

Socialization of uti possidetis juris principles and socio-economic approaches to eliminate separatism in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

This study discusses the strategy to overcome the ideology of separatism in Indonesia through the integration of the principle of the Pacidetic Uti juris and the socio-economic approach. The threat of separatism, especially in Papua, remains a serious challenge for national integration. Development inequality, limited economic access, and marginalization narratives become a strong trigger for the growth of disintegration sentiment in the region. The principle of Uti is the posidetis of Juris, which confirms the validity of the boundaries since the decolonization period and provides an international legal basis to strengthen the claims of Indonesia's sovereignty over Papua. On the other hand, sustainable socio-economic policies are believed to be able to reduce the roots of separatism. This study uses mixed methods: qualitative data using NVivo 12 software and quantitative data using interpretive structural modeling (ISM). The results showed that the synergy between inclusive development strategies and the socialization of the principles of Uti Pacidetic Juris as international law could strengthen the sense of nationality and reduce the interest in separatist ideology, especially in Papua. The novelty of this study lies in the integrative approach between juridical and social aspects that have been rarely integrated. The limitations of this study lie in the extent of the scope of the area being analyzed. Further research is advised to explore the implementation of this strategy at the local community level in Papua to test its effectiveness in the long run as part of the national security strategy.

Keywords:

uti possidetis juris; separatist; socio-economic; Indonesia

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INTRODUCTION

Separatism in Indonesia, especially in Papua, is a multidimensional challenge that is not only related to political and defense aspects but also reflects the internalization of

international legal principles and the implementation of socio-economic development. In this case, the principle of *uti possidetis juris* which emphasizes the importance of maintaining the integrity of the area of former post-independence colonies needs to be more effectively socialized to strengthen the legitimacy of regional integration within the international legal framework. However, the legalistic approach alone is not enough; integration is needed with a more responsive socio-economic approach to the basic needs of the Papuan people to reduce the potential for tension and strengthen national cohesion (Li & Zheng, 2023). The urgency of this research is because currently social conflicts due to separatist groups still occur in Papua and greatly have an impact on the sustainability of economic development, and social development and obscure the principles of *Uti Possidetis Juris*. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (2023) Papua ranks the highest number and percentage of poverty levels in Indonesia, and the majority of active separatist groups in the interior and mountains have inadequate social and economic infrastructure and separatist groups use this gap to maneuvering political (Mashuri & van Leeuwen, 2018). The novelty of this study lies in its difference from previous research which is more focused on the security and law enforcement approach as a separatist handling strategy. This study offers a new perspective in resolving social conflicts or separatist ideas that still exist in Papua through the sustainability approach to economic development, social development, and the socialization of the principle of *UTI Possidetis Juris* which is in line with the vision and mission of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia namely *Asta Cita* (Skavronskaya et al., 2020).

Cold War officially ended in 1991 (Westad, 2017). Global geopolitical developments continue to grow, such as the impact of conflicts in the Middle East, the Russian-Ukrainian war, and the Indo-Pacific region, as well as domestic social, economic and political dynamics, of course. Influencing government efforts to improve public services, and community welfare, reduce economic disparities, and strengthen an accountable government system (Malchrzak et al., 2022). Indonesia, as a large country with a significant area and abundant resource wealth, as well as a strategic geographical location, is inseparable from various significant challenges and obstacles. Social development is an effort to improve the quality of life of the community through the provision of social services, education, health, and strengthening of the community to create social cohesion and reduce inequality (Eime et al., 2013). The economic development approach aims to accelerate economic growth through investment, job creation, infrastructure development, and sustainable management of resources, with the hope of improving the welfare of the community and income (Hanushek, 2013). Based on data from the National Statistics Agency (2023), Indonesia has an area of 1,892,410.09 km² and consists of 17,001 islands, with a population of 281,603,888 people. (BPS, 2023). Indonesia proclaimed its independence on August 17, 1945, as a result of a long struggle that lasted for centuries, not just a gift from the invaders (Fernando et al., 2022). In the course of its history, the Indonesian nation has experienced dynamics in national and state life, especially related to threats to national defense (Wijaya & Thio, 2024). The disturbances that emerged after independence included rebellions in various regions, such as the rebellion of the Revolutionary Government of the Republic of Indonesia (PRRI) in 1958 which was led by military figures and politicians who were dissatisfied with the central government, the Darul Islam Movement/Indonesian Islamic Army (DI/TII) between 1949-1962 led by Kartosuwiryo in West Java, the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) which began in 1976, and the Republic of South Maluku (RMS) which emerged in 1950 on Maluku Island and the Papuan Rebels/Separatists which still exist today (Lele, 2023). Based on international law known as the principle of "*Uti Possidetis Juris*" which emerged in the early 19th century, especially when Latin America Decolonization after the Napoleon War (Tzimas,

