

UNDERSTANDING PEACE STUDIES AS PART OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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Abstract – Peace Studies is a discipline that is derived from International Relations. With the development of International Relations, they are dealing with cases related to conflicts and wars between states, as well as states with non-states. For this reason, Peace Studies was born so that it can focus on discussing issues surrounding conflict, war, and resolution efforts. Peace Studies in general are associated with the concept of conflict resolution. One method of conflict resolution in Peace Studies is the concept of conflict transformation. Conflict transformation is not only aimed at stopping conflict and to change patterns of negative relations between conflicting parties, but also to change the political, social and economic structure that causes the patterns of negative relations. Peace Studies offers a new analysis of how International Relations should look at the complexity of relations between actors. The author did not conduct field research related to this article, but conduct a conceptual research through literature study. The purpose of this article is to see how Peace Studies can help answer problems in International Relations related to conflicts or wars that occur internationally.

Keywords: peace studies, conflict, armed conflict, violence, and conflict transformation

Introduction

Will conflict always exist? If the answer is yes, then how do we resolve it? Political, Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, and even International Relations researchers have been researching on the study on conflict to find out the answer to the question before. As a not-so-new study, Peace Studies, which was born from International Relations study, can offer an alternative on analyzing the complexity of the dynamics of relations between state actors or even between state actors and non-state actors, where war and peace

have always been their trending topic.

War and peace are very complex and dynamic problems. They cannot be separated from the interaction dynamics between actors on global politics, which are getting more and more complex each day. The complexity from these interactions is related to the involvement of new actors, which are not only focused on state actors but also non-state actors. These non-state actors have been ‘contributing’ more on the political constellation and international security in this globalization era, such as terrorism, transnational crimes, NGOs, international

media, and even individual figures which have essential roles in the global arena.¹ The appearance of transnational and non-state actors that have an action capacity globally is affecting international relations dynamic, mainly seen from Peace Studies.

Various methods are used so that the world can be better than before, such as the establishment of international institutions like the United Nations (UN). It was established after World War II in the purpose of organizing relations between states in the world, and also to prevent wars and create international peace. However, that does not make wars disappear just like that. Wars on various forms keep increasing, especially intra-state armed conflict or armed conflict that happens in a particular country.²

Theories that appear in the study of International Relations are useful to open a path towards peace. One of International Relations study's purpose is to prevent wars on a global scale to happen; learning from the two terrible wars in the 20th century. Therefore, the purpose of Peace Studies should be the

same, for it was born from the International Relations studies.

From several International Relations' theories, realism is one of them. In realism, it is said that peace can be found in a balance of power between states, or even in the presence of hegemony. Meanwhile, for the capitalists, peace can be obtained by working together and the accumulation of wealth. The Green Thought assumes that the world will be safe and sound if humanity does not destroy nature. After that, liberalism sees that peace is located within the institutionalization of liberal norms from international political economy, which is based on the beneficial cooperation between one another. Marxism, on the other hand, desires peace by removing the class that becomes the basis of oppression, through a revolution. Idealism or the utopians understand peace as a condition where state and individual beings are within freedom, prosperity, and zero threats.

Peace can be obtained If all of the

¹ The authors are quoting from one of the authors' book, Jerry Indrawan, *Pengantar Studi Keamanan*, (Malang: Intrans Publishing, 2019), p. 131-132. For further understanding, please refer to Allan Collins, Allan (Ed), *Contemporary Security Studies*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010); Peter Hough, *Understanding*

Global Security, (New York: Routledge, 2008); also Columba Peoples and Nick Vaughan Williams (Ed), *Critical Security Studies*, (New York: Routledge, 2013).

