



Blasius Sudarsono's scientific ventures through a psychobiographical lens

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ABSTRACT

This research examines Blasius Sudarsono's scientific endeavors in librarianship and documentation from 1985 to 2020. Utilizing a detailed content analysis of his written works' titles, the research delves into prevailing themes, reactions to sociocultural contexts, and the incorporation of cognitive psychology theories within his contributions. Through a qualitative approach and content analysis, we delved into Sudarsono's diverse literary formats, finding that he predominantly conveyed his expertise through formal manuscripts and presentations, often leaning toward an Indonesian readership. The findings underscore Blasius's profound dedication and expertise, especially concerning the pivotal role of libraries and documentation in the information landscape. Furthermore, his works manifest a keen awareness and adaptability to evolving social and cultural shifts and a comprehensive grasp of cognitive psychology principles. The conclusion accentuates the significance of libraries in ensuring seamless information access amid a fluid backdrop and offers insights for impending research in the digital age. His contributions have significantly shaped Indonesia's librarianship and documentation fields, providing a foundation for emerging scholars and professionals, guiding best practices, and strategic adaptation in the ever-evolving era.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menelusuri kontribusi ilmiah Blasius Sudarsono dalam arena kepustakawanan dan dokumentasi selama periode 1985 hingga 2020. Melalui evaluasi mendalam terhadap judul publikasinya, studi ini menyoroti aspek tematik dominan, respons terhadap dinamika sosiokultural, serta penerapan prinsip-prinsip psikologi kognitif dalam tulisannya. Dengan metode kualitatif dan analisis isi, kami mengeksplorasi variasi format karya tulis Sudarsono. Hasil analisis menunjukkan dominasi karya-karya ilmiah dan presentasi formalnya, yang cenderung ditujukan untuk audiens Indonesia. Analisis ini menegaskan komitmen dan keahlian mendalam dari Blasius, khususnya dalam menyoroti keberadaan perpustakaan dan dokumentasi dalam dunia informasi. Karyanya mencerminkan kesadaran akut serta fleksibilitas terhadap transformasi sosial-budaya serta pemahaman mendalam terhadap teori psikologi kognitif. Kesimpulan studi menyoroti urgensi perpustakaan dalam memfasilitasi akses informasi yang efektif di era yang dinamis dan memberikan panduan untuk eksplorasi lebih lanjut di masa depan digital. Signifikansi karya Sudarsono telah membantu memberikan arah dan fondasi bagi praktisi dan akademisi muda di bidang kepustakawanan dan dokumentasi di Indonesia, memberikan pedoman dalam menjalankan inovasi dan adaptasi di zaman yang terus beradaptasi.

Keywords: Blasius Sudarsono; Content analysis; Cognitive psychology theory; Psychobiography.

1. INTRODUCTION

Blasius Sudarsono (BS) is a prominent figure in the field of library science in Indonesia, a highly accomplished librarian, and a recognized professional in the library science domain. Research findings attest to his substantial contributions to revitalizing the Indonesian Librarian Association (Mathar, 2022). His literary endeavors extend to comprehensive explorations of the philosophy of librarianship, as evidenced by works authored in collaboration with Arfa and Kaharudin (2022). Additionally, BS conducted an insightful life history study that delved into the transformative roles played by librarians as agents of change. BS's academic journey is marked by formal physics and library science education, augmented by profound insights from his immersion in Javanese family

culture (Fitriani, 2018). He fervently advocates for librarians to strive toward three overarching ideals: becoming knowledge navigators, creators, and activists (Kaharudin et al., 2023).

Despite his remarkable stature, it is noteworthy that there exists a conspicuous absence of psychobiographical analysis on BS. Psychobiography, regarded as an applied facet of personality science, employs empirical findings to probe into the lives and personalities of public figures (Schultz & Lawrence, 2017; Chenail, 2022). In the context of scientific literature in Indonesia, psychobiographical analysis remains a rare occurrence, with only a solitary instance of Imam Samudra (Chusniyah & Mubaraq, 2017). The study of Imam Samudra's psychobiography offered valuable insights into his psychological and ideological dynamics.

