.

No Option

Due to their education background, it gave them no option to work rather than work as unskilled worker. Most of them were only high school graduates. Even as a bachelor graduates it is already hard enough to get a job regarding tremendous number of jobseekers in Indonesia.

I resigned because I wanted to obtain my certificate. In maritime school, if you want to work on commercial ships, you need a certificate for your position. ... At that point, I don't know how it happened, but I got married. ... After getting married, we had children, and expenses piled up. ... So, I never thought about going back to school because it required a significant investment.²⁴

IS3 has no option to choose other country since it requires a lot of money during the process. He was lack of capital for work. The only available option was Taiwan.

Because, you see, I wanted to go to Oman last time, but they asked for IDR 25,000,000 charge, which I couldn't afford.²⁵

Force majeure and political situation were the case for IS3, IS4, and IS6. IS3 was working in Bali while Bali Bombing occurred on 2002. It crushes down many sectors in Bali including tourism sector which IS3 working sector. He has no option other than find a new job to continue his live. IS6 was graduated high school during 1998 financial crisis in Indonesia. It was a hard time for everyone to survive. Finding job was harder than ever. IS4 achieved his dream to establish his own business in Indonesia after gained some capital. However, things went out of control and he was frauded by his own friend. He lost millions of Rupiah and has to gain it back by work as seafarer again.

²⁴ 4.

²⁵ 3.

External Influence

Family advice and moral support are another courage for the interviewees. IS5, IS6 and IS7 said they family fully support them to take the job opportunity. While for IS2 he was inspired by his peer to try the job. The other circumstance was he heard the rumors that his previous job, as seafarer as well, will decrease the salary and standardized it as Indonesian salary. It wasn't good for him hence he chooses to move to Taiwan ships.

The issue was that foreign salaries were being standardized to local wages, and I heard about it.²⁶

Pull Factor

Opposite from push factor it is pull factor. Pull factor comes from the hosting or destine country, in this case is Taiwan. Similar with the push factor, the most mentioned thing about pull factor was the higher income and incentive. Taiwan recruitment process compared to other country is way easier, cheaper, and faster. All these factors completed with employer and the environment. The pull factors are sub-coded into 4 sub-codes.

Higher Income, Incentive, and Opportunity

Taiwan ships employer offers higher income compare to Indonesia ships. As said by IS1 and IS2 they agree to say Taiwan has better income compare to some other country such as Thailand and Vietnam. It is also supported by the living cost that lower than other foreign countries. Japan and Korea fishing vessels offer higher income but in consequence the living cost is much more expensive. IS7 has different argument but add new insight about the possible incentive offers by Taiwan ships.

Well, in the past, the salary was about the same. But what makes a difference here is the bonus system. On Taiwanese ships, about 80-90% of the crew members get bonuses, while on Japanese ships, only about 40-50% receive bonuses. The rest (other country) relies on their basic salary.²⁷

²⁶ Indonesian Seafarer 2, interview by Nathania Cyrilla, 3 June 2023, 2023, Pingtung, Taiwan.

²⁷ 7.

In Taiwan migrant worker have opportunity to have side job. Sometimes due to some problem they are resign or fired from their main job and have to wait until they get a new job. During this uncertain time, they are able to find a side job. IS3 said,

... finding side jobs is easy. You can work in fish cultivation, with construction, or any other job.²⁸

Easy Process

It is mention by the interviewees the recruitment process is very simple. The process itself doesn't require any long training and test like what happens to caregiver in Taiwan. The register process doesn't require as much money as required by other country. Most of the money is needed for visa and legalize document. Lastly, the process doesn't take long. These things are attracting many Indonesian to try this job.

Nice Employer

Taiwanese employer considers as a nice employer to all interviewees. Firstly, because they tolerate that Indonesian seafarers are not fluent in Chinese or Taiwanese. Some of them fluent in English. The employer tolerates their inability by learning Indonesian through their previous Indonesian employee. While working employer and employees usually mix up some languages to communicate. Compared to other foreign country, Taiwan employer is less strict. They understand and more consider to their employees.

Comforting Environment

In Taiwan there is many Indonesian migrant worker including in Donggang, Pingtung. Donggang, Pingtung neighbourhood surrounded by Indonesian seafarers, Indonesian food kiosk and Indonesian store that sells household needs. All these Indonesian ambiances make Taiwan feels like home. Taiwan relatively safe even for

²⁸ 3.

Indonesian seafarers. They are allowed to stroll around and travel to different city. The living cost is affordable regarding their monthly income. Lastly, having a solid Indonesian community play a big role to assure Indonesian seafarers to come and work in Taiwan.

Hurdles

Hurdles are inevitable. All the interviewees' beliefs every job has its own hurdles. The hurdles could come from inside and outside. In order to get done the work they need to face and deal with the hurdles. It is not only because they have to survive as Indonesian seafarers in Taiwan but also because as employee, they are responsible to the employer.

Internal Conflict

Internal conflict is the hurdles that most likely happen to interviewees. The conflict take place in the workplace rather it is in land or on the sea. It is possible to happen between employer or captain and employee also between employees. This internal conflict occurs because of some reasons. Rivalry or seniority between employees is happens a lot. IS3 facing internal conflict such as rivalry between employees. One of his coworkers kept food and minerals for himself. IS2 states he was slander by other employee with less experience in this field. IS2 believe it is because the previous employee was jealous of him. He could do much better than that guy regarding to his experience in maritime and fishery field. Then the worst scenario happens, IS2 fired by his employer.

It's just that he's a newcomer, and he wants to compete with me. For example, I cut fish, and I can do it twice as fast as he can. We work on the deck, and he's slow with his hands; I can do things while he's still doing one. That means he's not capable.

Another story from IS6 who have to deal with bad temper employer. The employer has a bad attitude and was very rude. IS6 manage to adjust his attitude as well as the employer as time goes by. They end up greatly working together. However, it takes patient

and persistence to survive working with that kind of employer.

Meanwhile IS4 shares a different story about how he got sick for months but his employer seems unconcerned and unbothered at all. The employer never checks on him and give him any money for meals and medication. He feels left behind and unappreciated. He states,

So, people in Taiwan only need us when we're healthy. When we're sick, they don't.

Language Barrier

It seems that language differences between countries will always be a thing in migration or globalization. Many Indonesian seafarers come to Taiwan unprepared with language lesson. They might have a short lesson but still it wasn't help. There is other possibility that they taught a different language regarding to their placement for work. Either they taught Taiwanese but have to use Chinese instead or the other way around. In the real world, most of them learning by doing the used language during their working time in Taiwan. This language inability causes many miscommunications and misunderstanding that lead into anger.

For IS6, he has to serve customer at the fish market. He needs to bring the bought fishes to the customer's car. His employer asks him to learn and luckily aim to teach him as well. He tried his best and he did it. He was able to get his job done.

Abuse and Threat

Taiwan, according to the interviewees, consider as one of the countries with the safest work place and experience. Although, IS3 states that fishing vessel is dwarfed in the ships industry and society. It makes fishing vessel and the crew got fewest attention from government and society which cause the working condition may not be as good as other ships in the industry. Taiwan and Indonesia optimize the law enforcement to protect the rights and safety of the seafarers. Thus, physical abuse is unlikely happens on Taiwan.

In the meantime, most interviewees agreed that working on ships is rougher than on land. It is a culture of seafarers to have tough character. That kind of character somehow normalize, or leave them with no choice other than accept, verbal abuse behavior. Being verbally abused by the captain or employer is part of their daily routine yet they hang on to survive.

IS1 shares story about racism from juvenile in Donggang, Pingtung in the early 2000. There was a group of high school student who would like to intercept Indonesian seafarer when they were alone in the street at night. Those juveniles will attack Indonesian seafarer and cause an injury. Not so long Indonesian seafarers make a move and report it to police in the area. The police and some locals support Indonesian seafarers to fight back but remind them to not make the problem bigger by cause an injury. They got supported by locals because if they were injured, their employer whom are locals will be the one who face loss. Their employee can't work for some times regarding to the injury. Thus, Indonesian seafarers gather and wait for the juveniles on the street. The juvenile scared and stop their racism acts.

IS2 was threatened by his coworker on board by put on a danger while working with the machine. Operating machine on ship is a teamwork. Everyone have to be very careful to not put others on danger. One of IS2 coworker intentionally do it uncarefully to put him on danger. He could be stuck on the rope and thrown away to the sea. It was jeopardizing him.

Working System

During the interviewees, I found out that being a seafarer is not only working on the sea. Some of them had a job on land to processing fishes, selling fishes, or even cultivating fishes. Most seafarers are more familiar with the on-sea job desk not in land job desk. While IS7 have to filleting fishes on land he wasn't familiar at first. He didn't even have the skill yet. Lucky for him to have a supportive working environment both employer and coworkers that help him learn and mastering the skills.

IS2 and IS4 were laid off because of bankruptcy of the employer. Being laid off means they only have 2 months to find a new job before deported from Taiwan. During this time, most seafarers facing uncertainty and has no place to stay. Thanks to FOSPI that already has its own place so it could be a shelter for some of Indonesian seafarers who is in this phase.

IS5 states the unsolved hurdle is late payday. He got his salary by cash. Thus, when his employer is not around on the payday due to other business or holiday, he wouldn't be able to get the salary on time. Sometimes he also needs to pay some fees to the agency that left him with a very little amount of money. He feels it was his lowest point.

Away from Family and Relative

This hurdle must be the most straight to the point and explicit. It is interesting how this point is not much mentioned by the interviewees. They all mentioned it but in a very least details. I assumed they deal with this hurdle at the first place. Thus, it wasn't really a hurdle anymore. Some of them state in this high-technology era, being in a long-distance is not a big problem. They can call and communicate with their beloved ones every day after work or whenever they miss them.

Self-Potency

Their potency to be able to do or unable to do something is another hurdle point. IS2 experience is one of the examples. He is old enough compare to other Indonesian seafarer especially the new Indonesian seafarers who recently just come to Taiwan. It makes him harder to find a job in this time when he has no employer. It might be because employer prefer the younger worker who supposedly have a greater stamina for work. IS4 was having a hard time because diagnosed with vertigo during his contract. It put him on a bedrest for months. He was alone with no family around and people to take care of him. He barely could stand steadily due to his vertigo. He tries his best to take care of himself and get through the hard time.

Nature Threat

Last hurdle on the list is nature threat. This is a no counter hurdles since human can't control nature. On the sea, seafarers facing extreme weather such as storm, low temperature, heavy rain, and big waves. No matter how the weather goes they still need to do the work while risking their live. The COVID-19 Pandemic was stopping them from going back to Indonesia for years. This sort of hurdles hasno solution other than waiting for it to pass.

Coping Mechanism

Working with so many hurdles mean people have to come up with a solution or so-called coping mechanism. How people establish a mechanism to cope in the situation. Establishing coping mechanism doesn't necessarily solving the hurdles. It might only help people to hang on and face the hurdles. Most Indonesian seafarers be able to cope with their hurdles here by having a community, great control of themselves, and supported by the environment.

Having Community

FOSPI gather Indonesian seafarers in Donggang, Pingtung. This community consider big enough to get attention from the neighborhood and government from Taiwan and Indonesia. The attention FOSPI had is very valuable to many Indonesian seafarers. It has been very helpful for them to get feedback for what they have reported. In example, whenever there is an abusive behavior experienced by Indonesian seafarers, they just need to report it to FOSPI and FOSPI will address it to the government. The government will give them a feedback and solution as soon as possible. FOSPI means a lot for Indonesian seafarers in protecting their safety and rights in this foreign country.

Many Indonesian seafarers would like to hang out and spend their free time on weekend in FOSPI office. They share their laughter and struggle. They support each other and it give them strength to survive in Taiwan. FOSPI is they family in Taiwan while they

are away from their real family in Indonesia. They would also share experience and give advice to each other. It will help them gain new insight on working.

As FOSPI were established by some Indonesian seafarers who used to pray together, this community is a place for them to keep their faith as a Moslem. Held prayer and learn about their religion together is one of their coping mechanisms as well. Faith keeps them cope in this situation.

Self-Control

It is important to have a self-control on facing hurdles. Knowing well what to do and what not to do. Before fly to Taiwan, it is important for them to prepare them well. Most of the interviewee was having a previous experience on working in local fishing vessel in Indonesia before in Taiwan. It will help them prepare the needed skills and to be able to work in Taiwan. During their contract in Taiwan, it is also important that they are improving their skills to keep themselves impactful on the working place.

Take a good care of their physical and mental health is one of the controls they have. They keep themselves healthy since they know if they got sick it will be a big problem. It is hard enough to take care of yourself when you are healthy, it surely will be harder to do when you are not on you best condition. In order to maintain their mental health some of them have enough courage to stand of themselves in a conflict. However, they know it as well that they only have control of themselves and no control of others behavior. That is why some of the interviewee choose avoidant coping style in some conflict. They choose to quit the job of so-called get off the ship. The other way to cope is by build a mutual understanding between party. One of the interviewees does this with his employer and turns out well.

Self-Assurance

During the hardest time, sometimes we are the only one who can empower ourself.

We sometimes be the one who can bring ourself back up again. This is when the self-assurance play role on facing the hurdles.

Indonesian seafarers always remind himself of their family and the responsibility they have as a householder. They remember how their family has many necessities to be fulfilled and how they family rely on them. They just wanted their family to be able to live a life and sufficient. With that in mind, they keep on going. Most of them also have a dream to own a business one day, to be an entrepreneur. It is why they have to work hard and earn capital in Taiwan. The quicker they get enough money, the quicker they can go back to live with their family.

Environment Support

Indonesian seafarers got supported by their environment in Taiwan and in Indonesia. In Indonesia their family especially their wife gives them an abundant support to toughen them in Taiwan. While in Taiwan, some lucky Indonesian seafarers will work in a supportive environment working place. The employer who willingly teach them how to get the job done. The coworker who helps them learn and not snitching on each other. It is such a blessing as they said to have that kind of environment. The individualistic on Taiwan society in their neighborhood also buy them some freedom to live in a foreign country. Taiwanese wouldn't mind of their existence on the neighborhood as long as they cause no scene.

Another aspect from environment support is the available facility and the low living cost. As they said, Pingtung consider as the cheapest place to live in Taiwan compared to another city. It really helps them to save more money for their family. Facilities such as mosque, many Indonesian food kiosk, Indonesian convenient store, and FOSPI as their safe place is available. It gives them meaningful support here in Taiwan.

Law Enforcement and Awareness

The attention from government and agency about their working situation is another coping mechanism they have. It is very lucky of them that the law is getting better every year. Regarding to their protection, rights, salary, and other facility it keeps getting better. The big community they have built also play a significant role to raise the awareness and get the attention whenever they sounding an issue. It proves that people power is a real thing.

Adaptation

In this high technology era, all interviewees express how it help them maintain their relation with family and keep them just one call away. They are able to adapting into this technology by using smartphone to make calls or even video calls with their loved ones. They are able to do it almost every day after they get back from work. The other adaptation they do is learning Taiwanese characteristic and working culture to fit in the working place. They learn from each other to adapting into Taiwanese culture. They practicing the language as much as possible. Lastly, since many of them have been to Taiwan for several years they get familiar with the environment and it starts to feels like home, they said.

Discussion

After synthesizing the collected data on the data analysis, this discussion will connect how the collected data answer each of the research questions addressed on the beginning of the research. The research questions are,

1. How did push and pull factors motivate Indonesians to work as seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan?
2. How Indonesian seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan describes the hurdles they encounter?
3. How do Indonesian seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan form a coping

mechanism to overcome the hurdles they encounter?

The push and pull factors motivate Indonesian to work as seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan by in total 10 factors, consist of 6 push factors and 4 pull factors. The push factors are factors that come from the hometown, Indonesia, that disenchant people to move out. First, insufficient income in Indonesia. Second, the urge to improve living condition. Third, the responsibility they have to fulfil. Fourth, they are having self-courage and dream to pursue. Fifth, they have no other option to choose rather than leave Indonesia. Sixth, the external influence from their surroundings. These 6 push factors motivate Indonesian to leave their hometown. Meanwhile the pull factors are factors that appear in the destine country, Taiwan, that attracts people to move in. First, the higher income, incentive, and opportunity they could earn. Second, the easy process of recruitment and departure. Third, the stereotype of having a nice employer. Fourth, the comforting environment that make Indonesian less homesick. These 4 pull factors motivate Indonesian to become a seafarer in Taiwan.

According to the previous paragraph it is easy for us to see the contrast between the opportunity for Indonesian seafarers have in Indonesia and in Taiwan. Taiwan situation clearly offer them a better job, sustainability, living condition, and yet support their aims to improve their living condition. Sooner or later they all will achieve their goals which mainly owe enough money to live and start their own business. Besides, support from families and relatives assure them to not slip away the chance to work as seafarers in Taiwan.

Indonesian seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan describes the hurdles they encounter in a various way and stories. Many of them share a similar or overlapping experiences. Then, to make it easier to digest the hurdles categorized into 7 points. First, internal conflict that take place in a work place. Second, language barrier between Indonesian seafarers and local workers since Taiwan and Indonesia having a different national language. Third, abuse and

threat from employer or coworker and society. Fourth, the working system that sometimes disadvantaging Indonesian seafarers. Fifth, being away from family and relative make them feeling lonely and disconnected. Sixth, their self-potency that might not as good as other that will stop them to get the job done. Seventh, nature threat that will be impossible to control leave them no choice other than deal with it. These 7 points of hurdles experienced by Indonesian seafarers that I have interviewed.

Indonesian seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan form a coping mechanism to overcome the hurdles they encounter by doing several things. They all have so much in common while sharing about their coping mechanism. It shaped a pattern that show how it is the reality, because their answer was confirming each other. In total their coping mechanism simplified into 6 points. First, by having a community in this foreign country. Second, by doing self-control while facing the hurdles. Knowing well which hurdles they could control and which hurdles that out of their control. Third, doing self-assurance to keep a positive mind and remind them of what their goals are. Fourth, got the environment support as they try to cope with the situation. Fifth, protected by the law enforcement and society awareness. Sixth, by adapting themselves into the destine country. By doing these 6 points of coping mechanism they prove that they are able to survive in Taiwan for years.

This research findings are connected to the theoretical framework on the second chapter as well as connected to the used theory. This is how the theoretical framework and finding combined.

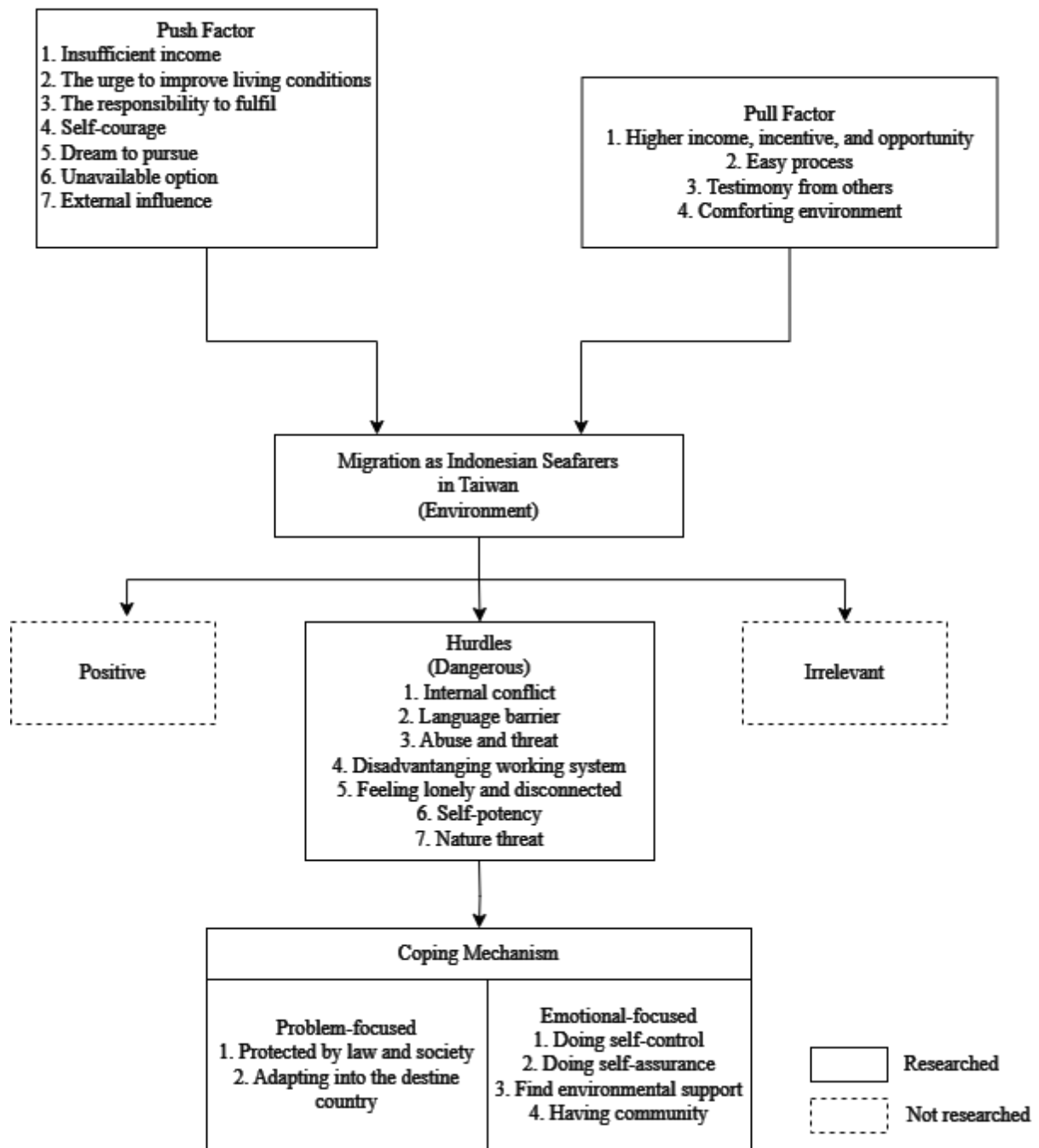


Figure 4. Theoretical Framework and Findings combination

Limitations

This research has inability to cover all the issue and important information due to researcher capability and the out-of-control factor. That is why the limitation needs to be states clearly to clarify the situation. By states the limitations of this research, might it will explain some considerations when reading all the plans and findings for the research.

