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Existence and Role of Indigenous Leadership in Local Governance: A Systematic Review of Indonesian Case Studies

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1;
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2;
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Research Trends 3.

Abstract: This research aims to analyze the distribution of studies related to customary leadership and local governance in Indonesia, which includes the distribution of articles per year, types of research, research targets, distribution by province and district in Maluku, as well as the fields of science used. The method used is a systematic review using the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) approach to filter and select relevant articles. The analysis results show that the trend of publishing articles on customary leadership increased, peaking in 2022, but declined in the following years. The type of research is dominated by qualitative and normative legal approaches, indicating the need for in-depth analysis and regulatory strategies in understanding the role of customary leadership. The research targets focus on customary leadership and local government, reflecting the importance of these two elements in local governance. In terms of region, Maluku, particularly Central Maluku Regency, is the primary focus of the research, followed by Bali, South Sulawesi, and Central Java. Field analysis shows that this research is primarily reviewed from the perspectives of legal science, governance science, sociology, and anthropology, reflecting the complexity of studying traditional leadership from legal, social, and cultural aspects. These findings indicate that conventional leadership plays a significant role in maintaining cultural identity and social stability but also faces challenges in adapting to formal regulations. This research opens up opportunities for more in-depth studies in less accessible areas and with a richer multidisciplinary approach.

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1 Introduction

Traditional leadership in Indonesia plays an essential role in the governance of local communities, especially in areas that still strongly uphold traditions, such as Tulehu in Central Maluku. Traditional leaders or "kings" and other customary institutions function not only as enforcers of customary law but also as mediators in social conflicts and organizers of customary activities that strengthen the collective identity of the community (Apud et al., 2023). In many cases, traditional leaders have significant influence in the decision-making process at the local level, which often runs parallel to or even intersects with formal government (Sopian et al., 2023). This traditional leadership system has a long history and has faced various challenges in maintaining its existence amidst rapidly evolving political and social dynamics (Mulyadi & Furqon, 2021). Therefore, understanding how traditional leadership maintains its role is important for preserving Indonesia's cultural diversity.

Modernization and globalization bring significant challenges to the existence of traditional leadership. With the increasing influence of the formal governance system, the role of traditional leadership is often displaced or even weakened, especially in the context of law and administrative decision-making (Utami et al., 2021). The central and regional governments have policies that sometimes conflict with the values and structures of indigenous communities, resulting in clashes between customary law and formal law (Astara, 2024). As a result, traditional leadership must find ways to navigate these changes while maintaining autonomy within their community. In many regions, traditional leaders face a dilemma between following government regulations or maintaining traditions that are considered sacred by indigenous communities (Bahar & Nurjannah, 2021). This conflict often becomes a source of tension between traditional leaders and the formal government.

The existence of customary leadership is also supported by the role of customary leaders in preserving cultural identity and local values. Traditional leaders are responsible for safeguarding cultural practices, such as traditional ceremonies, which are essential for the continuity of regional identity (Murni et al., 2021). In addition, traditional leaders serve as guardians of local knowledge, which is often unwritten and can only be understood through direct experience (Landrawan & Juliawan, 2022). In regions like Tulehu, customary practices, and traditional leadership have become an inseparable part of the daily lives of the community, fostering a sense of togetherness and strengthening social solidarity (Landrawan & Juliawan, 2022). Thus, the role of traditional leadership is not only limited to governance aspects but also involves essential elements of spirituality and cultural identity. Facing challenges from both within and outside, traditional leaders often have to adjust their roles to ensure relevance in the modern era. This includes adapting to policy changes and more intensive interactions with the government, as well as efforts to preserve traditional practices through community education. (Putri & Kurniawan, 2020). In some areas, traditional leaders collaborate with the government to protect the environment and local culture in the form of ecotourism or other cultural programs. (Nugroho & Santoso, 2021). However, these changes require careful balance to ensure that traditions remain intact while accommodating contemporary needs. (Hartono & Simanjuntak, 2019). This systematic review aims to identify the factors influencing the existence and role of traditional leadership and to explore how traditional leadership can remain relevant in the modern context of Indonesia.

