

The Communication Pattern of Transnational Terrorist Group: A Study Case of Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD) Indonesia

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ABSTRACT : The spread of radical ideas that led to acts of terrorism is still a big problem in Indonesia. One group that is still the focus of discussion is the Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD). Although it has been frozen, this terrorist group allegedly evolved and changed. These changes require a communication process to complete the entire organization that can run under the vision and mission, such as the process of indoctrination, transportation, and efforts to transport organizational integrity. This research seeks to improve the communication patterns of JAD security groups in achieving the above. By using the theory of communication patterns in communication studies, this research discusses the communication patterns of JAD advocacy groups. This research uses descriptive qualitative data using the interview as the collection data method. The results showed that communication that occurred in JAD consisted of several patterns, namely communication patterns in the form of wheels, chains, stars, and umbrellas. Communication is carried out closed to close the message infiltration from outside parties. Besides, as an organization affiliated with ISIS, JAD ideological communication is carried out through social media and Indonesian communication carried out or coming from Syria. The communication of ideology in JAD is still growing by utilizing daily communication and existing communication technology.

Keywords: Communication Pattern, Transnationalism, Terrorist Group, JAD

I. INTRODUCTION

The development of terrorist in the world is having ups and downs especially after the 9/11 incident that was done by a terrorist group named Al-Qaeda (Basmalah, 2016). As a victim country, the United States released the war on terror policy which aimed to fight the terrorist group (Wibowo, 2013, p. 48). However, that policy precisely raised another problem, it triggered the development of another small terrorist group in the Middle East. One of the organized and developed groups is the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) who replaced the domination of Al-Qaeda group.

ISIS reached the peak of glory and spread their ideology utilizing the development of technology and their human resources to the whole world and it reached the South East Asia region. Indonesia as one of the countries in South East Asia also became the target of ISIS ideology. In Indonesia, ISIS's Ideology adapted by several groups and of them is Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD) as mentioned by the former of Deputy Head of the State Intelligence Agency, As'ad Said Ali (Muhyidin, Aditya, & Trianita, 2015).

At the beginning, JAD was taking a role as the human resource distribution agent from Indonesia to Syria for people who support the Khilafah Islamiyah. The group that led by Aman Abdurrahman changed their role into a group that attack several regions in Indonesia such as: Kampung Melayu Bombing, Sarinah Bombing, Oikumene Church Bombing, Church Bombing in Surabaya, Surakarta Mapolres Bombing, and etc. Because of these activities, JAD was legally freezed in 31 July 2018.

Even though it has been legally freezed, this group is still developing and evolving. It is proved by the activity of JAD group members that was successfully traced by Indonesia authority. One of the issues that should be researched is how the communication builds inside the network of JAD to networking, coordinating, indoctrination, and recruiting bearing in mind that this organization is moved clandestinely. Therefore, this research is aimed to identify the communication pattern of this group in building their network in Indonesia.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The communication pattern of an organization has been focused on research in communication field study. Lutfie (2018) uncovered the network structure that was built by Muhammadiyah in building the harmonization and its access to Plompong Village. Another researcher is Gani and Unde (2016) who conduct research regarding the communication pattern of violent groups in Makassar city. They found that the violent

group established through the process of interpersonal communication among its members. Another research is conducted by Pangestu (2015) with his research regarding a communication pattern of an institution in Surabaya. He found that the institution has formal and informal communication using the Y, circle, and stars style of communication pattern. Another research is conducted by Saini (2016). He reveals the communication pattern that is used by veiled organizations in Nganjuk to change the socio-religion aspect in Nganjuk. Furthermore, Aksa (2016) conducted a research on how an organization named HizbutTharir Indonesia could exist in Makasar with the focus on ideology, social, and political aspects to create the pros and cons among the society.

