

# Conflict as a negotiation strategy of society around mining activities

*by Sukri .*

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## Conflict as a negotiation strategy of society around mining activities

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**Abstract.** This paper aims to examine the conflicts that occur between communities around the mine and mining companies. Mining is one sector that often reaps protests that lead to conflicts from communities other than plantations and forestry. Conflicts that occur in the same form tend to be resolved through the same method. Conflicts that occur repeatedly indicate there is no conflict resolution for the substantial problem that was become the conflict trigger. Conflict resolution efforts are often not directly related to the impacts that caused by the company's extraction activities. this shows the tendency that emerged that the conflict was then maintained as a strategy to obtain profits from the company's existence.

### 1. Introduction

The natural resource extraction activities through mining is one of the most rational way that can be adopted by many people to maximizing efforts to pursue development and economic growth [1]. Countries with ownership of natural resources such as Indonesia always try to make the most of these various resources as an effort to prosper their communities. Therefore, mining activities become one of the activities most often found in countries with abundant natural resources such as Indonesia. Through mining activities, it is expected to have a trickle-down effect on other sectors which will ultimately prosper the community as a whole.

The ideal picture related to the trickle-down effect of the mining sector at the level of reality does not indicate what is expected. The mining sector often grows by leaving other sectors tend to be slow if it cannot be called stagnant. Trickle down effect is not expected to occur, which occurs on the ground precisely mining activities cause complex problems both related to environmental damage in the form of pollution and agricultural land residents who can not be planted or related to the effects of mining activities on the lives of the surrounding community. The agricultural land of residents affected by mining, of course, in addition to bringing environmental impacts, will further threaten food security in the country [2]. These conditions make mining activities often colored by conflicts from various related parties, especially between mining companies and communities around the mine.

Mining activities that tend to take a very long time and cover a large area, especially in mining activities close to corporate settlements, cause the mining sector to be one of the sectors that most often



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protests and conflicts with communities other than the plantation and forestry sectors. Conflicts that occur between the community and the company continue throughout the operation of the company. Conflicts that occur show almost the same tendency in various regions.

The same conflict tendencies are responded to by companies in similar ways. Conflicts occur simultaneously without a solution that is truly able to stop the conflict and prevent the conflict from happening again. Conflicts between communities and companies revolve around protests by communities around the mine regarding the environment in the form of environmental pollution. In addition to pollution problems, communities also have problems with land ownership rights that are often taken by companies when companies expand or develop factories or companies [3]. In addition to these two problems, the large economic gap between the communities around the mine and the company certainly triggers other conflicts.

Environmental conflicts usually occur when communities are affected by pollution due to company activities, the loss of the rights of citizens and indigenous peoples to their land is another form of environmental conflict that occurs, in addition to the community's agricultural land that can no longer be planted by the community or then the community's agricultural production is not optimal due environmental pollution by companies. Environmental problems that occur will have an impact on economic problems that must be faced by communities around the mine who mostly work in agriculture [4].

Some of the problems faced by the community then become aspects that trigger conflict through various protests, demonstrations, closure of access to the company and at the extreme point of destruction of company facilities [6]. Responding to the conflict, the company shows a similar pattern, the company will overcome the conflict as early as possible with the most minimal standards, usually through giving some money or business assistance to the protesting community [5].

With this then, it can be assumed that conflicts and patterns of resolution that tend to be the same and take place simultaneously are a form of negotiations carried out by communities around the mine against the company [6]. Without conflict, the community will not get anything from the company's extraction activities other than the negative impacts that have been described previously.

## 9 Methodology

This paper analysis is based on the results of qualitative research with various observation was in Maros and Pangkajene, South Sulawesi, Indonesia during April and May 2018. The research was focused on various conflicts that occurs in the surrounding of mining activities. Thru Tit for Tat Perspective, the tendency of conflicts be analyzed to provide reasons behind the continuity of conflict fact. The analysis then found that the conflict seems transform from a disagreement of something to become a bargaining activity to get the parties interests.