² A. A. Banyu Perwita and Nabilla Sabban (ed), *Kajian Konflik dan Perdamaian*, (Yogyakarta: Graha Ilmu, 2015), p. 3-4.

countries in the world can be organized through a system or ideology similar to democracy. The combination of democracy and the liberal economy is considered as a solution to create world peace. The implementation of this system can create dependencies between one country and another, especially economically, which will result in the low possibility of war.³

Democracy was then campaigned massively to replace other ideologies or even government systems that were considered as worse than democracy. The liberal economy was also campaigned along with liberal peacebuilding patterns, covering not only truce but also continuous peace, humanitarian intervention, peacekeeping operation, and so on. However, this kind of system did not escape from critiques. States that are using democracy system may not be on war one another, but they will be on war with other states that have different ideologies to force the democracy system. In other words, war will still happen.⁴

Security dilemma is also one of International Relations' studies. If we see it from the side of Peace Studies, this situation can bring a no-war situation

among the states. The dilemma arises when deciding whether military power is only used for the purpose of defending or even attacking in order to protect oneself. As an analogical example, if we want to increase our house's security, there are two things that we can do. First is increasing or tightening the security system, such as setting up the fence, alarm, guard dog, the security, etc. The second one is to capture the passerby whom we think might attack our house. The policymakers have to decide the responses on what they think is going to happen. Will they wait for the attack by strengthening the defence? Or will they attack first because they assume that they will be attacked otherwise? The decision making from the two conditions before is actually the hardest one and creating a dilemma on the diplomacy or military paths. This dilemma then leads to a no-war situation among states or known as international peace.⁵

The atmosphere of the 21st century is very intense and global, multi-level and multi-direction. This makes many issues in the 21st century become the subject for security dilemma study, including security dilemma sensibility and security

³ *Ibid*, p. 4.

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 4-5.

⁵ Jerry Indrawan, *op.cit*, p. 134.

communities. Security dilemma sensibility is a concept introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985. He could reduce the level of animosities during the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States (and after 5 years, the Cold War has finally ended). All of that was simply because he understood how the US felt intimidated by the Soviet Union's great military power. He then removed the most intimidating parts from military power and foreign policy to prove his effort on removing pre-conception, distrust, and doubt, as well as building trust initiative with his opponent.⁶

Security dilemma will bring upon security community, which is a concept introduced by Karl Deutsch in 1957. This concept is about human integrity based on territory or institutional and forming a community which practicing a dependency between them. This community believes that social problems should be resolved through peaceful change. These two concepts (security dilemma and security community) offer a hope to go through this dangerous world by doing more positive ways and the efforts on building trust. In other words, they are building international peace.⁷

⁶ *Ibid*, p. 27-28.

⁷ *Ibid*, p. 28.

Starting from the International Relation's theories above, Peace Studies was then born. Even before the birth of Peace Studies, International Relations have given birth to Security Studies. However, Peace Studies can also be recognized as the "direct descendant" from International Relation studies' scope.⁸

Furthermore, through the literature review, this research will discuss the meaning of Peace Studies, conflict, and conflict transformation in its relation to the study of International Relation.

What is Peace Studies?

Peace is generally associated with the concept of conflict resolution, where there is no war involved to obtain peace in the conflict settlement's process. Peace itself can be described as a condition where people are able to live side by side, leaving aside the differences in social, culture, and so on. Those differences are not really an obstacle for there is this thing called the ability to communicate well, thus creating a good understanding and tolerance among the diverse society.⁹

There are three types of violence; direct, structural, and cultural violence.

⁸ *Ibid*, p. 12.

⁹ Perwita and Sabban, *op.cit*, p. 68.

Direct violence is any kinds of violence in the form of verbal that caused physical injury and deep suffering for someone. War is the perfect example to describe direct violence. Meanwhile, structural violence is non-verbal violence, such as poverty, famine, oppression, and social seclusion, which also caused deep suffering for someone. With a significant number of human rights violation in a state, where freedom of speech, active in politics, and other oppressions are a form of structural violence.¹⁰

After that, cultural violence is any violence produced by hatred, fear, and prejudice. Its sources can come from religion, ideology, arts, and even knowledge. Those things are considered as sensitive topics and are easy to become a tool for justifying conflict and disrupting the peace. Cultural violence generally has a relation with direct or even structural violence.¹¹

If we are talking about Peace Studies, we are also talking about novelty in the study of International Relations, Security studies, and Political Science studies. Even though Peace Studies has arisen from the World War II era with the intention to prevent another world war,

this study experienced development and novelty after the fall of the Soviet Union instead. At first, this study only revolved around international scope, but in the 21st century, it has developed comprehensively; discussing conflicts among individual that has become one of the studies from Psychology.

