

# Characteristics of the Bajo Tribal Settlement in the Village of Torosiaje Laut Pohuwato District, Gorontalo Province, Indonesia

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## Abstract

The Bajo settlement in Torosiaje Laut Village in Gorontalo Province in Indonesia has a distinctive feature: wooden houses with wooden posts, walls and planks with partly thatched roofs built on the coast and partly formed into the sea. Its residences are in the form of houses on stilts and uses fixed poles. Arising from these unique characteristics, it is currently also a significant tourist attraction,

This research analyzes the characteristics of the Bajo tribal settlement and the factors that influence the growth of human settlements in Indonesia. The research was carried out in Torosiaje Village, Pohuwato Regency, Gorontalo. It employed a qualitative approach with phenomenological methods. Data collection involved participant observation, structured interviews and a literature survey. Data analysis involved a discussion of the characteristics of the Bajo Tribe Village in Torosiaje Laut Village using qualitative descriptive techniques. This involved describing according to the actual situation.

The findings show that the Bajo Tribe houses in Torosiaje Village have unique characteristics because they are built on water, are simple and can adapt to extreme environments. The village houses are built on stilts made of wood with a saddle-shaped roof, and some are shield-shaped and made of zinc and thatch. These wooden houses have poles 3-4 meters high, stuck into the bottom of the water to a depth of  $\pm 1$  meter. Each house generally uses 16 -20 poles. The more poles one uses, the less vibrations caused by sea waves are felt. There are lessons to be learnt from these settlements about building in harmony with Nature.

**Keywords:** Bajo Tribe, Houses, Settlements

## Introduction

Generally, the coastal region can be defined as a convergence of land ecosystems, Marine ecosystems and air ecosystems meeting one another in a delicate balance (Budi, 2000). These

**Comment [RD1]:** This paper examines an interesting issue.

However, it has some issues.

1. The introduction must explain the issue, its background and say what the aims and objectives are. Here, the issue is clear. It is understood that there is a unique tribal settlement there which needs to be understood. However, there are no clear aims and objectives. Please provide them.

2. After the introduction, three aspects must be presented with the following sub headings. Theoretical framework, Review of literature and Research methodology.

3. Theoretical framework must discuss the ideas of characteristics and their emergence in domestic spaces. This should be done by referring to theoreticians and should not be written by the author expressing personal opinions.

4. Review of literature: Any research paper must present a critical review of previous significant research dealing with the issue: in this case, the emergence of unique characteristics of settlements based on geography culture etc. There are a lot of such research and most major ones must be discussed, particularly those that have dealt with them in the globe and in Indonesia. It is unimaginable that this paper makes no reference to Rapoport (1969). 12-15

references are needed. Please download the guidelines from the website and follow suit. Just listing or mentioning them is not enough. It should be a 'critical review'. Use the authors voice, by using statements such as 'according to Rapoport (1969) or as Oliver (1989) says.'

5. Afterwards, explain the research methodology adopted. It is not about aims. This must explain tools of gathering data. This should not be a lecture on research methods, but what was done step by step. It is not about what can be done or what data can be gathered or their benefits. Say who did what when and where to get data. Be specific. Avoid vague terms such as 'some' and 'various'. This research examines a case study, which is a method and must be mentioned. All the data gathering techniques must be explained. Current descriptions are inadequate.

6. Introduce the settlement more clearly. The focus should be on the unique characteristics.

7. Findings are somewhat clear, but inadequate. Focus on the characteristics and go beyond the average. Please produce data from each of the research techniques mentioned in the research methodology: Please acknowledge sources more fully.

8. Conclusions are poor. The entire paragraph is repeated. However, the issue is the unique characteristics, which should be explained detail. At the end evaluate the ...

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are many such coastal regions in Indonesia, which are the habitats of the tribes occupying the Indonesian Archipelago.