First, during data collection, in-depth interview, the situation wasn't very conducive. It is because the unavailability of private room or space to have private and conducive interview. This problem was tried to be overcome by inviting interviewees to do the interview on a conducive coffee shop and food and beverages will be provided by the researcher. Unfortunately, the interviewee disagrees because they don't want to put burden on the researcher to provide food and beverage.

Second, all seven Indonesian seafarers that voluntarily be the interviewees are the example of Indonesian seafarers who survive the hurdles and working condition. In consequence, all of their personal experiences are from point of view of someone who succeed to form coping mechanism to overcome the hurdles. Researcher are not able to interview Indonesian seafarers who doesn't work things out in this job since they are not in Taiwan any more, they must have been back to Indonesia. Thus, the additional insight of Indonesian seafarers who wasn't able to form coping mechanism to overcome the hurdles are still available on this research based on the third person point of view.

Third, all the data analysis are based on the interview transcript that interpret by the researcher. The interpretation might be slightly different from the actual meaning from the interviewee. Fourth, this research is qualitative research that doesn't claim the result will represent all Indonesian seafarers' attitudes toward the research questions.

CONCLUSION

The research process and data analysis bring us to the conclusion. It makes sense to conclude that Indonesia, a country with high population and low job opportunity leaves their citizen with no option other than work harder to get a better live, even they have to live away from family. Besides, the low education level in Indonesia left them unskilled and unprepared to compete with others on finding job position. If a country with high population but prepared their citizen well enough with good educational background, it may give them better opportunity to work abroad as a white-collar worker. Most of the time white-collar worker having better working condition and protection which will lower the risk and keep them away from jeopardy.

Fortunately, Taiwan as a low populated country with growing industry needs employee to fill in the job opportunity. Then this supply and demand meets or in this research we call it push and pull theory meets in the middle resulting migration of Indonesian to work as seafarers in Taiwan. This social situation benefiting for both Indonesian and Taiwanese. With that in mind, it will be important to keep both parties aware of their rights and obligation to avoid mistreating each other. By improving the law enforcement and regulation it will keep Indonesian worker and Taiwanese employer in a good relation. This mutualistic symbiosis could keep on going and strengthen the economy of both countries.

All the interviews give this research so many insights that will not be able to look by details on every point. However, it is important to firstly make sure that all of the insights are answered the research questions addressed. Which indicate this research achieved its objective. Even though this research still needs improvement and suggestion from other scholars.

If I may suggest the future researcher who are interested to pursue deeper into this topic, I would like to suggest them to find interviewee from different area in Taiwan. Since it

may broaden the gained insight. Each work place is likely to be different regarding to its condition and situation. Thus, it will enrich the knowledge about how the other work places look like. The other important point is to make sure the safety of the researcher itself since meeting new people might be risky or dangerous. Keep in mind that the most important instrument in the research is the researcher itself. That's indicate nothing is more important than make sure of your safety first. Lastly, it will be better to spend more time on the field not only to get more interviewees but understand better their environment and their routine.

APPENDIX A

Interview Guideline in English

In-Depth Interview Guide

Introduction

Good afternoon Mr. ____, I'm Natha from Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, Kaohsiung. I am currently conducting research for my final assignment/thesis with the theme "motivation for working as a crew member in Taiwan, challenges, and how to survive", and I need your help as a resource in my research.

Previously, I informed you that your identity will be kept confidential. All information you share with me will be used for educational and research purposes only. I will record the interview process for my research and notes.

Do you agree and are willing?

Thank you for your time and availability to participate.

OK, then let's start the interview process, sir.

Open ended question

1. Before you worked as a crew member in Taiwan, what did you do?
 - a. Could you please describe your previous occupation in your hometown?
 - b. Have you worked as a migrant worker in any other country before? If yes, could you provide details about your experience?
2. Can you tell me about the process of becoming a crew member in Taiwan? From learning about the job vacancy to arriving in Taiwan?
 - a. If you have experience as a migrant worker in another country or sector, could you share more details about that experience?
 - b. What influenced your decision to become a crew member in Taiwan?
3. What were the reasons for leaving your hometown and working as a crew member in Taiwan?
 - a. If you are married, how did your decision affect your family?
 - b. Why did you choose not to work in your hometown?
4. What factors attracted you to Taiwan and made you choose to work there?
 - a. In comparison to other countries that are also popular destinations for migrant workers.
 - b. In comparison to your hometown.
5. Can you compare the advantages you expected from working in Taiwan with the reality you experienced after arriving and starting work?
 - a. Did the reality match your expectations?
 - b. Were there any notable differences?
 - c. If so, could you elaborate on those differences?
6. How has your work experience as a crew member changed over the years?

- a. Have there been any changes in your work abilities or the work environment?
7. Please describe your experience working as a crew member in Taiwan.
 - a. Daily life, work schedule, and holidays.
 - b. The work system (contracts, agents, or individuals).
 - c. Share any unique, sad, or fun events you encountered.
 - d. Describe the work environment.
 - e. Did you have any opportunities to explore and enjoy Taiwan?
8. What difficulties and challenges have you faced while working as a crew member in Taiwan?
 - a. From the time of your arrival until now.
 - b. Do your colleagues face similar difficulties?
9. Is there a sense of seniority within the work environment?
10. How did you handle the difficulties you faced as a crew member in Taiwan?
 - a. Could you mention each difficulty individually, allowing for detailed explanations of how you dealt with them?
 - b. Did you receive any assistance from sources other than yourself, such as fellow seafarers or NGOs?
11. After working as a crew member in Taiwan for several years, what are your plans for the future?
 - a. Do you intend to continue or extend your contract?
 - b. Have you considered returning to your hometown to seek alternative employment due to feeling out of place or overwhelmed?
12. Based on your personal experience as a crew member in Taiwan, would you recommend this job to acquaintances, family members, or friends?

Closing

This is the end of this interview process. Is there anything else you would like to share about life as a sailor in Taiwan?

So, I want to say thank you very much for your help. Sorry if there are any unintentional mistakes. I also want to appreciate your persistence as a sailor in Taiwan. Even though I can't repay you, I hope God will repay you for your kindness.

Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 1

IS 1	We want... um... is this for your thesis?
R	Yes.
IS 1	When is your thesis due?
R	The defense is next semester.
IS 1	Next semester, right?
R	Yes. This semester ends in June.
IS 1	June, I see.
R	June 21. Actually, I should have collected the data during the summer break. But during this summer break, I went back to Indonesia. So, I have to gather the data now before going home. And there's a possibility that after I return here, if I still need data, maybe I will come back here if it's allowed.
IS 1	Oh. In which month is your vacation?
R	The vacation is from June 22 to September 10.
IS 1	From June to September?
R	Yes.
IS 1	Is it a school break?
R	Yes. There's a possibility that if, for example, I still need more data, and so on, I will return here in early September. Maybe around September 15?
IS 1	Is it a holiday in Indonesia?
R	In Indonesia?
IS 1	Yes.
R	From June to September. Early September.
IS 1	June?
R	Until early September.
IS 1	This June?
R	Yes, right. After that, I have time this Saturday, next Saturday, and the Saturday after that. Well, then...
IS 1	So, it's at the end of June?
R	Yes, I'll return at the end of June.
IS 1	Yes, yes. Okay, at the end of June. If my employer approves, I also plan to come back in July.
R	Oh, I see.
IS 1	For one month, but July is not included.
R	Yes, yes, yes.
IS 1	Yes, for a vacation... Actually, last May, when my wife's HPL was due, she also wanted a vacation. But the employer didn't allow it, I wonder why? The work was busy with the wanceng festival here, which lasts until July 2, the closing date. So, the employer postponed it for her to go home, and said she could take a vacation later if she wanted to after the wanceng event. Actually, last August, I had a vacation already. It was postponed due to the pandemic. Finally, after 2022, when the pandemic in Taiwan was getting better, Indonesia was also improving. Because I insisted, I had to take a vacation since it had been 2 and a half years.

R	It was postponed, right.
IS 1	Finally, the vacation. After being at home for a month, we were blessed with another child. So, I came back here again in May, and I wanted a vacation, but the employer didn't allow it. It's okay, it means I understand that we also have job responsibilities. Finally, the employer, with the opportunity after nganu... "Okay," I didn't mind... even though I was on my own, it's not a problem. What's important is that I want to go home, right? But it's also related to my own work contract with this employer, it's supposed to end in January 2024, next year. I've been here for 6 years, technically. If we count the quota for working in Taiwan, officially it's 11 years. So, as formal workers here, we have 12 years according to labor laws. There's still one year left. But I haven't renewed the contract with the employer yet. So, this June, when we negotiate with the employer, if I can get a one-year contract extension, I will take a vacation in July. But if the employer doesn't agree, then it will end in January 2024, and I won't take a vacation. Why take a vacation? It's a waste of money. Besides, this is my personal money, not covered by the employer. We'll see the situation and conditions later.
R	I hope you can go back.
IS 1	Yes, I hope so. I miss it a lot; I want to see.
R	So, you've been in Taiwan for 11 years.
IS 1	Yes, since 2012.
R	And if you return, what would the interview topic be, approximately?
IS 1	Actually, it's fine to have a conversation like this.
R	Yes, actually, if it's a formal interview, it's a bit...
IS 1	It can be nerve-wracking. Hahaha.
R	Ahahha, yes.
IS 1	Last night, I also had a Zoom meeting on Friday night, related to my work and various violations at the workplace, at the harbor. It was a presentation aimed at putting pressure on the government regarding workers' rights. I was with JLJ, Elf from America, and an organization called KMIF, Yilan, I think. But it's run by Alison. They also have a branch in Indonesia. She used to be part of the leadership, including here. Who is she? His name is Muhammad, and he's in Pemalang now. I was also with someone from Thailand, but he's a migrant from Myanmar in Thailand. So, we discussed living conditions in Thailand, the fishing industry in Thailand, and working in Thailand. It's like that. The presentation was quite simple.
R	So, in reality, there's a lot of mediation with the government. It's not like working here, and the Indonesian government, as well as the one in Taiwan, are completely hands-off. It's not entirely like that, right?
IS 1	No, it's not. Well...
R	Because they provide opportunities, maybe provide help when there are issues.
IS 1	Yes, there are services like that. But when it comes to violations at the workplace, in the field of labor, I understood from the presentation of the Myanmar workers in Thailand that there are still some human rights violations, labor rights violations, and the like. So, I think that it's not just in Taiwan; it's in Thailand too.
R	It's the same...

IS 1	And there are also interests related to things like the police. I noticed that the police in Taiwan are quite good, in the sense that they don't demand bribes. In Thailand, according to the presentation from the Myanmar worker there, there's pressure, and after that, there's discrimination by the police. If you don't want to get caught, you have to pay a fee.
R	Corruption, right?
IS 1	Yes, it still exists. The salary there is only 9,000, and the cost of living is high now. With 9,000, it's almost the same as Taiwan. The cost of living is high, but the salary is only 9,000. That's why many Thai migrant workers come to Taiwan because the salary is much higher here.
R	You mentioned earlier that you've been in Taiwan for 11 years, but before that, may I know if you had a job in another country, or did you work in Rembang before?
IS 1	No, my journey started after school. I first joined a ship to work in Bali. I started my journey in 2002 when I went to Bali to join a Taiwanese ship. At that time, there were many Taiwanese longline ships that came to Indonesia. Some were in Jakarta, some were in Bali Benoa, and some were in Manado and Bitung. I was in Bali from 2002 to 2006, but I was officially registered for three years in Bali. This was until late 2002.
R	Was this also on a ship?
IS 1	I was on a ship for a few years, then I worked in tuna processing, making sashimi. It seemed like I earned a low salary for a year, and the cost of living in Bali was high. So I went back to working on a ship. On a ship, we don't have many living expenses while at sea. Living expenses only occur when we're onshore. On land, there are daily living expenses, and the income comes once a month. That's how it works. Eventually, I thought, "I have no money if I continue like this." So, I went back to working on a ship for a year. So, my total time in Bali was three years.
R	Oh, I see.
IS 1	Then, those three years in Bali, I realized that all the money I earned was just enough for my living expenses. I had no savings, and I worried about my future. Considering I had experience in the maritime field, especially with Taiwanese shipping, and the fact that foreign ship crews earn more, I decided to go abroad in 2006. After my experience in Bali, I thought, "Why should I stay in Bali with a small salary and no savings?" So, I registered with a PJTKI (Indonesian Labor Service Company) in Jakarta and got a job in Guam. I left for Guam in 2006 and joined a Taiwanese ship there. I worked on the Guam ship until 2008. When the ship finished its job in Guam and returned to Taiwan, I took a break in Indonesia for about a month. Then I returned to Taiwan because my next job was on a Taiwanese ship. Then, when I returned to Taiwan from Indonesia, the ship departed again for Guam in 2008. So, in 2008, I flew from Bali to Guam.
R	Oh, I see.

IS 1	At that time, the salary was still \$220 on Taiwanese ships. That was the standard salary. Then, in Guam from 2008 to 2009, the port was being used by the US Navy. As a result, all ships, including Japanese and Taiwanese ships, were ordered to return to their respective countries in 2009. The ships returned to Taiwan, and that's when I joined the operation to Thailand because the ship I was on was scheduled to go there. Sometimes, the route was Guam, Taiwan, and after Chinese New Year, it went to Thailand for four months, and then it was back to Taiwan. The route was Guam, Taiwan, and Thailand. I stayed with LG until around 2010, I think, about two and a half years. After that, I returned home with some savings. I was still young and unmarried at that time. In 2010, I used my savings to buy a truck, a Colt-Diesel dump truck for my home business.
R	Oh, I see.
IS 1	Well, I did spend almost six months at home. After that, I thought about having a business at home so it could run smoothly. I also had experience working abroad. Eventually, I entrusted my truck to a relative to manage it. Then, in 2011, I went through the official process with PJTKI in Jakarta. Because, if I considered the LG salary of \$220, at that time, the pay in New Taiwan Dollars (NTD) was only around 8,000 or 9,000 (NTD), right? It seemed like the salary was low. However, with the official process, the pay was around 13,000 - 14,000 (NTD), so the official pay was higher.
R	Oh, I see.
IS 1	So, I departed on an official ship from 2011 to 2013, for three years. But it seems that for two years, I joined a local longline ship, which caught fresh fish, and we kept it on ice. These trips lasted for about two to three weeks, with the longest being about one month. Then, after two years, the ship was sold by the boss, and I was transferred to another ship with a crew of five.
R	I see.
IS 1	I was transferred to a ship called CT4. CT4 was mainly involved in catching frozen fish, and it sailed for three months. It was about catching frozen fish. I spent three months sailing, which added up to a year. This was what they called LG. However, I still had the official status and official pay, while the other crew members were mostly from LG. Since I followed the captain, it was a bit of moving around.
R	That's right, and I completed it in 2013. Then, in 2013, I returned home, got married, and stayed at home for about a year. Then, in 2015-2016, I went through the official process again, which lasted for two years. During those two years, I also renewed my contract. In 2017, I returned to Indonesia, took a year off at home, and in 2018, while I was resting, I went through the documentation process, which took about a year.
IS 1	Oh, I see.
R	In January 2018, during Chinese New Year, I arrived here and signed a contract with my current employer.
IS 1	You're still with them now?
R	Yes, since 2018, and it's been six years.
IS 1	So, based on your story, for an official position, you have to register with PJTKI. It's like an agency, right?
R	Yes, it's an agency in Indonesia.

IS 1	So, they are the ones who send workers to employers here? Or are all the employers from the same person, or are they different?
R	No, they only handle the recruitment of Indonesian labor services. They work in collaboration with agencies here in Taiwan. The employer takes the recruitment through a Taiwanese agency. The Taiwanese agency submits a recommendation to the KDEI (Coordination of Indonesian Migrant Workers) in Taiwan. The KDEI will then verify the data. If it matches, it will be legalized by the KDEI. After that, the documents are sent to PT Indo, the Indonesian agency. Once it's received by PT Indo, the documents go through a legal process by the KDEI. Then the TETO (Temporary Entry for Employment) process takes place.
IS 1	For the visa, right?
R	Yes, that's correct. After the TETO process, all that's left is the flight. However, before the flight, there is usually a program called PAP (Final Departure Briefing). It used to be done outside of the BP3MI (Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Agency) building. But for departures in 2018, the briefing was held inside the BP3MI building in Kampung Rambutan.
IS 1	So, it's like training?
R	Yes, it's training, but it used to be held outside the BP3MI building. For those departing in 2018, the PAP training was held inside the BP3MI building in Kampung Rambutan. (Isn't that right? You were also at BP3MI, right? The PAP, right?) *asking another crew member* (Yes, same here.) *answered by the other crew member* It had to be done there. In the past, it could be done at other locations, but it was still done by BP3MI staff.
IS 1	I see. How long does the PAP process take?
R	It's a one-day program.
IS 1	Just one day?
R	Yes, just one day. It's the Final Departure Briefing.
IS 1	But before that, is there any other training?
R	Yes, there's something called competency testing, based on our experience. After that, you receive certification.
IS 1	Oh, I see. Well, before coming here, when you registered with PJTKI, were you required to learn Mandarin, or not?
R	No, there's no requirement for that. However, at PJTKI, they provided us with some documents. These documents were in Indonesian and, if I recall correctly, Taoyu language.
IS 1	Oh, I see. Because here, most people use Taoyu, so we work in the local dialect. It's different if you're working in a factory or as a caregiver for the elderly; there, you'd use Mandarin. But here, it's Taoyu.
R	Oh, so you were specifically taught Taoyu?
IS 1	Yes, it's for daily communication. There were about four sheets of documents.
R	I see.

	Then, once the documents were submitted and accepted at PJTKI, there were medical checks, ID processes, TETO processes, and competency testing. After going through several processes, the TETO process begins. When TETO is successful, the visa is issued, and you wait for departure. So, that's the process.
IS 1	That's why it took me several months. Well, it shouldn't normally take that long. I already had a job memo from here, so if you have a job memo, it should be faster. However, in my case, there was a document error from the Taiwanese agent when submitting it to the KDEI, so it was rejected, and they had to resubmit it. After that, I was sent back to Indonesia, which is why it took about ten months.
R	I see. But if, for example, after each contract, you go back to Indonesia, and when you want to come here again, do you have to go through the same process?
IS 1	It depends. If we're on leave here, that's fine. But if the contract is completed, you have to go through the process again.
R	Oh, starting from scratch. So, in the end, you'll go through the PAP again?
IS 1	Yes, that's for sure. It applies to all formal workers in Taiwan. There's an initial process. Even if you already have experience, when you start from the beginning, the procedure is the same. Unless you're on leave, then it's easy to come and go. The main thing is to have a re-entry permit.
R	I see. Earlier, you mentioned that you considered working on Taiwanese ships because the pay is better, allowing you to save more money. But are there any other reasons for it?
IS 1	Well, when people decide to work abroad, it's natural to have hopes and dreams. Maybe they want to have more savings, improve their family's economic situation, and strive for prosperity. Merantau, or working abroad, is often seen as a way to pursue these aspirations.
R	I see.
IS 1	Maybe someone wants to achieve financial stability or economic improvement for their family. In fact, merantau is typically done because there is a sense of lacking something. For example, among Javanese people, if they don't have something, they call it "wirang."
R	What does "wirang" mean, exactly?
IS 1	It means having a problem that is embarrassing or shameful, and they feel ashamed in their hometown.
R	I see, so they leave their hometown.
IS 1	Yes, they go away to suppress or resolve these issues.
R	To avoid the situation.
IS 1	Exactly, that's why they say that Javanese people, when they feel they lack something, they go "wirang" or leave their hometown. It's a principle of working abroad.
R	I see.
IS 1	Of course, if you don't lack anything, you won't feel the need to work abroad. But the main goal is usually to achieve big hopes and dreams. First, to improve and secure the family's economic situation and future. It's all about that. That's why people choose to come to Taiwan. The process here is somewhat easier compared to other countries, and the opportunities are greater. Plus, the salary is more promising here. It's better than other placement countries. Compared to the Middle East or Malaysia, Taiwan...