In research on the use of communication networks in the recruitment of cadres of the Social Justice Party (PKS) of South Sulawesi, Sidiq, Cangara, and Unde (2011) found that the communication pattern in the recruitment of PKS's cadre in South Sulawesi developed through the linear pattern with the strength of the party cadres so that they can reach all levels of society. Others than that, the communication relationships in a group have not been evenly distributed because communication is still based on trust, proximity to residence and needs (Hertanto, Sugiyanto, & Safitri, 2016). Furthermore, communication in a network can be weakened due to self-limitation due to inter-group boundaries (Gea, 2018) and communication network patterns that experience fragmentation (Hapsari, Sarwono, & Eriyanto, 2017). In a smaller scope, Paramita (2019) found there are three communication patterns in the pattern of a single parent communication network, namely authoritarian, permissive, authoritative in caring for their children.

Devito (2014, p. 254) proposes patterns that are formed when there is communication within an organization. These patterns are circle patterns, wheel patterns, chain patterns, star patterns and Y patterns. Devito's communication patterns serve as a reference for researchers in analyzing the communication patterns of JAD terrorist groups. Liliweri (2014, pp. 387-388) completes an explanation of these patterns. In an organization, patterns are formed from existing roles (Muhammad, 2017, pp. 102-103). According to Muhammad, the role in an organization is divided into six, namely opinion leaders, gatekeepers, cosmopolites, bridges, liaison, and isolates. When actors in an organization communicate, in addition to forming patterns, the communication process will form a flow of information. Muhammad explained that there are three types of communication flows, namely downward communication, upward communication, and horizontal communication.

Terrorist organizations also utilize communication and information technology as a tool as well as a target for their operations and activities (Mishra, 2003). However, having the ability to communicate and access to media through technology does not necessarily guarantee the successful dissemination of messages into and outside terrorist organizations. Rothenberger (2017) found that although a terrorist organization, such as the Red Army Faction, is a group that specializes in using the media, it turns out that their strategic communication is not enough to help them achieve the long-term goals of their political revolution.

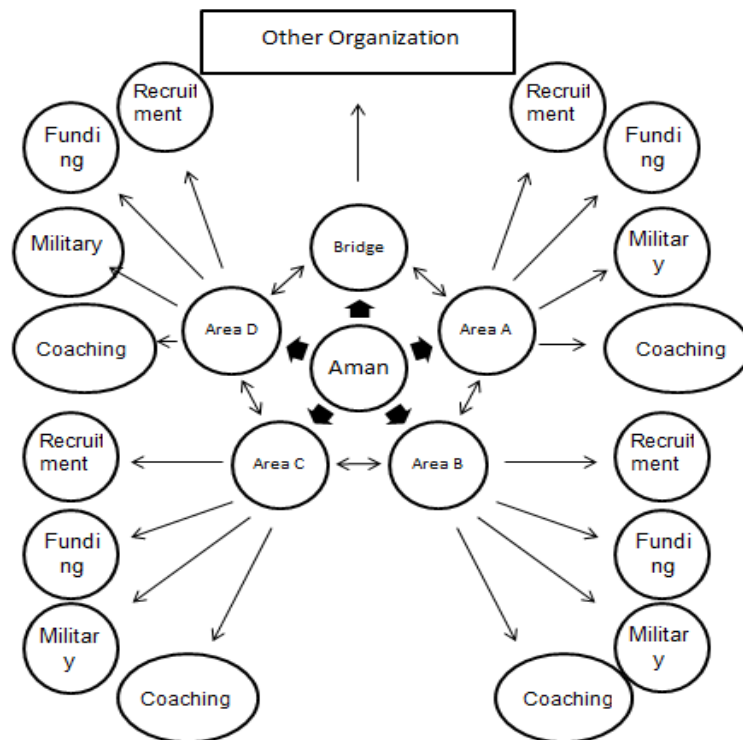
III. METHODOLOGY

This study uses descriptive qualitative research methods. Data was collected through primary resources by interviewing 3 persons, which are: FirmanFadhilah as the head of Centre of Terrorism and Radicalism Studies (CTRS) at PTIK, Radiatmoko as Researcher CTRS at PTIK, and the last secret interviewee the activist who directly contact with radicalism. This study was conducted in Jakarta from September 2018 until July 2019 and secondary resources for both print and electronic media such as journal articles, news, and books.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