Research on customary leadership in Indonesia began to increase after the reform era, especially with the implementation of regional autonomy that provided space for indigenous communities to manage governance according to local traditions. Early studies focused on the critical role of customary leadership in maintaining social and cultural stability as well as strengthening the local identity of the community (Suriyani & Anwar, 2023). This study shows that traditional leadership often runs parallel to formal government, even acting as a mediator in social conflicts within local communities. However, this role is also faced with challenges in the form of legal and social conflicts, especially when traditional leadership must adapt to formal regulations that sometimes contradict

local values and norms (Guyanie, 2021). This initial research emphasizes the importance of traditional leaders as guardians of tradition amidst the tide of government policy changes. In the last decade, research has evolved by exploring how indigenous leadership adapts to modernization and globalization. Many studies have documented conflicts between the government and traditional leadership in natural resource management. Still, they also show collaborative efforts such as ecotourism and cultural preservation through local government programs (Yogatiyana & Hidayatullah, 2022). Additionally, traditional leaders are now utilizing technology to disseminate local wisdom and strengthen cultural identity through social media. (Putri & Kurniawan, 2020). Recent research notes that traditional leadership in Indonesia is transforming, not only preserving traditions but also evolving and innovating to remain relevant in a dynamic modern society (Hasan et al., 2020).

Research on customary leadership shows that customary leaders play an important role in environmental preservation and community-based governance. Rizki, et al (2022), through their systematic review, found that traditional leadership is very effective in encouraging local community involvement to protect natural resources, although government policies often overlook traditional practices (Rizki et al., 2022). In Indonesia, Haerini (2023) also identified the challenges faced by traditional leaders in natural resource governance, especially when formal government laws conflict with inherited customary values (Haerani et al., 2023). This research highlights the importance of integrating customary and formal legal systems to avoid conflicts in local governance. A comparative study by Buana, et al (2022) observed that the dominance of formal government forces traditional leaders in several countries, such as Canada and Australia, to adapt in order to remain relevant (Buana & APHA, 2020). In Indonesia, Sumadi, et al (2022) highlight that modernization often threatens the existence of traditional leadership, although traditional leaders try to adapt to these changes (Sumadi et al., 2022). Furthermore, Fadrulla, et al (2024) found that traditional leadership has excellent potential in sustainable development if supported by policies that value traditional values (Fadrullah & Syam, 2024). These studies show that although traditional leadership faces significant challenges, its role remains crucial in maintaining the sustainability and identity of local communities.

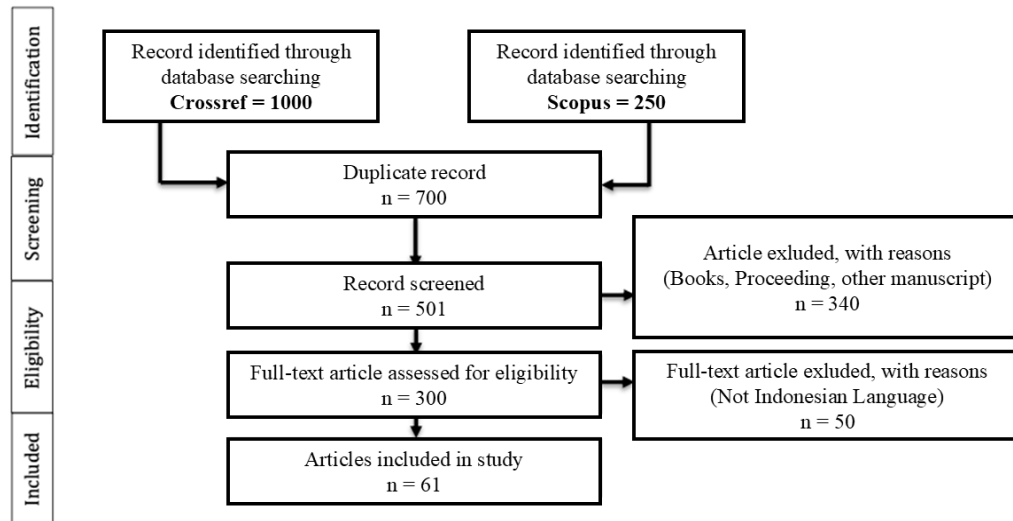
Traditional leadership in local governance has the advantage of strengthening cultural identity and facilitating conflict resolution in the community in a manner that aligns with local values. Traditional leaders are often more respected and trusted by the community compared to formal officials, allowing them to perform mediation functions effectively (Rajab et al., 2022). Additionally, traditional leadership plays a role in environmental preservation and cultural heritage through the application of local wisdom that has often been practiced for centuries (Mahajony et al., 2021). However, some weaknesses need to be addressed. One of them is the limitation of traditional leadership in facing the demands of modernization and formal government regulations that sometimes conflict with customary law. The conflict between the formal government and traditional leaders can cause legal dualism that confuses the community (Panji, 2020). Additionally, traditional leadership is sometimes less adaptive to social changes, facing challenges in maintaining its relevance in the dynamic modern era (Serumena et al., 2021). These advantages and disadvantages indicate that although traditional leadership is critical, adjustments and policy support are needed to maintain its existence amidst the changing times.