R	Is still the better choice?
IS 1	It's still a better choice in terms of salary and perhaps protection as well.
R	So, before coming here, you had already experienced working abroad, right?
IS 1	Yes, yes.
R	After returning to Indonesia and getting married, you decided to work abroad again. It must be different when you decide to work abroad before having your own family and after you've started a family. There must be more considerations, right?
IS 1	Yes, indeed. When it comes to family, especially your wife and children, who would want to leave their family behind, especially when you already have a family, let alone children. It's undoubtedly a tough test. When we go abroad for work, we leave our family far away with long-term contracts, usually lasting three years. That's certainly challenging, but no matter what, it's a consequence we've agreed upon with our spouse because, in the end, we're talking about the future of our family and our children's future.
R	I see.
IS 1	If we work in Indonesia, it might take longer to accumulate capital compared to working in Taiwan. Working in Taiwan, the higher salary allows us to accumulate capital for the future of our family or children more quickly. That's the main principle of people who work abroad.
R	I see. By the way, if you don't mind me asking, you have two children now, right?
IS 1	Yes, that's correct.
R	How old are they, and are they in elementary school or middle school?
IS 1	The first one was born in 2015, so they're about eight years old, but they're only in elementary school.
R	I see. I'd like to ask another question. You've been in Taiwan for 11 years now, right?
IS 1	Yes, officially, it's been 11 years.
R	Have you noticed any differences between when you first arrived and your time here now? I mean, it's not your first time working on a ship, and you've had different employers as well. What's different for you in Taiwan, especially regarding your working environment? Do you feel that it was more challenging before, perhaps because you were just starting out? And do you feel more comfortable now?
IS 1	In Taiwan, there have been notable differences. We've felt it due to the passage of time, changes in regulations, and changes in labor rights and protections. In the past, labor protections were inadequate, and it was kind of a free-for-all. Many unresolved cases were just brushed aside, and the government's labor laws were weak. We didn't have the kind of regulations and protection we have today. Salaries were also much lower. To give you an example, in 2011, I was earning a salary of 13,000 New Taiwan Dollars, which, at that time, was equivalent to about 270,000 Indonesian Rupiahs. Compared to today, where we earn a net salary of up to 23,000 New Taiwan Dollars. You can see how much it has increased. The exchange rate has also improved. It's true that the cost of living and the global economy has increased.
R	Everything has gone up.

IS 1	Yes, it has all gone up. But this has contributed to a better economy, and along with that, the regulations and labor laws in Taiwan have improved. There have been many changes to ensure that migrant workers are treated fairly and can lead prosperous lives. So, overall, protection for migrant workers has improved.
R	So, these changes are moving towards a positive direction?
IS 1	Certainly. These changes have impacted both formal workers and workers on LG ships.
R	I see. That makes sense.
IS 1	Regarding your work schedule, can you share what your daily routine is like? I understand that you work on Saturdays as well. Do you work from Monday to Sunday? Also, when it comes to taking time off, do you have leave every month, or how does that work?
R	For me, when I was on a longline fishing vessel, my work schedule was as follows.
IS 1	Now, currently, my employer, who has a fishing boat and a fish filleting operation on land, has placed me in the filleting operation. I work from Monday to Saturday, and sometimes I also work on Sundays. On Sundays, it's typically only for a short period, like one or two hours, just to prepare for Monday's filleting. As for full-time holidays, I get them once a month.
R	Once a month, I see. About the employment contracts, based on your experience, do different employers have different contract durations, like some are for one year, and others for two years, or is it generally the same?
IS 1	I think the employment contracts are governed by government regulations, not the employers. As far as I know, before 2011 when I first came here, the contracts were typically for two years. However, since many workers felt comfortable and were earning well after two years, they extended the contracts for an additional year. That's when the government decided to officially extend the standard employment contracts to three years. For formal workers, it's now a three-year contract, while for LG ship workers, it remains a two-year contract. If you want to extend it, it depends on the agreement between the worker and the employer.
R	Regarding the work environment, do you feel there are any aspects that make you uncomfortable, or is everything okay?
IS 1	In my personal experience...
R	I meant your personal experience.
IS 1	During my time with Taiwanese employers, which excludes the time I spent in Bali...
R	Right.
IS 1	In Taiwan, from 2006 to 2010, I was with an LG ship employer, and it was good. Then, from 2011 to 2013, I was with a formal employer, and that was a good experience too. I finished my contract there. From 2015 to 2017, I worked for two years with another good employer. I decided to end that contract. And from 2018 until now, I've been with a good employer.
R	So, it's fair, and you receive all your entitled benefits?
IS 1	Yes, there haven't been any problems or issues for me.
R	That's good to hear. It seems like you've had a positive experience.
IS 1	Yes, personally. But there are many issues outside, but those are personal problems.
R	What about your co-workers? Do you ever have issues with them, fellow migrant workers?

IS 1	No, not at all.
R	So, everyone is supportive in your work environment?
IS 1	In all my years working and interacting with co-workers, whether on the ship or in the filleting plant, everything has been good.
R	It's all been good.
IS 1	Yes, there haven't been any problems with co-workers. It depends on us.
R	I see. It comes down to personal interactions.
IS 1	Yes, but that's my personal experience. Outside, there may be issues, but those are personal matters.
R	But what about your work schedules? You mentioned having one full day off a month. What about Sundays? Do you have more free time then?
IS 1	Yes.
R	With this schedule, do you get the opportunity to explore Taiwan, especially the area around Pingtung, or are there chances for...
IS 1	Vacation?
R	Yes, exactly. So that you don't just work all the time but also get to know Taiwan better?
IS 1	Well, for personal vacations, there is the opportunity. However, as long as I have been part of the FOSPI organization, my time has been dedicated to organizational work. So, when it comes to enjoying a vacation, we have a long break during Chinese New Year. That's when we truly relax and go on a trip.
R	I see.
IS 1	However, when we only have a one-day holiday, we often visit Kaohsiung, but it's usually for organizational work. We often go to Taipei for KDEI events and other organizational activities. So, I stay busy with organizational work.
R	I see. If you don't mind me asking, are you still the chairman of FOSPI?
IS 1	Yes, I am.
R	Since when have you been the chairman of FOSPI?
IS 1	I became involved in the FOSPI leadership in 2015-2017, serving as the vice-chairman. But at that time, the secretariat was still connected to the mosque. It was located near the Port area, close to the school, in the old building. After serving for two years, I returned home.
R	I see.
IS 1	But then, after taking a one-year break in 2018, I came back here...
R	Right.
IS 1	At that time, FOSPI had a significant mission to purchase a place of worship, which is a mosque. The history of FOSPI began with religious activities, really.
R	I see.
IS 1	It started with a group of migrant workers learning to recite the Quran. We had an ustad (teacher), and it was part of daily life for the trawl fishermen.
R	I see.

IS 1	That's how FOSPI's history began. Initially, there were only a few of us, maybe a few people, learning to recite the Quran. But over time, the congregation grew. If I recall correctly, it was in 2004-2005, before FOSPI was officially established. It was a pre-FOSPI period.
R	I see...
IS 1	This congregation kept growing, and there wasn't enough space on the boats to study religious knowledge, so we considered renting a place. Around 2005, we rented a space near the Port, and it was turned into a prayer room. As time went on, it developed further.
R	Yes...
IS 1	Why are more worshippers coming, and the ship can't accommodate them to learn religious knowledge. So, what if we rent a place?
R	Yes...
IS 1	So, eventually, we rented a place near the port. It was around 2005 when we rented it and turned it into a prayer room. Over time, it continued to grow...
R	(Interrupted by a phone call)
IS 1	Yes, well, the Minister of Manpower, Madam Ida. But she wasn't endorsed by President Jokowi. Because, you know, at this ministerial level, if they get too close to China, well... no, uh, Indonesia could get criticized. Even though Madam Ida is a PKB cadre here. Whatever it is, political maneuvering or something. But her status is still that of a minister.
R	Right, right.
IS 1	Even the Head of BP3MI has a hard time coming here.
R	Oh, I see.
IS 1	It's probably because of the end of the year... I think Mr. Benny Rhamdani wanted to come here, but there was the G20 summit. So it wasn't allowed. The reason? Well, President Jokowi is cautious. He's maintaining harmonious relations with China. That's why only his staff comes.
R	So, in a way, they do care, but they have to be discreet about it?
IS 1	Yes, that's right. That's why Kyai Ma'ruf Amin said that Taiwan is Indonesia's affair on the side.
R	Hahaha.
IS 1	Because being involved with China is still good, and being involved with Taiwan is also good. Even though it's not a recognized country. But there are more Indonesian workers here. Even more than in Hong Kong, Korea, and Japan. Despite not being recognized as a country and having no bilateral relations, no diplomatic ties. But Kyai Ma'ruf Amin said Taiwan is Indonesia's side affair. Hahaha.
R	True, true. It's interesting.
IS 1	Yes, hahaha.
R	Alright, let's continue, shall we?
IS 1	Yes...
R	The story has been quite long. Now, I'd like to ask if you could share the difficulties or challenges you faced while working as a seafarer in Taiwan, first on fishing boats and now in filleting.

IS 1	In terms of challenges... Firstly, it's the work itself. On the fishing boats, it wasn't in Taiwan. It was here, in Taiwan, that I first faced difficulties. First of all, it's the language that was a challenge. No matter what, violent behavior or harassment, be it verbal or physical, by the employers, it could be due to miscommunication. For instance, they might say, "Take A." But if we didn't understand, there would be a misunderstanding, and we'd take B. That often led to miscommunication, which would trigger emotional reactions from the employers. And that would escalate into conflicts. So, as far as I know, during my time as a FOSPI executive, only cases of physical violence were counted. There were a few cases, not many, and it didn't exceed ten cases that I know of that were reported to FOSPI.
R	They reported them?
IS 1	Yes. So that suggests that there has been a change in the awareness of employers. But when it comes to verbal abuse, it's quite common. Because the nature of seafarers is rough, not in Indonesia, not in Taiwan, it's the same.
R	The same, right.
IS 1	And using foul language, cussing, is common. It's already common in Indonesia as well. It's the same. It's the nature of seafarers, they're rough. And in terms of speech and etiquette, it's not like the people on land. That doesn't apply in Taiwan, nor in Indonesia.
R	Right.
IS 1	I've also talked about the conditions on the North Coast here, it's the same. So, as for the job itself, I found it comfortable, but the challenge was related to the issue of language because it's the language that connects us and allows us to understand the context of the work.
R	Right.
IS 1	But sometimes, it doesn't connect, we don't understand, which leads to emotions and miscommunication. However, on the boats, it's a mixture of languages. Sometimes, we speak Taiwanese, and then the captain responds in Indonesian.
R	Hahaha.
IS 1	Hahaha, yes, that's right. We speak Indonesian, and then he responds in Taiwanese. Sometimes it's in Filipino, and some in Japanese. It's a mix of languages on the boat because the captains or employers usually took over the jobs before from the Philippines, right?
R	That's correct.
IS 1	Then, after the number of Filipino workers decreased, Indonesian workers started arriving. So, the language became more varied. The main thing is that in the working language, the understanding remains intact. That's the focus. The only difference is that in the land-based factory, Mandarin must be used.
R	Oh, I see. But besides the language, have you ever felt like, you know, feeling alone in Taiwan, or is it because you happen to be part of FOSPI? Because, as you mentioned earlier, FOSPI is one of the solid communities, and even if not everyone may know each other, there are some who do, so you don't feel alone when you're an Indonesian living abroad. Have you ever felt like that, or has FOSPI taken care of that?
IS 1	Personally, throughout my time in Taiwan since 2006, from my time at LG until now, it has been in Pingtung County, especially in the Tengkang area.
R	Oh, I see.

IS 1	So, I've never moved around. That's why I feel comfortable here. It's comfortable in terms of the environment and interaction with friends.
R	I see.
IS 1	Various facilities are available, like places of worship and the FOSPI secretariat. The organization is there, Indonesian products are complete, and Indonesian food menus are also fully available.
R	Yes, I understand.
IS 1	The food here is still relatively cheaper compared to other areas in Taiwan. That's why I feel comfortable, and I never feel alone. My friends in Tangkang make me feel like I'm in my hometown.
R	I see.
IS 1	I feel comfortable in this Tangkang area because of the environment, you know.
R	And I feel like I'm in my hometown because I've never moved around. You could say I've been here longer than my holidays in Indonesia.
IS 1	Yes, I see.
R	So, maybe the main challenge is with language. Most of the workers and captains live in this area. What about the neighbors around here? Are there local people living around here?
IS 1	For the local neighbors or Taiwanese people living around here, I think they tend to be indifferent. Some areas are friendly, but generally, Taiwanese people tend to be indifferent to migrant workers.
R	I see.
IS 1	Because there are no vested interests, no employment contracts. You do your thing, and I do mine. I think that's normal.
R	Yes.
IS 1	Especially because there is a caste system here. You are a migrant worker here. Migrant workers are laborers, right? It's like that. They are the natives. There's a caste difference.
R	But, for example, about racism, have you ever experienced racism from people living around here?
IS 1	Regarding racism, in the past, there were unruly teenagers known as "Halo Pengyou." So, "Halo Pengyou" is like a gang of unruly teenagers in middle and high school. And they often looked down on Indonesian workers.
R	Oh, I see.
IS 1	So, every Saturday night, we often clashed with them.
R	Like street fights?
IS 1	Yes, quite often.
R	They would ride motorbikes, but they wouldn't dare to confront us directly from the front. They would attack from behind. So, when an Indonesian person was walking alone, they would suddenly appear from behind and attack.
IS 1	Oh, I see.
R	Then, when we reported it to the police, the police didn't know who these kids were. I mean, they were underage, and they were just unruly teenagers. Then there was an opportunity, because there were many Indonesian people.

IS 1	I see.
R	But Indonesian people are more united. They are very solid. We would confront them, and the captains here also supported us.
IS 1	Oh, I understand.
R	If that's juvenile delinquency, they don't like it either because it harms the workers. In the end, it's the employers who suffer.
IS 1	That's right. Nobody works. That's why they support it. Just give them a lesson, but don't let it get too serious. We mostly just intimidate them. We confront them, and they quickly turn around and run. Every Saturday night, back then.
R	Before, is it still happening now?
IS 1	Yes, it's still happening now. We report it to the police. Some cases of these "Halo Pengyou" kids getting hurt by Indonesians. They eventually felt scared. Now it's safe.
R	This was about a year or two ago, or it's been a long time?
IS 1	A long time ago. It was in 2006, 2008, 2011.
R	Oh, I see.
IS 1	Well, it was around 2011, 2012, it was still quite dangerous back then.
R	Now, it's much safer, right?
IS 1	It's safe now. Maybe the generation has changed from the past. Because back then, there were no smartphones. So that's why they had to find activities. Nowadays, their smartphones keep them busy at home. The smartphones are enough. No need for any trouble.
R	Hahaha, yeah.
IS 1	Hahaha, that's right. The generation has changed, so it's safer now.
R	That's good to hear. Now, regarding what you said, the issue of language, which still seems to be a problem.
IS 1	Language, yes.
R	You mentioned before that on Friday afternoons, there's a teacher who wants to teach Mandarin classes.
IS 1	Yes, that's right.
R	Is it helping, Mr.? Is it really effective? How do you feel about it?
IS 1	Well, if you talk about its effectiveness, personally, I find it less effective. But it's an opportunity to gain knowledge. We accept it because such language training opportunities don't come often.
R	Exactly, so you're making the most of the opportunities that come your way.
IS 1	That's right. We appreciate it and just follow along.
R	So, after working in Taiwan for 11 years, with only one year left before your contract ends, have you made any plans for the future? Are you thinking of renewing the contract, or do you plan to return to Indonesia after 12 years? Or are you considering working in another country?
IS 1	For future plans, there are many who support me. For example, KDEI has designated me as the coordinator for Pingtung County for three years from 2020 to 2022. My role is to provide assistance and guidance to Indonesian migrant workers in factories and as domestic helpers, especially for seafarers since there are many of them here.

R	I see.
IS 1	So when I share my plans to return, KDEI sometimes suggests applying for an APRC (Alien Permanent Resident Certificate). Meanwhile, on the family side, like my wife, she's hoping that once my quota is finished here, I'll retire and focus on the family, home, and home-based businesses.
R	I see.
IS 1	Basically, people migrate far away to secure their future, and it's not possible to stay in Taiwan forever. Moreover, obtaining APRC in Taiwan could raise questions about the reasons for staying in Taiwan, haha.
R	Hahaha, that's true.
IS 1	Maybe there's something else. From KDEI, the WNI (Indonesian Worker Protection Center) Shelter, I was offered a job to work as a staff member when Mr. Fajar was the head in 2021. I thought about it because of my position in Tangkang, and the training time is limited and far away. Besides, since my employer here is comfortable, I had to decline it with a heavy heart. Currently, it's Mr. Agus from PCI NU Taipei who's in charge of the shelter in Kaohsiung. Since Mr. Agus used to work in a factory in Taipei, it's more convenient for the training, held on weekends.
R	I see. So, your future plans are still uncertain because there might be family-related matters in Indonesia?
IS 1	Yes, but essentially, it seems that after my quota is over, I will focus on my family and won't go to another country.
R	Last question before we conclude the interview. Based on your experience as an ABK, especially in Taiwan, would you recommend this job to others? For your relatives, perhaps nieces and nephews?
IS 1	For job recommendations, we don't have any discussion about that so far because it's the employer's prerogative. We recommend or not based on their instructions. If there's no instruction to recommend someone, we won't dare to.
R	But with you working as a seafarer in Taiwan, has your community in Rembang thought, "Hey, we can work as seafarers in Taiwan too"? Have you become an inspiration for your community in Rembang, thinking they can work like Mr. Muzakir in Taiwan, and become seafarers? Is there anyone like that?
IS 1	As for my hometown, my wife dominates now, and since I belong to her community in Taiwan, I don't have anyone left there.
R	I see.
IS 1	If I'm supposed to be an inspiration to the community, there might be some, but again, sometimes it's a matter of courage.
R	I see.
IS 1	Then there's the issue of funding. If it's official, it can be quite expensive. Moreover, it's farther for me because I'm from Rembang. My travel expenses back and forth were nearly 10,000,000 at first.
R	That's quite a sum, sir.
IS 1	Yes, it's a significant cost.
R	True.

IS 1	So that's a consideration. In my hometown, some are fishermen, and most are farmers. Some also have businesses, and many work as employees, especially in the PLTU (Power Plant) industry. Since I'm in the first rank in PLTU. My wife also works there.
R	So there are many job options in your hometown.
IS 1	Exactly, many options. But considering the salary, I think it's not much compared to being an ABK in Taiwan. Especially, the minimum wage in Rembang is 1,800,000.
R	I see.
IS 1	And even with overtime and other benefits, it's only up to 2,500,000, which is the highest. For my current living expenses, it's barely enough for a month's worth of food. It's only enough for eating. It's not sufficient for other needs and desires.
R	I understand.
IS 1	In our household, when it's still empty, we want to buy things to fill it. When we're working abroad, we can afford more than just basic meals.
R	Oh, I see, that makes sense. Alright, that's all for the interview. Thank you very much for your time. I apologize if there were any mistakes in my questions.
IS 1	No problem, take it easy. We're open to anyone, whether they're from here, America, or England, you're all welcome. Especially fellow Indonesians, we're open.
R	Thank you, sir.

Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 2

R	May I know your name?
IS 2	I am Mr. IS 2.
R	All right, Mr. IS 2, thank you in advance. Let me introduce myself, I'm Natha, a student from Wenzao University in Kaohsiung who is working on a final project about the stories and motivation of Indonesian seafarers in Taiwan.
IS 2	Okay, what would you like to ask, Miss?
R	Could you please share your experience, Mr. IS 2, about how you started working as a seafarer in Taiwan? What did you do before this?
IS 2	Back then, I initially tried it with a friend on a Japanese-owned frozen fish boat.
R	So, you tried it together?
IS 2	Yes, at that time when I embarked on the frozen fish boat, it was owned by a Japanese company. I don't remember the exact year, probably around 1991. Initially, I went for a 3-month contract. Following that, some crew members completed their contracts in 6 or 7 months, so I joined them for an additional 3 months. Afterward, we secured another job. I had a year of break back in Indonesia, then embarked for 2 more years, followed by another year off.
R	I see.
IS 2	At first, I was receiving my salary in Singapore since the company's office was there. I underwent a process to get my salary there, but it took a while. Over time, I realized that it might be more profitable to take my salary in Indonesia, so I switched.
R	I see.
IS 2	The issue was that foreign salaries were being standardized to local wages, and I heard about it. So, I moved, left Singapore, and learned about job opportunities in Taiwan.
R	Got it.
IS 2	At the beginning, my experience in Taiwan was a mix of working with Japanese and Taiwanese crew members. Have you been in Taiwan for three years now?
R	Yes.
IS 2	Are you currently waiting for your next contract or still looking for one?
R	I'm still waiting.
IS 2	If you're waiting for a new contract, how do you usually find out about them? Is there an announcement of job vacancies or do you rely on word of mouth or other sources?
R	In my last job, I was released even before completing three years. It happened because there were some tensions among the crew members. There can be rivalry and misunderstandings when you're working, but it's somewhat normal due to competition. In the end, I was replaced to resolve these issues.
IS 2	I see.

R	So, I have been unemployed since. It's not always a straight three-year cycle. Because I had to leave my previous job earlier, before the full three years, I'll need to start a new contract from scratch if I get a new opportunity.
IS 2	I understand.
R	My passport is about to expire, but I've extended it here. I thought it's better to utilize it for the remaining three years. You don't want to deal with it again after it expires. But if someone secures a job after three years and leaves earlier, it's fine. I'll finish my contract and it's not a problem.
IS 2	Is there any penalty if you terminate your contract?
R	No, the cost of the return ticket is our responsibility.
IS 2	So, if your contract ends, the cost of your return ticket will be covered by the employer?
R	Yes, that's right.
IS 2	If you switch employers, you will need to start a new contract from the beginning.
R	Before this, have you worked as a seafarer before, or is this your first time? Initially, you worked in Japan, then in Singapore, and now in Taiwan.
IS 2	No, by 'Japanese ship,' I mean a ship owned by a Japanese company. We were just transiting through Japan on our way to Hawaii, with some layovers in Singapore. I barely spent any time in Japan, mostly at the airport.
R	I see.
IS 2	Then, we would transit to Hawaii, where the ship was stationed.
R	Got it.
IS 2	So, if I can say, your motivation for moving from the Japanese ship to a Taiwanese one was because the salary in Japan was being equalized with local Indonesian wages, which made it less profitable.
R	Yes, that's the issue.
IS 2	Issues, yes.
R	But it's good to be cautious.
IS 2	Are you saying that you've been working in Taiwan for almost three years, but not quite three years yet, and your expectation was that your salary would be higher in Taiwan? Does that match your experience until now, which has been almost three years?
R	The issue of salary is quite decent.
IS 2	So, you moved to Taiwan with the hope of a more promising salary, and it turns out it's indeed more lucrative.
R	Yes, back when I started on the frozen ship, the salary was standard, and the initial pay for inexperienced workers was around 300 or so.
IS 2	I see.
R	It increased to around 450 after I gained experience, plus there were bonuses which made it worthwhile. The bonuses were standardized as well, initially at 200, but I was receiving around 400 or more. So, this is the second employer you've left?
IS 2	Yes, two employers.