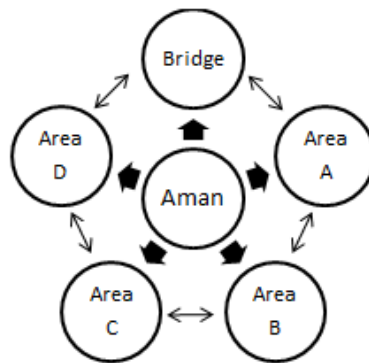
Results

As an organization that committed allegiance to ISIS in 2015, JAD has its own organizational structure even though it is a closed organization. The following is a chart of the communication patterns of the JAD terrorist group from the analysis of research data:



Picture 1: Communication Patterns JAD Ring 1 (Sources: Research Discussion)

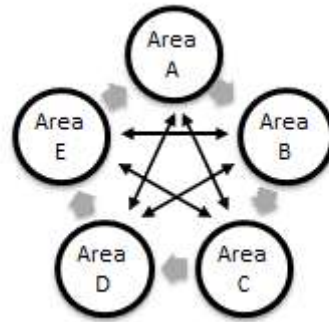
If it breaks down into several parts, it shows a pattern of communication between divisions or roles in JAD. The first part is the communication pattern between AmanAburrahman as the leader of JAD and the people in Ring 1 of Aman who form the wheel pattern and star pattern as follows:



Picture 2: Communication Patterns JAD Ring 1 (Sources: Research Discussion)

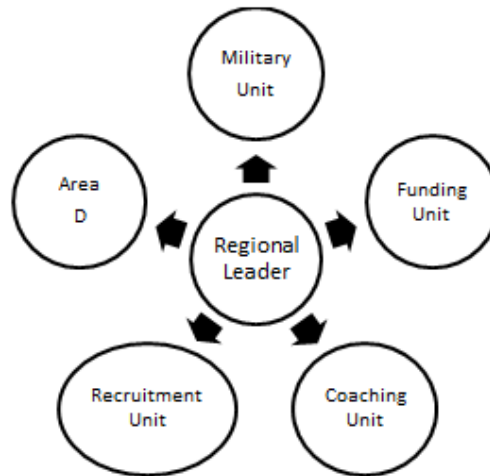
The wheel pattern is formed when Aman communicates with his direct subordinates, which is the regional leader and also the liaison. This pattern explains that Aman acts as the center of information and only Aman has the role and authority in spreading the information. In other words, Aman acts as an opinion leader. Besides, because Aman also plays a role in choosing the message to be conveyed, Aman also plays a role as gatekeepers.

Aman's messages or instructions were received by the regional leaders and liaison. However, the pattern of communication carried out by the regional leaders and the liaison was different. After receiving the message, on several occasions, although very rarely, the regional leaders are coordinating each other to form a star pattern. In this pattern, there is no individual who leads and has a different area of command. Oftentimes the regional leaders' communication is cut off only in their respective areas which are meant to erase traces of communication in the network. The respective regional leaders cannot interfere with other regional affairs. In other words, the regional leader acts as an opinion leader. If the circuit leader communication pattern is described, it will be as follows:



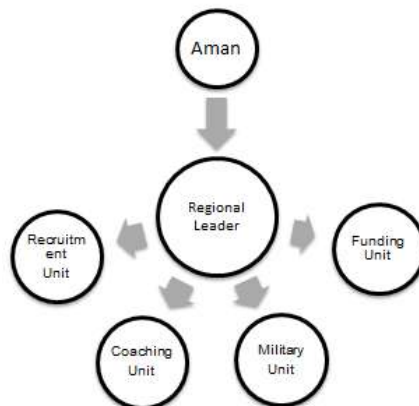
Picture 3: Communication Patterns of Region Leaders (Sources: Research Discussion)