2024). This principle says that when the colonial government ends, the boundaries of the existing region will be given to the newly formed country to prevent conflict on the border. This principle was first applied at the Five Nations Conference or Congress of Vienna 1815 (Austria, represented by Minister of Foreign Affairs Klemens von Metternich; Great Britain, represented by Lord Castlereagh; Prussia, represented by Carl August von Hardenberg; Russia, represented by Tsar Alexander I; and France, previously Napoleon's main enemy in the Napoleonic Wars, represented by Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand (Mlksoo, 2021). In the 20th century, the principle of Uti possidetis juris was officially recognized in several international treaties when new states were created after wars and after liberation from European colonialism (Sunnyowati et al., 2019). In Indonesia alone, Papua Island which is a Dutch colony and based on the principles of international law known as "Uti Possidetis Juris" (Rahmadhani et al., 2024) above which states that territories that were once colonies could gain autonomy from the previously existing administrative boundaries, meaning that based on the "Uti Possidetis Juris" principle, the Dutch automatically handed over unconditionally to Indonesia after the proclamation of independence on 17 August 1945 (Sunnyowati et al., 2019). The Netherlands at the time, did not immediately surrender it to Indonesia, the Dutch tried to defend Papua, previously known as Nieuw Guinea (Kuitenbrouwer, 2016). Even though at the Round Table Conference (KMB) in 1949 the Dutch recognized Indonesia's independence, for the Papua region, the Dutch argued that Papua had to build its own country because it had cultural and ethnic differences from other parts of Indonesia and ignored the principle of "Uti Possidetis juris" (Herlina et al., 2023). This rejection led to a long conflict between Indonesia and the Netherlands until it was resolved through the New York Agreement in 1962 "Act of Free Choice" (Robie, 2017).

In 1963, Papua, which was then known as New Guinea or Irian Jaya, returned to the bosom of Mother Earth through mediation and pressure from the United Nations (UN) on the Netherlands, by the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA) mediating the handover of Papua to Indonesia (Tandamat, 2022). The results of the New York Agreement "Act of Free Choice" strengthened the legitimacy of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia over the administration of West Papua (now Papua Island). In 1969, a People's Opinion Determination (Pepera) or referendum was held under UN supervision, with the result that 100 percent of the Papuan people voted to remain part of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia and to be part of international law, but this is still being questioned by The National Committee. for West Papua (West Papua National Committee or KNPB) (Taliawo et al., 2023). Papua is the second largest island in the world after Greenland (Ananta et al., 2016). Papua with an area of 412,214,62 km² (BPS 2024). Based on data in 2023, Papua Province has a population of 4,418,581 people, with 686,469 people (26.03%) of whom are classified as poor. Meanwhile, West Papua Province has a population of 1,183,307 people, with 214,98 people (20.49%) classified as poor compared to other regions in Indonesia (Harsono et al., 2024). Papua's maritime boundaries include the northern part bordering the Philippine Sea, the southern part with the Arafuru Sea, the eastern part with the Pacific Ocean, and the western part with the Arafuru Sea and the Indonesian Banda Sea. As for land boundaries, Papua Island borders the Palau Islands to the north, Australia to the south, Papua New Guinea (PNG) to the east, and Indonesia's Maluku Islands to the west. In order to accelerate and improve development in the spirit of Special Autonomy, the government has expanded the provinces from two (Papua and West Papua) into six provinces, namely: Papua Province with the capital Jayapura, West Papua Province with the capital Manokwari, South Papua Province with the capital Merauke, Province Central Papua, Mountainous Papua Province with the capital Jayawijaya, and Southwest Papua Province

with the capital Sorong. The expansion of the Papua province has not fully answered all the social problems in Papua (Setiawan et al., 2023).