Peace Studies initially only focused on the discussion about the armed war between West Block and East Block as well as the possibility of the nuclear war's outbreak, seeing as Cold War was known as nuclear hostility era mainly between the US and Soviet Union. After the 1990s, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution issues were included in Peace Studies. The discussion includes conflict theory, prevention process, management, resolution, conflict transformation, etc. This field of study is inter-disciplinary, such as politics, economy, sociology, psychology, defence, security, criminology, and even communication. The study's focuses are not only war among states, but also individual conflict, local, domestic, and of course, international. In this era, Peace Studies

¹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 69.

¹¹ *Ibid*, p. 69-70.

redefines peace concept, forms of violence, cause of war, and war resolution.¹²

The development of peace research center, such as Peace and Conflict Departement in Uppsala University Sweden, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), and Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO), in the Scandinavian countries has made this study growing rapidly, mostly in the cold war era. Up until now, those three has been a leading center in the Peace Studies, which not only talking about how to make peace but also studies on security, defense, and military issues. The purpose is none other than to understand why a certain state wants to make war. Thus, Peace Studies can also answer how the resolution or method of settlement (conflict resolution) is, and also how to prevent it.

After the Cold War was over, intra-state conflict arose, and sometimes developed into internationalized problems. Local problems has rapidly turn into international problems, mainly related to resources, environment, technology, information, and

communication. The same thing happened with security paradigm in the 21st century, especially after 9/11, which is dominated by the US because of its strong military power. International system has become fragile and not safe. Therefore, Peace Studies must be able to answer challenge by giving alternative solution towards security paradigm that is developing recently. It must also be able to prioritize various studies, such as peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peacebuilding, including ethical intervention, demilitarization, and global armed control. According to the authors, this study in general must be able to be a global conflict prevention.

The Father of Peace Studies, Johan Galtung from PRIO, explained that peace is not only personal or direct no-war condition, but also structural and indirect. Galtung also emphasized that peace condition is a no-violence condition and no social injustice within the society.¹³ Johan Galtung also mentioned that there are two definitions on peace. First is negative peace, which is marked with the conflict's absence between two parties or more who are trying to achieve their own

¹² Jerry Indrawan, *op.cit*, p. 136.

¹³ Loreta N. Castro and Jasmine N. Galace, *Peace Education: Pathway to A Culture of Peace*,

(Cuezon City: Centre of Peace Education, 2010), p. 19.

interests, the absence of fear asymmetry, and the absence of the clash of interests. Another characteristics are the absence of show of force and the situation that happens not only because of no war arises, but also social injustice and economical oppression that has not yet finished.¹⁴

The second definition is positive peace, which is marked with the presence of the set of conflict settlement that is non-coercive to prevent conflicts. This includes the absence of conditions that suppress or torment human; this includes a wide spectrums of condition, guarantee of physical needs (security from violence and famine) and mental needs (security from fear, security to do one's religion worship, as well as freedom to think and speak). The set of conflict settlement that is democratic and non-coercive, no-war situation, the presence of social justice, economic prosperity, and a wide political division is the first step to create positive peace.¹⁵

According to Galtung, on a positive peace condition, there must be a good and fair relation in all life aspects, be it social, politics, economic, or even ecology.

Therefore, structural violence like poverty and famine, socio-cultural violence like racism, sexism, and religion intolerance, or even ecological violence like destroying nature, pollution, and over consumption become completely vanish. This kind of positive damage has to be endeavored after obtaining negative peace, which is no direct or physical violence, both micro or macro, such as war, torturing, and violence towards children and women.¹⁶ However, even if there is no direct violence, the existence of structural violence (negative peace) may cause the re-lapse of conflicts and thus disrupting peace.¹⁷

Peace Studies encourage peace in international or local community. It is possible because Peace Studies has been going through human history further than other studies. Other than that, this study also works on projection about the future to see human interaction in the context of understanding potential conflict between them. Johan Galtung's infamous argument is "*By peace we mean the capacity to transform conflicts with empathy, without violence, and creatively a never-ending process*".¹⁸ Peace Studies

¹⁴ Johan Galtung, *Peace By Peaceful Means*, (London: SAGE Publications, 1996), p. 2.