Many Bajo tribes live on the coast, one being the Bajo Torosiaje. People of Bajo originally lived on a boat called bido, moving about in groups to different places according to the choice of fishing grounds. It was on this boat that they lived their lives from birth, having families till the end of their lives. Hence, the Bajos were often called sea gypsies because of their nomadic life.

Bajo people have observed that people rely on the sea and the natural resources for their livelihood. Indeed, they have long occupied the sea, coast and islands and have even been impressed that they have not been able to continue their activities on land any longer than other tribes. The Bajo in Gorontalo is located in Popayato district, Pohuwato district, seven hours' journey West from the capital of Gorontalo province. It is spread out in two villages, one of which is the village of Torosiaje Laut.

The Bajo villages in Torosiaje Laut are also an outcome of the migration process from parts of Indonesia. This condition enabled the Bajos in the village of Torosiaje Laut to continue to experience improvements. The community itself has become a settled village with permanent houses, and yet the ways or activities of the Bajo people still continue to exist.

The Bajos have constructed stilts over the sea, and under the houses, serving as a parking lot for boats and fishing grounds. At first, it was possible to visit from house to house only by boat, but now it had connecting access, a road made from boards, which has made it easier for people to socialize. Although time has passed, the thoughts and development of the life patterns of Bajo people in the village of Torosiaje of the sea has not changed. However, since recent times, the buildings have changed, in principle Already, they are being affected and contaminated by modern times, motives and forms In this context, this paper looks at this settlement closely, in order to ascertain the characteristics of the Bajo-tribal settlements, and the factors that have affected the Bajos in the village of Torosiaje.

Its aims is to.....

Its objectives are:

1. To.....

2. To.....

## Theoretical Framework

## Review of Literature

## Research Method

The study of the bajos in particular is relevant by using qualitative research because it meets the characteristics of qualitative research, especially in deep data collection through interviews, observation and document studies of what was done to the informant, the order and describe the characteristics of the bajo settlements in the village of Torosiaje Laut.

## The Case Study: The Research Site

Geographically, the settlement of the Bajo Torosiaje Tribe is located in the Popayato Subdistrict, Pohuwato District, Gorontalo Province. There are three Bajo villages in Torosiaje. First, the Bajo villages of Torosiaje Jaya and Bumi Bahari are located on the mainland, and second, the Bajo village located above the sea is the village of Torosiaje sea. With a wet tropical climate-type, the area is dominated by a population with significant livelihoods as fishermen. The distance from the capital of Gorontalo Province to the village of Torosiaje is approximately 500 km. Using a private vehicle, the distance from the capital of Gorontalo to the village of

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Comment [RD3]: A critical review of literature is needed. This should discuss previous significant research that have examined this issue globally and then in Indonesia. 12-15 references are needed. Download the guidelines and follow suit.

Torosiaje takes about 6 to 7 hours.



**Fig 1:** Pohuwato District Map  
Source: Bappeda Pohuwato District, 2021



**Fig 2:** Research Site at Torosiaje Laut Village  
Source: Google Earth, 2021

The research site was one of the villages of the Bajo tribes that occupied the Gorontalo region of the village of Torosiaje Laut. [The village of Torosiaje Laut](#) is one of the villages located in the Pohuwato district, Pohuwato, Gorontalo pProvince that has considerable natural resources potential because of the condition of the region on the gulf coast of Tomini with a typical characteristic of society. The village of Torosiaje Laut was scouted from the village of Torosiaje, a settlement of the Bajo tribe.

### Findings And Discussions

#### The History of the Bajo Tribe at the Torosiaje Laut Village

[The oOriginally, of the village has a story: It says that during the](#) presence of the Bajo tribe in the village of Torosiaje, the Popayato Subdistrict of Pohuwato Province of Gorontalo, in 1680-1690, one of Datuk's daughters played with her friend on the shores of Johor. Datuk's

daughter had boarded a small boat. Suddenly, it had rained, and the wind was so strong that my the daughter's son had drifted under the sea. One of the friends of the grandfather's daughter had seensaw the grandfather's daughter drifting under the wind. The boy had reported this to his parents. After hearing the report from his son, the parents went-had gone to the King to report the incident. After King Datuk heard reports that his daughter was drifting under the wind into the sea, King Datuk he was very angry, Hand he had gathered his people and ordered them him to find his son, who was drifting.