The condition of social conflict on the island of Papua to date is dynamic, with a variety of threats that often occur, both internal and external. Internal threats include the existence of the activity of rebel/separatist groups that generally operate in the mountainous/inland regions of Papua, organized as armed groups that call themselves the National Defenders of West Papua (TPN/PB) consisting of 17 Regional Commands (Kodap). External threats include the Spearhead Group Melanesian Forum (Lawson, 2016). Then regional organizations involving countries and regions that have the Melanesian race, such as Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, and New Caledonia, politically support the rebel/separatist groups in Papua (Wangge & Lawson, 2023). In addition, there is the United Liberation Movement for West Papua (ULMWP), a collection of rebel/separatist figures who have fled abroad and were founded in 2014 (Rahim & Cempaka Timur, 2021). According to Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning National Defense, one of the threats is armed rebellion. National defense includes all efforts to defend the sovereignty of the country, the territorial integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, and the safety of the entire nation from threats and disturbances to the integrity of the nation and state (Lubis, 2024). Meanwhile, according to Law Number 34 of 2004 concerning the Indonesian National Army, national defense is all efforts to uphold state sovereignty, defend the territorial integrity of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, and the safety of the entire nation from military threats and armed threats to the integrity of the nation and state. To overcome separatism which creates the potential for social conflict in Papua, it is important to look at the history of successful conflict resolution, both domestically and abroad, peacefully. Domestically, there is experience in conflict resolution in Aceh, DI/TII, PRRI/Permesta, and the Republic of South Maluku (RMS). From abroad, including; South Sudan - Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), ETA (Euskadi Ta Askatasuna) – Spain, MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front) – Philippines, FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) – Colombia, IRA (Irish Republican Army) - Northern Ireland, and the Tamil Tigers or LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam), as well as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels in the Philippines and the Tamil Rebels Eelam in Sri Lanka where rebels must be eradicated based on international law and applicable national law without the need for intervention from other nations (Sarvananthan, 2018).

Previous research, Kertopati research (2024). Said that "socio-cultural intelligence can reduce conflicts arising from ethnic and religious diversity, fostering a sense of national identity over primordial affiliation," and Pamungkas & Firdaus' research (2023) says that "Pancasila ideology functions as a framework for dialogue and tolerance, although its effectiveness is sometimes limited by local interpretation and political interests". The novelty of this study lies in the integrative approach between juridical and social aspects that have been rarely integrated. The limitations of this study lie in the extent of the scope of the area being analyzed. Research Objectives To analyze strategies to overcome the ideology of separatism in Indonesia through the integration of the principle of *Uti Possidetis Juris* and socio-economic approaches that are rarely previously research (Kadagi et al., 2020).

METHOD

According to Sugiyono (2015) "the two methods can be combined but are used alternately. In the first stage, use qualitative methods so that hypotheses are found. Then the hypothesis is tested by quantitative methods. Both of these research methods cannot be combined at the same time, but only data collection techniques can be combined." According to Creswell (2015) it provides a definition of mixed methods. "Mixed methods research is an

approach to inquiry that combines or associates both qualitative forms of research. It involves philosophical assumptions and the use of quantitative and qualitative approaches in a study (McKim, 2017).