¹⁵ *Ibid*, p. 3.

¹⁶ Castro dan Galace, *op.cit*, p. 21.

¹⁷ Charles Webel and Johan Galtung, *Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies*, (New York: Routledge, 2007), p. 6.

¹⁸ Johan Galtung, *op.cit*, p. 11.

must lead to the creation of peace between the disputing parties, be it on war, conflict, or other problems. Thus, the end result from Peace Studies is to offer alternative options which can be used as conflict resolutions.

Luigi da Porto stated an interesting peace and conflict cycle, “Peace brings in prosperity, prosperity brings in pride, pride brings in anger, anger brings in war, war brings in poverty, poverty brings in humanity, and humanity brings in peace”.¹⁹ That is exactly why, if we are talking about peace, we are also talking about war or conflict. Conflict cannot be separated from human life. Based on that argument, understanding Peace Studies means knowing what conflict is. The next section will help us understand a little on what a conflict is.

What Is Conflict?

If we are talking about conflict, we have to know its general definition beforehand. Conflict is contention or disputation between two or more parties, using armed force to conquer each other and enforcing peace based on the winner’s

requirements. Meanwhile according to Ralph Dahrendorf in Weber and Galtung, conflict is a tension that includes decision making related to various choices, which sometimes manifested in a form of confrontation among social groups. Peter Wallensteen in Weber and Galtung argues that conflict is a social situation where at least two actors compete at the same time in order to get scarce resources.²⁰

Conflict can also mean as a relation between two or more parties (individuals or groups) who have targets with different ways of thinking.²¹ Sociologically, conflict refers to struggle among individuals or groups in society or nation-state. This might happen between two people or more, social movements, interest groups, class, gender, organizations, political parties, ethnics, races, or even religious groups.²²

The source of conflict, according to Johan Galtung, is difference in interests between actors as well as different value from many actors. Whereas according to C.R. Mitchell, the source of conflict is limited resources, resources inequality, difference in purpose and interests, and

¹⁹ Jerry Indrawan, *op.cit*, p. 138.

²⁰ Weibel dan Galtung, *op.cit*, p. 2-3.

²¹ Simon Fisher, et al., *Mengelola Konflik: Keterampilan dan Strategi untuk Bertindak*, (Jakarta: The British Council, 2001), p. 4.

²² Imam Tholikhah, *Anatomi Konflik Politik di Indonesia*, (Jakarta: PT RajaGrafindo Persada, 2001), p. 6-7.

different values in every social system. On the other side, ethnicity, religion, race, inter-group relations, human basic needs, states' rivalries, international system injustice, socio-culture identity, and even communication can be categorized as the source of conflict. Thus the essence of conflict is the interest differences, value differences, and also limited resources.

There are six stages of conflict:

1. There is a source of conflict. There is something that can cause conflict, but not entirely a trigger for conflict.
2. Conflict problems or issues. Material that can cause conflict (conflict triggers).
3. Conflict escalation. Escalation of the conflict towards the peak of conflict. It happens when the number of conflict actors and tools increase.
4. The peak of conflict. It happens when conflict reaches its highest rate because the conflict actors and tools has reached its maximum.
5. Conflict termination. A decrease in conflict where conflict is on its way to settlement. It happens when actors withdraw from the conflict or there is a decrease in conflict tools.

6. Conflict settlement. The settlement of conflict through negotiation (information and interests exchange), mediation (conflict settlement through a third party), arbitration (decision making in conflict settlement through a third party who is appointed by the conflict's perpetrators).²³

Conflict is a reality that cannot be avoided. The root of conflict started from differences, be it natural or non-natural (given). Differences are reality that have to be faced by every single human being, which caused human to desire different things in the same situation. When their targets and situations do not match at all, conflict happens. War happens because differences occur.²⁴ Peace Studies must understand the very essence of this in order to do the process of conflict resolution. The purpose in understanding conflict is so that Peace Studies researchers are able to formulate what kind resolution method is right based on the causes of conflict.

After that, there are two obstacles in achieving peace. First is objective conditions (state level), which are national interests, territory, sovereignty, economic

²³ Christopher R. Mitchell, *The Structure of International Conflict*, (United Kingdom: Palgrave Macmillan, 1981), p. 17-18.