In 1690-1700, most of the boats and the sail community hasas a propulsion had a device lookinged to the West, East, North and South. However, theyit did not manage to find Grandpa's daughter's son. The Bajo community remembers King Datuk's statement that they did not return to Johor in 1700. Therefore, some of the Bajo Tribe had left Johor. Thus, So now I can see that in almost every place, there are many Bajo tribes, one of which is in Torosiaje.

Comment [RD4]: Your language is poor. Please write meaningful clear sentences. You cannot report a historical event using past tense.

### Overview of the Torosiaje Laut Village Pohuwato District

Pohuwato District is one of the districts in the Gorontalo Province with an area of 4,244.31 km<sup>2</sup> or 34.75% of the total area and-of Gorontalo Province with a population of 149,297 soulspeople. (BPS Pohuwato, 2022)



Fig 3. Pohuwato District Map  
Source: Bappeda Pohuwato District

### Popayato Subdistrict

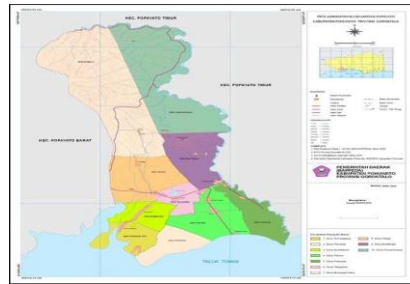
The Popayato subdistrict is one of the sub-districts located West of the Pohuwato District. This subdistrict has an area of 90.92 or about 2.14% of the total area of the Pohuwato District.

#### Geographical Location

Based on its geographical position, the Popayato Subdistrict has territorial boundaries as follows:

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- Northern border: East Popayato Subdistrict
- Eastern border: East Popayato Subdistrict
- Southern border: Tomini Bay
- Western border: West Popayato Subdistrict



**Fig 4.** Popayato Subdistrict Maps  
Source: Bappeda Pohuwato District

Information :

- A. Mosque
- B. Entrance Gate
- C. Elementary School
- D. Closed Hall
- E. Dock
- F. Open Sea Space
- G. Logging

The Popayato subdistrict consists of 10 villages and 37 hamlets, with the capital of the subdistrict located in Tahele. In 2023, there was an acreage in Dusun Jati, Kampung Torosiaje Jaya, by which has added aing Dusun Mangrove as a new Local Environment Satuan (SLS) in the village.

In 2022, the population in the Popayato Subdistrict was has been 11,014, comprising 5,564 male residents and 5,450 female residents. The comparison ratio between the male and female population in this subdistrict has a ratio of is 1.02. It has the meaning means that the male population of the Popayato Subdistrict is more than the female population.

The village of Torosiaje is now divided into four parts: the Jaya Bahari village, the Pearl Village, the Cape Reef and the Sengkang village. These four villages were are bounded by a bridge at the entrance and exit, and the bridge had the words 'Welcome to Bbajo'. The bajo population of the present village of Torosiaje is settled in a pattern-shaped like the letter u facing the open sea. The entrance to those who come from the land or the shore is next to the settlement. For those who wish to enter the village past the front, it must go by a detour, further the distance. Houses spread continuously at intervals between housesomes of one or two feet [2-3 m].