## 3. Results and discussion

### 3.1 Tic for tat and conflict resolution

Conflict is a condition that coincides with human existence. Conflict is considered a natural condition where every human will always try to defend themselves and put forward their desires towards other humans. Throughout human life, conflict becomes one of the things that is always around him. Thus, an in a community or community is always created spaces for conflict creating spaces for interaction of conflicts between people in many spaces of interaction.

In general literature, conflict is used interchangeably with other terms. This where it becomes relevant to mention words or terms that represent conflict synonyms. This includes contrast, disharmony, strife, struggle, contests, strife, antagonism, controversy, clash, competition, contests, fights, fights,

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fighting, battles, battles, battles, hostilities, battles and wars. In politics, it's not too different; However, technical conflict means a state of interruption between two or more parties to the problem [6].

However, every party involved in a conflict always strives to find a way out of a substantial problem that becomes the conflict that triggers the conflict. Therefore, each party always strives to find a certain point of agreement that can be accepted by all parties to the conflict. Thus, each party to the conflict basically tries to find a resolution to the conflict. One of the key concepts in conflict resolution is a win-win solution [7]. In this understanding, conflict will lead to a pattern of distributive negotiation. In this pattern, each party will get something even though it may not be optimal. However, this is still considered better than the model of conflict resolution where one party will get many things and at the same time the other party suffers losses. This condition makes the conflict an arena for meeting different interests which ultimately leads to a condition where each party gets something from the conflict condition. Thus, the conflict is very possible to be the desired aspect and then open the negotiation space to get certain things from the bargaining process by each party in the conflict. This is what makes Tit for Tat's condition in conflict seem relevant.

The concept of Tit for tat is part of game theory. Tit for tat said that someone will be more successful if he cooperates with other parties. The preferred strategy in tit for tat is based on the concepts of retaliation and altruism. Tit for tat states that one must take the same attitude as that taken by another party first in the same case. Through this concept, we are taught to collaborate through the description of the attitude taken by other parties.

Tit for tat is one of the concepts taken to resolve conflicts that occur in the community. Settlement of conflicts through tit for tat is not like negotiations that will produce a lasting peace because both parties to the conflict have reached a common ground. Collaboration with other parties intended in the Tit for Tat strategy is only intended to prevent conflicts from becoming greater [8]. In other words, cooperation in Tit for Tat does not resolve the conflict, but only dampens the conflict so that it does not escalate. So thus the problem solving process in Tit for Tat is only intended to partially resolve the problem.

Conflict is a condition that brings together parties who have different interests who do not get common ground so that conflict becomes a condition that will occur. Through conflict it is believed that a solution will be found. The parties involved in the conflict will automatically look for a meeting point to resolve the conflict. Each party involved will strive to benefit or fulfill its interests even in the most minimal context.

Within this condition, the conflict can then be used as a certain party strategy to get its interests. This is evident in the various conflicts that often occur between communities and mining companies. Conflicts between communities around the mine and the company are often preceded by something that clearly shows the negative effects caused by mining operations. However, conflicts that occur often do not produce substantive solutions to the problems that are the reasons and triggers of the conflict, but end at a certain point of agreement that is often not directly related to the reasons for triggering the conflict.

### 3.2. Transformation of conflict to become negotiation strategy

Conflicts between communities around the mine and mining companies basically not only occur in Indonesia, but the same trend also occurs in several other mining areas in the world and trigger by various aspects [9]. Communities around the mine who are supported by environmental organizations by the private sector often protest. Protests carried out by the community related to the negative impact of the company's extraction activities on various aspects of community life. Mining companies supported by the government are expected to be able to bring growth towards a positive trend together with the community around the mine. But at the level of reality, mining companies grow by bringing various problems in several aspects of community life.