²⁴ Bernard Raho, *Teori Sosiologi Modern*, (Jakarta: Prestasi Pustaka, 2007), p. 72.

resources struggle, and development. These objective conditions are related to state interests or policy as the actor in international world, and also state as national entity. The assumption is that every state's action is based on rational consideration (objective). Second is subjective condition (community level); the desire to get recognition on a certain identity, ethnicity, protection on culture, and political representation problems. This kind of condition are common in the state's region as a dissatisfied expression towards state's policy. Another characteristics are society groups are considered as the state's oppositions, interests asymmetry between society groups and state policy, and related to structural factors such as history, geography ethnicity, territorial, political institution, and nature resources.²⁵

Continuing the discussion on Peace Studies above, Galtung added that there are three stages in conflict settlement that will be used by the UN in every chance in becoming conflict mediator, or even disembarking UN peacekeeping operation (UN PKO). Those three stages are:

1. Peacemaking is a process with the

purpose of uniting or reconciling political stance and strategy from the disputing parties through mediation, negotiation, and arbitration at the elite or leader level.

2. Peacekeeping is a process on stopping or reducing violence acts through military intervention that plays the role as neutral peacekeeper.

3. Peacebuilding is an implementation process of change or social, political, and economic reconstruction in order to create an everlasting peace.²⁶

Far before Galtung, Immanuel Kant has already talked about peace in his book titled "Perpetual Peace" in the 18th century. Peace program, according to Kant, consists of two parts. First, the early condition when a republican state has not yet given maximum contribution towards international peace. This includes the removal of ready-to-war military forces, not intervening on other states' domestic problems, prohibit espionage (spies), prohibiting provocation to betray and murder as diplomacy instruments, and state's business. Spreading republican states constitution can also mean as generalizing efforts in obtaining peace,

²⁵ Jerry Indrawan, *op.cit*, p. 140.

²⁶ Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Introductory Note to An Agenda for Peace, dalam Adam Roberts dan Benedict Kingsbury (ed), *United Nations*,

Divided World: The UN's Roles in International Relations, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996), p. 469.

because fighting for peace is a part of republican state's basic principles.²⁷

Second, Kant proposed three foundations of peace as a reaction towards Hobbes arguments, "*the war of all against all*". The first foundation is every state constitution has to be in a form of republic. Second, the law that regulates intra-states should be built in a federation from free states. Third, word citizenship law would be limited to universal provisions of neighborliness with other states. A federation from a group of free states will provide collective security. Kant differentiate between the end of war and the creation of positive peace condition. After the World War, liberal thinkers started to emphasize the establishment of arbitration mechanisms, development of international law, and international court.²⁸

In his works, Kant talked a lot about world peace. One of his thesis is "Democratic Peace". This thesis then developed into two types. The first type held the opinion that democratic state is far more peaceful than non-democratic state. The second type held the opinion that liberal states could not be considered

as more peaceful than non-liberal states, but they drifted away from the use of armed force so that they could maintain a good relation with other democratic states. Some experts also argued that democratic states could get stronger if they use armed force. This is because most liberal-democracy states are strong with a huge wealth basic. The way towards peace is to encourage democratic system, universal respect towards human rights, and the development of modern civil society.²⁹

We realize that there are many conflicts occur in the world. More than half of those conflicts are armed conflict. Peace Studies is also discussing about armed conflict. Before that, we need to know what armed conflict is. According to International Committee of the Red Cross, armed conflict is the differences that happen between two states that lead to intervention done by each state's armed forces. Meanwhile according to Peter Wallensteen, armed conflict is a political conflict, where the use of armed forces from the two parties, or one at least, has caused 25 wars that lead to death. Wallensteen added that major armed

²⁷ Asrudin Azwar, *Teori Perdamaian Demokratis: Asal Usul, Debat, dan Problematika Seputar Teori Perdamaian Demokratik*, (Malang: Intrans Publishing, 2016), p. 39.

²⁸ *Ibid*, p. 40.