North

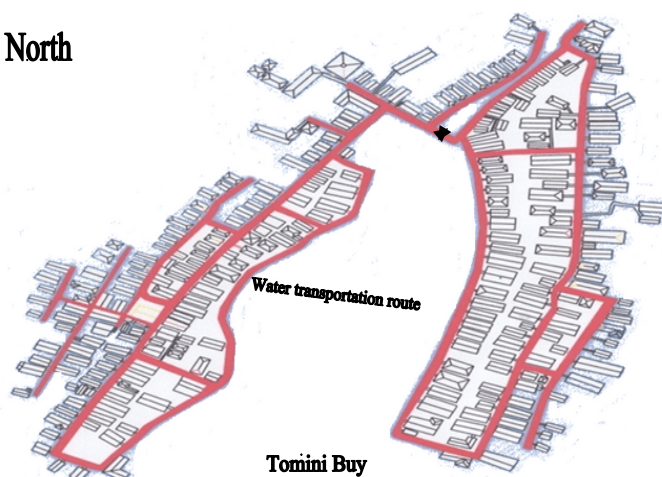


Fig 5. The Bajo Torosiaje Village Map  
Source: Observation Result, 2022

### Customs and Culture of the Bajo Torosiaje Tribe

The people of Torosiaje still hold on to the traditions, beliefs, cultures, and customs of their ancestors, who have traditionally held them firm. There are some traditions still carried out by the people of the Bajo tribe as follows:

- a. *Bitta'* (Pregnancy Phase)
- b. *Ngana'Ana'* (Birth Phase)
- c. *Kukor dan Sunat Perempuan* (Baby Phase)
- d. *Sunna dan baiati* (Child and Adult Phase)
- e. *Massuroh, Nyorok Salah, dan Noba Batte* (Adult Marriage)
- f. *Matay/Kapatayang* (Death)

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### Characteristics of the Bajo Tribe Settlement

The Bajo clan has a distinct characteristic of the tribal community of Nusantara since the sea and the boat cannot separate the Bajo tribe. They have been known to prefer to live on the boats and to move about in them. Because of their potential to catch fish, they are being called the sea travelers (Saad, in Muhammad Obie, 2015).

The Bajo house has its distinctive characteristics: built on water, simple and able to adapt to the extreme environments, which were characteristic of the Bajo tribes. Waves, ocean currents, and wind become the beat of daily life. In fact, nearly 90 percent of the Bajo settlements are built over the sea, the remainder being built on the atolls. It makes the difference between the other tribes in Indonesia. For the Bajos, the sea is the only trust. From houses, the search for life is carried on at the sea.

Each house will be connected to a wooden bridge as pedestrian traffic. Some residents roam between the settlements through the canals. Each house is equipped with two or three canoes or boats. They do these deep-sea activities in 24-hour shifts. The Bajo tribes were also known as expert seamen. They have been used to traveling far and wide for months. In fact, they prefer to build their houses at sea because of traditional considerations, and many rituals of life must be performed at sea. According to the traditions, every baby Bajo is dipped into the sea. The purpose was to acquaint them with the sea so that it was considered to be a brother.



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Fig 6:- Bridge Connecting Between Hamlets  
Source: Author, 2022

### Space Utilization Patterns

The open space harvesting of the village of Torosiaje consists of a land circulation for connecting to each ~~house~~ unit ~~of through a~~ bridge ~~infrastructure~~ and ocean circulation to connect the ~~village~~ settlements of Torosiaje with land ~~transport of through~~ boats.

Inside the village of Torosiaje, there ~~was is~~ also an open space of a field that was used for sports, social, and play facilities. ~~There are~~ ~~and~~ plans by the government of Pohuwato district to ~~be build~~ ~~it as an~~ ~~into an~~ open park.

Comment [RD5]: Very poor description. Show a map and describe in meaningful language.

### Layout Pattern

The layout of the bajo-tribe settlements in the village of Torosiaje ~~is a~~ ~~has a~~ grouping pattern. ~~This~~ ~~meaning~~ that ~~it is a~~ ~~of the~~ clustered ~~pattern~~. ~~Indeed~~, the settlement ~~area~~ tends to grow ~~as a~~ clustered ~~at the~~ hub. Housing grows ~~informally~~ ~~by accident~~ and ~~sometimes~~ causes ~~an~~ ~~the natural~~ ~~imbalance~~ ~~to be~~ ~~upset~~.