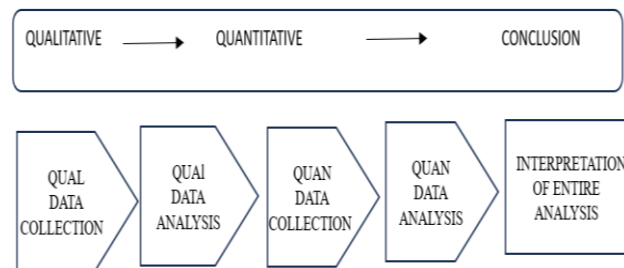


Figure 1. Research process mixed methods

This study uses Mixed Methods Sequential Exploratory that combines qualitative data analysis and quantitative data analysis. Qualitative methods using NVivo 12 software, the process carried out; Researchers conducted discussions with 17 Postgraduate Students of the Pasundan Bandung University Social Sciences Program in this case as informants, the results of this discussion were then made a summary in the form of Ms.word files, then the data was imported to the NVivo 12 software, the coding process was carried out, the Expolore Data with the Run Query Nvivo 12 feature, the data visualization by using the Word Cloud NVivo 12 and finally the data interpretation of the Data process study (Dhakal, 2022).

Furthermore, researchers conducted research with a quantitative approach (Michener & Sokal, 1957). Data collection was carried out by making a Vaxo model questionnaire and given to 7 Postgraduate Lecturers of the Pasundan University Social Sciences Program in Bandung, Quantitative Data Analysis Techniques using Interpretive Structural Modeling (ISM) software. ISM was chosen because it was able to arrange a hierarchical structure of complex elements based on structured input through the Vaxo symbol-based questionnaire, so as to produce a systemic understanding of key factors that contribute to national stability and integration. The questionnaire was given directly to seven selected experts who had competence in the field of social and political science. The Vaxo questionnaire is used to assess the relationship between elements, where symbol V shows element I affecting element j, A shows the element j affects elements I, x shows the two affect each other, and o indicates no relationship. Data from this questionnaire is used to compile Structural Self-Interaction Matrix (SSIM), which is then converted into a reacability matrix to identify the level of hierarchical each element. The results of ISM software in the form of interpretive structure diagrams provide a visual picture of key elements such as the effectiveness of the socialization of the principle of the Pacidetic UTI Juris, Socio-Economic Distribution Justice, and the involvement of the community in development, which directly or indirectly affects separatism. Thus, ISM helps formulate strategic priorities and more measurable policy directions in maintaining national integration and preventing disintegration in conflict - prone areas (Tan et al., 2019).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Qualitative Method

Qualitative methods are very important in the study entitled "Socialization of the Principles of Uti Possidetis Juris and the Socioeconomic Approach to Eliminating Separatism in Indonesia" because it allows researchers to explore in depth social, legal, and cultural dimensions that are complex. The qualitative method not only produces descriptive data but also opens a critical interpretation space for the relationship between international law,

national development, and social integration. This approach enriches academic discussions by bringing in vulnerable groups that are often marginalized within the national policy framework (Gerring, 2017).

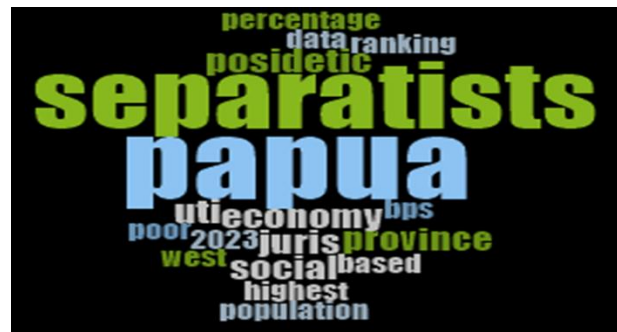


Figure 2. Word cloud NVivo 12

Through NVivo 12 Plus-based qualitative analysis and strengthened by the results of the focus group discussion with 17 students of the Pasundan Bandung University Doctoral Program, a word cloud visualization is obtained that displays key words in discussions on the issue of separatism in Papua. Words such as "separatists," "Papua," "juris," "economics," and "social" stand out in the visualization, describing the complexity of issues that are not only political and legal but are also influenced by deep social and economic factors (Koschinsky et al., 2018). The dominance of the word "separatists" in the word cloud is a sign that the main issue discussed in the Papua conflict is about the presence and movement of separatist groups. The discussion participants emphasized that this term not only arose because of armed conflict but also because of the magnitude of the influence of separatist narratives in public opinion, both locally, nationally, and internationally. Separatism is considered a serious challenge for the integrity of the Republic of Indonesia (Anandari & Supriyadi, 2023).