2 Research Method

The PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) method is used in this study to ensure that the systematic review process is conducted transparently and consistently, from the search stage to article selection. Moher et al. (2009) explain that PRISMA is an international standard designed to enhance the accuracy and transparency in reporting systematic reviews and meta-analyses. This guideline includes four main stages: identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion, which help researchers in selecting studies based on strict criteria. Furthermore, according to Liberati et al. (2009), the application of PRISMA helps minimize bias in research by providing a structured procedure for evaluating the quality of included studies. This is

important because a good systematic review must be supported by substantial evidence, which allows researchers to draw valid and replicable conclusions. The use of PRISMA in this research aims to ensure that the review results have a high level of reliability and meet widely recognized scientific standards, thereby making a significant contribution to the development of knowledge in the field being studied.

Figure 1. Research Methodology



The PRISMA diagram above shows the process of screening and selecting articles for this research. Starting with the initial identification of articles from two central databases, namely Crossref (1,000 articles) and Scopus (200 articles). After the identification stage, screening was conducted to remove duplicate data, resulting in 700 duplicated articles. After the removal of duplicates, 501 non-duplicated articles remained. In the next stage, further screening was conducted to eliminate non-journal articles such as books, proceedings, and other manuscripts, leaving 340 articles. Then, a language-based screening was performed, excluding articles that were not in Indonesian, leaving 50 articles. From these articles, only those with included PDF files were retained, resulting in 300 articles. Ultimately, 61 articles met all the criteria and were used as the primary data source in this research. This process ensures that the selected articles are relevant, of high quality, and aligned with the research focus.

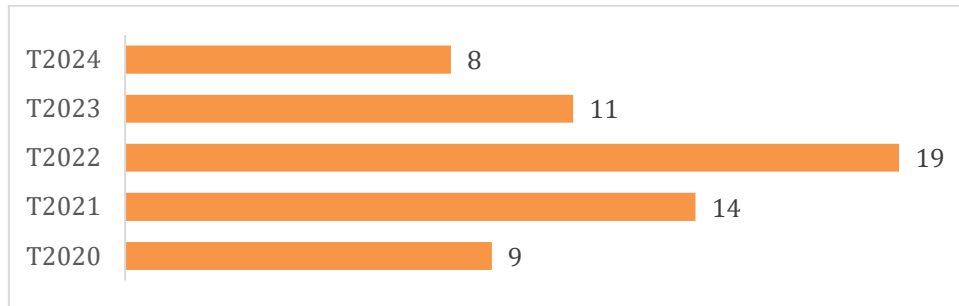
3 Result and Discussion

The results of this study present the main findings obtained from a systematic analysis of articles selected through the PRISMA method. Each article that met the inclusion criteria was analyzed to identify patterns, themes, and insights related to the existence and role of customary leadership in local governance in Indonesia. The discussion then elaborates on these results by referencing relevant literature, as well as highlighting the challenges and adaptations faced by traditional leadership in maintaining its functions amidst social and political changes. Additionally, the discussion also includes a comparison with studies from other countries, which provides a global perspective on how traditional leadership interacts with modern governance systems. Thus, the results and discussion are expected to make a significant contribution to a deeper understanding of the dynamics of traditional leadership, both in local and international contexts, as well as to identify opportunities and challenges for the continuity of traditional leadership in the modern era.

Distribution of Articles Per Year

The following is the trend of article distribution per year with the issue of the Existence and Role of Traditional Leadership, which can be outlined as follows:

Table 1. Distribution of Articles Per Year



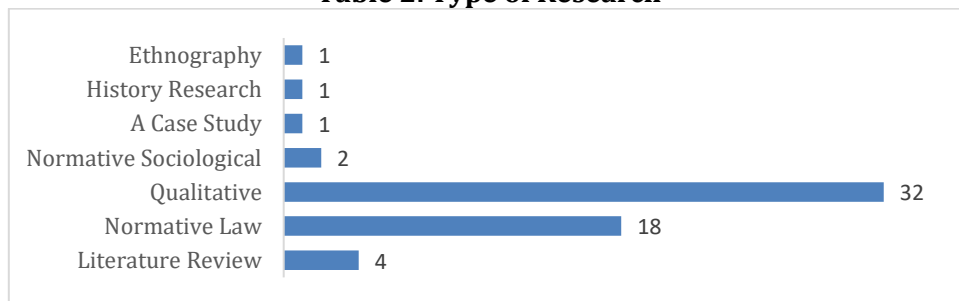
Source: Crossref, 2024

The data in the table shows the distribution of the number of studies related to customary leadership and local governance based on the year of publication from 2020 to 2024. The most research was conducted in 2022, with a total of 19 articles, indicating a peak interest in this topic during that period. The year 2021 also recorded a significant number of studies, with 14 articles, showing an increase from the previous year, 2020, which had only 9 articles. However, after reaching the peak in 2022, there was a decline in the number of studies in the following years; 2023 recorded 11 articles, and 2024 recorded eight articles so far. This decline may indicate that interest or the need to research this topic is starting to decrease, or it could also be due to external factors such as changes in research trends or funding limitations. Overall, this data shows a reasonably dynamic fluctuation in research interest in traditional leadership over the past five years, with the highest focus in 2022.

Type of Research

The following are types of research on the issue of the Existence and Role of Traditional Leadership, which can be outlined as follows:

Table 2. Type of Research



Source: Crossref, 2024

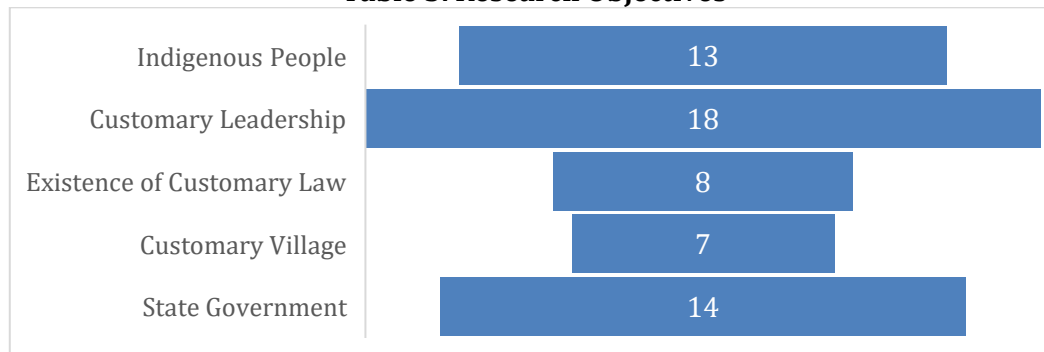
Based on the table above, research on customary leadership and local governance is dominated by qualitative approaches, as recorded in 32 articles. This dominance indicates that the related studies rely more on in-depth analysis to explore the cultural values and social dynamics present in Indigenous communities. Additionally, normative legal research appears in 18 articles, indicating a significant focus on analyzing the rules and regulations governing the relationship between customary law and formal law. Literature reviews were identified in 4 articles, providing an overview of the main concepts and findings from previous research. Normative sociological research recorded in 2 articles combines legal analysis with a sociological perspective to examine the impact of customary law in a social context. Meanwhile, research with a case study approach, historical research, and ethnography is each

found in 1 article, providing a specific picture of customary leadership practices in certain communities and their historical development. The diversity of these types of research indicates that the topic of customary leadership is studied from various academic perspectives, providing a more comprehensive understanding of the complexities and challenges faced by traditional leadership systems in Indonesia.

Research Objectives

The following is a table outlining the research objectives with the issue of the Existence and Role of Traditional Leadership, which can be detailed as follows.