The village of Torosiaje ~~was a~~ ~~village~~ ~~has been~~ extending out from the lip of the beach, not connected with land ~~(the shore or the land that made fun of the sea)~~. ~~It is~~ ~~thus~~ ~~and~~ flanked by two capes. Flanking to the right and left, the two streams of the Popayato and the Dudewulo rivers are flanked in front of the village of Torosiaje. They are flanked by the two islets of Iloluta and Ilosangi islands. ~~However~~ ~~but~~ the ~~village~~ peoples of Torosiaje name only the big islands and the islets.

### Building Shapes

The houses are clustered tightly between rows of 15-foot-long [2-3 m] structures with rows of two-lane and linear units of districting through units of ~~interplanetary~~. The ~~village~~ shapes ~~of the~~ Torosiaje ~~village~~ ~~arise from~~ ~~their~~ ~~a~~ wooden houses with ~~a~~ saddle-shaped roof ~~model~~ ~~and~~ ~~They are~~ partly a shield-shaped ~~shield~~. These wooden houses ~~had~~ ~~have~~ three-foot-high [3-4 m] posts driven into the bottom of the water ~~by to~~ four feet [1 m] depth. ~~Each house~~ ~~has~~ ~~The number of domestic~~ ~~columns is~~ 16-20 ~~columns~~. The more poles are used, the less vibrations are caused by ~~the~~ ocean waves.

Comment [RD6]: It is impossible to understand what you are saying. You have terrible a language. What you write does not make any sense. Please write meaningfully.

### Factors Influencing the Growth of the Bajo tribal Settlements in Torosiaje Laut Village.

The growth of Bajo settlements, as well as that of other ethnic settlements, is affected by several factors that may vary from one location or community to another. ~~Several~~ ~~These~~ factors that can influence the growth of ~~the~~ ~~B~~ bajo settlements include ~~the following~~.

#### a. Accessibility

The Bajo tribes commonly live ~~d~~ in coastal and aquatic areas, such as ~~the~~ sea or ~~a~~ lake. Environmental factors, such as the ~~availability of~~ safe and suitable land ~~availability~~, the accessibility to natural resources (such as ocean results), and the ability to communicate with other communities, can affect the growth of their settlements.

The public transport system used to transport the Torosiaje tourist village in the form of a cat crazy boat included a couple of Scots that held the boat in two places. ~~T~~he bajo camp on the ground and the sea at about \$5,000 to the Torosiaje tourist village, could take about five s/d 7 minutes from the mainland harbor. In the past, the village of Torosiaje was used by boat to travel to houses in the village of Torosiaje. However, now there is a 2,000-foot [4000 m] bridge connecting ~~the~~ two ends of ~~the~~ Bajo village. ~~In~~ the village of Torosiaje, a motorboat (speed boat) was also provided so that ~~any~~ ~~the~~ tourists ~~who~~ wish to go to the island in front of the village of torosiaje ~~coud do so without~~ ~~did not~~ ~~experience~~ any difficulties.

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#### b. Socio-cultural and Cultural Conditions

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Cultural and social aspects such as the traditions, norms, values, and social structures of the Bajo tribes will influence how they plan and manage the growth of their settlements. These factors can influence the choice of a site, layout, and size of a settlement.

In the Bajo, there was the concept of the wearer calling himself the same tribe and calling those outside his tribe 'tribe'. When they were among the same people, they used the word "same" as a reference term to identify their fellow groups. The term "bagai" means other communities (various groups) outside the Bajo people, especially the land-people of the land.

### c. Environmental Change and Natural Disasters

People's knowledge of the environment in which they live has already been applied to the construction of their houses, such as at the level of the tides. Moreover, knowledge of the measurements of the length, width, and size of other houses would relate to the human body.