Some aspects of community life around the mine affected by the company's extraction activities include land selection, environmental problems in the form of pollution, a large economic gap between the community and the company, and various health problems that the community must face as a result of the company's extraction activities. In addition, the company is also the party that is claimed to be responsible for the survival of indigenous peoples in the company's mining sites.

Conflicts that occur between the community and the company are usually carried out in the form of protests in the form of demonstrations, the closure of access roads and at one extreme are the destruction of company facilities. Claims given by the community are related to compensation for losses suffered by the community as a result of company activities. Companies are often responded to by community demands by providing economic assistance in the form of cash or with business capital assistance [10]. This shows that the efforts to resolve conflicts by the company are not directly related to the substance of the conflict.

People who protest against the company regarding the problems they face show a tendency to stop protesting when the company has provided some compensation. In some mining sites, people protest about their agricultural land affected by the company's extraction activities. In response to the protest the company provided some assistance to the community. one of them, for example, is the allocation of CSR funds.

In the ideal context, the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a form of corporate responsibility towards the community affected by company activities. Through CSR the company shows its commitment to continue acting ethically, operating legally, and contributing to improving the economy, quality of life of employees and their families, as well as the local community and the wider community [11]. So, through this, CSR is often used as a bridge that connects the interests of the community and the company. Ethically CSR is basically part of the evidence of the company's responsibility to the surrounding communities affected by mining activities.

However, CSR assistance programs provided by companies to affected communities do not really target the root of the problem. Environmental problems in the form of pollution, loss of citizens' rights to their land, indigenous peoples who have to surrender their ancestral lands are resolved by providing financial assistance. This is certainly not in line with the real problem. But then, what is done by the company becomes natural considering the large material and non-material losses that must be borne by the company when the community protests. So that the company has an interest in resolving conflicts as early as possible and preventing conflicts from escalating. What the next company does is to give "something" to the people who protest.

This pattern of conflict resolution leads us to the fact that conflicts between communities and mining companies tend to be something that is mainly guarded by the community. meaning that the reasons for the emergence of conflicts basically tend to be left out. Thus, the community tends to have a reason for bargaining with the company. This shows that conflicts with environmental backgrounds and the effects of mining activities have the potential to be used as a strategy to emphasize certain interests. This condition makes the conflicts that occur between the community and mining companies tend to be ongoing with issues that are more or less the same from time to time. Accordingly, conflicts are then more likely to be seen as opportunities to meet between companies and communities, which in the end will lead to the emergence of certain bargaining processes. Mining companies with an interest that the production process is not disrupted because it will bring huge losses will always try to hold the conflict with the community so that it does not reach a high escalation point. Sooner the conflict is muted, it will better i for the sustainability of the production process.

That condition then produces a condition where companies usually try to meet the demands of the community as soon as possible. The recurring patterns then give rise to a certain awareness in the community where they see opportunity to get something from a conflict. Thus, there is a tendency for

conflict to become a systematically guarded effort to be used as a bargaining strategy and to pressure companies to benefit the community. Conflicts come with a general reason related to environmental impacts and then are partially resolved on the fulfillment of certain demands and conflicts are muffled. In time the conflict will reappear with more or less the same reasons and more or less the same solution.

#### 4. Conclusion

The mining sector is expected to be able to bring a trickle-down effect on other sectors so that the community can be prosperous as a whole. This is the background so that the government then supports the sector by providing investment convenience. But what happens shows different conditions, conflicts between communities and companies actually occur frequently and show a recurring pattern.

Conflict between the community around the mine and the mining company is a pattern of relationships that often occurs in various regions. The conflict resolution mechanism that is carried out shows a tendency where both parties involved in the conflict do not show an effort to resolve the conflict to the root of the problem. This can be seen from the conflict resolution program carried out which shows a partial form and is short term. Conflicts that occur tend to be maintained and used as a strategy for one party to benefit from the other party. This condition is exacerbated by the absence of a truly institutionalized effort from the company to solve the problems caused as a result of the extraction activities carried out by the company.

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