R	So, your first employer's contract had ended, and the one you left recently was the second.
IS 2	Alright, what's the work schedule like for the last job or the experience with your most recent employer? Is it from Monday to Sunday or Monday to Saturday?
R	In my most recent job, I was working on a small boat, and the schedule was more flexible. I would work daily and then have a rest for a few days. Sometimes, I would work for two days and then have a week of rest.
IS 2	I see, because the season was quite slow, right?
R	Yes, there was a shortage of work. I've been jobless for about 4 to 5 months now. The most recent time, I was let go because the company faced financial difficulties. We had two boats, one larger and one smaller. The smaller one was mainly used for fishing, and I was working on that. The larger boat was going to be sold, and the small boat was being stopped, perhaps due to financial issues. Instead of keeping me idle, they let me go.
IS 2	I see.
R	So now, I'm waiting to renew my passport, and then I'll start looking for a new contract.
IS 2	I haven't renewed it for a few years now, maybe it's already been two years. Passports are typically valid for five years, and I had it renewed a year or two before my last job ended. So, there are still three years left.
R	From the story you've told, it seems like there were some issues with colleagues not getting along. Have you experienced workplace issues like this before, or was this the first time?
IS 2	I've often experienced issues, especially when working on frozen ships. Initially, there were eight of us. When you're at work, there can be arguments and conflicts, usually about work-related matters. It's natural due to the competition. However, sometimes it escalates to physical altercations. I never got into physical fights, but I have witnessed them. The thing is, Japan and Taiwan have different systems. In Japan, they start from non-experienced workers and train them until they can handle all aspects of the job. It's fair. You work and train until you can do everything. In Taiwan, it's based on trust. If the employer believes you can handle a certain task, they let you do it.
R	I see. What are the different roles on the ship, if you could explain?
IS 2	When I was on the Japanese ship, my tasks included handling the equipment, going down to the wires, descending onto the deck, cutting and packing fish.
R	I see.
IS 2	In Japan, everyone experiences all the roles before they move up. If you're skilled in one role here, you continue in that role.
R	I understand. How about the coworker who bothered you. Does it mean that your coworker who bothered you is more senior than you in that job with that employer? Oh, you mentioned earlier that you've been there for 20 years.

IS 2	By seniority, do you mean the colleague who bothered you earlier? I'm not sure about that; from my perspective, we can work continuously. It's just that he's a newcomer, and he wants to compete with me. For example, I cut fish, and I can do it twice as fast as he can. We work on the deck, and he's slow with his hands; I can do things while he's still doing one. That means he's not capable.
R	Yes, I see.
IS 2	I even have to assist him. If I'm carrying something, like a rope, it's round and round. I do it once, twice, and three times. If I ever want to argue in public, it's not good. If there's a fight, as long as you don't use a sharp object or cause injuries, they won't send you home. But if you carry a sharp object, it's evidence. So, someday, the risk is real, even if it hasn't happened to me. I would open a book, read, close it, and say to him, 'This is what you did.' He'd cry and apologize. I'd tell him not to repeat it; he understood that it was shameful. Crying, confessing, and apologizing were typical.
R	I see.
IS 2	Once, with a Batak man, this tall, huge guy, I cried because he didn't deserve it.
R	So, he realized his mistake.
IS 2	In Indonesia, it's common to have such conflicts with fellow Indonesians. We often view foreigners as our rivals, not our own people. When it's someone from our own country, it's embarrassing, as the saying goes, 'Win as a hero, lose as a coward.'
R	True, true.
IS 2	I once worked with five Peruvian and ten Indonesian crew members. All the officers were Japanese, about 22 of them. I had a role as an ice assistant and ice assistant was in charge of the fish processing. There was competition between us. He learned what I did after I showed him, but he couldn't do it well, so he got embarrassed. He was rejected and was assigned to handle bait and bait casting. When I threw bait, he snapped it even before it was in the water. When I threw it, he snapped it, and if I ever got tangled up, he would slide to my spot. I was getting annoyed and during lunch, I confronted him. I pulled his collar and asked him, 'Why are you doing this? You're going to kill me with your reckless actions.' I asked in front of his Peruvian friends.
R	I see.
IS 2	Then, he was scolded by his friends. They said, 'Why are you doing that? You're going to get me in trouble with your reckless actions.' So, his friends confronted him. I wasn't brave enough to help; I'm brave with foreigners but not with fellow Indonesians.
R	It's awkward because it's the same country.
IS 2	So, in the end, of those ten people, five were sent home. They frequently fought with each other and with the Peruvians, so they were sent home.
R	I see. If I may ask, are your family members back in Pekalongan?
IS 2	Yes, they are.

R	Does this mean that this is not the first time you've been away from your family for a long time?
IS 2	Yes, that's right.
R	And because you've been here for only about three years, there is still a long time left for you to stay in Taiwan, God willing.
IS 2	Yes, if it's in our destiny. I hope this employer will go smoothly without any issues, and it will continue to flow.
R	Keep going until it's finished.
IS 2	Finish it, and when my passport needs to be extended, I'll look at the situation. The problem is, since I'm not that young anymore, I need some rest, you know. If I want to come back here again in the future, it'll be difficult without a job. If there's no contract, it's difficult to come here.
R	Because you can't come here without a contract?
IS 2	Yes, without a contract, it's difficult to come here. Maybe the reason is because of age. There are many here my age. But with the office regulations, they prefer younger ones.
R	But if you face challenges other than those related to your work environment, such as colleagues not getting along, what other challenges do you experience as a Taiwanese sailor?
IS 2	Challenges are a part of life, and that's just how it is. You need to face them. As long as you don't fight, I don't go as far as that; I consider it normal. Challenges are normal in work.
R	So, based on your experience, the way you deal with challenges is to strengthen yourself?
IS 2	Yes, I'm already used to it. I've been used to it since I was a child, and I didn't have much education. I didn't study much; I was lazy when it came to studying. I wasn't into it back then. People had different interests, and I was reluctant. I was like that; it was fine. But now it's different from before. I don't use a kerosene lamp; back then, it was like this...
R	I guess you're using electricity now.
IS 2	Because I'm sleepy now, what time is it?
R	Yes, the thinking now is different from back then. It's just that I was lazy back then. I didn't study. What's the use of education? I didn't care; I was used to it. I didn't go to school much. I didn't have any issues; it was just that my education was limited to the sea, and it was good enough for me.
IS 2	That's impressive, working until now.
R	Fishermen don't need much capital; they don't need to get drunk or anything. What's important is their spirit to work. Fishing is easy compared to other jobs, but it's different now. If you're not smart, you can get into trouble. Things have changed. Before, it was easy; we just used the ship's logbook and passport, and we would go.
IS 2	Yes.
R	But now, there's a lot more administrative work.

IS 2	Yes, I understand.
	You have to learn this and that now. In the past, you didn't. Do you have money? If not, get a loan, and they
R	
	'll cut it from your salary. Make it, then leave. That's all. Now, it's complicated.
IS 2	There's more paperwork.
R	Yes, the process is longer.
IS 2	But it's amazing that you've worked this long.
R	Haha.
IS 2	May I ask if any of your children work as sailors?
R	I wouldn't want my children to become sailors. I've suffered enough, so I wouldn't want my children to go through the same hardships. I just go with the flow. If my child wants to pursue something, as long as they're living a good life and well-behaved, I'll support them as a parent. If it's good for them, I'll support it.
IS 2	Are your children going to school in Pekalongan?
R	Yes, they are.
IS 2	How old is your oldest child?
R	In their twenties.
IS 2	Most probably, the lifestyle is different from the average person because their life is more at sea than on land. They tend to get married at an older age because they're mostly out at sea. For students, when they're done with school, they start dating, but if someone is a sailor, they get married at an older age.
R	That's true, indeed.
IS 2	I still have friends from Pekalongan who registered with me back then. Now, they've gone to Japan, and they asked if they could get an education there. I didn't have any formal qualifications, but they registered with me, and they got the chance to go. You don't need an education to get in, but now there's so much paperwork and processing. Back then, you just needed the seaman's book and passport, and you'd go.
R	Haha, I see, I see.
IS 2	Now, it's all different.
R	There's so much more to it now.
IS 2	Yes, the process is much longer.
R	But it's impressive that you've worked this long.
IS 2	Haha.
R	By the way, would you recommend that someone from your hometown becomes a sailor like me? Would you recommend that?

IS 2 In my hometown, the majority works as fishermen, but there are only one or two people in the captain's seat. Once, a neighbor asked me to find three people. They were like, 'Let's go with you,' and I said, 'Take them to the office, and they'll leave with you.' One of them came with me, and two of them found their own ships.

R I see.

IS 2 I went with the one person.

R Okay, that's all I wanted to ask. Thank you so much.

IS 2 Haha, you're welcome.

Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 3

R	I'm speaking with whom, sir?
IS 3	His name is IS3.
R	Mr. IS 3. Alright, let me introduce myself. My name is Natha. I'm from Wenzao University in Kaohsiung. I happen to be working on my final project, and its theme is about ABK (seafarers). I want to know what motivates these ABKs to work, especially in Taiwan, and also, what challenges they face. How do they deal with them? I'm actually just having a conversation.
IS 3	Okay.
R	Shall we begin? How long have you been working in Taiwan, sir?
IS 3	I've been in Taiwan since 2009.
R	So, it's been about 14-13 years. Where are you originally from?
IS 3	My father is from Ambon, while my mother has Padang and Solo heritage.
R	But where do you live in Indonesia?
IS 3	I live in Bali. My wife is Balinese.
R	A real mix, huh? Hahaha.
IS 3	A real mix, hahaha.
R	If I may ask, before becoming a sailor in Taiwan, were you working in Indonesia or in another country?
IS 3	I worked on Japanese ships, Spanish ships, Korean ships, and many others. I worked on an Arab tanker, Arab ships, Turkish ships.
R	So, you've been working as a sailor for a while, in various countries?
IS 3	Yes...
R	What made you choose to work on Taiwanese ships now?
IS 3	Because, you see, I wanted to go to Oman last time, but they asked for a \$25,000 charge, which I couldn't afford. My son is in college, and I was in a dilemma.
R	I see.
IS 3	Plus, my mother-in-law was ill. That's why I chose a Taiwanese ship, because it's free. There are a lot of jobs for me in Taiwan, too.
R	Oh, because it's the most cost-effective option and the most feasible?
IS 3	Yes. On Taiwanese ships, there are no additional costs, and the regulations aren't too strict. The Taiwanese also understand the Indonesian language.
R	I see.
IS 3	In contrast to other places, like Japan, it's difficult. Even among foreigners, there's usually only one who can communicate.

R	I understand. So, because of the ease of registration and the welcoming environment here, it's more convenient. Alright. Maybe it's because you've been working as a sailor for a while that your family supports your decision, and there are no issues like 'Don't go away.'
IS 3	Actually, I've been at it for 21 years.
R	21 years, wow!
IS 3	12 years in Taiwan.
R	That's quite a long time. Now, besides the easy registration and the absence of additional fees, what other advantages do you consider about working in Taiwan?
IS 3	There's plenty of Indonesian food here.
R	I see.
IS 3	There are many Indonesians here.
R	I see.
IS 3	And I feel like I'm in my own village. I feel safer here.
R	Feeling safer, I see.
IS 3	In other countries, I've had experiences like this (gestures to head as if threatened). I've been threatened in Africa, Samoa, Hawaii, Pek(?), and elsewhere. But in Taiwan, I feel safe. There are no issues here; whether you go out in the morning or at night, no one bothers you.
R	It's safe, I see.
IS 3	Yes, that's the difference between Taiwan and other countries.
R	But if we're comparing the advantages of Taiwan that made you choose it now, how about considering your own residence, like in Bali? What made you not look for work in Bali?
IS 3	Because I wanted to travel around the world. My dream was to travel the world.
R	I see, I see...
IS 3	I wanted to explore the whole world.
R	Is being a sailor a way to achieve that, by working in different countries? Did you ever seek employment in Bali itself?
IS 3	I worked as a personal guard. I was a head of security. I worked at the airport and in hotels.
R	I see, I see...
IS 3	I worked with foreigners. But before the Bali bombing, the Bali Bombing happened.
R	Oh, I see, in the early 2000s, right?
IS 3	In 2002. I worked with Swiss people.
R	So, that's one of the factors that led you to become a sailor. Now, from your experience, particularly in Taiwan as a sailor from the beginning until now, are there any differences over these years?

IS 3	The difference in Taiwan is that there are many Indonesians. Secondly, the captains in Taiwan are not too strict. In Japan, they can be tough, and Korea as well. But here, we have FOSPI, so we can report issues.
R	So, there's more of a community here. But in other countries, is there a community like this?
IS 3	I usually communicate with the ambassador.
R	I see, so you mainly communicate with the ambassador. Because the Indonesian community is relatively small, it's hard to form a community.
IS 3	That's right.
R	But in other countries you worked in before, were there long-term voyages, as opposed to the shorter ones here?
IS 3	Now, I work locally, so I return home frequently. In the past, I traveled from Taiwan to Hawaii, to Japan, I kept going without returning.
R	And that took months?
IS 3	I spent 3 years and 8 months at sea without stopping. My wife thought I was dead; there was no news.
R	And during your time at sea, you couldn't communicate at all?
IS 3	I couldn't, I was in the Hawaiian archipelago, in the middle of the open sea. We changed captains every 6 months. I suddenly returned to land after over 3 years. My hair had grown quite long; I hadn't cut it. I experienced this on a large vessel, with the rest lasting at most 1 year, 8 months, 4 months, or 5 months.
R	So, did you know from the start that it would be this long at sea?
IS 3	We... I was fooled. They told me it was 6 months, 6 months, then suddenly it didn't stop, and it was a new year.
R	I see, I see.
IS 3	I wanted to go back, but they wouldn't allow it because the ship met us in the middle of the sea. They delivered fish and took oil. People would jump on the large tanker; it happened once every 6 months. So we sent fish and asked for supplies, and we received everything.
R	So, you met at sea?
IS 3	In the middle of the sea; I couldn't see any islands.
R	So, you were stuck, and there was no escape?
IS 3	Stuck, and there were 10 Indonesians, 10 Filipinos, 10 Vietnamese, and 10 Chinese. It happened every day. Every day, there were problems with food and work. One of my friends was killed by a Vietnamese, stabbed.
R	May I ask if these cases were reported on land?

IS 3	They were reported on land. I had to deal with the police on the Hawaiian Islands. I told them that a Vietnamese was imprisoned and my friend was buried. I finally returned home in 2011.
R	Since that experience, have you had anything similar in the years following?
IS 3	I have, in Malaysia. The Vietnamese and Indonesians fought. My friend's hand was cut. He walked by himself and was ambushed by the Vietnamese. That's when we retaliated. I've heard that there's another conflict happening in Vietnam in Mauritius.
R	I see.
IS 3	It's below Madagascar.
R	So, Taiwan is much safer, right?
IS 3	It's much safer, ma'am. I've experienced different countries. I even know the tax officer.
R	So, considering your experiences in these countries, you believe Taiwan is the best, right?
IS 3	Yes, it's the safest. It's the best, even though the salary is low.
R	So, if you were to compare salaries, with higher risks...
IS 3	Many people here are involved in the LG (fishing) industry. Now, I'm somewhat better; I have to come to Taiwan.
R	But back then...
IS 3	Back then, I didn't...
R	But if you were to compare it, in the beginning, when you start working, you're not as skilled. But as time goes on, you become more skilled, and maybe you enjoy it more. You start thinking, 'I like working this way.'
IS 3	The most important thing for me, ma'am, at sea, is just working. I never thought about other things.
R	I see.
IS 3	The important thing is to know when the sun rises and sets. We work no matter what, whether it's raining, hot, or in a storm. I work 24 hours a day. I sleep for 2 hours a day, and sometimes, I don't sleep.
R	Oh.
IS 3	Working on Taiwanese and Japanese ships is very tough. People who work on ships must be very brave. Your health has to be in good shape, and you have to be prepared to risk your life. If the ship sinks, we go home. It's called dying.
R	Have you ever experienced something like that?
IS 3	I once spent 2 days and 2 nights in the middle of the sea; my ship caught fire in the Australian Ocean.
R	Can you tell it, Sir?

IS 3	Still in Bali, right? I spent 2 days and 2 nights in the middle of the sea. We were just a group of 9 people, waiting too long before my ship sank. I'll contact you beforehand.
R	Hehe.
IS 3	Please, my ship is sinking and on fire at a specific time. Please pick us up, all of our friends. We only spent 2 days and 2 nights; we just arrived there. My friend already had problems with foam in his mouth. Some fainted because of physical exhaustion. Fortunately, my physical condition was fine; I was unharmed. In the end, I was rescued. Just ordered greetings.
R	Now, if it's happening again, it means the ship is local, right?
IS 3	Locally in Taiwan, we left about 15 days ago and returned to Taiwan.
R	Oh, about 2 weeks.
IS 3	The longer one took 2 months to return to Taiwan.
R	Oh, I see. But if it's like that, you already know in advance. It means we are departing today for about 2 weeks. Today, we are leaving for a predetermined duration. It's been informed in advance.
IS 3	Yes.
R	About the holiday system, is there a monthly leave allocation or just annual leave?
IS 3	Annual leave, once every two years. I'm on a three-month break at home.
R	Oh, so every two years, you get a three-month break. It must be used all at once, or can you split it, like one month now and one month later?
IS 3	It must be used all at once. I don't plan to come back after that; I want to return to Dubai later. After this, my contract is two more months, but not finished. After the break, I won't come back.
R	Oh, you're looking for another ship.
IS 3	I already have plans, but I've prepared the money.
R	Oh, I see. But during your time here, have you taken your annual leave?
IS 3	Not yet. I've only been here for four months.
R	Oh, so from the difficulties you've mentioned earlier, especially in Taiwan, even if the working environment is good, there are still challenges you face, right?
IS 3	Yes, especially with friends. Some act arrogant because they've been trusted by Taiwan for a long time. They oppress their own friends, like what I experienced yesterday. Instead of fighting with someone, I decided to go down. I filed a negative report about him to the captain and agent. I disembarked now, leaving my belongings here (FOSPI) temporarily.

R	Oh, I see. So the problem is that someone dominates, and your way to deal with the problem is to lower yourself, right?
IS 3	That's what I do, Ma'am. It's just the way our nation is. If someone has a position, they tend to press others because of jealousy and envy. I stay relaxed; I can work on other ships too. I went down and reported to the captain and agent. I disembarked now and left my belongings here (FOSPI) temporarily.
R	Oh, I see. Besides that, are there any other challenges?
IS 3	We just deal with nature, like storms in the middle of the sea, rain, and harsh weather. It's quite usual.
R	If there's no solution for that, we just have to face it because it's nature. Okay, okay. So besides threats from the working environment, are there other constraints?
IS 3	Sometimes the captains can be tough, but now they don't dare to be. There's FOSPI to report them, and they would get caught and fined. In the past, if we got into a fight, we'd get fined.
R	Right. So having a community as big as this one is really helpful.
IS 3	(Yes) Now we can't mess around, we report everything to the police.
R	And the people in Taiwan are scared of this community, right? It means they know we have the right to report, and the government and police will take action.
IS 3	Actually, I'll pause the conversation for a moment, Ma'am.
R	Sure.
IS 3	This fishing boat I've been on has been to many places, it's like being a stepchild.
R	Oh.
IS 3	But I'm fundamentally from a fishing boat. Yesterday, we went to Taipei with our chairman to get Wi-Fi on the fishing boat so we can make complaints if anything happens. I represented us in the discussion.
R	Did you go there as one of the representatives?
IS 3	I represented us. I spoke there to get this fishing boat equipped with Wi-Fi.
R	Oh, I see. Has there been any change since then?
IS 3	I don't know; the chairman knows better. I've just been traveling.
R	Alright. So if you view your experience as a sailor, do you want to recommend this job to your family or people in Indonesia?
IS 3	Maybe in 2-3 years, I won't want it anymore. That's why I'm going back to a tanker ship. The salary on a tanker ship can reach 50,000,000 or 45,000,000 per month. I will only be onboard for two years; that's enough. I'm different from others; I don't indulge in vices. For accommodation, is there a mess?