Conversely, outside of Indonesia, psychobiographical analyses have been conducted on notable figures such as John Lennon (Osorio, 2016), Barack Obama (Falk, 2010), and Bobby Fischer (Ponterotto, 2013), among others. However, it is crucial to acknowledge the inherent challenges of composing a psychological biography. An effective psychological biography necessitates a balanced approach, where the biographer endeavors to present the subject's psychological strengths and weaknesses without undue bias. It entails deciphering the subtext within the subject's writings, speeches, and actions while drawing upon psychoanalytic comprehension and experience (Falk, 2010).

Against this backdrop, our study emerges as a pioneering endeavor, aiming to perform a comprehensive psychobiographical analysis of BS by meticulously examining his oeuvre from 1985 to 2020, encompassing various genres such as manuscripts, opinions, presentations, and scientific articles in English. This study addresses three core research questions: 1) How have librarianship and documentation trends evolved throughout BS scientific journey? 2) In what ways do societal milieu, psychological constructs, and intrinsic motivations sculpt BS contributions? and 3) Drawing from retrospective analyses and current dynamics, what can we anticipate for the trajectory of librarianship and documentation in the ensuing decade?

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Psychobiographical analyses are grounded in many methodological approaches; notably, those theories deeply embedded in psychological paradigms. These range from behavioral, psychodynamic, and humanistic to biological theories (study.com, n.d.). In this research, however, we harness cognitive theories to enhance the potential of the BS brain. Cognitive theory provides pivotal insights into human cognitive functions, including thought, learning, memory, and problem-solving, emphasizing the comprehension of internal mental processes (Sternberg, 2009; Eysenck & Keane, 2015; DiGiuseppe, David & Venezia, 2016). It is important to note that cognitive theory is not a product of a solitary scientist's endeavor or a unique seminal discovery. Rather, it has been meticulously shaped by the combined research and theoretical advancements of numerous scholars across disciplines, particularly in the mid-20th century.

Eminent figures in this realm include Jean Piaget, lauded for his seminal contributions to children's cognitive development (Kurt, 2020). Piaget theorized that children assimilate their surroundings through evolving mental constructs called "schemas." Donald Broadbent (2013) proposed a distinctive model elucidating the pathways through which information is processed before attaining full conscious recognition, a model deeply rooted in his attention research. Furthermore, the domain was substantially enriched by Alan Baddeley and Graham Hitch with their intricate model of working memory (2017). Although Albert Bandura (1985) is most recognized for his social learning theory, he also emphasized the crucial role of cognition in learning.

Historically, cognitive theory's rise can be attributed to its position as a counterpoint to the once-dominant behaviorist approach of mid-20th-century psychology. The limitations of behaviorism in comprehensively explaining complex cognitive activities thought and perception—spurred the ascent of the cognitive framework. At the heart of this approach lies the ambition to decode intricate mental operations, spanning the generation and processing of information to its conservation and retrieval within the brain's intricate networks. A hallmark of cognitive psychology is its applicability to real-world contexts. Scholars continually strive to interweave theoretical principles with tangible applications, exploiting our understanding of cognitive operations to tackle concrete challenges, from addressing learning disorders to enhancing pedagogical outcomes.

Cognitive theories allow readers to integrate novel information seamlessly with existing knowledge, amplifying memory and retention capacities. Advocating for an immersive, hands-on learning ethos, cognitive theories champion the cultivation of problem-solving acumen and the synthesis of new knowledge with established concepts. In embracing this proactive learning stance, readers can magnify their potential, deepening their understanding of the discipline and augmenting the retention of insights gleaned from the BS.

3. METHODS

This study employs a qualitative approach, centering on the content analysis of BS oeuvre (Hsieh and Shannon, 2005). We selected the qualitative method as it facilitates a deep exploration of the meanings and nuances present within BS writings. The primary data scrutinized include diverse articles by BS, encompassing opinions, manuscripts, presentations, and English writings. This data set was sourced directly from BS archives and other accessible repositories.