Each region leader has units under his authority. These units include a funding unit, a military unit, military unit, and a recruitment unit. Under the auspices of the regional leader, units one and another coordinate which also forms a star pattern as shown of the picture below:



Picture 4: Coordination Patterns JAD Community (Sources: Research Discussion)

Based on picture 4, it could be analyzed that the communication has begun from the head of JAD,Aman until the units under the region leaders will form an umbrella pattern. This pattern is a development of the chain pattern and wheel pattern. In an umbrella pattern, information is sourced from one individual which is then disseminated to other individuals, then the information spread widely when there are individuals who randomly distribute the information,so this individual became a gatekeeper. In this umbrella pattern, the individuals who acts as a gatekeeper has a major role in communication. The umbrella pattern could be described as picture below :



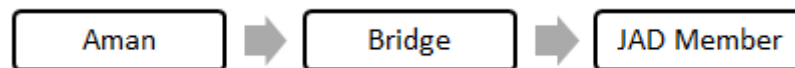
Picture 5: Communication Pattern from Aman until JAD Community (Sources: Research Discussion)

From the picture above, it could conclude that the regional leaders as a gatekeepers has a main role because they become the center of information

While the regional bridge has its own role, the regional bridge will deliver the information to the JAD Community and other organizations. so, the communication that has been done by the regional leaders will form as a chain pattern. The regional bridge function was only to mediate the message. The regional bridge's communication pattern could be shown as a picture below:



Picture 6: Communication Pattern JAD's bridge between other Organization (Source: Research Discussion)



Picture 7: Communication Pattern JAD's Bridge with JAD Community (Source: Research Discussion)

From the picture above, the bridge's role is only to connect two different divisions, so anyone could take this part too. This was proven by the existence of Abu Osama and Adi Jihadi who acted as channeling combatants and followers from Indonesia to abroad, such as the Philippines and countries in the Middle East region (Medistiara, 2018).

Data analysis showed the unique way from Aman's leadership. He took control of the organization from the prison. According to secret interviewee, Aman could spread the message as long as there is an allowance for visitors, and also there is a special treatment to Aman who often become the interviewee in seminar. in the other words, Aman could meet the public even though this organization has been legally banned on 31 July 2018 (Priyasmoro, 2018), from the phenomenon above, Aman is suspected to be able to give instructions to his subordinates secretly.

As a closed organization, JAD has its own communication system which aims to ensure that the communication is not easily detected by other parties. JAD's communication system could make the authorities hard to find valid evidence. JAD usually analogizes their language into Indonesian slang yet the meaning of the language is only understood by the JAD community. Furthermore, FirmanFadhilah said that the JAD community usually uses their language in their work. For example, if the JAD member worked as a *martabak* trader, he could analogize the word "dough" as "explosive," the word "meat" as "human," or the word "egg" as "bomb." In addition, JAD members can also communicate using non-verbal communication such as a hand wave, turban movements, and others.

Discussion

JAD's internal communication depends on the level of the members. The higher level of member the communication become more abstract or un detail so that sometimes JAD members should interpret the message by themselves. The lower level of members the communication becomes more detailed which aims to convince the new member. The communication system used by JAD is an absolute compliance system. So that orders and information conveyed by leaders to their subordinates are mandatory and must be carried out. On several occasions, the leader did not even give room to ask questions or did not give room for feedback. Aman can communicate with all members, but not all members can communicate safely, only regional leaders and bridge. Meanwhile, the units under regional leaders are not allowed to communicate with Aman, so it could be said that JAD sticks to the hierarchy and the structure they build.

Allegiance systems could affect the system of giving instruction, taking action or the purpose of the JAD activity. The instruction in JAD only comes from the leaders such as Aman and the temporary regional leaders, as the mentioned above, the bridge only becomes the medium of providing the additional information but cannot give the instruction. As in the Thamrin bomb case (Nugroho, 2018), Aman said that he received instructions from the leadership in Syria to carry out jihad as in Paris and Rois would deliver the technicalities for the implementation. From that case proven that Aman did not give the detailed information to the regional leaders, yet the regional leaders will explain the detailed instruction to the subordinates after getting the explanation from Rois, so this case means Rois is a person who became the bridge in JAD. The regional leader, which consists of four units, will coordinate. After making preparations, JAD members who were given the task will take an action. The difficulty level of a given task is determined by the loyalty, ideology that is understood, experience, and the ability of the members.