R	Sailors can live anywhere on the ship. We can withstand anything; we don't get sick, no matter the weather, whether it's raining or hot.
IS 3	Oh, I see. Are there any other stories you'd like to share about being a sailor in Taiwan that I haven't asked before?
R	The advantage of being a sailor in Taiwan is that food is readily available here. Everything is easy; clothes are also cheap. In other countries, you can only get a pack of cigarettes for the same price here. Here, 100 NT for cigarettes. Clothes, pants, everything is cheap. That's the advantage of Taiwan. Secondly, finding side jobs is easy. You can work in fish farms, with cement, or any other job. Any job, I can handle it.
IS 3	Oh, I see. Have you faced any language difficulties?
R	People here understand that you can't speak Taiwanese, but if you can speak Japanese, English, or Spanish, they will understand. I'm new to Taiwan, so I can't speak Taiwanese.
IS 3	Yes, I see. It's only been four months, hasn't it?
R	I've been abroad before, but I could speak English because I was traveling to other countries. If I can't speak, there are friends who can help.
IS 3	So they are more understanding if you can't speak Taiwanese, and they don't rely too much on Mandarin.
R	Yes, the essential thing is to understand Japanese because Taiwan is very influenced by Japanese language and culture. If you don't understand Japanese, they'll say you have to go home.
IS 3	Oh, I see. So in Taiwan, Japanese language is more important than Taiwanese.
R	Are there any other points you would like to make?
IS 3	I don't have, I'm just answering your questions, Ma'am.
R	Alright, thank you for talking to me. I will use this interview data for my research. Your name will not be displayed. Thank you.

Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 4

R	First of all, who am I speaking to?
IS 4	His real name, is this just a nickname? The nickname is enough? Mr. IS 4. But his real name is Mr. IS 4. His real name. But in Palau, in Taiwan, he's known as Mas Bro Mas IS 4.
R	Alright, let's go with Mas IS 4 then. Before we continue, let me introduce myself. I'm Natha. I'm from Wenzao University in Kaohsiung. Currently, I'm working on my final project. It's related to Indonesian seafarers, ABK, in Taiwan. I'm curious to know, what motivates you all to work here as sailors. And what are the challenges you face, and how you deal with them. What do you do?
IS 4	Okay.
R	Also, if you have other stories you'd like to share later on, please feel free to share them.
IS 4	Sure, sure.
R	Before that, how long have you been working in Taiwan? When did you start working here?
IS 4	I started working here in 2013. 2013, but it was just a short time. In 2013, what month was it? I can't remember. Around the end of 2013, I think. Around November.
R	It was for two years.
IS 4	Yes, until 2016, when my contract ended. I worked here. The ship used to travel to Palau. Do you know Palau? Palau is close to the Philippines.
R	I think I've heard of it.
IS 4	Guam. Palau consists of small islands. So, the ship is from Taiwan, but it travels to Palau to catch fish. It anchors there. Then, it stays there for 6 months, 8 months, or a year before returning to Taiwan. They might come here for maintenance or something.
R	I see.
IS 4	Now, if I may ask, before you worked as a sailor in Taiwan, did you work in Indonesia or in another country as a sailor?
R	Coincidentally, I graduated from a maritime school.
IS 4	Oh, I see.
R	So, I graduated in 1999-2000. After graduating, I immediately started working on a cargo ship from Surabaya to Kalimantan. At that time, there were incidents between Madura and Dayak. So, I worked there for approximately 1 and a half years. After that... what was it... I resigned because I wanted to obtain my certificate. In maritime school, if you want to work on commercial ships, you need a certificate for your rank. I specialized in engineering, so I needed at least Bas 1, Bas 2, Bas 3, and then KKM (Chief Engineer). It's like becoming a captain.
IS 4	I see.
R	At that point, I don't know how it happened, but I got married. Haha.

IS 4	Haha.
R	Yes, I got married. After getting married, we had children, and expenses piled up.
IS 4	I see.
R	So, I never thought about going back to school because it required a significant investment. Eventually, I did odd jobs. I wasn't ashamed of it.
IS 4	I see.
R	Having a child means you have responsibilities. You need to know how to buy milk, and sometimes it's embarrassing to meet friends who already had their certificates and positions on ships.
IS 4	I understand.
R	But it's fate, and things are determined for you. So, I started working on a ship when my child was about 4 months old, in Jakarta, at Muara Baru. It was a fishing vessel, a longline, similar to a fishing net. I worked there for three months, came back home, and then my brother, who was a ship captain in Jakarta as well, invited me. In Muara Angke, there was a trawl fishing vessel, and I joined for a few months. But the results were not good, so I came back. Haha. The job involved going back and forth.
IS 4	I see.
R	On land, I did various jobs. I worked as a parking attendant and even as a minibus conductor. Afterward, as time passed, I was offered a job at Telkom. They had a job opening for technicians installing Telkom Vision, similar to Indovision.
IS 4	I see.
R	At that time, Telkom was a state-owned company. My wife was already working at Telkom, doing marketing. So, when a job opening came up, she suggested that I apply for it.
IS 4	I see.
R	I applied, and after the interview, they hired me. I underwent training in Kudus for a week.
IS 4	I know Kudus.
R	Where are you originally from?
IS 4	I'm from Jakarta, but I often travel around Java.
R	I see. So, I spent a week in Kudus, and after that, I was supposed to go back, but I wasn't allowed to leave. The director of the central office there asked me to stay and help with work. He said, "I'll pay you for the week." So, I stayed there. Eventually, I finished the training, went back to Tegal, and worked at Telkom as a technician, installing Telkom Vision satellite dishes. I worked there for about a year and a half.
IS 4	I see. So, you also worked in Indonesia.
R	Yes. I worked there until around 2013 or 2012, more or less.
IS 4	I see.
R	I was promoted to become a chief technician and later a team leader, responsible for marketing. I was transferred to Semarang, given a company car, and things were going well.

IS 4	I see, but humans are never satisfied, sometimes they want more.
R	I see.
IS 4	So, my younger brother had already gone abroad, and he was working here. Now, my second younger brother is working here with Mas Dakil. So, I thought my younger brother was doing well abroad.
R	I see.
IS 4	I decided to give it a try. In 2013, I joined LG. I finished in 2016 and returned home. I tried to start a business again. I had some capital, so I started buying and selling motorcycles and cars, small-scale.
R	I see.
IS 4	After about a year and a half or so, I faced some ups and downs in the business. It's not that it went bankrupt, but I was cheated by someone, even a friend. I didn't want to argue and risk losing tens of millions, so I thought, "Before they find out..." So, I left for Korea.
R	I see.
IS 4	I left for Korea, but the ship was heading to Palau again.
R	I see.
IS 4	The departure point was Jakarta, and then I went to Korea to board a new ship. By coincidence, the captain was an Indonesian, my friend from Sumbawa. He called me and said, "Since you're an engineer, can you work in the engine room with me?"
R	I see.
IS 4	The Korean ship had advanced machinery in the engine room. He said, "Can you assist me?" So, I agreed. I went through the process of departing from Korea. I took the ship to Palau, which took about 10 days.
R	I see.
IS 4	I stayed there for another year and a half. The ship went bankrupt after six months. They sent most of the crew home, except for me and the captain. So, for a year, I just ate, slept, and waited for the ship.
R	I see.
IS 4	Then, in 2018, I think, yes, in December 2018, I requested to go back home because there was no progress, and the salary was getting delayed. There were no bonuses.
R	I see.
IS 4	I went back home, and since my passport was about to expire, I needed to renew it. I was planning to go to New Zealand or Spain, but the process was taking too long. So, I heard about the opportunity to come here officially.
R	I see.
IS 4	I've been here ever since. I'm working here as a seafarer. I first went to Lamongo. Do you know Lamongo?
R	I'm not familiar with it.
IS 4	Lamongo is in Taiwan as well.
R	I see. I've never heard of it.
IS 4	It's the place where the bridge collapsed.

R	I've never heard of it.
IS 4	You've never heard of it? It's near Taipei.
R	I see. Maybe because it's in the north, I'm not very familiar with it.
IS 4	Yes, it's in the north. So, in 2019, on July 3rd, I flew here and started working in July.
R	I see.
IS 4	In July, August, and September, I fell ill. In September, I was diagnosed with vertigo.
R	Oh,
IS 4	Vertigo means high blood pressure, even higher than high blood pressure, you know. So when walking, it's like a drunk person, wandering around like this.
R	Yes, yes.
IS 4	Finally, I was in Xingang, the Xingang port, I saw a doctor, and the doctor said, "You need to rest. You mustn't fall." And I asked the captain, "When is the ship departing?" "Tomorrow." It's impossible for me to depart in my current condition.
R	Yes, yes.
IS 4	Finally, I asked to get off. I asked to get off from Xingang to here, I took a train, was picked up by the agent, and then I slept at FOSPI up there.
R	Yes.
IS 4	It's about 45 days, approximately, ma'am.
R	Not bad, more than a month.
IS 4	Almost more than a month, whereas the official limit is 2 months, right? The limit is 2 months, and if you don't find an employer within 2 months, you have to return to Indonesia.
R	Yes.
IS 4	The visa expires, right? So there, I tried to recover.
R	Yes.
IS 4	I left to improve my economic situation at home.
R	Yeah.
IS 4	But I had to figure out how to recover in this condition. And the office also said, "If you don't recover soon, you'll have to go back, and you'll have to pay your own way." Just two months after starting, the first salary was 4,000, and the second salary was 9,000. Then, getting sick, having children, needing expenses, and so on. Oh my, when I was already sick, I was worried about my family at home.
R	Yes, that's right.
IS 4	I asked Mr. Mudzakir on the third floor.
R	Yes, yes.
IS 4	Oh God, I couldn't even go down because I was afraid of falling. So I had to rise, find a way to recover.
R	Yeah.

IS 4	I saw a doctor, yes, and I made traditional herbal remedies too. In the kitchen, I brewed herbal concoctions. I bought them here, brewed them here, and drank them. So it continued until I could meet this lady. That's when I started to recover. Eventually, the office asked, "How are you, are you healthy now?" "Yes." "Tell you to go back to the ship, but I don't want to." "Why don't you want to?" I didn't want to because when I was sick, the employer didn't care.
R	Oh, I see.
IS 4	It's like they'd ask, "Are you still alive or dead?" I was like, "I'm fine." Let alone giving me meal money, they didn't even check on me. So, people in Taiwan only need us when we're healthy. When we're sick, they don't.
R	I see.
IS 4	So I refused, I wanted to look for a land-based job if there was one.
R	Yes.
IS 4	Finally, I got a land-based job, and now, thank God, it's been 4 years. And exactly 4 years later, on the 3rd of the 7th month. Fortunately, the employer is good. Do you know what my job is on land now, sir?
R	In the fish processing plant.
IS 4	Oh, so it's still related to the sea, just the processing part on land.
R	Yes, yes. Like Mas Dakir, Mas Dakir fillets fish. Mas Rofiq also fillets now.
IS 4	Yes, yes.
R	As for me, on the trawl vessel, you know, the one that looks for shrimp, various kinds of fish. There are fish that don't get sold in the market, not in demand, so it's sent to my employer.
IS 4	I see.
R	Those are usually used as feed for crabs, for example, they add some other things, grind them up, and use them like that.
IS 4	Oh, I see.
R	So, like that. When it comes to challenges, there are many challenges, ma'am, whether it's at sea or on land. It's just how we deal with those challenges. Challenges are always there; trials and tests are always there.
IS 4	Right. So, can we say, what has strengthened you the most? Because during your time in Taiwan, there were many unexpected challenges, like getting sick.
R	Yes, like last week, I was just sick, ma'am. I just got out last week.
IS 4	Oh, I see.
R	About a week, more or less. When it comes to sickness, we don't know.
IS 4	True.
R	Ideally, we'd like to stay healthy. We're also cautious about what we eat. But when it comes to, let's say, walking, we're careful. But, you know, there might be small stones, and we don't know. Ouch, that hurts.
IS 4	True, true.
R	But there are always obstacles, right? What has strengthened me, well, first and foremost, it's my children, especially my children. They still need money for school. They're still in high school. The oldest one has already graduated.

IS 4	I see.
R	They still have living expenses. Especially in Indonesia now, the economy is tough. Not just in Indonesia, but maybe all over the world. They say that in Indonesia, you can't do much with a 100,000 rupiah bill, right? Hahaha, that's how it is.
IS 4	Hahaha, that's right.
R	That's why I haven't gone back in these 4 years. And then last year, there was the Corona situation. Well, there are still many expenses. How can I go back? But my plan is to take a break in July.
IS 4	Oh, I see.
R	In July, so it means it's okay.
IS 4	A one-month break?
R	One month, God willing, later. If I may ask, where in Indonesia are you originally from?
IS 4	I'm from Central Java, in Selawi. Selawi is in Tegal, to be precise.
R	I see, I see.
IS 4	In Tegal, it's a sub-district, and in Selawi, it's a district. Tegal Regency. But originally, I'm from Magelang, actually.
R	I see.
IS 4	It's just that my mother is from Selawi, and my father is from Magelang. So I was born in Selawi but grew up in Magelang. You know what "anak kolong" means?
R	I don't know.
IS 4	Anak kolong means... a military child. Yes, that's what it means. My dad was a soldier, so we moved around. When you say "anak kolong," it means a military child, someone who moves from one city to another. We were also in Yogyakarta at one point. Eventually, we returned to my father's hometown.
R	But now, is your wife and children in?
IS 4	In Indonesia, in Selawi. In Selawi. Yes, in Selawi.
R	I see, I see. Besides the fact that you had an opportunity to go to Taiwan after selling your motorcycle and car, what else made you want to try going back to Taiwan? I mean, you've been to Taiwan before, right?
IS 4	Yes.
R	Then, why do you want to go back to Taiwan? Why not try another country?
IS 4	As I mentioned earlier, I came back from a ship in Korea, from Palau, right?
R	I see.
IS 4	I came back, and also my passport had expired. Besides, there was no sailing there. So, I decided to return.
R	I see.
IS 4	I wanted to go back; if not, I wanted to go to New Zealand or Spain. So, I wanted to go to Spain and New Zealand; that's it. It takes a long time.
R	I see.
IS 4	And you have to cover the expenses yourself.
R	I see.

IS 4	Right? In Taiwan, it's cheaper, and the processing is faster, like that. So, because the processing is faster, and there happened to be an opening in Taiwan at that time, yes,
R	I see.
IS 4	there was a job opening. Yes, that's one reason, and the second reason is that if you go to Spain, Korea, or New Zealand, you have to pay upfront. There's a charge, you know,
R	I see, I see.
IS 4	Around 40,000,000 to 80,000,000. I mean, we're going to work to make money, but we have to spend money first. Where does the money come from? If I have 80,000,000 rupiahs, I'd rather invest it in a business, right? That's how I see it.
R	I see, that's true. So, when you're working on land now,
IS 4	I see.
R	may I know what the work schedule is like if you're on land?
IS 4	The work schedule?
R	Yes.
IS 4	The work schedule: I start at 5 in the morning. At 5, I work. Then, at half-past 8, I take a short break, and the employer buys breakfast. I eat for a while, then I continue working. At the latest, it's 9 or half-past 10 that I take a break.
R	I see.
IS 4	I take a break, and then I start again at 1, at 1 in the afternoon. I work until 5 or half-past 5, then I take another break. It's like that, relaxed.
R	I see.
IS 4	And if it comes to the workdays, is it from Monday to Friday? Or from Monday to Sunday?
R	Oh, it just so happens that there's only me and the employer as employees there.
IS 4	I see, I see.
R	So, it's just me and the employer working there. There's also the employer's child, but in general, there are only two of us working. As for days off, there's no day off. Because we provide a kind of service, and like when it comes to breeding, if we take a day off, the fish won't get fed, and they will die. So, we're always working.
IS 4	I see.
R	It's like a service; we have to keep doing it. If it's a day off, the pond isn't fed, and the fish will die. So, we work non-stop. I'm the only one, so there's no rotation.
IS 4	I see. So, there's no rotation. I guess I could say that I see that there aren't many fish being caught now, it seems. I told the boss, "I think there are fewer fish being caught this week." So, I told him, "I'll ask for a day off tomorrow." He said, "Oh, you want a day off? Okay, then." Even that can be calculated.
R	Oh, I see, I see.
IS 4	But if it's Chinese New Year, it's definitely a holiday. Three days, same.
R	Oh, yes, yes. But that means beyond that, it's flexible, right?
IS 4	Yes, yes, because it's more like a small family business.

R	Yes, yes, something like that.
IS 4	So, it's more flexible to adjust. Because, you know, he has his own fish ponds, and others take fish from him. So, he'll automatically send fish at 7 PM. I don't join; only the employer does. The fish are taken to Jiadong over there.
R	Oh, yes, yes.
IS 4	I've joined before, though. So, fish here, fish there. The ponds are quite big, in various places like that. If you don't feed the fish, they might die. These are fish exported to Japan. Those are the fish ponds.
R	Oh, I see. Okay, if, for example... Because the working hours are somewhat flexible, is there any time for enjoying Taiwan itself? So, not just working here, not just working. Like going on a trip to Pingtung, outside the city? Is that possible?
IS 4	Yes, there is, Miss. Well, as I said, it's flexible, and maybe it's because of age, too.
R	I see.
IS 4	And I, well... I'm not much of a traveler, Miss.
R	Yes, yes. You don't want to, do you?
IS 4	No, I mean, that's why I said... I went to Taipei in 2013, with Mr. Rofiq. To Taipei, yes, just yesterday. It was for an event at FOSPI.
R	Yes, yes, yes.
IS 4	It just happened that there was less work at the time. So, I asked for permission. Even if there's an event at FOSPI, to represent, right? It's only when there's free time. If I have free time, then I'm okay.
R	Oh, yes, yes.
IS 4	If not, I'll do something when I'm free, sometimes. I get bored, I sleep the most. Sometimes, friends say, "Come on, let's go there." Hmm. Sometimes, yeah, in Taiwan, I don't really know where to go. Sometimes, I want to. When I'm on break, sometimes I don't feel like it.
R	Yes, it's not a hobby, is it?
IS 4	No, it's like when I was on the ship. When I was on the ship, the ship docked, we unloaded and finished. We had 2-3 days, went to Kaohsiung or somewhere.
R	Oh, maybe it's because now you're mostly on land.
IS 4	Yes.
R	There's no longing for the sea.
IS 4	Yes, yes. Like that. When you're at sea, it gets monotonous. You want a lively atmosphere. I feel that working here in Donggang is different from Taiwan. First of all, here...
R	Because there are many Indonesians?
IS 4	Because there are many Indonesians, there's Indonesian food here too.
R	Oh, there's a lot, huh?
IS 4	Yes, there are Indonesian eateries. One Indonesian here, one there, and so on. Many Indonesian eateries around here.
R	I see.
IS 4	So sometimes, I'm like, am I even working in Taiwan? Hahaha

R	Hahaha, yes, yes.
IS 4	My employer even tries to speak Indonesian. "xie xie yinni shenme?" "Terima kasih (Thank you in Indonesian)," so he says terima kasih. For eating, he says makan (eat in Indonesian). Makan, makan, makan, like that. Hahaha
R	Hahaha, yes, yes.
IS 4	He says, "mingtian" for besok (tomorrow in Indonesian). If it's two days, it's besok, besok. Hahaha
R	Hahaha, yes, yes.
IS 4	Actually, the employer follows me. So, when can I learn their language? Hahaha
R	Hahaha, yes, that's right.
IS 4	In fact, he wants to speak Indonesian, hahaha. Fortunately, sometimes, my employer is too kind. Doesn't speak much. We also feel uncomfortable.
R	Yes.
IS 4	Right? When you want to ask for a day off. But he's good. Is that right? Hahaha... Sometimes, it's true, even if it's not a day off, sometimes, there's nothing to do. It's like being absent, just sitting there. Sitting around with no work, waiting for the time. Okay, he says it's time to go home. Then, it's okay, go home. Sour. Like that, sleeping from earlier, but you have to wake up.
R	Hahahah
R	Hahaha, yes, yes.
IS 4	What you really want is to sleep in when you're on holiday. But it's time to leave; you have to go. Here, just sitting. So, my work is here, Miss. In front of FOSPI, you can see. There's one warehouse, the second one is over there. There are two warehouses.
R	Oh, there are two?
IS 4	So in the morning, I go there first, get the fish out. Then, at nine, I come back, take a break at the mess.
R	Then I head over here.
IS 4	Yes.
R	And there's fish from the ships here when they're done, move them over there again. Like that, back and forth.
IS 4	I see, but now you're working by yourself.
R	Yes, but previously, there were other co-workers, right?
IS 4	No, there weren't. Since the beginning, the employer has always hired one person at a time. Hahaha
R	Oh, hahaha.
IS 4	Because we can manage it on our own. But if, let's say, there's a lot of fish coming, the employer would say, "Gi, find a friend, Mang Mang." Like that, just temporarily.
R	I see, I see.
IS 4	I'll call someone, Mang Mang. Then the employer pays them. 500 or 600. Usually for 2 or 3 hours.
R	Yes, yes.
IS 4	Helping out, flexible like that. Sometimes, you get tired of working alone.