For data collection, we identified and compiled all BS works pertinent to the study's objective. Subsequently, we aggregated each piece's titles, writing types, and publication years. The culminating step entailed a content analysis of these titles to discern primary themes and track the evolution of subjects over time.

We conducted the analysis using content analysis techniques (Krippendorff, 2018). This involved categorizing data based on writing types such as opinions, manuscripts, presentations, and scientific articles written in English from 1985-2020. We also pinpointed recurrent keywords and themes within titles and content, interpreted the progression or transformation of these themes over time, and applied psychobiographical principles to correlate themes with the contexts of BS's personal and professional life. It is important to note that this study analyzes BS's written works without incorporating interviews or any primary data from BS or associated individuals.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Distribution of BS's Works

BS has carved a significant niche in professional scientific work from 1985 to 2020. Initiating his literary journey with an article in 1985 and reaching a zenith in 2020, his prolific output was most notable in 2005, with 28 publications, closely followed by 2009 and 2007, with 26 and 20 articles, respectively. The Standard Deviation, a measure standing at 6,599 for his writings, signifies a considerable diversity in the frequency of his contributions over the studied period.

Beyond sheer quantity, the intrinsic quality and depth of BS content are a testament to his unwavering dedication. The work spans from succinct one-page pieces to comprehensive 204-page expositions, amassing 3424 pages. On average, his contributions encompass roughly 14.51 pages, with statistical indicators pointing to a median of 1000, a mode at 2, and a noteworthy Standard Deviation of 17,590.

One observes a multifaceted approach by diving deeper into the formats and intentions behind BS works. His 100 manuscripts average 12.81 pages. In contrast, the 42 opinions he penned average a concise 4.52 pages. Intriguingly, his presentations (PowerPoint), numbering 86, display a substantial average length of 22.01 pages. The eight contributions in English are moderately sized, averaging 7.50 pages each. A pattern emerges from this data: BS predominantly channels his expertise through presentations and formal manuscripts, with personal opinions echoing in close frequency. The sporadic nature of his English contributions potentially underscores BS’s inclination towards an Indonesian readership.