Furthermore, the emergence of the words "economic" and "social" shows other dimensions of Papuan separatism that are often ignored in a traditional security approach. The participants considered that the separatist movement was not solely driven by ideology but was also triggered by the imbalance of development, poverty, and limited access to adequate public services. This lame economic condition, according to doctoral students, is a strategic space for separatist groups to develop influence (Medvedev et al., 2020). In a situation where the state is considered to have failed to meet the basic rights of citizens, the separatist movement is present, carrying a more striking narrative alternative, especially among the younger generation and the interior of Papua, who have been marginalized. In Word Cloud, the word "juris" is an important indicator that reflects the need for an international law approach in responding to the Papua conflict. The principle of *uti possidetis juris* emerged as a relevant concept to confirm the boundaries of Indonesia legally based on colonial heritage. The discussion participants considered that this principle was very important as the basis of Indonesia's position in an international forum. However, the international legal approach has not been fully understood at the grassroots level (Qin, 2023).

The discussion participants underlined the need for socialization of the principle of *uti possidetis Juris* to the people of Papua to create a shared understanding that Papua was a legal part of the Republic of Indonesia, not the disputed area. This legal education needs to be done contextually and involves local figures. The emergence of words such as "poor," "infrastructure," and "development" in the word cloud strengthens the argument that development inequality is a crucial issue. Development that has not been evenly distributed

in Papua has given birth to a feeling of injustice used by separatist groups to build narratives that the state failed to present social justice for all Indonesian people, including Papua. The discussion participants emphasized that separatist narratives are now not only developing through armed resistance but also through social media and structured public opinion campaigns. By raising the issue of lagging development, separatist groups succeeded in framing their struggle in response to structural oppression, not merely the demands of ideological independence. In the discussion, Pasundan University doctoral students stated that the strategy of overcoming separatism must include a multidimensional approach. The security approach is not enough, especially if it is not accompanied by a long-term solution that touches the root of the problem (Bhuvaneshwari et al., 2019).

Therefore, the strategy used must be collaborative and inclusive. One of the strategies that is considered important is to strengthen public understanding of the principles of international law that benefit Indonesia's position. This is not only for the sake of legitimacy in the eyes of the world but also to form a positive perception of the Papuan people about their existence in the framework of the Republic of Indonesia. This understanding will help minimize sympathy for separatist movements. On the other hand, development that touches on aspects of welfare, education, and infrastructure must be encouraged as a form of concrete state presence. According to the discussion participants, participatory development and local needs will make people feel more valued and involved in the process of nation and state. This is a strong social capital to reduce separatist narratives. As a conclusion from the discussion with 17 students of the Pasundan Bandung University Doctoral Program, it can be emphasized that Papuan separatism is a multidimensional problem that cannot be solved sectorally. Word cloud visualization strengthens that this issue touches the legal, social, economic, and political aspects simultaneously. Therefore, a comprehensive strategy is needed that not only strengthens the principles of international law such as the Uti possidetis Juris but also involves a fair and participatory development policy as an integral part of efforts to maintain the integrity of the Indonesia Country (Sunnyowati et al., 2019).

Quantitative Method

Quantitative methods have an important role in the study entitled "Socialization of the Principle of the Uti Possidetis Juris Principles and socio-economic approaches to eliminate Separatism" because they allow objective measurements of influential variables, such as the level of community understanding of the principle of Uti possidetis Juris, perception of socioeconomic inequality, and its correlation with the tendency of separatist attitudes. By using instruments such as questionnaires and statistical techniques, this method helps identify general patterns, test hypotheses, and provide number-based data that can be used to develop policies that are more measurable and on target. The quantitative approach also strengthens the validity of research results by providing empirical evidence that supports the findings of a qualitative approach so as to produce a more comprehensive analysis in formulating solutions to the issue of separatism in Indonesia (Stockemer et al., 2019).