R	Yes.
IS 4	But I enjoy it.
R	Is the employer good?
IS 4	Thank God, Miss, he's good. Doesn't talk much. I haven't been scolded in these 4 years, hahaha.
R	Hahaha.
IS 4	Well, there might have been times, I mean, we're only human, right? Sometimes you get annoyed or frustrated. Who are you going to vent to? At most, just mutter to yourself. But the employer seems to know when I'm annoyed.
R	Hahaha, yes, yes.
IS 4	The employer stays quiet, just like that.
R	Yes, yes.
IS 4	It's flexible like that.
R	One last question, based on your experience, working as a sailor abroad, especially in Taiwan, would you recommend this job to your friends or family in Indonesia? Like becoming a sailor like me?
IS 4	If it were up to me personally, I'd say no. Because working at sea is an incredible challenge, Miss. It's like putting your life on the line, your life is at stake. If your mental and physical strength aren't sufficient, don't even try working at sea.
R	Yes, true.
IS 4	First, physically. Physically, you have to face the waves, wind, rain. That's obvious. Sometimes, we don't know the weather. If it's raining for two days and two nights, what are we going to do? We can't take shelter; we can't work on the ship, Miss.
R	Yes, right.
IS 4	I had one day, one night in the rain, no raincoat. I had a raincoat, but I didn't wear it. It was cumbersome. So, I got soaked. I didn't feel cold. It gets cold after it stops raining. That's when it gets cold.
R	Yes, right, that's true.
IS 4	So, if your physical strength isn't enough, it eventually comes down to mental strength. When your mental strength drops, you can't handle it. You get stressed. You can't take it and might end up taking your own life. So, that's what I said earlier. You need strong mental and physical strength. That's why if it's family, I'd say no.
R	Don't do it.
IS 4	If you want to work on a ship, work on cargo ships, not fishing boats. Okay, cargo ships. Actually, my background is in cargo ships.
R	Yes.
IS 4	But as I mentioned before, I didn't take the officer's license. So, it's the same as non-officers. In the end, I ended up on fishing boats.
R	Okay, okay. Before we finish, is there any other experience you'd like to share, but I haven't asked about?
IS 4	It seems like I've shared everything from the beginning.
R	Alright, in that case, thank you so much for taking the time.

IS 4 You're welcome.

R And I have permission to use the recording for research purposes. Your name won't be disclosed. Thank you.

IS 4 Alright, you're welcome.

Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 5

R	Okay, I'll get permission to record your voice. May I know who I'm speaking with?
IS 5	Mr. IS 5.
R	Mr. IS 5, how old are you now?
IS 5	I'm 27 now.
R	Oh, from Indonesia, where are you originally from?
IS 5	Brebes.
R	Oh, I see. So, how long have you been working as a seafarer in Taiwan?
IS 5	I've been here since 2017.
R	So, it's been around 5-6 years.
IS 5	Approximately 5 years, yes.
R	Have you returned to Indonesia during this time?
IS 5	Yes, I've been back to Indonesia, for quite a while.
R	Oh, all this time since 2017?
IS 5	I left in 2017.
R	Alright, let's get started. May I know if you had worked in Indonesia or elsewhere before becoming a seafarer in Taiwan?
IS 5	In Indonesia?
R	Yes, or perhaps had other jobs, like being a seafarer in another country?
IS 5	No, I haven't. I became a seafarer right here in Taiwan.
R	I see. So, were you primarily staying in Brebes before this?
IS 5	Yes.
R	If I may ask, how did you learn about the job opportunity as a seafarer in Taiwan at the beginning of the year?
IS 5	I heard about it from a friend.
R	Was it a friend who was already working here in Taiwan as well?
IS 5	In Taiwan.
R	Ah, perhaps a friend from the same hometown?
IS 5	From the same village.
R	So, they offered it to you?
IS 5	Yes, they did. They just asked me to sign up.
R	Sign up, I see. What motivated you to take this job opportunity? What made you want to give it a try?
IS 5	Just interested.
R	What about it interested you?
IS 5	Interested in how it's like being a fisherman; it's enjoyable because you have many friends, shared experiences, and a broader range of experiences. It's all about gaining experience.
R	Is it because of the broader experience, also because it's outside of Indonesia?

IS 5	Yes, it's because of that. It's not just one experience, it's more, and it's more enjoyable.
R	I see. So, because you have many friends on the ship.
IS 5	Yes. It's also about gaining work experience.
R	If we talk about salary, did that play a role in your decision? Did you think, 'Oh, the pay is better than in Indonesia'?
IS 5	No, not for me. It depends on your experience when you start. I had a small salary, \$350 when I began.
R	I see.
IS 5	In a year, maybe I got a promotion, so it increased by \$100, to \$450. So, it goes up gradually, and it depends on how much experience you gain.
R	So, your initial intention was to gain more experience first, just to try it out?
IS 5	Yes, that's right, to gain more experience.
R	And now, after nearly 6 years, what kind of experience or changes have you had from the beginning until now?
IS 5	There have been experiences, some good, some enjoyable, and some tough moments.
R	Could you tell me about it, perhaps?
IS 5	When it comes to tough moments, working at sea is tough; everyone who works at sea knows that. The good part is when it's payday, hahaha, and when we gather in places like this, it's enjoyable.
R	Haha, I see. If I may ask, in the local ship where you work for around 2 to 4 months, during your time on land, do you have a month off, or how long is it usually?
IS 5	It's about a month, sometimes a bit longer.
R	So, during your time on land, do you work at all, or does your employer give you tasks?
IS 5	No, there's no work at all, sometimes there's light work. It's not as heavy as on the ship, and sometimes there's nothing.
R	If that's the case, are you still paid or not during such periods?
IS 5	Yes, we're still paid as per usual.
R	So, you focus on ship-related work when you're on the ship, and you don't work when you're on land?
IS 5	No, there isn't much work to do.
R	I see. If I may ask, did you decide to leave Brebes and come here to Taiwan because you wanted to give it a try?
IS 5	Yes.
R	But if we're talking about Brebes, do you think there are similar job opportunities available?
IS 5	There are plenty, but I wanted the experience in Taiwan.
R	I see. But before this, were you working in Brebes?
IS 5	Yes.

R	As what, if I may ask? I had several jobs. I worked at an optician, selling eyeglasses, and I gained experience there.
IS 5	I see.
R	I also worked with salted fish, managing the salted fish business. But I mainly worked in the optician business.
IS 5	I see. Next question, what do you see as the advantages of Taiwan? Yes, I know you mentioned that you wanted to try it out because of the experience. But apart from that, is there something else that interests you about Taiwan, perhaps because it's a foreign country with new experiences and a different environment?
R	It's interesting, I'd say. Not always, but we're looking for work to earn money, and the earnings are better than in Indonesia, and the experience is more extensive.
IS 5	Before this, did you have any knowledge or information about job opportunities as a migrant worker in other countries?
R	No.
IS 5	So, this is your first time abroad?
R	Yes, my first time.
IS 5	Did you know that before coming here, there are many Indonesian migrant workers in Taiwan?
R	No.
IS 5	Not even from the friend who introduced you to this opportunity, did they mention that there are many Indonesian migrant workers in Taiwan?
R	No.
IS 5	So, you came here without much prior knowledge or information and just faced whatever you encountered here, is that correct?
R	Yes, that's right.
IS 5	When I first came to Taiwan in 2017, I worked on a ship that traveled to Papua New Guinea for a year.
R	How long did you stay in Papua New Guinea?
IS 5	For a year.
R	Then you returned to Taiwan?
IS 5	Yes.
R	Is it a local ship?
IS 5	No, it's not local.
R	So, you've been working on local ships since then?
IS 5	Yes.
R	In that case, what's the typical duration of your work on a local ship, about how many months?
IS 5	Usually about three months, and when it's a roaming ship, it's usually about a month, or sometimes 27 days, every day.
R	That's quite fast. If I may ask, how many crew members are typically on a local ship like the one you're on?

IS 5	In the beginning, it was usually up to 20 people.
R	Are they all Indonesians?
IS 5	It's a mix; there are people from Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, and the Philippines.
R	Could you tell me if you were married in Indonesia?
IS 5	Yes.
R	So, when you decided to leave for Taiwan, did your family have any concerns or reactions?
IS 5	Yes, because I already had a child, and there were more expenses. So, I went abroad for work.
R	So, they were understanding?
IS 5	Yes, because they knew about my experience in Taiwan, and they allowed me.
R	Oh, so you left for Taiwan first, returned to Indonesia to get married, and then came back to Taiwan?
IS 5	No, when I left for Taiwan, I wasn't married and didn't have children.
R	So, you only got married and had children after your first time in Taiwan?
IS 5	Yes.
R	When was the last time you came back to Indonesia? When was it?
IS 5	Last year, in 2021.
R	How long did you stay in Indonesia during your visit?
IS 5	About 6 months.
R	Alright. If I may ask, during your time as an ABK in Taiwan, have you encountered any challenges while working?
IS 5	Not really, it's been quite smooth. The only thing is, sometimes, payday gets delayed, like if it's due on the 1st, we might get it on the 8th.
R	So, the main challenge has been the delay in salary?
IS 5	Yes, sometimes.
R	Is it something that's communicated to you, like, 'Your salary will be delayed this month,' or do you have to ask if it's late?
IS 5	It's often due to reasons like when they are away or other excuses. For example, payday falls on a Thursday, and the weekend is coming, so they might delay it.
R	Is the salary transferred to your account, or do you receive it in cash?
IS 5	In cash.
R	Oh, so you really have to meet in person, right? Besides, during these nearly 7 years in Taiwan, do you have any time aside from work, Pak?
IS 5	No, mostly just around here. I never go too far – Donggang, Kampoa, way out in Kaohsiung.
R	Oh, I see. Because the transportation here is quite inconvenient.
IS 5	That's true, hahaha. But actually, there's no prohibition against going around, is there?
R	Just need to let the captain know beforehand.

IS 5	Oh, I see. By the way, maybe regarding matters like racism, have you ever experienced anything like that, Pak?
R	Not at all.
IS 5	Not even with the local Taiwanese people?
R	Not at all.
IS 5	So, I guess you could say that there might be difficulties, but they can still be overcome, right?
R	They can still be overcome.
IS 5	So, if I may ask, how do you handle these difficulties, aside from the fact that the purpose of coming here is to work and face these challenges?
R	Just patience.
IS 5	Just patience, right? I see. And having friends here, is that also one of the factors that strengthen you here?
R	Yes, I have friends here. So, I've matured more and gained more experience. They have more extended experience than mine. So, I'm looking for these experiences.
IS 5	I see. So, it's like sharing with friends and giving each other advice, right?
R	Yes, sharing.
IS 5	I see. By the way, you mentioned that you spend quite a long time on the ship. If you're on the ship, do you have access to Wi-Fi?
R	No, there's no Wi-Fi on the ship.
IS 5	No Wi-Fi at all, so while you're on the ship, you can't communicate with people on land, right?
R	No communication at all.
IS 5	Have you ever experienced a situation where it wasn't pleasant while on the ship and you needed someone on land, like suddenly falling ill?
R	If I may say, we have to accept it and accept the situation. Now, there's no Wi-Fi, there's nothing.
IS 5	So, in situations like that, you can't ask for help from anyone because there's no communication?
R	No communication. The most I can do is ask the captain or my friends.
IS 5	But they can help in such situations?
R	Yes, they help and provide medical assistance.
IS 5	So, that's good, it means you all look out for each other. Now, about seniority, have you ever experienced that on the ship?
R	Not really, there aren't any seniors.
IS 5	So, it's all the same?
R	It's all the same; it depends on one's strengths and experiences.
IS 5	I see. So, if I may ask, what positions are there, Pak?
R	There's fish cutting, galley, and ice department.
IS 5	I see. Because it's about gaining more experience, and experience is important.
R	That's right. So, in these nearly 6 years, you've tried various positions?

IS 5	I've done them all.
R	All of them?
IS 5	All of them. I've experienced the bitter and the sweet.
R	So, you can handle all the tasks now?
IS 5	I can handle all of them.
R	Now, regarding the language, have you faced any difficulties?
	In terms of language, I've had some difficulties. I know a little, but not too much.
IS 5	But it can still be managed.
R	How do you manage language issues, then?
	Sometimes the captain can speak English or Taiwanese. It's a mix. Sometimes there are people who know the language a bit. But mostly, people know. If it's a Taiwanese captain, they will surely know some Indonesian, even if it's just a little.
IS 5	
R	I see. So, it's a mix of languages, meaning, for example, Indonesians use a bit of Taiwanese, and Taiwanese people use a bit of Indonesian?
IS 5	Yes, it's mixed.
R	So, the most important thing is to understand each other, right? Hahaha.
IS 5	That's right. Hahaha.
R	Okay. By the way, about your future plans, you've been in Taiwan for quite some time. Do you plan to continue working as a seaman in Taiwan?
IS 5	Yes, for all of it. I'd like to become a boss, but not everyone can achieve that. As you get older, you can't just stay in Taiwan forever.
R	Haha, I see. So, first, you want to look for business and capital in Taiwan. You can't stay in Taiwan forever.
IS 5	Yes, because if we continue in Taiwan, we'll miss time with our families.
R	We'll accumulate capital, and if we have enough capital, we can stop in Taiwan. So, the goal is to accumulate that capital.
IS 5	I see. And we'll think about what kind of business.
R	I see. But how long do you think you'll stay in Taiwan? Is it maybe another 4-5 years?
IS 5	I haven't decided. The bottom line is that as long as I can work as a fisherman, I will do it as long as I'm physically capable.
R	I see. But do you want to try working in a different place for more experience? For example, working as a seaman in Taiwan, you've experienced it, but do you want to try it elsewhere?
	I would like to try in a different area, but I'm a bit scared. I'm still a bit scared because I've never tried it. For example, in countries like Korea or Japan, the experience in Taiwan is different. I feel more comfortable in Taiwan.
IS 5	
R	Is it more comfortable because there are many Indonesians here?
IS 5	Many acquaintances.
R	I see. If you were to try another place, where would it be, then, Pak?

IS 5 I'd say I want to try. I've wanted to try, but the difference is that it's a bit different in Korea. The contracts are up to 4 years and 10 months.

R How about the contracts here?

IS 5 Two years.

R Two years at a time?

IS 5 Yes.

R So, do you have any, oh, before that, with your current experience as a seaman in Taiwan, do you ever want to invite friends from Brebes to work as seamen too? Because you were invited before, right?

IS 5 Yes, I'd like to have that.

R Have you ever invited anyone?

IS 5 Yes, many times.

R Oh, many times.

IS 5 Yes, many times. But it's a different ship.

R I see. But you've let your friends know, right? And maybe they're thankful for being informed about job openings here?

IS 5 Yes, they've expressed their gratitude. They haven't gone home yet because they keep extending their contracts; it must be really comfortable.

R Yes, they're enjoying it so much. Well, thank you very much for your time and for being willing to be interviewed. I would like to ask for your permission to use this recording for my final project. Thank you.

IS 5 You're welcome.

Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 6

R	Okay, let's just chat for a bit. So, earlier with Mr. IS 6, right?
IS 6	Yes, I am.
R	My name is Natha, and I'm from Jakarta.
IS 6	Jakarta?
R	Yes, and now I'm studying in Kaohsiung. I'm in my third year, working on my thesis.
IS 6	Oh.
R	It's about collecting stories from seafarers. Want to know how and what motivates people to come here and become seafarers?
IS 6	Hmm.
R	What are the challenges, how to deal with them, and maybe there are stories or complaints experienced by seafarer friends. The outside world often doesn't know much about it, especially if we've never been here or worked in a field that deals with seafarers. As for Mr. IS 6 himself, where in Indonesia are you from?
IS 6	I'm originally from Central Java, specifically born in Pemalang.
R	Pemalang?
IS 6	But now I'm married and have moved to Blora, Central Java. I live close to Mr. IS 1, in the same area, adjacent districts.
R	Oh, I see.
IS 6	I arrived in Taiwan in January 2010. So, if we count, it's been more than 12 effective years. More than 12 and a half, actually. We don't count the time cut off due to administrative processes and such. But what I count is our work contract in Taiwan.
R	Yes.
IS 6	So we went for 3 years, then another 3, and so on. And this last one, in 2023, was an addition. Because last year, there was COVID-19, so the Indonesian government couldn't send more workers. This led to a labor shortage. The government made the decision to provide special regulations, like an emergency measure. So, the 12-year rule prohibiting further work was temporarily lifted. We were given another chance. I'm among those who received this additional opportunity. It's only been six months so far. But, after coming here, COVID-19 started to subside, and the situation returned to normal.
R	Hmm.
IS 6	So the regulation was revoked. I'm currently in the last six months of my contract. We'll make the best use of this time because there won't be another opportunity to come here again.
R	No, there won't be.
IS 6	There's a process called APRC. But there are some requirements that might be challenging when applying. It's usually related to salary increases. The salary offered is usually between 33,000 and 35,000. Sometimes, employers are still hesitant because the catch may not always be good.
R	I see.

IS 6	Especially in the current stormy season. Additionally, the type of fish my ship catches is one specific species called ribbonfish. We work every day, going out and returning with no certainty about how much we'll catch on a given day.
R	I see, that's true.
IS 6	Some days, we go out and return empty-handed, and that's quite common. This sometimes affects the salary negotiations. So there's a bit of back and forth between the employer and me. I might be a suitable worker, but if we strictly follow the government's regulations about salary, it might not be feasible because of the earnings from this particular ship, which are different from other ships.
R	I see.
IS 6	The second concern is when new crew members are hired. They go through an adaptation period. They need to adjust to each other's personalities. Are they obedient to orders, or do they often resist their employer's instructions? They might even argue. This is a consideration and challenge for them. But now, these factors can't be improved anymore. Earlier, the employer asked if I wanted to return here or not. I asked if it's still allowed based on regulations. If it's not allowed, there's nothing we can do. I feel a bit of regret and disappointment. I appreciate your dedication. When you worked with me, you never opposed anything. You were always straightforward and followed the Javanese principles.
R	Oh, I see.
IS 6	This is preferred by employers. And actually, the secret between seafarers (ABK) and employers is to maintain longevity. When employers get angry, no matter how angry, even when they're wrong, we remain silent. But even when we're right and the employer is wrong, the employer is still considered right.
R	Yep
IS 6	So, that's the captain's law. The captain says, even if it's wrong, it should be "a." But later, after the incident. For example, in the middle of the sea, sometimes there's a tired atmosphere. Then we get information through the radio, the walkie-talkie. I'm in a position to catch a lot of fish. Coincidentally, the fish we're looking for is scarce. It creates a kind of jealousy.
R	Yes.
IS 6	We start with the same capital, the same workforce, and almost the same position. But there are no fish here. So, the expression of anger falls on the seafarers. Even though the seafarer may make a small mistake, it can be a significant one. Fortunately, when we return to land.
R	Yes.
IS 6	The atmosphere has disappeared. What was once angry seems to be gone. So, the advantage here is that I have an employer who used to be very vengeful. But when I met Ngabdi (the speaker) with him, we learned from each other. This means the employer tries to understand my character. When I'm angry, he understands. Oh, my seafarer is angry. Likewise, I always try to understand the employer's character.
R	Yes.

IS 6	What he hates most is what? I try not to do that. This is why our chemistry has improved. And there is a feeling of regret when my contract is about to end. I wanted you to continue with me, but regulations require separation. This is a brief experience I'm going through now.
R	Oh, I see, I see.
IS 6	Before I went to Taiwan, I started traveling. In 2000. I started working at sea in the Bali region. So, going to Taiwan like that. It's not just going directly to Taiwan. Because there were many offers back then. "Come to Taiwan, do you want to?" I immediately refused. I felt I wasn't prepared. Taiwan is a foreign country. With a different language. With a different culture. And we didn't have the skills.
R	Yes.
IS 6	We didn't have the ability to work. It's not something that can be applied immediately. What could happen is we would go there and not be used. We'd waste time, energy, and money on the process.
R	Right.
IS 6	I studied in Bali. How to work. Those who already have the basic skills. Then there were offers. I started getting ready to accept the offer.
R	How long were you in Bali?
IS 6	In Bali, it didn't go straight to the sea. It was still in a frozen tuna processing company. Frozen fish. Then, it was only 2 years. It was only in 2003 that I started working at sea.
R	So, from the early 2000s, you were still on land processing frozen fish. In 2003, you started going to sea.
IS 6	Started going to sea. Until 2009. Then I rested at home for about 10 months, almost a year. It was also because of the departure process. There were probably many people waiting. And the jobs prioritized here were for those with experience, those who had previously been to Taiwan.
R	Those who had been to Taiwan, yes.
IS 6	I might have been in Bali for a long time. In terms of work, I was still considered a newbie. But it paid off. At the time, I completed the administrative requirements. I took them to the office. But after my paperwork was accepted. About a month later, there was a change in regulations. The Police Headquarters (Polda) needed to be reached for the Certificate of Good Conduct (SKCK). We had to start over.
R	Oh.
IS 6	It had already reached the Police Headquarters. Then, I actually submitted the documents, if I'm not mistaken, in May. It was actually approved in October. But because of some factors, at that time, the employer wasn't ready to hire. Because it was a small ship. Also, the fishing season was still slow. So, he didn't dare. Long story short, the visa had already expired. So, in January, I was flown in. There was an issue at the airport. When we wanted to stamp the visa. Your visa had already expired.
R	Yes, that's right.