Table 3. Research Objectives



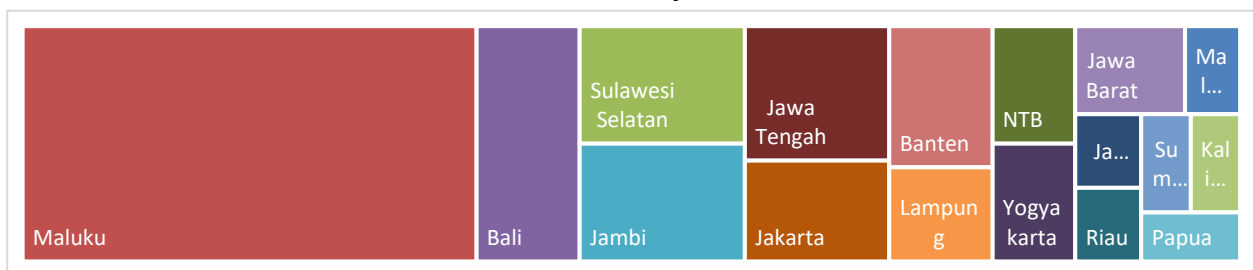
Source: Crossref, 2024

Based on research data, there are various main objectives in studies related to leadership and customary governance. The most significant focus was found on customary leadership, with 18 studies, indicating considerable attention to the roles and functions of customary leaders in preserving traditions and governing their communities. The state government occupies the second position with 14 studies, indicating an interest in understanding the interactions and dynamics between formal government and local customary structures. Meanwhile, indigenous communities are the focus of research in 13 articles, highlighting the importance of the collective role of these communities in preserving their customary values and culture. Next, the theme of the existence of customary law is recorded in 8 studies, reflecting attention to the sustainability and legitimacy of customary law in facing the challenges of modernization. Lastly, traditional villages are recorded in 7 studies, indicating an interest in understanding the governance and unique social structures present in traditional villages. Overall, this data shows that research on customary leadership is not limited to just customary leaders but also encompasses various other aspects that support the sustainability and existence of indigenous communities as a whole.

Distribution by Province

The following is a table detailing the Distribution by Province with issues of Existence and the Role of Traditional Leadership, which can be outlined as follows.

Table 4. Distribution by Province



Source: Crossref, 2024

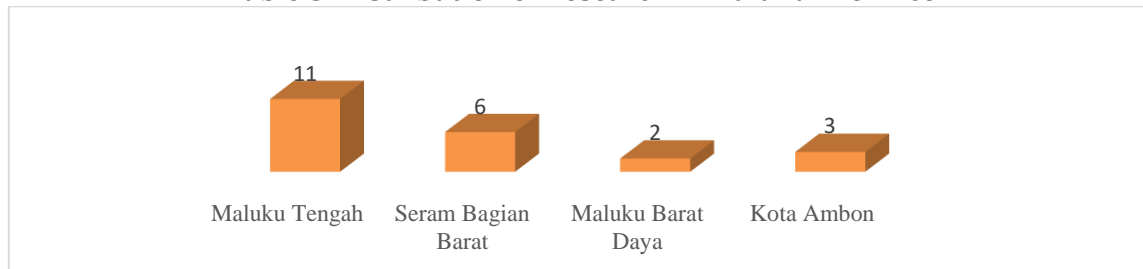
The table shows the distribution of research on customary leadership and local governance based on location or province, with the highest dominance in Maluku, which has 22 studies. This

indicates that Maluku has become the main focus in the study of customary leadership, possibly due to the strong customary traditions and the still very active role of customary leadership in the region. Next, Bali occupies the second position with 5 studies, followed by South Sulawesi, Central Java, and Jambi with 4 studies each. The high research interest in these areas indicates that each possesses unique local wisdom and customary structures, attracting researchers to study them further. Provinces such as Lampung, East Java, NTB (West Nusa Tenggara), Yogyakarta, and West Java each recorded 2 studies, indicating stable interest but not as intense as in Maluku and Bali. On the other hand, several provinces such as Riau, Jakarta, West Sumatra, Banten, Central Kalimantan, and Papua only have 1 study each, and there is one study conducted in Malaysia. The low number of studies in several provinces may be due to a lack of access or attention to Indigenous communities in those areas. Overall, this distribution reflects that research on Indigenous leadership in Indonesia tends to be more focused on areas with strong Indigenous traditions, especially in the eastern regions of Indonesia, such as Maluku.

Distribution of Research in Maluku Province

The following table outlines the Distribution by District in the Province of Maluku with issues of Existence and the Role of Traditional Leadership as follows.

Table 5. Distribution of Research in Maluku Province



Source: Crossref, 2024

Based on the distribution data of research per district in Maluku, Central Maluku Regency occupies the highest position with a total of 11 studies. This indicates that Central Maluku is the primary focus in the study of customary leadership and local governance, possibly because this region has strong customary traditions and an active customary leadership structure. Additionally, the diversity of indigenous communities in Central Maluku creates a rich context for exploration, attracting researchers' interest in understanding the roles and dynamics of customary leadership in the area. The high number of these studies indicates that Central Maluku has significance in the preservation and application of customary law, which is essential to be used as a model in cultural studies in other regions.

In the following position, West Seram is recorded to have 6 studies, followed by Ambon City with 3 studies. The relatively high research interest in West Seram indicates that this region also possesses interesting cultural characteristics and traditional leadership, although not as much as Central Maluku. Meanwhile, Ambon City, as the administrative and cultural center of Maluku, attracts researchers due to the complex interactions between traditional leadership and formal government. Maluku Barat Daya, with only 2 studies, shows the lowest number of research, which may be due to limited access or lack of documentation related to customs in the area. Overall, this data shows that research on customary leadership in Maluku is more focused on areas with strong customary traditions and easier access, such as Central Maluku and West Seram. At the same time, other regions still have minimal studies in this field.