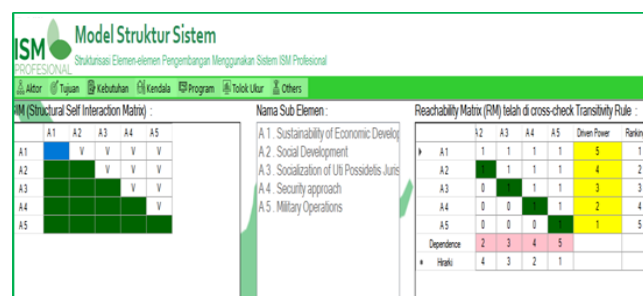


Figure 3. Structural self interaction matrix, elemen, and reachability matrix

The results of the analysis are based on filling out the questionnaire with the Vaxo model approach (voting, agreement, exchange, and opposition) involving experts, including lecturers of Pasundan University in Bandung, showing five strategic elements in responding to the threat of separatism in Indonesia. These elements include economic development (A1), social development (A2), the principle of the Pacidetic UTI Juris (A3), the Security Approach (A4), and military operations (A5). Through filling out the questionnaire, data were obtained that were then analyzed by interpretive structural modeling (ISM) methods to produce a structural self-interaction matrix (SSIM), priority elements, and a reachability matrix. These five elements have proven to influence each other and form hierarchical structures within the national policy framework to overcome separatism. Pasundan Bandung University lecturers who act as experts give their strategic views through filling in questionnaires, where the results show that the elements of economic development (A1) and social development (A2) have the most powerful influence in preventing the development of separatism. This is in line with the thought that socio-economic inequality is the main root of dissatisfaction that can be utilized by separatist groups. Therefore, equitable access to education, health services, and improving the welfare of the community in conflict-prone areas is a crucial factor in strengthening national cohesion. Furthermore, the principle of prinsip uti possidetis juris (A3) is assessed by experts as an important element in providing legal foundations and legitimacy to the territorial integrity of the Unitary Republic of Indonesia (Poduval et al., 2015).

This principle, based on international law, strengthens Indonesia's position in maintaining its territorial boundaries legally and cannot be contested. Through this legal approach, the government has a strong foothold to reject all forms of demands for regional separation. Meanwhile, two other elements, namely the security approach (A4) and military operations (A5), although considered important, are placed in a more reactive and complementary position. Experts consider that military and security actions must be carried out selectively and based on accurate intelligence so as not to confuse social situations and instead increase resistance from the local community. Overall, the results of the Vaxo questionnaire filled by experts from academics of Pasundan University showed that the countermeasures of separatism require a holistic approach that prioritizes development and legal legitimacy, with security measures as the last support. The integration of the five elements is believed to be able to create a stable, inclusive, and strengthened nationalist environment in areas that are vulnerable to separatist movements (Sorooshian et al., 2023).

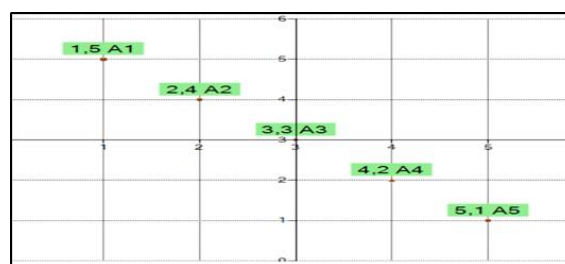


Figure 4. Chat Interpretive Structural Modeling (ISM)

To overcome the threat of separatism, experts from Pasundan University (Unpas) emphasized that the sustainability of economic development (A1) is the main element that must be considered. National stability is very dependent on strong and equitable economic foundations. When economic development runs fairly and touches on disadvantaged or marginalized areas, the people in the area will feel the presence of the state and have hope for a better future. Increasing economic opportunities and welfare distribution justice will

reduce the sense of dissatisfaction that is often utilized by separatist groups to mobilize support. Thus, sustainable economic development becomes an effective device for separatism. Furthermore, Social Development (A2) is in second place in the separation strategy of separatism. Social development aims to strengthen social attachment and national identity in a pluralistic society. Greater access to education, health services, and other social facilities will improve the welfare of the community and reduce the space for separatist groups (Hanson, 2021).