IS 6	The sign-on had already expired, you were already outside. You step aside and call your agency. My agency comes. Then, there was a long conversation. He called his boss. "What should we do?" Just give 100,000, hahaha. Originally, it was going to be 50,000 Indonesian Rupiah. The guy didn't want to accept that. Eventually, he asked for 100,000. Well, it's not my concern, as long as it works. Then, when I arrived in Taiwan, to make a long story short, I was assigned to that ship. But only for 6 months. Because the captain was already old. Actually, he used to be a trawl captain. This was a small ship, the CT2 type.
R	I see.
IS 6	So, regarding fish catching, he wasn't quite familiar with it. And he also had a sick wife. They were all old. So, during my time on the ship, there was only one type of catch, the lemadang fish. Even for that, we had to wait for the lemadang season. It's in the months we're in right now. I effectively worked there for 6 months. Then I was moved to Liuqiu Island for 6 months. But I still didn't have much language ability.
R	Yes.
IS 6	We were self-taught, hahaha. The main thing was my principles. What mattered was that I could work, and I could use this tool. But the second employer. It turns out he was quite temperamental and impatient. He thought I was foolish. Well, that's okay, I accepted it.
R	Yes.
IS 6	Even so, I was the most patient one there. Others, after just half a month, were already mentally drained. I tried to be patient. It turned out my ability was like that.
R	Oh, I see, I see.
IS 6	I requested a transfer because it was no longer reasonable. The verbal abuse had gone too far.
R	But was there any physical abuse?
IS 6	He didn't dare, there was already a law. If he engaged in physical abuse, there were fines for the employer.
R	Oh, I see.
IS 6	But verbal abuse. It was beyond reason, and I really couldn't take it. I requested a transfer. And I was transferred. It happened that the transfer. He had also been a captain in the Pingtung area for 8 years. So, from here, I learned the language. The Taiwanese language. But I learned it on my own.
R	I see.
IS 6	Basically, whatever he said. I wrote it down. But the fact is I spoke it, he understood. This means that there was a time when he may have felt weary or irritated because you worked with me. The main thing is communication.
R	Yes.
IS 6	How you can work, and execute my orders. When I speak and you don't understand, you learn. I started learning. Because every day. I had to meet with customers, consumers.
R	Oh, I see, I see.

IS 6	We sold fish, sometimes for example. After selling, we had to take the fish to the car. The most common thing was the license plate. I had to memorize it. In Mandarin. But if it was Taoyu (Taiwanese language). I had to memorize it. And it really. Communication that we used every day. If we're just putting them in order. Up to 10 is possible. But when looking at the numbers.
R	Oh, I see, they're scrambled, right?
IS 6	Hahaha, yes. But I still try to learn. One day, when a customer comes and buys, it's already weighed. This is my car. The serial number is this. My employer tests, "You know, right?" Okay, I know, let's go. But he's on the right side, so we go straight to the location without searching for the car. Usually, the customers don't change. They keep coming.
R	Oh, I see, they're regular customers, right?
IS 6	I know where he parks his car. It's already there. Okay. Actually, I was comfortable with this employer. He is meticulous about cleanliness, and I like that. But in the end, the ship was sold. I worked there for only 8 months. Then it was sold to Liuqiu again.
R	Oh.
IS 6	Well, this person hadn't handled a small boat before. The one I was on, CT2, was small. Eventually, they bought me, and I became both the boat owner and the crew, so I didn't have to look for work again.
R	Oh, I see.
IS 6	So, the story is, I was taken back to Liuqiu. That was only another 8 months, but these 8 months had a 3-month gap because I wasn't working due to administrative processes for changing the boat's name. That took quite a long time, in short. It turns out he didn't understand how to find fish because he used to work in Bali. Working with this person was also nice because he could speak Indonesian.
R	Oh, I see, that's correct.
IS 6	What was frequently used was the Indonesian language. Even maybe some inappropriate words were taught to him by Indonesian crew members, hahaha.
R	Hahaha, yes.
IS 6	This was frequently used. Actually, it was nice. Perhaps he had the capital to go fishing. There were people here, in this region, who had a lot of money. He just injected capital. If you inject capital, it means you're participating, like buying shares. He also participated in making decisions on the boat. In short, I was moved from that boat. It wasn't because I wanted to. Actually, their family already considered me not just a crew member; they treated me like a younger sibling. So, I called the employer "cece" (sister).
R	Oh, I see, I see.
IS 6	The children also called me "uncle." Coincidentally, his children had just graduated from junior high at that time. In short, with a heavy heart, I was moved. Now, the boat I'm on is still in good terms with everyone involved. Three people. The old boat was bought by him, and there was a lack of capital. One person was rich.
R	I see.
IS 6	He injected capital. Because the boat wasn't yielding results, he took me, so he didn't have to pay for my salary. The wealthy guy also had shares in the boat I joined.

R	Oh, I see, I see.
IS 6	So, I was transferred to the current one. In short, after a few years, maybe three years, the owner of this boat already had the capital, and the capital was returned to him. Now he owns the boat himself. The administrative matters were still under the previous employer. My employer was just there temporarily.
R	I see.
IS 6	Now he has full control of the boat. He can direct it wherever he wants. There's no one else giving orders except him. Finally, he sought ownership, and it's up to him now. In short, that's the finish. You can join me. The former owner who sold the boat had hopes for me.
R	Oh, I see, I see.
IS 6	How many more months before you return? Three months. Every month he always asks, "Two more months before you return, right? Join me, okay?" After a month has passed. My employer came to the office. He hoped that you would just join me.
R	Heeh.
IS 6	If you go back there, you know the employer's character. The one you used to work with. Actually, he's quite meticulous and temperamental.
R	Yes.
IS 6	But after I entered there, he started to improve himself because of his past experiences before I joined. He used to hit people, but there were reasons. After I joined, he felt that he was suitable for my dedication. Finally, he tried to bring me back after buying a new boat. But it turns out this employer is also good. So, there's a kind of dilemma.
R	Yes.
IS 6	Both are good. Then the office staff helped, saying you should just go with this employer. He's a quiet person. He also likes you. It means you are easy to work with.
R	Heeh.
IS 6	When you're told to do something, you never give any trouble. You always obey. So, I proceeded with this employer. My contract is every three years, and I never take a break. Three years working, then three years off.
R	Yes.
IS 6	If others want to take a break, for example, after only two years, they request to go home. But at that time, there were some regulations. In the past, you could take a break after two years. Now, it's three years before going home. If we request a break, initially, we cover the expenses ourselves.
R	Heeh.
IS 6	But it turns out that when we return, the employer provides the funds for your round-trip ticket.
R	Ohh.
IS 6	In my opinion, due to the employer's generosity, sometimes we feel uncomfortable when they cover the expenses for the round trip. Then, concerning my understanding of the income or earnings from this ship, how much is it per day?
R	Yes.

IS 6	So, it's not reasonable to demand more. Just go along with it. Finally, I return according to the contract. Three years before returning. Now, in this last period, I haven't returned for three and a half years because of last year's COVID situation. So, when you consider it, the expenses are high.
R	Right.
IS 6	I thought the return expenses were around 40,000 to 50,000 last time, but it turned out to be higher. So, we just endure it. It's better to communicate with the family than to return and potentially bring diseases.
R	Yes, that's right.
IS 6	The most important thing is to be able to communicate and stay close, etc.
R	Heeh.
IS 6	Going back to the earlier story.
R	Yes.
IS 6	Now, the regulations have been changed. Originally, there were supposed to be additions, supposedly up to 15 years.
R	Oh, yes, yes.
IS 6	But it turns out it's only up to two years.
R	Heeh.
IS 6	So, we'll spend the remaining six months. There's also information about the APRC system. Last time, I offered it to my employer, and my employer also asked the office. But supposedly, the office can't handle it. My employer told me that the office couldn't assist. So, what else can we do? We'll see four months before the finish.
PRAYER BREAK	
R	You already told me a long story
IS 6	Yes.
R	Here, You've also mentioned that I might extend my APRC. But it's not certain yet; it's possible.
IS 6	Still possible.
R	Now, initially, you've got many stories, right? Like the challenges, probably, starting with language barriers.
IS 6	Yes.
R	If I may ask, even before coming here, you mentioned that you had worked in Bali.
IS 6	Right.
R	But if, for example, after working in Bali, it means one of the reasons you wanted to try Bali was because you had job offers in Taiwan, but you said you didn't have the skills, so you wanted to gain experience first, is that correct?
IS 6	Yes.
R	So, one of the reasons for working in Bali before was because you wanted to work here?

IS 6	There was actually a lot of information. But I didn't want to take the risk of forcing myself to work without the necessary skills and abilities. Thus, later when we might process the departure, and through various ways, the office staff sent us to Taiwan. But then, after arriving here, we were not used, and they considered us inexperienced in working, especially when it came to language, which is the most important thing. Later, we were sent back.
R	I see.
IS 6	My office is positioned in Depok. It just happened that it had recently signed an MOU to send ABK. To make a long story short, there were around 150 people at that time, and they happened to be in line with me during registration. Many of them were SUPM graduates, and they were immediately recruited by the office. Then, there was training involved, like net training and language training. Since most of the job opportunities offered were for fishing vessels, not long-line fishing. Long-line fishing, we can probably learn by ourselves because they were SUPM graduates. They were enthusiastic about working, but they didn't have the required skills and experience. They were fresh graduates from school.
R	I understand. That's correct.
IS 6	And thirdly, they didn't have a work ethic, which means understanding how to serve the employer, how to respond when the employer gets angry, and what we should do. They were still considered students because they had just graduated from school, and their psychological development was not mature. That's why most of them were sent back.
R	I see.
IS 6	So, this is a lesson for the agencies. But they don't care about that; they only care about money. Before I joined this office, there was the concept of broker or middlemen. They would earn a fee when they could get a lot of prospective workers.
R	I understand.
IS 6	The more prospective workers they could get, the more fees they earned. Each person might be charged around 200-500. Sometimes, they also took it themselves, like fees for this and that.
R	I see.
IS 6	It means they received fees from the office, and they also took fees from the prospective workers. Because what they were after was the money. They didn't care whom they recruited.
R	I see.
IS 6	Sometimes, even those who had just graduated from school were recruited. People like farmers, who had never been to sea, were also recruited. I have experienced this when I initially left. He was from the mountains, and he had never been to sea. When making a statement of willingness from the family to allow him to go to Taiwan, it was handwritten, and it had material and signatures.
R	I see.
IS 6	He even laminated it, even though it was not needed. I thought, this person doesn't understand administrative matters. It turns out he was a victim of the brokers' ambition.
R	Oh,

IS 6	He has to meet the target for one year. You have to recruit a certain number of people. And the experience that often happens is that he doesn't get used here. Or when he has submitted documents there, he doesn't get selected.
R	Oh.
IS 6	Because of the lack of experience. Let alone, for example, I used to work in Bali, as a fisherman, it's still considered inexperienced. Especially if he has never been to the sea at all.
R	Yes, indeed.
IS 6	That's why I remembered my friends who used to go through the same struggle. Processed. I don't know what to call it. I don't know what the progress report is like now. And yesterday I happened to fly with one of the SUPM graduates. He's from Trenggalek, and Trenggalek is known for its coastal areas, the south coast. He got a job in the Penghu area. His ship is a trawler. Actually, when I was still in PJTKI, I used to talk to him quite often. In fact, I have language notes. Every time there's a new sentence. The important thing is the vocabulary for working on a ship. I wrote it down, and for me, it's a must. And I passed it on to my friends. Actually, most of them are lazy to write, many of them just photocopy. "You all photocopy it, wait for me to explain." That means this needs to be explained.
R	Yes.
IS 6	If you just read it, you won't understand it. Because there's intonation. There's pronunciation that you need to understand. Sometimes, when we write "E," it can be read as "E," right?
R	Correct.
IS 6	Now, this is important, that's why they photocopy a lot. Come, sit down here, I only have this. That means this is what I got from my work experience. And especially regarding the vocabulary for the ship and the job. This is the most important. And there are some things that are useful too. But it turns out that for the Penghu area, they use Mandarin.
R	Yes.
IS 6	Mandarin. If it's Taoyu language, it's not used. When they learn Mandarin, the people here use Taoyu language. So it's chaotic. But at least there are guidelines, so they also. Every morning, they learn the language of the work tool. They also learn whatever it is, they definitely learn it. At least they have the basic knowledge, and this is like gambling. You don't know when the job will come.
R	Yes.
IS 6	He wants a job in the Penghu area. Or in the Kaohsiung area. Or in the Donggang area, we don't know. I hope hopefully you learn Mandarin, you can use it. Learn Taoyu language too. Well, hopefully you can get a job in the Donggang area.
R	Oh, yes.
IS 6	Then we can communicate. And it turns out that most of the Penghu area. As I mentioned earlier, out of 20 people, only 2 are left. The rest were sent back. And I feel that I haven't flown yet. Suddenly he was sent back.
R	Yes, yes.

IS 6	Oh, how is he? It seems like you just flew yesterday. Oh, sir, over there, I'm still considered not ready to work. Well, alright, just stay enthusiastic for now. Don't give up, you're still young. There are still many paths. A long way to go.
R	Yes.
IS 6	I have a friend named Alvin. His nickname is Kipli. We flew together. During the trip, I did stick to him a lot. And he was sticking to me too. It means he was looking for information. Starting from how to work. Then experiences and language. In short, it turns out that he got a job in the Penghu area. It is said that, there he was on a longline boat for the first time. There were Vietnamese people there. There were also Filipinos. When he got on the boat, he got seasick.
R	Oh.
IS 6	Seasick. Well, those who get seasick, let alone work. They can't even stand up. It's like their heads are spinning. So they just want to lie down.
R	Yes, yes.
IS 6	Well, this is what the employer doesn't like. Actually, his friends from the Philippines also have compassion. It means, you can just sleep. No problem. The employer doesn't accept that. You came here, I paid you, for work, not for sleeping. Because his position is like that. When he's seasick, he just wants to sleep. He can't even work. Other friends from the Philippines also feel sorry. Seeing him unable to stand up. Often vomiting and so on, it even hinders work. Just go to sleep. Actually, you can feel sorry for him. But according to the captain's version, this is not the time to sleep.
R	Yes.
IS 6	In short, he was transferred to the office because the employer couldn't afford him, didn't want to pay his salary. Then he changed jobs again, still the same, still drunk. In short, he was sent back to Indonesia. We had a contact number. He called me, and we had a long conversation. I gave him some advice to support him. I told him, this is not the end of your journey. Your path is still long. What's important is that you've experienced what it's like to work in Taiwan. This can be your stepping stone. You need to correct from the beginning what issues you faced so the employer can't continue the work contract. I concluded that your work ethic hasn't developed yet because you just graduated from school. You still have a bit of a student mindset. Secondly, you're still inexperienced in the job. Even though you did an internship at sea, it's different. My advice is, you're from a coastal area. Dive into the sea, face the waves every day, pull the nets with sweat pouring under the scorching sun, etc. So you'll mature naturally, not a hasty maturation. When you feel ready, you can look for an agency office to register again.
R	Yes.
IS 6	Actually, I rarely communicate, but I sometimes see his timeline on social media. He sometimes posts about catching a lot of fish on small local boats. I didn't get a chance to talk to him because his posts only appeared on my timeline a few days ago. Maybe by the time I chat with him, he's already at sea and so on. I noticed that there have been some changes.
R	Yes.

IS 6	It means he wants to learn from his past mistakes. If he contacts me, I can probably recommend some recruitment companies' names that can send him here, as well as recommendations for ships with good employers. But maybe he's currently absorbed in the work he's doing. So perhaps his luck is still in his hometown. I haven't communicated with him again to this day.
R	Interesting. Next question. I want to know, Sir, what's the reason you want to go to Taiwan? I mean, there are jobs in Indonesia, right? But why choose to become a fisherman in Taiwan?
IS 6	I graduated from school in 1998. At that time, you know it was during the financial crisis, right?
R	Yes.
IS 6	Not only new graduates were seeking jobs; many people were laid off. This was in 1998, a very tough time for me. I shared my experiences with friends who graduated in 1998. Those who were wealthy, who could afford education, those who could even send others to university had an easier life. They could enter civil service. Some of them have become village chiefs. Some even became members of parliament and so on. It's because they were from well-to-do families. As for me, well, my fate was, haha. The fate of being poor. So, regardless of circumstances, we have to make an effort on our own. What was I saying? Haha, it seems like I'm digressing.
R	Haha. What made you choose to become a fisherman in Taiwan?
IS 6	Actually, After I graduated, I wanted to have a goal to help develop my village. I wanted to at least work at the village level. My parents supported this. So that whatever is within me could be of use in our own village.
R	Yes.
IS 6	But it turned out to be not much different from corruption, collusion, nepotism. The one with the most money succeeds. The one with strong connections to the authorities. From here, I started to think, "Wow, maybe we can't do it. We don't have money, we don't have farmland. At least the capital to compete. So, it's up to you; I understand." Eventually, I tried to contact my friends who graduated in 1998. One of them who had a successful business. He's the one who sent me to work on a construction project.
R	I see.
IS 6	In Bogor, if I remember correctly, it was only for two weeks. The project there was already finished. Then I moved to Jakarta, to the Bintaro area. There was a new project to build housing for the police or something, I forgot. I only lasted a week there because it was the start of Ramadan. Hahaha.
R	Hahaha, yes, yes.
IS 6	During the fasting month, I had to return home. The building condition was still zero, and we had to endure the heat every day. Fasting was also challenging for me, so I decided to return home. Perhaps after the Eid holiday, I might continue. Interestingly, the person who initially invited me to embark on this journey stopped inviting me. This may be due to them being too busy or other reasons. Then, a friend of mine invited me to work in a garment factory. Given that most young people in my area are involved in the garment industry, I decided to give it a try. However, the job only lasted for two weeks.

R	Oh.
IS 6	After two weeks, when I bid farewell to my boss, he was still in our hometown. So, I had to say goodbye to his assistant. This farewell meeting led to an unexpected encounter with my sister's former fiancé, my elder sister, to be precise. Long story short, she had ended her two-year engagement. She was working in Bali, and her family was living there too. Feeling guilty about her past engagement, she offered me an opportunity.
R	I see.
IS 6	She asked if I wanted to move to Bali. The thought of Bali crossed my mind, and I thought it was a good opportunity. I agreed, and I said my farewells to the garment factory. I headed to Bali, where I traveled with a container carrying fish in a thermoking container. The journey took approximately two days. It coincided with the Eid al-Adha holiday. I participated in the unloading of fish from the container and various other activities. Once we reached Bali, I joined a factory as we had planned. I worked there with a meager salary of 450, which was the minimum wage in Bali at that time. The rent for accommodation was around 150, and the bathroom was inside. Transportation from the accommodation to the harbor cost around 1000 rupiahs. Now it's more, possibly even 10,000.
R	I see.
IS 6	I worked there from 2000 until 2003, and I eventually resigned because the last salary I received was around 400-460. This amount was hardly enough to cover living expenses. It was not sufficient. In addition to the basic salary, there were transportation allowances, which added up to around 550, or 500 without any overtime. That amount wasn't enough to cover expenses for a month. Sometimes, I couldn't save any money at all. Fortunately, I had a neighbor. Through him, I got to know a fellow worker, who later became my wife, hahaha.
R	Hahaha, I see.
IS 6	She was renting a place nearby. The neighbor's friend was working as a fisherman, just like me. While I was dating her, I also got to know the neighbor, who was my future brother-in-law. He was working at sea and other places. I developed an interest in his work, as my job at the factory had become monotonous, and the salary was low.
R	I understand.
IS 6	Finally, I asked if I could join a fishing vessel. I submitted my resignation from the factory and started working on a fishing boat. Although the salary was not much higher than before, it was an intact amount since we would spend around 8 to 9 months at sea. By the time we returned, the savings amounted to a significant sum since there were no expenses while at sea. During this time, my friend who initially invited me to Taiwan had returned.
R	I see.