Because Since the Bajo-tribal settlements are mainly coastal, they are susceptible to such environmental changes as rising sea levels, extreme weather, and such natural disasters such as tsunamis or hurricanes. These factors may force them to reconsider locations and methods of building settlements.

### Social Changes of the Bajo Tribe

The Bajo are a group of indigenous tribes in Indonesia, found mainly in the coastal region around the islands of southeast Sulawesi, central Sulawesi, and north Sulawesi. Like many tribal groups throughout the world, the Bajo have undergone social changes over time. Some of the significant social changes that can occur among the Bajo tribes are as follows:

- Changes in people's social values
- Changes in people's social education

### Government Programs That Bring Changes to the Bajo Tribal Community

Recently, new government programs have been introduced into the Bajo community, despite their negative changes to indigenous institutions. In fact, they can not be denied but also bring positive social changes that the Bajo people directly experience. The country's growth program (PPK) for example has been followed by the country's state-owned Finance Minister from 2007 to 2007. This which has significantly changed the physical appearance of the local Bajo community. With its three significant areas of activities: (1) education and health; (2) tools and infrastructure; and (3) women's group of saving loans (BKP), the PKN and PNPM alike have contributed to the empowerment of the Bajo tribal community. Such contributions include providing a katinting boat as transportation for Bajo children from school to school, constructing a boat bridge, lending assistance to the Bajo women's group, building an early-age children's education, and building an Integrated Healthcare Center.

### Interaction with Other Groups

The interaction of the Bajos interact with the mainland community very much in line with the social exchange theory. The Bajo people in fact, they are in contact with the mainland community because they expect something to meet their needs. These may be things such as youth in terms of catch sales, possession of catch tools, entertainment, knowledge, worship, etc. Knowing the level of need between the Bajo-tribe and the mainland community, each individual/group must pay attention to his or her communication needs.

### Conclusion

The Bajo house has its own distinctive characteristics: built on water, simple and able to adapt to extreme environments. These are which also the were characteristic of the Bajo tribes.

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Comment [RD7]: What are 'catch sales' and 'catch tools'. These are funny phrases that do not make any sense. Only the authors know what they mean.

Comment [RD8]: These statements do not make any sense and they do not relate to the subtitles.

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Waves, ocean currents, and wind become the beat of daily life. Nearly 90 percent of the Bajo settlements are built over the sea, the remainder on the atolls. It makes the difference between the other tribes in Indonesia. For the Bajos, the sea is the only trust. From home, the search for life is carried on at sea. Each house will connect to a wooden bridge as pedestrian traffic. Samples of residents roamed between settlements through the canals. Each house is equipped with two or three canoes or boats. They do these deep-sea activities in 24-hour shifts. The Bajo tribes were also known as expert seamen. They have been used to traveling far and wide for months. Its citizens prefer to build their houses at sea because of traditional considerations, and many rituals of life must be performed at sea. According to tradition, every baby Bajo was dipped in the sea. The purpose was to acquaint them with a sea that was considered to be a brother.

~~The results of this study need to be redeveloped, and Suggestions are well recognized that what can be used as the basis for research on the traditional bajo quality of the architecture of torosiaje in this regard for settlements in the village of torosiaje of the sea, which may be a reference to the local government in relation.~~

**Comment [RD9]:** These are not conclusions at all. Please be serious and produce solid conclusions instead of concluding remarks.

**Comment [RD10]:** This is one to one copy of a paragraph you had before. It is so bad, that this paper is at such a low level, repeat the same.

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*Bahari Nusantara: Telaah Dinamika Pranata Sosial Terhadap Kearifan Lokal Masyarakat Pantai, Melestarikan Budaya Bahari dalam Pembangunan Kebudayaan dan Pariwisata.* Jakarta: Kementerian Kebudayaan dan Pariwisata.

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