Furthermore, social development includes strengthening relationships between ethnicities, cultures, and religions, which, if well established, will form strong national solidarity. This solidarity is the main foundation to ward off all forms of disintegration based on identity differences. The third element that is considered important by UNPAS experts is the socialization of the principle of the Pacidetic UTI Juris (A3). This principle emphasizes that internationally recognized state boundaries cannot be changed unilaterally and become a strong legal basis for the territorial integrity of the state. By socializing this principle broadly, the community can understand and accept that the integrity of the territory of Indonesia is final and valid according to international law. This will suppress regional claims that are often used as excuses by separatist groups, while strengthening the government's position in maintaining the sovereignty of the national territory. In addition to legal and socio-economic aspects, the security approach (A4) is also considered to have an important role. National security must be maintained through systematic, coordinated, and participatory efforts. This approach involves synergy between security forces, local governments, and the community in identifying, preventing, and handling potential threats of separatism (Butt, 2017).

Stable security will create a sense of security for citizens, as well as minimize the space for separatist groups to spread influence or infiltrate vulnerable areas. Therefore, although not the only solution, security aspects remain an important element in a comprehensive strategy. The military (A5) is the last element in this strategy, but that does not mean it is not important. Military operations are used as a last effort (last resort) when other approaches are not effective, especially when separatism has developed into a form of armed violence. Under these conditions, military power is needed to maintain stability and prevent conflict escalation. However, the implementation of military operations must be designed carefully, paying attention to aspects of humanity and international law. The use of strength appropriately and measurably can stop separatist movements without aggravating existing social tension. Overall, the results of experts from Pasundan University show that the strategy of overcoming separatism in Indonesia must be comprehensive and integrated. The five elements economic development, social development, the principles of the Pacidetic UTI juris, the security approach, and military operations must support each other. Approaches that prioritize prosperity and social integration will be more effective in the long run than a repressive approach alone. However, all of these elements are still needed to create stability and guarantee the integrity of the territory of the Indonesia country (Joseph et al., 2019).

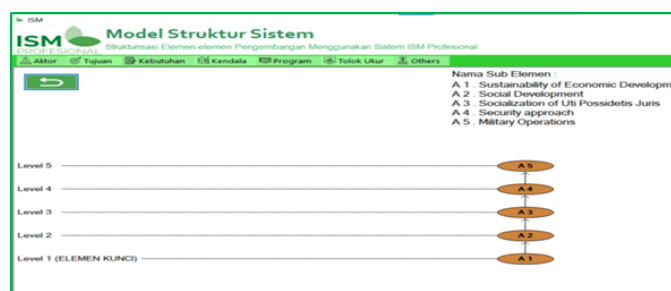


Figure 5. Key elements

Figure 5 asserted that sustainable economic development in Papua is a key element in an effort to erase separatism through the socio-economic approach and the socialization of the principle of the Pacidetic UTI Juris. Papua is an area that has extraordinary economic potential in terms of natural resources, but development inequality over the years has created significant social and economic gaps. This inequality is often used by separatist groups as a propaganda tool. Therefore, an approach that emphasizes fair and sustainable economic development is very important to overcome the root of separatist problems. Papua is often lagging behind other regions in terms of infrastructure, public services, and economic growth. In fact, as an integral part of Indonesia, Papua has the right to get fair and equal treatment in development. When economic development is carried out fairly, the Papuan people will feel the concrete benefits of the presence of the country (Ruhyanto, 2016).

The sense of belonging to the state will grow along with the improvement of welfare, which directly strengthens national cohesion and narrows the space for separatism. One of the main aspects of sustainable development is infrastructure development. Roads, transportation, health facilities, and adequate education will open public access to basic services and economic opportunities. When remote areas in Papua are connected to economic centers, there will be a more equitable distribution of welfare. This accessibility also creates a sense of developmental justice, which is very important to build public trust in the central government. In addition to infrastructure, sustainable and inclusive natural resource management is also crucial (Cumming et al., 2017).