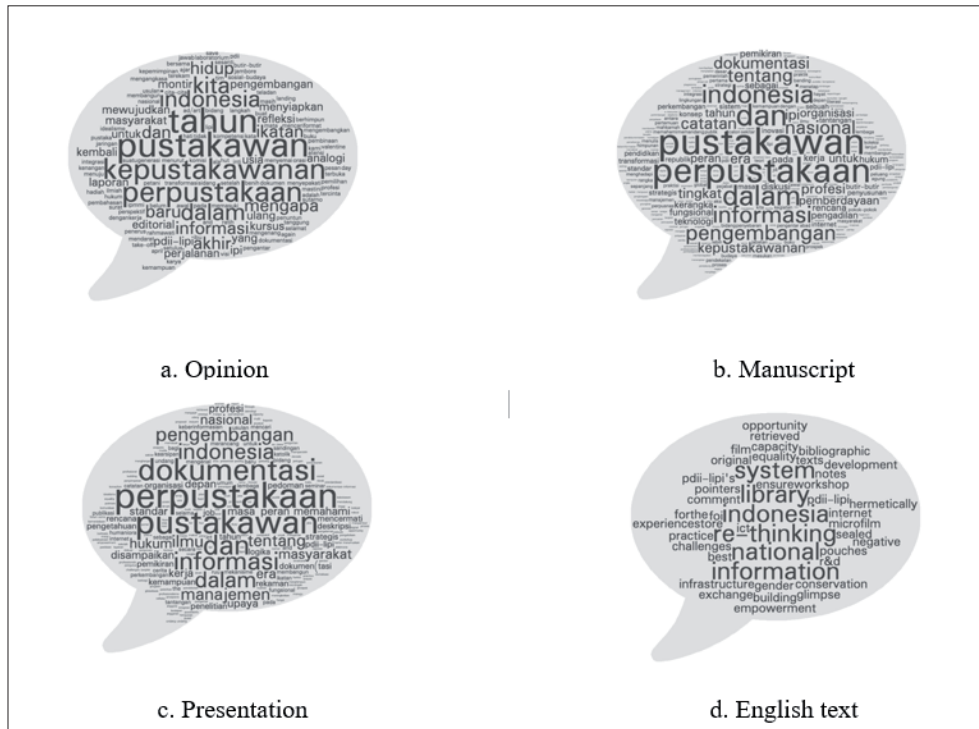


Figure 1. BS works on word cloud encompass manuscripts, opinions, presentations, and English writings.

Source: Data processed by researcher (2023)

A thematic analysis reveals consistent motifs across his work. In the realm of opinions, recurring terms include “Indonesia,” “Library,” “IPI (Indonesian Librarian Association),” “Librarian,” and “Year.” His PowerPoint presentations frequently center around “Library,” “Documentation,” “Information,” “Librarian,” “Strategic,” and temporal markers like “Year.” Manuscripts predominantly revolve around “Library,” “Librarian,” “Indonesia,” “Era,” “Librarianship,” and “Information.” Conversely, his English pieces are punctuated by terms like “Information,” “Indonesia,” “Development,” “National Library,” and insights from “PDII-LIPI.” Conclusively, the analysis underscores BS’s thematic diversity, yet with an unwavering commitment to the discourse on librarianship and documentation within Indonesia.

4.2 Period Analysis

A chronological perspective of BS works emerges in an in-depth segmented examination based on five-year intervals. Before 1995, BS works centered on themes such as organizational frameworks within libraries, national progression, and the pivotal role of librarians, emphasizing keywords like Organization, Research, National Library, Indonesian Librarian, and Development. Between 1996 and 2000, there was a noticeable shift towards the burgeoning realm of information technology, examining its implications for libraries and their adaptation to the global landscape, represented by keywords such as Information Technology, PDII-LIPI, Internet, Global Era, and Conservation.

From 2001 to 2005, they highlighted the cardinal importance of documentation and how technology facilitates information dissemination, focusing on terms like Documentation, Information Society, Role of the Internet, and Networks. From 2006 to 2010, BS delved into discussions about the professional stature of librarians and the library's evolving role within the information society, as seen in terms like Librarian, Information Society, Strategic Plan, and Professionalism. Between 2011 and 2015, his works emphasized the importance of information literacy and the competencies librarians must develop in the rapidly growing digital age, with terms such as Documentation, Librarian Skills, Digital Era, and Literacy taking the forefront. Lastly, from 2016 to 2020, the discourse predominantly revolved around the essence of librarianship in the information age and the merging of libraries with state-of-the-art technologies, represented by keywords like Librarianship, Information Age, Information Society, and Integration. Overall, this nuanced analysis over three decades traces the evolving dynamics of librarianship and documentation in Indonesia, offering profound insights into the temporal shifts and persistent themes within the field.

4.3 Exploratory Explanation of BS Scientific Landscape

In Indonesia's vast professional literacy sphere, written pieces stand as profound reservoirs of knowledge and understanding, meticulously documenting paradigmatic transitions, surfacing challenges, and shifting focus points over various timelines. The data we navigate presents a kaleidoscopic perspective, enriching our understanding layer by layer.

The temporal breadth of the writings we delve into spans from the 1980s to the 2020s, painting the portrait of a comprehensive journey through the annals of Indonesian library and information science. Years such as 2005, 2008, and 2009 are significant, showing spikes in publications, prompting a query into the socio-cultural or academic tides of those times that might have propelled such intensive outputs. It stands to reason that specific occurrences or vibrant discussions of those times could have spurred a rich dialogue within this domain.