IS 6	<p>He told me about a job opportunity in Taiwan. It was relatively easy to go there, and he helped me find the right channels. The motivation for my journey to Taiwan was primarily economic. At the time, I was recently married and had one child while working on a ship. Typically, our offshore operations lasted around 8 to 9 months, and we would usually receive a bonus from the office to send home. However, my salary was not sufficient to cover all the expenses for my child, who needed milk and other necessities. The salary was just enough to make ends meet. My wife didn't want to rely on her parents when she needed money, and she avoided asking for money. When there was no money to buy milk, she would use her parents' money, which would be considered a debt.</p>
R	<p>I see.</p>
IS 6	<p>I realized that my salary was indeed very low, and it barely covered our needs. If it was just enough, it was considered a blessing. My friend then invited me to consider working in Taiwan. I discussed this opportunity with my family, and my wife was fully supportive. She expressed her support and mentioned that we had been in a long-distance relationship since our courtship and marriage.</p>
R	<p>Hahaha, yes.</p>
IS 6	<p>Although we had previously worked together in the same factory, my wife had moved to Semarang, and we continued our relationship through long-distance calls, which were quite expensive at the time.</p>
R	<p>Hahaha, yes.</p>
IS 6	<p>So, when you go to Taiwan, it's expected to be for at least 2 or 3 years before you can return. We wouldn't be able to see each other often. We'd be in a long-distance relationship for both our courtship and our marriage. I hope your journey to Taiwan results in economic improvement. When you worked in Bali, you would spend 9 to 10 months there, earning roughly the same amount. When you compare that to going to Taiwan, where you would also earn money without being able to see your family, both options have their challenges. However, it would be better to go to Taiwan for economic reasons, especially considering your skills and job prospects. You don't have a farm or a business to run, so going to Taiwan with your family's blessing would be a good choice.</p>
R	<p>I see.</p>
IS 6	<p>I left in early 2010, although the process had started in 2009, but I encountered some obstacles. Finally, I was able to fly to Taiwan in January. My journey continued as described from the beginning. In summary, my friend who had initially invited me, let's call him Ari.</p>
R	<p>I see.</p>
IS 6	<p>Ari had also been to Taiwan for some time but had even managed to escape. When he left Taiwan, he contacted me again, and since I was back on land, he asked if I wanted to join him. He informed me that he still had oil palm plantations in Bangka Belitung. So, I agreed. He was working in the oil palm industry, and the village had vast land. He suggested that I could immigrate to the area. He had even changed his address.</p>
R	<p>I see.</p>

IS 6	<p>He has been living in Bangka Belitung for a long time. However, there are several things he experienced. It means he doesn't always work with this employer. In short, he's independent. He has resigned from his boss, who owns an oil palm plantation. Then, he started his own business. He used to sell meatball soup (bakso), and it was quite popular there. He began selling meatball soup, and there's one more thing - he's a paranormal. Haha.</p>
R	<p>Oh, haha.</p>
IS 6	<p>He still practices his paranormal skills until now, and he even makes money from it. In short, because we have gone through similar hardships and experiences, he knows my background. He once said, "Why don't you join me? I plan to establish an Islamic boarding school, build a mosque, and establish religious study groups (majlis ta'lim). You can teach there, and we can negotiate the salary later. I also run a business, and you can participate in that too. You can choose to be independent or work with me. The salary can be arranged." So, I told my wife about it. I explained it to her. Her response was, "Here's the deal, dear. If you return to Indonesia and work in Bangka Belitung, you're offered a monthly salary of around 1 to 2 million rupiahs. Consider that we still won't meet each other. We won't be able to see each other every day. Haha. What does that mean? I feel sorry for you. You work so hard day and night, but your income, let's say, there should be an improvement. Honestly, there's even a decrease in your earnings. I would prefer you staying in Taiwan. Although we won't meet, you can have an income that matches your expectations. While you work in Bangka Belitung, maybe you have the capability to contribute to your religion and the community, which is fine. But you have a family. Ultimately, no matter how strong someone is, when they're struggling economically, they will become desperate. For anyone. It's not that I don't care about you. I don't want us to live apart. If you go to Bangka Belitung, we still won't meet, so your defense is in Taiwan. Actually, even though my wife hasn't said that yet, I already have a sense of it myself."</p>
R	<p>I see.</p>
IS 6	<p>Well, if you change jobs, wherever you go, it means you're looking for something better. There should be an improvement. But it's actually a decrease. I eventually turned it down politely. I'm sorry, sir. My current employer still values my work. I want to continue enjoying the atmosphere in Taiwan. I'm still young, and I have a long way ahead. If it comes to religious matters, I remember my father's advice. Someday, when you're no longer productive, you can dedicate yourself to religion. Now you should think about your potential and maximize it. If you can't maximize it anymore, it means you take a break from the hustle and bustle of the world. Then you can focus on religion.</p>
R	<p>Okay.</p>

-
- IS 6 I received a lot of moral support from my family, especially my wife. After calculating it, I effectively spent only 2 years with my family. I got married in 2006 and it's now mid-2023, so that's 2 years. That's 24 months, 720 days spent together. It means we hardly noticed it. We suddenly realized that my wife is getting older. We both are getting older. We often joke on the phone that I have a wife who's never been kept waiting, and she's suddenly old. Haha. She's wrinkled and all that. Well, when we first got to know each other, we were still youthful, still energetic. Suddenly now we're... Well, what can you do? It's the path of life. We have to be apart. But I think now there's no such thing as distance. There's no longing, no yearning. We have mobile phones. In the past, when I was dating, I queued at a public telephone (wartel) waiting for a cheaper rate because of a certain time.
-
- R Oh, I see.
-
- IS 6 That's the era of wartels. Now, we can make a call anytime. After work, we can express our feelings and talk to our spouses. We can have relationships and all that. That's why I endured for 3 and a half years without returning home.
-
- R I see.
-
- IS 6 Initially, I wanted to go home, see my family, hold my child, and everything else. It's because the information was still limited. And now, there's no distance anymore. Longing doesn't apply anymore. When I was dating, we queued at the public telephone. It was past midnight because of a cheaper rate.
-
- R Oh, I see, I see.
-
- IS 6 In the past, when using public phones (wartel), the connection was local only.
-
- R Thank you very much for your story. It's very useful and informative. I request permission to use your story for my research. I'll keep it anonymous.
-
- IS 6 Okay, okay, you're welcome.

Interview Transcript of Researcher with Indonesian Seafarer Interviewee 7

- R May I know your name?
-
- IS 7 My name is IS 7, full name IS 7.
-
- R Okay, IS 7. Let me introduce myself. I'm Natha from Wenzao University in Kaohsiung. I'm currently working on my final project, which is about the stories of Indonesian migrant workers in Taiwan. Alright, let's get started. We met last Sunday, right?
-
- IS 7 Yes, last Sunday. That's correct. But we didn't have much time.
-
- R That's true. Now, I'd like to ask, IS 7, how long have you been working here?
-
- S 7 I've been here since 2016, but I went back to Indonesia in 2019 for a year. Then I returned.
-
- R Oh, I see.
-
- IS 7 So, it's been six years in total.
-
- R Six years, I see. Where in Indonesia are you from?
-
- IS 7 I'm from Rembang.
-
- R Have you worked in Indonesia before, or is this your first time?
-
- IS 7 I worked in Indonesia, but it was in Bali, on a longline fishing vessel.
-
- R I see. So, after that, you came here. Is that correct?
-
- IS 7 No, after Bali, I went to a Chinese ship, but my contract was signed in Hong Kong. Then, I joined a ship in Fiji, and I returned to Indonesia from Fiji. After that, I came to Taiwan.
-
- R So, you came directly to Taiwan from Fiji?
-
- IS 7 Yes, I came here directly after Fiji. I worked in Bali again for about five to six months, and then I processed my journey to Taiwan.
-
- R Regarding your time in Taiwan, how did you find out about this opportunity?
-
- IS 7 Back in 2014, there was a directive to send back all the ships from Bali during the era of Minister Susi. The captains from Bali were requested to bring Indonesian crew members they knew. The arrangements were made by people in Bali. When I was working in Bali, I was introduced to the idea of coming to Taiwan. It was a simple process - no formal applications or anything. I just had to submit my data, and I was sent here directly.
-
- R So, there was someone already handling all the paperwork for you.
-
- IS 7 Yes, there was someone handling it, and they took care of everything.
-
- R So, how did you end up in this current job in Taiwan?
-
- IS 7 Well, the first reason was that the process was relatively easy. The other options I saw were difficult and required a lot of training, such as language and physical education, like for those working on Japanese ships. Here, the process was straightforward, and there was no need for special training. We came here, and it was more direct. No complications.
-
- R I see. So, you found the process here easier than in other countries. What about the nature of the work? Is it similar to the work you did in Indonesia?
-

	The work itself is still the same. The way we work, the methods, and so on are all the same. The only difference is the living conditions and facilities. Japanese ships have different facilities, and the work hours are longer and more strenuous. It's more
IS 7	machine-driven work, with longer hours.
R	So, the work hours are longer on Japanese ships. Is the salary also one of the factors that made you consider working in Taiwan?
IS 7	Well, in the past, the salary was about the same. But what makes a difference here is the bonus system. On Taiwanese ships, about 80-90% of the crew members get bonuses, while on Japanese ships, only about 40-50% receive bonuses. The rest relies on their basic salary.
R	I see. So, it's more financially rewarding to work on Taiwanese ships.
IS 7	Yes, exactly. The only trade-off is that we spend more time at sea. We stay at sea for about eight months before we return. However, we have satellite phones on board, and we can use them once a month. The cost for using the satellite phone is on us; it's not provided for free.
R	So, you have access to communication through the satellite phone. That's useful.
IS 7	Yes, we do.
R	What's your role on the ship currently?
IS 7	At the moment, I'm working on a new contract. When I first came here in 2020, I worked on a fishing vessel. However, local Taiwanese fishing vessels operate seasonally. During the winter, they fish for swordfish in the Keelung area. They use longlines. We mainly focus on two fishing methods.
R	I see.
IS 7	Then, after about three to four months, we return to work on catching bluefin tuna. We stay out at sea for about two months and then return to shore. This rotation continues for three years. Now, I've switched to working onshore in the processing department.
R	Do you work every day now, or do you have weekends off?
IS 7	I have Sundays off, but during the weekdays, sometimes the Taiwanese holidays apply. It depends on the employer. Some employers want their employees to work on those holidays, while others are more understanding and grant time off.
R	I see. So, in your current environment, are you working with other Indonesians or local Taiwanese crew members?
IS 7	There are four Indonesians on board, and there were originally two Taiwanese crew members. One of them just started his mandatory military service. The other one is currently unwell and unable to work. So, everyone in my working area is Indonesian now.
R	I understand. Have you faced any challenges or difficulties while working in Taiwan?
IS 7	One of the challenges is adapting to new work practices. It's a matter of getting used to it. For example, we had to change the way we handle fishing lines, and it was different from what we were used to in Indonesia. We also had to use knives differently. Adjusting to new work processes and muscle memory was difficult.

R	Have you faced language barriers or issues with your employer?
IS 7	Among our fellow workers, language hasn't been a problem. If we don't understand something, we ask, and it's better to ask than to make mistakes. Our employer is understanding and patient. He doesn't rush us, and he encourages us to learn. The main thing is to keep things organized.
R	So, the work environment is supportive.
IS 7	Yes, it is.
R	Are you married, or is your family back in Indonesia supportive of your work in Taiwan?
IS 7	I'm still single. Initially, my family was supportive of my decision to work abroad and encouraged me to get married first.
R	I see. What are your plans for the future? Do you intend to continue working in Taiwan, or do you have other goals after this?
IS 7	Inshallah, if I get married, I plan to start a business in Indonesia. I want to partner with others and set up a business, so we can work together both here and in Indonesia. The idea is to establish a collaboration.
R	I see. While working here, are you also looking for connections and partners?
IS 7	Yes, exactly. I'm trying to establish connections while working here, and the goal is to collaborate on a business venture in the future.
R	I hope everything goes well for you.
IS 7	Thank you.
R	Is there anything you'd like to share or any experiences you haven't talked about yet?
IS 7	Any particularly challenging or unexpected experiences while working in Taiwan? Well, the most challenging experience was not in Taiwan, but back in Indonesia. In 2013, I was on a fishing boat. Recently, a Facebook post from that time resurfaced, and it reminded me of some things. There was a message I unintentionally wrote on that post. It was about taking on hard work to make things easier for my friends. Unfortunately, this message was taken the wrong way, and my crewmates saw it as me trying to gain favor with the captain. My intentions were misunderstood, and it led to my crewmates ostracizing me. It was tough because we're all on the same boat, and it's like one body separated into parts.
R	I understand. So, the message meant well, but it was misinterpreted, and it caused friction with your crewmates.
IS 7	Yes, exactly.
R	But it seems like the experience in Taiwan has been much smoother, and you've been able to build a supportive network.

IS 7 Yes, it has. In Taiwan, it's different, and if someone is down or in a tough spot, there's always someone there to lend a hand and offer support. It's a close-knit community, and we help each other out.

R That's great to hear. Is there anything else you'd like to add?

IS 7 Just that if you come here and things don't work out, there's always a lesson to be learned from the experience. Friends' stories are the best teachers.

R Absolutely.

IS 7 We have an agreement with friends here. We find our own paths for work, seek our own fortunes, and when things are going well, we come together and celebrate. That's the spirit.

R I understand. It's important to have your own journey and choices.

IS 7 Exactly.

R Thank you for sharing your experiences. I hope everything goes smoothly for you.

IS 7 Thank you. When you arrive here, don't forget to stay in touch.

APPENDIX B

Consent Form in English

RESOURCE ELIGIBILITY AND BACKGROUND SHEET

Statement of willingness to be a resource for research entitled:
“Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, Coping Mechanisms. An In-depth Interviews with Indonesian Migrant Worker Seafarers in Donggang, Pingtung, Taiwan”

**FINAL PROJECT RESEARCH
OF WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS STUDENTS**

Name :
Age :
Gender :
Hometown :
Length of work/stay in Taiwan :
Work :
Marital Status :
Highest Education :

Please tick the box to agree:

- I am willing to be an interview resource with the theme "motivation for working as a crew member in Taiwan, challenges, and how to survive"
- I give permission to use the information I share for educational and research purposes.

Date and time :

LEMBAR KESEDIAAN DAN LATAR BELAKANG NARASUMBER

Pernyataan kesediaan menjadi narasumber penelitian yang berjudul:

“Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, Coping Mechanisms. An In-depth Interviews with Indonesian Migrant Worker Seafarers in Donggang, Pingtung, Taiwan”

**PENELITIAN TUGAS AKHIR
MAHASISWI WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES
JURUSAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Nama



Umur

: 40 tahun

Jenis kelamin

: Laki-laki

Kota asal

: REMBANG

Lama kerja / tinggal di Taiwan

: 11 tahun

Pekerjaan

: Nelayan / ABK

Status

: Menikah

Pendidikan terakhir

: SMP

Mohon memberi tanda centang pada kotak sebagai persetujuan:

- Saya bersedia menjadi narasumber wawancara bertemakan “motivasi bekerja sebagai ABK di Taiwan, tantangan, dan cara bertahannya”
- Saya memberi izin penggunaan informasi yang saya bagikan dengan tujuan pendidikan dan penelitian.

Hari, Tanggal


: 3 Juni 2023

LEMBAR KESEDIAAN DAN LATAR BELAKANG NARASUMBER

Pernyataan kesediaan menjadi narasumber penelitian yang berjudul:

“Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, Coping Mechanisms. An In-depth Interviews with Indonesian Migrant Worker Seafarers in Donggang, Pingtung, Taiwan”

PENELITIAN TUGAS AKHIR MAHASISWI WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES JURUSAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Nama : 

Umur : 55

Jenis kelamin : Laki Laki

Kota asal : Pekalongan

Lama kerja / tinggal di Taiwan : 3 tahun

Pekerjaan : KEBAJAN

Status : AA PERNIKAHAN

Pendidikan terakhir : S.D.

Mohon memberi tanda centang pada kotak sebagai persetujuan:

- Saya bersedia menjadi narasumber wawancara bertemakan “motivasi bekerja sebagai ABK di Taiwan, tantangan, dan cara bertahannya”
- Saya memberi izin penggunaan informasi yang saya bagikan dengan tujuan pendidikan dan penelitian.

Hari, Tanggal 31 JUNI - 2023.


LEMBAR KESEDIAAN DAN LATAR BELAKANG NARASUMBER

Pernyataan kesediaan menjadi narasumber penelitian yang berjudul:

“Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, Coping Mechanisms. An In-depth Interviews with Indonesian Migrant Worker Seafarers in Donggang, Pingtung, Taiwan”

PENELITIAN TUGAS AKHIR

**MAHASISWI WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES
JURUSAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Nama : 
Umur : 18-8-1979
Jenis kelamin : LAKI-LAKI
Kota asal : BALI
Lama kerja / tinggal di Taiwan : 3 TAHUN
Pekerjaan : PELAUT
Status : NIKAH
Pendidikan terakhir : SMA

Mohon memberi tanda centang pada kotak sebagai persetujuan:

- Saya bersedia menjadi narasumber wawancara bertemakan “motivasi bekerja sebagai ABK di Taiwan, tantangan, dan cara bertahannya”
- Saya memberi izin penggunaan informasi yang saya bagikan dengan tujuan pendidikan dan penelitian.


Hari, Tanggal 3-JUNI 2023 :

LEMBAR KESEDIAAN DAN LATAR BELAKANG NARASUMBER

Pernyataan kesediaan menjadi narasumber penelitian yang berjudul:

“Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, Coping Mechanisms. An In-depth Interviews with Indonesian Migrant Worker Seafarers in Donggang, Pingtung, Taiwan”

PENELITIAN TUGAS AKHIR MAHASISWI WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES JURUSAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Nama : 

Umur : 42 Th.

Jenis kelamin : LAKI

Kota asal : SLAWI

Lama kerja / tinggal di Taiwan : 2 Th, dan 4 Th.

Pekerjaan : PECAUT

Status : NIKAH

Pendidikan terakhir : S.P.M./SMK

Mohon memberi tanda centang pada kotak sebagai persetujuan:

- Saya bersedia menjadi narasumber wawancara bertemakan “motivasi bekerja sebagai ABK di Taiwan, tantangan, dan cara bertahannya”
- Saya memberi izin penggunaan informasi yang saya bagikan dengan tujuan pendidikan dan penelitian.


Hari, Tanggal , SABTU, 3-6-2023

LEMBAR KESEDIAAN DAN LATAR BELAKANG NARASUMBER

Pernyataan kesediaan menjadi narasumber penelitian yang berjudul:

“Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, Coping Mechanisms. An In-depth Interviews with Indonesian Migrant Worker Seafarers in Donggang, Pingtung, Taiwan”

**PENELITIAN TUGAS AKHIR
MAHASISWI WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES
JURUSAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Nama : 
Umur : 27
Jenis kelamin : LAKI-LAKI
Kota asal : BEREBES
Lama kerja / tinggal di Taiwan : 6TH.
Pekerjaan : MELAYAN
Status (Sudah/Belum Menikah) : MENIKAH
Pendidikan terakhir : SMP

Mohon memberi tanda centang pada kotak sebagai persetujuan:

- Saya bersedia menjadi narasumber wawancara bertemakan “motivasi bekerja sebagai ABK di Taiwan, tantangan, dan cara bertahannya”
- Saya memberi izin penggunaan informasi yang saya bagikan dengan tujuan pendidikan dan penelitian.

Hari, Tanggal


: 10-06-2023

LEMBAR KESEDIAAN DAN LATAR BELAKANG NARASUMBER

Pernyataan kesediaan menjadi narasumber penelitian yang berjudul:

“Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, Coping Mechanisms. An In-depth Interviews with Indonesian Migrant Worker Seafarers in Donggang, Pingtung, Taiwan”

PENELITIAN TUGAS AKHIR MAHASISWI WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES JURUSAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Nama : 

Umur : 43 Tahun

Jenis kelamin : Laki - laki

Kota asal : BLORA JAWA TENGAH

Lama kerja / tinggal di Taiwan : 13 Tahun

Pekerjaan : Nelayan

Status (Sudah/Belum Menikah) : Menikah

Pendidikan terakhir : SMK

Mohon memberi tanda centang pada kotak sebagai persetujuan:

- Saya bersedia menjadi narasumber wawancara bertemakan “motivasi bekerja sebagai ABK di Taiwan, tantangan, dan cara bertahannya”
- Saya memberi izin penggunaan informasi yang saya bagikan dengan tujuan pendidikan dan penelitian.


Hari, Tanggal 10 Juni 2023 :

LEMBAR KESEDIAAN DAN LATAR BELAKANG NARASUMBER

Pernyataan kesediaan menjadi narasumber penelitian yang berjudul:

“Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, Coping Mechanisms. An In-depth Interviews with Indonesian Migrant Worker Seafarers in Donggang, Pingtung, Taiwan”

PENELITIAN TUGAS AKHIR MAHASISWI WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES JURUSAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Nama : 

Umur : 28

Jenis kelamin : LAKI - LAKI

Kota asal : REMBANG . JAWA TENGAH .

Lama kerja / tinggal di Taiwan : 6 TAHUN

Pekerjaan : PELAUT

Status (Sudah/Belum Menikah) : BELUM MENIKAH

Pendidikan terakhir : SMA

Mohon memberi tanda centang pada kotak sebagai persetujuan:

- Saya bersedia menjadi narasumber wawancara bertemakan “motivasi bekerja sebagai ABK di Taiwan, tantangan, dan cara bertahannya”
- Saya memberi izin penggunaan informasi yang saya bagikan dengan tujuan pendidikan dan penelitian.

Hari, Tanggal : 10 Juni 2023

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chun-fang, Chen. "Making Life Better for Migrant Workers an Exhibition on Migrants' Human Rights." *Taiwan Panorama* 台灣光華雜誌, August 2021.

JA., Cutrona CE. Suhr. "Controllability of Stressful Events and Satisfaction with Spouse Support Behaviors. *Communication Research*. ." [In English].(1992).

Grigg, D. B. "E. G. Ravenstein and the "Laws of Migration" " [In English]. *Journal of Historical Geography* 3 (1997): 41-54.

JA., Cutrona CE. Suhr. "Controllability of Stressful Events and Satisfaction with Spouse Support Behaviors. *Communication Research*. ." [In English]. (1992).

Lee, Everett S. "A Theory of Migration." [In English]. *Demography* 3 (1966): 47– 57. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.2307/2060063>.

Massey, D.S., and J.E. Taylor. *International Migration: Prospects and Policies in a Global Market*. Oxford University Press, 2004.

Statistics, Statistik Ekonomi dan Keuangan Indonesia Indonesian Economic and Financial. "Number of Indonesian Migrant Workers (Imws) by Host Country (Thousands of People)." BI.GO/Seki, 2023.

1, Indonesian Seafarer. "Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, and Coping Mechanisms. An in-Depth Interviews with Indonesian Seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan." By Nathania Cyrilla (3 June 2023 2023).

2, Indonesian Seafarer. "Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, and Coping Mechanisms. An in-Depth Interviews with Indonesian Seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan." By Nathania Cyrilla (3 June 2023 2023).

3, Indonesian Seafarer. "Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, and Coping Mechanisms. An in-Depth Interviews with Indonesian Seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan." By Nathania Cyrilla (3 June 2023 2023).

4, Indonesian Seafarer. "Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, and Coping Mechanisms. An in-Depth Interviews with Indonesian Seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan." By Nathania Cyrilla (3 June 2023 2023).

5, Indonesian Seafarer. "Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, and Coping Mechanisms. An in-Depth Interviews with Indonesian Seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan." By Nathania

Cyrilla (10 June 2023 2023).

6, Indonesian Seafarer. "Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, and Coping Mechanisms. An in-Depth Interviews with Indonesian Seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan." By Nathania Cyrilla (10 June 2023 2023).

7, Indonesian Seafarer. "Exploring Push and Pull Factors, Hurdles, and Coping Mechanisms. An in-Depth Interviews with Indonesian Seafarers in Pingtung, Taiwan." By Nathania Cyrilla (10 June 2023 2023).