Table 6. Research Location

No	Name	Research Title	Research Location	
1	Syane Matatula, Elsina Titely, Christwyn R. Alfons	Mengubah Tradisi Lisan Masyarakat Menjadi Tradisi Tulisan: Menjaga Eksistensi Negeri Adat di Negeri Samasuru Kecamatan Teluk Elpaputih Kabupaten Maluku Tengah (Matatula et al., 2024)	Central Moluccas	
2	Sontaria Balsala, Johan Pattiasina, Wa Ima	Sejarah Baileo Baihata Kapalatu Dan Fungsinya Dalam Kehidupan Masyarakat Adat Negeri Ameth di Pulau Nusalaut Kabupaten Maluku Tengah (Balsala et al., 2024)	Central Moluccas	
3	Elsina Titaley, Syane Matatula	Budaya Masohi Masyarakat Adat Negeri Samasuru – Maluku (Balsala et al., 2024)	Central Moluccas	
4	Elisa Laiuluy	Dampak Sistem Pemerintahan Desa Administratif Terhadap Negeri Hunitetu Di Kabupaten Seram Bagian Barat (Balsala et al., 2024)	South Maluku	West
5	Micael Ririhena, Yeheskel Wessy	Eksistensi Hukum Adat Dalam Pemerintahan Desa Batumiau Kecamatan Pulau Letti Kabupaten Maluku Barat Daya (Balsala et al., 2024)	South Maluku	West
6	Sefanya Sairiltiata	Eksistensi Sasi Perempuan Sebagai Kearifan Lokal Adat dan Budaya di Desa Moning Pulau Wetar Kecamatan Wetar Timur Kabupaten Maluku Barat Daya (Balsala et al., 2024)	South Maluku	West
7	Meske Patalatu, Jenny Kristiana Matuankotta, Yosia Hetharie	Perlindungan Hukum Terhadap Tanah Masyarakat Hukum Adat Di Kawasan Hutan Lindung Negeri Masihulan Kecamatan Seram Utara Kabupaten Maluku Tengah (Balsala et al., 2024)	Central Moluccas	
8	Revaldo Pravasta Julian Mb Salakory	Teong Negeri: Sakralitas Identitas Lokal Masyarakat Negeri Adat Di Maluku Tengah (Salakory, 2020)	Central Moluccas	
9	Johan Tanamal, Lodewyk Nahuway, Hendry Ch Sospelissa	Eksistensi Budaya Pataheri Suku Nuaulu ditengah Arus Modernisasi pada Negeri Nuanea (Tanamal et al., 2022)	Central Moluccas	
10	Agustinus Nindatu, Jurgen R. Litualy	Eksistensi Kedudukan Matarumah Parentah di Negeri Piru Kecamatan Seram Barat Kabupaten Seram Bagian Barat (Nindatu & Litualy, 2022)	West Seram	
11	Marthin Riruma, Tonny D. Pariela, Syane Matatula, Dominggus E. B. Saija	Pemerintahan Adat Dan Konflik Internal Di Negeri Titawai Kecamatan Nusalaut Kabupaten Maluku Tengah (Riruma et al., 2022)	Central Moluccas	
12	Benjamin Carel Picauly, Jemmy Jefry Pietersz, Victor Juzuf Sedubun, Vica Jillyan Edsti Saija	Peran Masyarakat Adat Dalam Mempertahankan Eksistensi Hukum Sasi (Picauly et al., 2022)	Central Moluccas	