As previously explained, the actions taken by JAD were also influenced by the compliance system. According to the secret interviewee, the actions taken by JAD must be based on instructions from the leader. If JAD members take action individually without any permission from the leaders, FirmanFadhilah said that the chance of was not recognized by JAD even though the declaration of the attack sometimes determines through the collateral damage that is caused by the attack. Then, FirmanFadhilah said that action could be done based on macro instructions from ISIS which was called Jihad Hikayat. Those instructions allow an individual to do an action without any instruction from JAD's leader. Jihad Hikayat can make it difficult for the authorities because this macro instruction creates opportunities for attack freely anytime and anywhere. Sometimes, an individual who did the action did not realize that they're one of the members of JAD and need such in depth investigation to reveal the relation with JAD due to very close organization at the lowest level.

The compliance system in JAD also influences the explanation of the objectives of the action. Whenever a leader gives instructions, there is no detailed information about the specific objectives of the action and it depends on the compliance of every member of JAD to do those instructions without any question. Yet all the members of JAD have the same vision regarding the main objective of their action which aims to establish the Khilafah in Indonesia, the Ideology that adopted by JAD follows the main organization which is ISIS. JAD had different things in spreading their ideology. Every role in JAD, both at high and low level could spread the ideology to society. JAD has been using the technology to spread the Khilafah Ideology and radical message in Indonesia, otherwise, JAD also using the traditional way such as religious speech and Intrapersonal communication by word of mouth in work environment, home environment, and family. Secret interviewee revealed that the spread of ideology is only done to new members or people who are targeted to become new members of JAD. According to the secret interviewee, people who are the targets of JAD, are people who do not have a high level of religious knowledge so that an approach through the emotional and religious side when starting to spread its doctrine. This phenomenon becomes more interesting because even though most of them are experts at using media or kind of technology, JAD still uses the conventional way in the communication process in spreading their ideology. and this phenomenon is different from the organization studied by Rothenberger (2017).

JAD upward communication according to Liliweri (2014, p. 389) hard to identify because the compliance system has been applied by JAD requires downward communication pattern. Although, according to Liliweri, upward communication is useful for organizational leaders to gather information as a reference in making decisions, in JAD decisions are made and given only by JAD leaders. Then, the secret interviewee said that JAD members should not get into too much discussion with their leaders. The last type of communication is horizontal, meaning that it happens into two levels, which is regional leaders and unit level. The regional leaders communicate with each other in order to coordinate the activities. Secret interviewee reveals that the activities have been done not only to discuss the attack strategy, yet to recruit, decide the next target, funding, and others. Besides that, horizontal communication is also formed when JAD unit members plan for an action or operation.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis above, the researchers concluded that the JAD terrorist group uses communication patterns in the form of wheel patterns, star patterns, umbrella patterns, and chain patterns. Those four patterns were formed in the communication conducted by Aman as JAD leader, regional leader, bridge, recruitment unit, military unit, funding unit, and training unit. Those patterns work with a compliance system that makes the one way flow of communication in JAD. This one way communication flow is caused by the phenomenon where almost all instructions and information are given only from the leadership in JAD while members at lower levels only obey what is said or instructed.

In running of the communication, JAD members have their own communication system to hide the meaning of conversation from outside. This was intended to ensure that the JAD group would not be easily exposed and arrested by the authorities. This hiding communication system is using the analogical words by the daily language of JAD's members. Then, JAD cut off the internal communication between internal networks so that they were not easily tracked. Even Though this organization has limited strength, the spread of its ideology is still developing not only using the communication technology and updating information, yet the conventional interpersonal interaction in their daily activities. Both of these communications make the spread of their ideology hard to eradicate.

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