

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas diplomasi publik Indonesia melalui pencak silat di kawasan Asia Tenggara selama masa pandemi Covid-19 pada tahun 2020-2022. Pencak silat, sebagai warisan budaya tak benda yang diakui UNESCO, menjadi salah satu alat diplomasi budaya untuk memperkuat citra Indonesia di kancah internasional. Namun, pandemi Covid-19 memberikan tantangan besar terhadap praktik diplomasi budaya, terutama dengan adanya pembatasan fisik dan mobilitas. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif, data diperoleh melalui studi literatur, wawancara, dan analisis dokumen. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa meskipun terdapat berbagai keterbatasan, Indonesia berhasil mempertahankan dan memperkuat diplomasi publik melalui penyelenggaraan kegiatan daring, seperti seminar, pelatihan, dan kompetisi virtual, yang melibatkan komunitas internasional di kawasan Asia Tenggara. Upaya ini tidak hanya menjaga eksistensi pencak silat tetapi juga mempererat hubungan antarnegara di tengah situasi global yang penuh tantangan.

Kata Kunci: Diplomasi Publik, Pencak Silat, Pandemi Covid-19, Asia Tenggara

ABSTRACT

This research discusses Indonesia's public diplomacy through pencak silat in the Southeast Asian region during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020-2022. Pencak silat, as an intangible cultural heritage recognized by UNESCO, is one of the tools of cultural diplomacy to strengthen Indonesia's image in the international arena. However, the Covid-19 pandemic poses great challenges to the practice of cultural diplomacy, especially with physical and mobility restrictions. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, data was obtained through literature studies, interviews, and document analysis. The results show that despite various limitations, Indonesia has managed to maintain and strengthen public diplomacy through organizing online activities, such as seminars, training, and virtual competitions, involving the international community in the Southeast Asian region. This effort not only maintains the existence of pencak silat but also strengthens relations between countries in the midst of a challenging global situation

Keywords: Public Diplomacy, Pencak Silat, Covid-19 Pandemic, Southeast Asia