The wide-ranging literary styles chosen by BS speak volumes about his adaptability. The numerous opinions may highlight his penchant for sharing nuanced personal or professional perspectives on topical issues. On the other hand, the frequent use of presentations, often materialized in PPT formats, hints at a propensity toward educational ventures, possibly seminars or instructive workshops. Deep-diving manuscripts further indicate exhaustive academic pursuits, while intermittent English pieces signify an outreach to a more global audience.

Regarding core themes, the frequent recurrence of words such as "library" and "librarian" reinforces the spotlight on professional terrains and their encompassing establishments. However, introducing tech-savvy terms like "information technology" or "digital library" over time portrays an agile adaptation to tech-driven changes. Meanwhile, introducing words like "profession" or "career" accentuates the intricate facets of professional ethics and pathways.

BS's diverse collection also reflects upon pressing societal matters. The subtle undertones of gender equity or the governance structure exhibit a sharp awareness of dominant societal dialogues and the legislative framework. Such thematic leanings underscore endeavors to harmonize the library and information sector with overarching public policies and societal standards. Furthermore, a keen look into the tonality of the titles unveils the emotional and narrative undertones intended by the author. For example, titles with "reflection" exude introspection, while phrases like "why should" insinuate a call to action or an open invitation to a critical discussion. In sum, this deep dive into the BS literary landscape illuminates the rich and varied tapestry of works, showcasing the intricate evolution of library and information science in Indonesia. Such an analytical journey is invaluable, presenting insights into past narratives and illuminating possible avenues for the domain's future within the Indonesian panorama.

4.4 Sociocultural and Technological Resonance in BS Literary Works

Probing into a literary opus, especially through a psychobiographical prism, demands a keen understanding of the backdrop that comprises the author's personal, historical, and cultural environments. This exploration navigates the intellectual expedition of BS across the years. Across a span from 1985 to 2020, a clear thematic progression in BS scholarly interests becomes apparent. In the initial phase from 1985-1990, the focus was significantly anchored on technical dimensions such as “development patterns” and “preservation of library materials,” resonating with the era's pronounced focus on the foundational tenets of librarianship. As the decades progressed, a distinct shift emerged, spotlighting elements like management, professionalism, and the integration of evolving information technology.

Parallely, the progression in the style and format of BS outputs provides an insightful glimpse into his evolving communicative strategies. His early works' predilection for “Manuscript” and “Opinion” types indicates a traditional and reflective communicative mode. Nevertheless, as the years advanced, a notable influx of “PPT” works emerged, echoing BS's attuned alignment with the emergent preference for more dynamic, visual modes of dissemination, especially in the seminar and presentation realms of the digital epoch.

BS's embrace of technological evolution is discernible. Works titled “Library 2.0”, “Librarians and the Internet,” and strategic frameworks for national libraries are markers of his foresight and agility in addressing the challenges and opportunities proffered by the digital revolution. It elucidates his keen acknowledgment of libraries' need to retain relevance in an accelerated information era.

Moreover, BS works profoundly emphasize upholding and advocating for the professional ethos and standards within librarianship. Articles such as “Repositioning of the librarian professional organization post-UU number 43 of 2007” and “Dignity and performance of the librarian profession” reflect his impassioned drive to introspect and elevate the professional stature of librarians within Indonesia.

Dovetailing into his broader sociocultural engagement, several BS articles encapsulate a nuanced understanding of the interplay between libraries, librarians, and society. Titles like “Integration of librarians towards the information society: a sociocultural perspective” bear testimony to his ruminations on the intertwined destinies of libraries, librarians, and the societal tapestry they inhabit, underscoring their cardinal roles in an increasingly information-driven milieu.

BS's attuned and adaptive oscillation with the dynamic sociocultural and technological realms is pivotal within a psychobiographical context. His trajectory, marked by an adept acclimatization to digital revolutions and a profound sensitivity to Indonesia's sociocultural shifts, attests to his depth and dynamism. While the geographical lens offers a rich tapestry of BS's intellectual odyssey, a more exhaustive plunge into his expansive oeuvre remains essential for a holistic grasp.