²⁹ *Ibid*, p. 54-55.

conflict is war between states, or even domestic political conflict which has caused at least 1000 deaths.³⁰ Up until now, there are at least four types of armed conflict:

1. Interstate armed conflicts: This type of conflict occurs between states, with two or more states which its sovereignty recognized internationally (sovereign entities). This type of conflict usually finishes quickly, but bring quite a big damage impact. After the World War II, states that were involved in wars significantly decreased. This condition then bring us to the second type of armed conflict.
2. Intrastate armed conflicts: this type of conflict happens within a state, between sovereign entity against non-government party. According to Sivard, the huge number of intrastate conflicts that occurred after World War II were caused by the emergence of new states in international system. Thus, domestic war is a the most common form of armed conflict that happens today, such as civil war, war for control of a state's government, resources related conflicts, territory, and difference in value or belief, which creating

separatism or rebellion. This type of conflict has a huge damage impact, especially fatalities. This is exactly because the conflict happens in long duration time. In its development, the third type of conflict then occurs.

3. Internationalized armed conflicts: This type of conflict is a conflict where both governments and armed rebel groups receive military helps from other states' government or parties outside the state before. An example of that situation is Bashar Assad's government in Syria against opposition party. This conflict also includes several other meanings; war between two internal factions in a certain state, which both are being supported by different foreign parties (e.g., Hamas and Fatah); direct war between two different states, which militarily intervene other states' internal armed conflict to support a certain party (e.g., Cold War era), in a war concept called proxy war; and war that involves foreign intervention who support rebel groups against the sovereign government, such as NATO who supported Libyan rebel groups, National Transitional Council, against Moammar Gaddafi's

³⁰ Jerry Indrawan, *op.cit*, p. 142.

reign.

4. The last one is extrastate conflicts; This type conflict occurs between states against armed groups outside the government, which happens outside that very state. For example, war between Iraq government against ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham) militants, where the outrage not only occurs in Iraq, but also in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and even Palestine. This also happened in the US war against Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, which expanded until Iraq and Pakistan.³¹

In this opportunity, the authors also want to highlight regional organizations' role in conflict resolution. Conflict resolution strategies for regional organizations are norm-setting, certainty, society development, prevention, non-intervention or intervention, isolation, intermediation, and internationalization. Norm-setting explains about state identity and regulate behaviors. Through this strategy, regional organizations may be able to influence the behavior of member countries, internationally or internally, in the political, economic, and security

arenas. Certainty strategy can increase transparency, reduce uncertainty, and build trust. The purpose is to ease the security dilemma and reduce the use of armed force.³²

The next step is society development strategy; no longer using armed force, but encouraging the forming of security community, where the members resolve the dispute through another way instead of fighting against each other. Prevention strategy includes collective security and collective defense to prevent member or non-member countries behave aggressively.³³

Strategies to limit conflict are intervention or non-intervention, and isolation. Non-intervention is when a regional organization avoids to be involve in certain conflicts. On the other hand, intervention means direct involvement in a certain conflict by using collective resources which are provided from the regional organization itself, like collective security to limit or even ease the conflict. Meanwhile isolation is useful to prevent and inhibit conflict and its impacts from spreading into the surrounding areas, or

³¹ *Ibid*, p. 143-144.

³² Barry Buzan and Ole Weaver, *Regions and Powers : The Structure of International Security*, (United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press, 2003), p. 102.

³³ Allan Collins (ed), *Contemporary Security Studies*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), p. 54.

even the intervention of outsiders towards the conflict mentioned.³⁴

The last ones are intermediation and internationalization strategy that are useful to stop conflicts. Intermediation means non-partisan and no-violence approach to stop dispute, where the disputing parties are asked to use global or regional mechanism to resolve conflict. Internationalization is incidents where regional organization mobilized resources from external actors and organizations to help their strategy. The UN, European Union, and NATO can be made an example for international organization/institution's role in conflict resolution, even though the level of effectiveness is still debatable.