13	Marselo Valentino Geovani Pariela, Merry Tjoanda, Ronald Fadly Sopamena	Sosialisasi Hukum Perjanjian Bagi Masyarakat Adat Negeri Eti Kabupaten Seram Bagian Barat (Pariela et al., 2022)	West Seram
14	Elfransdo Saimima Putra, Jenny Kristiana Matuankotta, Barzah Latupono	Peranan Kepala Persekutuan Hukum Adat Sebagai Mediator Di Negeri Hutumuri Dalam Penyelesaian Sengketa Jual Beli Tanah Dati (Putra et al., 2022)	City Of Ambon
15	Alfian R. Makaruku, Yesaya Mawene, Devi P. Wattimena	Urgensi Penetapan Negeri Adat dalam Peraturan Daerah Nomor 13 Tahun 2019 Tentang Negeri di Kabupaten Seram Bagian Barat (Makaruku et al., 2022)	West Seram
16	Pieter S. Soselisa, Ivonny Y. Rahanra, Wahyu F. Chaniago, Rugayah Alhamid	Eksistensi Saniri Dalam Pemerintahan Negeri Suli Kecamatan Salahutu Kabupaten Maluku Tengah (Soselisa et al., 2021)	Central Moluccas
17	Jacob Serumena, Hermien Soselisa, Wellem R. Sihasale	Lembaga Adat Dan Eksistensi Masyarakat Adat Negeri Lafa Kecamatan Teluti Kabupaten Maluku Tengah (Serumena et al., 2021)	Central Moluccas
18	Farah Lessy, Wahab Tuanaya, Marno Wance	Peran Saniri Negeri Dalam Menyalurkan Aspirasi Masyarakat Terhadap Penyusunan Program Pembangunan Negeri Tial Kabupaten Maluku Tengah (Lessy et al., 2021)	Central Moluccas
19	Yulita Titik Sunarimahingsih, Tyas Susanti, Bernadeta Resti Nurhayati	Signifikansi Rumah Adat Baileo Sebagai Simbol Eksistensi Negeri di Ambon (Sunarimahingsih et al., 2021)	City of Ambon
20	Rina Pusparani, Nuraida Kubangun, Efilina Kissiya	Sistem Pemerintahan Negeri Di Pulau Ambon Dan Pulau-Pulau Lease (1824-2008) (Pusparani et al., 2020)	City of Ambon
21	Maria A. V. Touwe, Wahab Tuanaya, Marno Wance	Sistem Pemilihan Raja Negeri Munarten Kecamatan Taniwel Kabupaten Seram Bagian Barat (Touwe et al., 2020)	West Seram
22	Jemmy Jefry Pietersz, Benjamin Carel Picauly, Vica Jillyan Edsti Saija, Sarah Selfina Kuahaty	Sosialisasi Tentang Sistem Pemerintahan Adat Yapio Patai di Elpaputih, Kabupaten Seram Bagian Barat (Pietersz et al., 2024)	West Seram

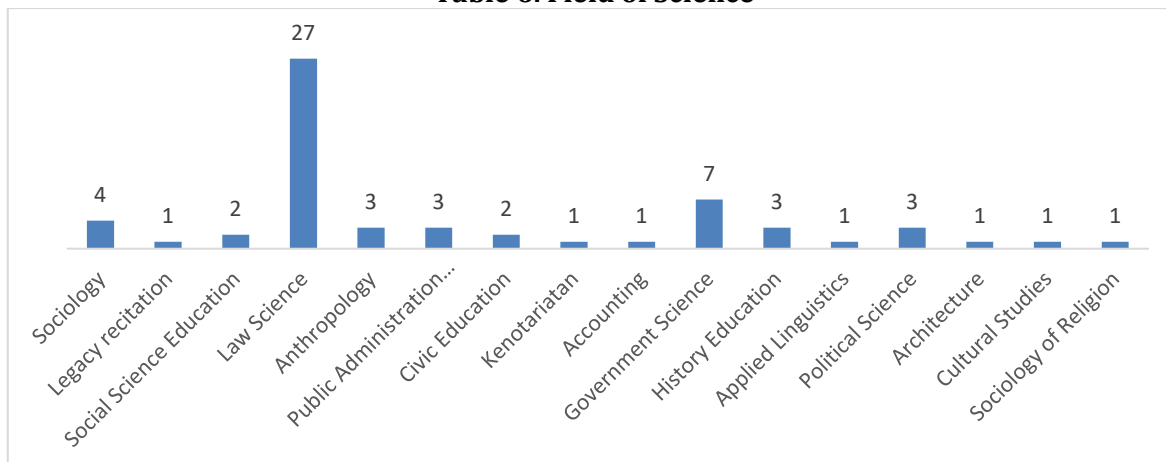
Source: Crossref, 2024

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Field of Science

The following is a description of the field of science table with the issue of the Existence and Role of Traditional Leadership, which can be outlined as follows.

Table 6. Field of Science



Source: Crossref, 2024

The table shows the distribution of research on customary leadership based on fields of study, with Law as the most dominant field with a total of 27 studies. This indicates that studies on traditional leadership are closely related to legal aspects, particularly in terms of regulations, customary laws, and the interaction between customary law and formal law. The high number of studies in the field of law reflects a significant interest in understanding the position, legitimacy, and challenges of customary law within the national legal system. In addition to Law, Governance also has a substantial number of studies, totaling 7, which indicates that the governance perspective is highly relevant in analyzing the role of customary leadership in local governance, particularly in the context of regional autonomy and the relationship between customary leaders and formal government.