4.6 Cognitive Theory and Its Influence on Sudarsono's Works

The psychobiographical approach offers a nuanced lens to decipher the intricate melding of psychological constructs within the broader tapestry of an individual's life and contributions (Schultz & Lawrence, 2017; Chenail, 2022). This approach is invaluable in BS's case, as it illuminates the intertwining threads of psychology that underlie his extensive work and personal trajectory. In delving into works with titles like “Documentation Logic,” there is an implication that BS possessed a nuanced understanding of cognitive processes and how information is structured and processed mentally. Cognitive theories, shedding light on mental undertakings such as perception, memory, and problem-solving, can potentially elucidate BS's comprehension and information-processing strategies, particularly within the realm of librarianship (Sternberg, 2009; Eysenck & Keane, 2015; DiGiuseppe, David & Venezia, 2016).

Examining the life and oeuvre of BS through a psychological theoretical lens allows for a richer comprehension of the interplay between his thought patterns and behaviors and the influence of assorted psychological elements. While our analysis is confined predominantly to the titles of his works, employing a psychobiographical method within this theoretical framework can yield profound insights into his persona. For instance, articles like “Researching the Idealism of Indonesian Libraries” or reflections spanning “1973-2005 in PDII-LIPI” indicate BS’s leanings towards a cognitive approach. This is evident in his quest to discern societal perceptions and valuations of libraries and documentation. Such works seem to contemplate how information is perceived, assimilated, and conserved by individuals and, in turn, how this shapes societal interactions with and utilization of information.

Several recurring themes resonate in BS’s works in tandem with cognitive theory:

1. **Knowledge Organization:** Titles such as “Documentation Logic” and “Knowledge Management” insinuate BS’s fascination with information organization and retrieval mechanisms. Within the cognitive theoretical frame, knowledge structures (be it schemas or conceptual frameworks) are pivotal to our information processing methods. Such titles might hint at BS’s explorations into knowledge systematization within libraries or analogous information repositories.
2. **Information Processing:** A recurrent motif across BS’s works is an emphasis on information trajectories – from its collection to its processing and subsequent dissemination. It mirrors the cognitive theoretical construct of the information processing model, wherein the brain is analogized to a computational entity tasked with input, processing, storage, or retrieval of data.
3. **Learning and Adaptation:** Certain titles like “Library 2.0” or “Libraries and the Internet” epitomize adaptability to emergent technological paradigms. Through the cognitive lens, such adaptability might indicate BS’s acknowledgment of “cognitive plasticity” or the need to morph and adapt in alignment with evolving milieus.
4. **Problem-Solving and Decision Making:** In works such as “Designing the Future” or “Travelling the Path of Librarianship,” there is a discernible undertone of strategic deliberation and critical thinking, facets extensively deliberated upon in cognitive theory.

In summation, a perusal of the titles marking BS’s bibliography, set against the backdrop of cognitive theory, facilitates a deeper appreciation of his intellectual trajectory, adaptive responses to shifting terrains, and his employment of cognitive tenets in understanding the intricacies of libraries, documentation, and societal information dynamics.”

5. CONCLUSION

In studying Blasius Sudarsono’s (BS) journey from 1985 to 2020, we observe clear transitions in librarianship. From a technical focus in 1985-1990, BS shifted to management and IT implications, mirroring his transition from “Manuscripts” to “PPT.” This change highlights his adaptability amidst the digital era. Our research indicates that societal factors and intrinsic motivations profoundly influenced BS’s work. Titles like “Library 2.0” and “Integration of Librarians towards the Information Society” capture his engagement with digital trends and the interplay between libraries and society. However, this study’s depth could benefit from a deeper dive into BS’s writings and comparisons with other experts for a more comprehensive understanding. Based on BS’s legacy, librarianship will emphasize digitalization till 2025, followed by artificial intelligence (AI) integration and, later, security in documentation. By 2040, we expect augmented reality to take precedence, leading to ethical considerations by 2045. BS’s work, combined with current trends, offers a vision for the future of librarianship, though predictions carry inherent uncertainties.

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