Conflict Transformation

The last discussion from this article is conflict transformation. After the development of Peace Studies, significant development regarding the term "transformation" has started to arise. Johan Galtung has put this transformation concept to the stage by explaining that the definition of peace is related to non-violent ways and a creative conflict

transformation. As explained by the thinkers who promoted this concept, conflict transformation is an optimistic, radical, and egalitarian concept or idea, that sees conflict as a dynamic source in order to bring positive change. The thinkers also promised to bring researches related conflict and peace into a new and interesting direction in this early 21st century.³⁵

In peace studies, conflict transformation must get a serious attention. Practically, conflict transformation is one of resolution methods or conflict settlement that has become the part of Peace Studies. Therefore, conflict transformation concept must be practiced as one of conflict resolution methods. Conflict transformation must get a serious attention because it contains ideas and thoughts on how we should give responses towards destructive conflicts.

According to the authors, conflict transformation itself is a complex process to constructively change the pattern of relation, attitude, behavior, interest, and discourse on a conflict-prone

³⁴ Aiden Hehir, *Humanitarian Intervention after Kosovo: Iraq, Darfur, and the Record of Global Civil Society*, (UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), p. 88-89.

³⁵ Stephen Ryan, *Conflict Transformation: Reasons to be Modest*, dalam Dennis Sandole, dkk, *Handbook of Conflict Analysis and Resolution*, (New York: Taylor & Francis, 2009), p. 303.

environment. It is a relation, interest, discourse transform process, and if necessary, it is the basic concept of society that perpetuates violence continuously. Violence often occurs because of culture, thus a transformation process in a region post-conflict really needs an effort to remove destructive habits and behavior, which lead to a preservation of violence culture.

Conflict transformation is not only talking about how to find win-win results; sometimes results do not always show how the real condition from the disputing parties is as well as the relation between them. Conflict transformation is focusing itself on a wider social and political studies, in purpose to cut off the suppression and violence chains. Therefore, as the authors mentioned before, conflict transformation is not only stopping the violence and changing the pattern of negative relations between the disputing parties, but also changing the political, social, and economic structure that cause the pattern of that negative relations. A constructive conflict is seen as a catalyst for change.³⁶

Conflict transformation has to

respect and support human resources and the culture from the place where to conflict happens. This includes changing perspectives, which usually focus on the place and people (actors involved in conflict) as a problem and the outsiders as the answer. It becomes the focus on the long-term goals of the transformation process itself, including building the people and other resources at the place where conflict occurred. Conflict transformation aims to empower community to engage themselves in the non-violent process, which aims to build conditions of peace and justice in a sustainable manner. According to Lederach, instead of seeing peace as a static thing, the conflict of transformation sees peace as a thing that is constantly evolving and developing quality patterns of the relationships.³⁷

In conflict transformation, conflict is not seen as a negative thing. On the positive side, conflicts can bring the changes needed to bring a more just and equal society. Conflict transformation transforms violence into non-violent ways to achieve social change. Conflict transformation can also be seen as a

³⁶ Ho-Won Jeong, *Understanding Conflict and Conflict Analysis*, (New Delhi: SAGE Publications, 2008), p. 243-244.

³⁷ Stephen Ryan, *op.cit*, p. 304-305.

conflict prevention measure, because it can also eliminate the causes of conflict to reappear. Conflict transformation is very appropriate to be used in conflicts that occur continuously and asymmetric, and related to social justice issues. Conflict will always exist in any human civilization, and will never be stopped. Human existence is very dependent on their ability to manage conflict. To be able to manage, until resolving conflicts, the focus of the attention must be directed to the analysis of human behavior and the environment.

Many experts argue that conflict is a positive thing because it is a major element in social life. Conflict also cannot always be wiped out, on the contrary, in certain circumstances conflict has a certain function in the development process. Conflict is needed because it is useful to make us aware of problems, lead to needed change, improve solutions, foster enthusiasm, accelerate personal development, and encourage psychological maturity.³⁸

Humans live in a group and form a unique identity between them. Values in

society can be seen in the form of race, ethnicity, cultural identity, and other social groupings. This identity sometimes creates problem between people in the context of interactions to meet their interests. This situations occurs ewhen culture is in line with the existence of power. As mentioned before, conflict is sometimes perceived as a negative situation and makes the condition unstable. On the other hand, conflict is believed to be a positive process for better change. Therefore, conflict must be recognized for it is a form of positive interaction in society.³⁹

Uri Savir said that peace can only be achieved through cooperation and positive attitude among the people of the conflicting states. Savir saw that human relations are influenced by culture, social institutions, and political processes. The main force to create peace is not the central government, but the local government and especially the involvement in civil society in the peace process itself. Savir believes that the coexistence of shared value is the most

³⁸ Adon N. Jamaludin, *Agama dan Konflik Sosial: Studi Kerukunan Umat Beragama, Radikalisme, dan Konflik Antarumat Beragama*, (Bandung: Pustaka Setia, 2015), p. 36.