Papua has a large, rich mining, forest, and fisheries industry. However, so far the local community feels it is not getting a fair part of the wealth. Therefore, a policy of profit sharing and involvement of local communities is needed in managing resources. This approach will build state legitimacy in the eyes of the Papuan people and reduce the narrative of injustice that is often used by separatist groups. Local economic empowerment is also an important element of sustainable development. When Papuan people are given training, access to capital, and mentoring to develop businesses in agriculture, fisheries, and MSMEs, they will have control over their own economic lives. This will strengthen social security and reduce dependence on external actors who have the potential to manipulate situations. This empowerment also opens up space for strengthening relations between society and the country. Sectors that are able to absorb young Papuan workers must be a top priority. One of the causes of the emergence of dissatisfaction of the younger generation is the lack of access to education and employment. When they don't see a clear future, they are more vulnerable to the influence of separatist ideology. Therefore, the development of sectors such as modern agriculture, nature and culture-based tourism, and creative industries must be improved to create relevant and sustainable economic opportunities. The link between economic development and political stability is very close (Caselli & Tesei, 2016).

A strong and equitable economy will strengthen the integrity of the country and reduce social tension. The principle of Uti Possidetis Juris, which confirms that the Papua region is legally part of Indonesia, will be more easily accepted when people feel the concrete benefits of development. Sustainable, inclusive, and fair economic development will strengthen the legitimacy of these principles in the eyes of the people of Papua and the international community. Thus, the sustainability of economic development in Papua is not only a regional development strategy but is also a national defense strategy and strengthens national integration. Success in creating economic stability will directly reduce the risk of separatism because it closes the gap of dissatisfaction that is often used by separatist actors. Therefore, sustainable economic development must be seen as the main foundation in the national

strategy to maintain Papua as a legitimate and integral part of the Indonesia Country (Ruhyanto, 2021).

CONCLUSION

This study shows that the application of the Uti Possidetis Juris principle of Juris can effectively strengthen the sovereignty of the Indonesian state, especially in the context of the region, which is vulnerable to separatist movements. On the other hand, the implementation of sustainable and inclusive socioeconomic policies is an important pillar in reducing the imbalance that is the root of the emergence of separatist ideology. The integration between the principles of international law and the development approach provides a new contribution to the study of separatist control efforts in Indonesia, especially in regions such as Papua. Theoretically, this research contributes to the development of international legal discourse, especially in the application of the principle of Uti Possidetis Juris as a tool to maintain the integrity of the post-colonial state territory. In the study of development, this approach also strengthens the idea that political stability is closely related to social justice and equitable economic development.

This study fills the vacancy of previous studies that have not integrated the dimensions of international law and socio-economic policies in the Indonesian context. In terms of methodology, this study uses a mixed methods approach; although this method provides a deep understanding of local perceptions and dynamics, there are limitations in terms of the generalization of findings. Another limitation is the scope of field data that is limited to several key informants, so the results of this study need to be equipped with quantitative studies or broader case studies to obtain a more comprehensive picture. Another limitation is that it has not been explored in depth in the application of the principle of the Uti Possidetis Juris at the local or micro levels, especially in the context of social conflicts that are rooted in the history of colonialism and the management of natural resources. In addition, the analysis of the effectiveness of development policies carried out by the central and regional governments in Papua is still general in nature and requires more detailed assessment.

Future recommendations are that further research conduct an empirical assessment of the implementation of socio-economic policies in areas prone to separatism. For example, an in-depth study of the impact of infrastructure development programs on local community perceptions of the central government. In addition, a more specific study of how the principle of Uti Possidetis Juris can be integrated in the education curriculum, nationalism campaign, and spatial planning in the border area.

This study also recommends that the government be more active in prioritizing the principles of international law in national development planning, especially as part of the strategy of strengthening regional integration. This can be done through dialogue between academics, legal practitioners, and policy makers in the formulation of foreign policies and domestic policies based on sovereignty and social justice. As a reflection, this study made the importance of an interdisciplinary approach in dealing with separatist issues. The combination of international legal instruments and national socio-economic policies creates a holistic approach that is not only coercive but also constructive. In the midst of the challenges of globalization and information disclosure, strengthening national cohesion must be carried out through adaptive, collaborative, and justice-based strategies felt by all citizens.

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can be a real contribution to efforts to maintain the unity and integrity of the Indonesian people.

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