Other fields of study, such as Sociology, with 4 research projects, and Anthropology and History Education, with 3 research projects each, indicate that sociocultural aspects are also crucial in the study of traditional leadership. Meanwhile, the fields of Public Administration and PPKN each have 3 and 2 studies, respectively, indicating an interest in examining how traditional leadership is integrated into the public administration system and citizenship education. Some more specific fields, such as Notary Science, Accounting, Applied Linguistics, Political Science, Architecture, Cultural Studies, and Sociology of Religion, each have only 1 study, indicating that although not dominant, perspectives from these fields still contribute to enriching the understanding of customary leadership. Overall, this distribution illustrates that the topic of customary leadership is primarily studied from legal, governance, and socio-cultural perspectives. In contrast, other perspectives are present in smaller numbers but provide a more diverse viewpoint.

The research theme on customary leadership in local governance is highly relevant in Indonesia, especially in the context of cultural diversity and customary law. Customary leadership functions not only as a traditional institution but also as an essential pillar in preserving cultural identity and local wisdom amidst the pressures of modernization and globalization. Research by Rahman and Hakim (2020) shows that traditional leaders play a crucial role in natural resource management and conflict resolution within their communities despite often facing challenges from government policies that are not aligned with traditional values. This highlights the clash between formal law and customary law, where customary leadership becomes crucial in maintaining the autonomy of indigenous communities amidst regulatory changes.

Additionally, research focusing on customary leadership helps identify adaptation strategies employed by Indigenous communities to remain relevant in the modern era. Usman and Haris (2018) found that many traditional leaders adjust their roles to socio-economic changes, such as through cooperation with local governments in ecotourism or cultural preservation programs. This reinforces the understanding that traditional leadership is not a static entity but rather dynamic and capable of adapting to contemporary demands. These findings indicate that traditional leadership serves as a bridge between the needs of tradition and modernity, thus remaining relevant in an ever-evolving era. Research on the existence of customary law within the national legal system also highlights the importance of formal recognition of the role of customary leaders. Smith and Williams (2019) in their study in Canada and Australia found that when the government values and supports the role of traditional leaders, indigenous communities are more capable of contributing to sustainable development and environmental preservation. They emphasize that positive interactions between customary law and formal law strengthen the role of customary leadership in local governance. This study can serve as a reference for Indonesia, where the recognition of customary law still faces various challenges. With formal recognition, the government can encourage better integration between customary values and policies, which can ultimately create more inclusive and sustainable governance. Overall, research on customary leadership in local governance provides significant scientific and practical contributions. In addition to helping understand the dynamics of leadership in indigenous communities, this study also provides a foundation for policymakers in drafting regulations that better respect local traditions. This study is expected to encourage the government to recognize and appreciate the role of traditional leadership in strengthening social structures and preserving culture in Indonesia. With proper recognition and collaboration, traditional leadership will be able to continue developing and playing a role in building a harmonious society between tradition and modernity.

4 Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the distribution of articles per year, types of research, research targets, distribution by province, distribution by district in Maluku, and fields of study, it can be concluded that studies on customary leadership and local governance show dynamic and diverse trends, reflecting high interest in this topic in Indonesia. The distribution of articles per year shows a peak in publications in 2022, indicating an increase in attention to the issue of customary leadership during that period. However, interest has begun to decline in recent years. In terms of research type, the dominance of qualitative and normative legal studies indicates that in-depth approaches and regulatory analysis are highly needed to understand the complexities of customary leadership in the legal and social context. Meanwhile, the analysis of research targets reveals that customary leadership and local government are the main focus, highlighting the importance of these two elements in local governance. The distribution of research by province shows that regions with strong traditional customs, such as Maluku and Bali, receive greater attention. Specifically in Maluku, Central Maluku Regency is the most studied area, indicating that this region is considered representative in understanding the roles and challenges of customary leadership. In addition, based on the field of study, the majority of the research comes from law, political science, sociology, and anthropology. This indicates that the study of customary leadership is primarily viewed from the perspectives of law, social sciences, and governance, with a focus on legitimacy, governance, and the socio-cultural impacts produced. Overall, this distribution shows that customary leadership is a rich and complex topic that requires a multidisciplinary approach to capture all its dimensions and dynamics. This research also highlights the importance of customary leadership in preserving cultural identity and local wisdom, as well as opportunities for the government and researchers to strengthen studies in areas that are still underexplored.

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