³⁹ Kevin Avruch, *Culture and Conflict Resolution*, (Washington DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1998), p. 310.

important aspect in bringing peace in a society.⁴⁰

The conflict transformation process is indeed slow and difficult to follow. A series of interactions can change overtime. The same thing happens when the environment changes, the disputing parties adjust their positions and goals too. In complex peace and negotiation, the parties involved often only succeed in getting a resolution that satisfies some, but not all the parties in conflict. Adjustments are needed from the beginning again so that changes in the situation, environment, and interests can be accepted by all parties. However, interestingly, the conflicting parties finally learned to adjust their position, to the point where the results were acceptable to all parties.⁴¹

We need to assume that in order to build peace it depends on the possibility that the disputing parties have similar goals, or even objectives that can complement each other, during the changing process of social environment. The disputing parties have the power to build peaceful relations by moving together in a cooperative manner. They

can simultaneously pursue the welfare of others, as well as themselves. They will value the common good, just as they value their own good. There will be cooperation between the disputing parties to try to live side by side, as well as get their respective interests in the context of common good mentioned before.⁴²

The experts who were observing the process of conflict transformation emphasize the importance of working on this concept at the grassroots level. They also refer to this work as an effort to build local capacity. This is because conflict resolution does not have one standard or standard procedure for how to do it. Each conflict has its own characteristics, that is why different methods are needed to resolve it, case by case. There is no “one size fits all” solution in conflict resolution. The focus of empowering grassroots solutions will attract the attention of civil society organizations (NGOs) because they usually have an interest in strengthening civil society in post-conflict areas. Finally, they all agreed that the conflict transformation requires a lot of time. There is no such thing as “instant coffee style approach”. Moreover, many

⁴⁰ Uri Savir, *Peace First: A New Model to End War*, (San Fransisco: Berrett-Koehler Publisher, 2008), p. 76.

⁴¹ Hugh Miall, *Emergent Conflict and Peaceful Change*, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), p. 80-81.

⁴² *Ibid*, p. 68.

people also need time to familiarize themselves with ideas or thoughts related to a fairly deep change.⁴³

Conclusion

Peace Studies is an integral parts from the study of International Relations, where dynamics between states, or states and non-states, happen in a form of war or peace. International Relations and Peace Studies cannot be separated from each other for Peace Studies offers analysis on how International Relations should see the complexity of the relations among actors. International Relations theories are also useful to actualize peace, be it in international, national, or even local context, because Peace Studies does not limit to only one context.

Understanding Peace Studies means understanding what conflict is. Conflict walks along with peace and vice versa. Johan Galtung's positive and negative peace can be a good example. The same thing happens when we observe conflict transformation concept. Conflict has no longer seen as a negative thing or evil, but conflict is described as a changer or a situation and condition changer towards a better way. Conflict can become a

transformation catalyst for individual, society or state, or the world towards positive peace that Galtung has always dreamed of.

Therefore, it is interesting how the future of International Relations study will be with the help of Peace Studies. Moreover, it is also interesting whether or not Peace Studies is able to answer challenges of the times, where many conflicts occur are no longer inter-state, but intra-state. Not forgetting about how the concept is, such as humanity intervention, peacekeeping operations, and conflict transformations, can be researched further in order to enrich the scope of International Relations, as well as helping to find the right formula to build a peace morale.

Therefore, the authors suggest that Peace Studies can be developed in Indonesia by opening Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution study program. So far, there are only two universities in Indonesia (University of Defense and Gadjah Mada University) that open Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution study program. The authors hope that with the opening of this kind of study program, there will be lots of researches on peace

⁴³ `Stephen Ryan, *op.cit*, p. 305.

concept by academia and researchers from other disciplines. Academic cross-discipline situation like that is quite good to build morale to do academic researches in Indonesia.

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