

## TRADE NETWORKS AND MARITIME COMMODITIES IN THE SAMUDERA PASAI SULTANATE 13<sup>TH</sup> TO 15<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

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**Abstract:** *This article is a research on one of the sultanates in the Archipelago, the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai. This research aims to discover the brief history of the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai, the trade network of Samudera Pasai with other nations, and the maritime commodities in the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai. The author in this paper uses literature or library research methods and historical research methods. Based on the research results, Samudera Pasai was located in the strategic Malacca Strait, which made Samudera Pasai the center of maritime trade between nations. Samudera Pasai was also known as a place of spice trade because it produced and sold much pepper. Pasai's strategic location in the Strait of Malacca established trade networks with other nations, especially the Indians and Chinese. The number of traders from various nations made all commodities or trade goods from all over the world can be found at the port of Samudera Pasai. The types of commodity goods that came from outside the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai were tombstones and ceramics. Meanwhile, the types of commodities that came from Samudera Pasai or locally were pepper and pottery.*

**Keywords:** *Trade Network, Commercial Commodities, Samudera Pasai*

**Abstrak:** Artikel ini merupakan penelitian mengenai salah satu kesultanan di Nusantara yakni Kesultanan Samudera Pasai. Tujuan dalam penelitian ini berusaha untuk mengetahui sejarah singkat Kesultanan Samudera Pasai, Jaringan dagang Samudera Pasai dengan bangsa lain, serta komoditas perniagaan maritim yang ada di Kesultanan Samudera Pasai. Penulis pada tulisan ini menggunakan Studi kepustakaan serta metode penelitian sejarah. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian Samudera Pasai terletak di Selat Malaka yang strategis sehingga membuat Samudera Pasai menjadi pusat perniagaan maritim antar bangsa. Lalu Samudera Pasai juga dikenal sebagai tempat perniagaan rempah karena memproduksi dan menjual banyak lada. Letak Pasai yang berada di Selat Malaka dan strategis membuat terbentuknya jaringan dagang dengan bangsa lain terutama bangsa India dan bangsa Cina. Banyaknya para pedagang dari berbagai bangsa didunia membuat semua komoditas atau barang dagang dari seluruh dunia bisa ditemukan di pelabuhan Samudera Pasai. Adapun jenis barang komoditas barang yang berasal dari luar kesultanan Samudera Pasai ialah batu nisan serta keramik. Sedangkan jenis barang komoditas yang berasal dari Samudera Pasai atau lokal ialah lada dan tembikar.

**Kata Kunci:** *Jalaur Perdagangan, Komunitas Perdagangan, Samudera Pasai.*

## INTRODUCTION

"Maritime" means navigation or nautical, maritime is all business and shipping activities related to the sea. Indonesia is an archipelago nation with a giant sea area and thousands of islands. Of course, in Indonesian commerce, there is a need for sea transportation facilities to connect one land with another. In commerce and the world economy, ships or sea transportation are needed because the delivery of goods is efficient. In the past, the Indonesian nation with Maritime has been challenging to separate, where commerce or trade between islands and continents at that time developed marked by the emergence of various ships and shipping technology (Hamid, 2018).

The song titled "My Ancestors Were Sailors," made in the 1950s by Ibu Soebidjo, also known as Ibu Soed, is often heard and sung by children at school. The song's existence can be used as evidence that the Indonesian people in the past had experienced a glorious period in the maritime sector. Indonesian people in the past understood the meaning and benefits of the sea to ensure the interests of trade and transportation. Based on Anthony Reid's book entitled "Southeast Asia in the Commercial Period 1450-1680", Southeast Asian history is separated into three periods, namely the classical era, the traditional era (13th-18th century), and the modern era (colonialism and post-colonialism). At the same time, the traditional period (13th-18th century) was influenced by trade activities. During the 13th - 16th century period, the Indonesian people experienced progress in maritime trade because they had a dominant influence in Southeast Asia with territorial and legal control. This can be seen with maritime kingdoms such as the Bugis Kingdom, Majapahit Kingdom, and the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai (Kamaluddin, 2005). The Dutch, through Houtman, arrived in the East Indies in 1599 to collect pepper from the sultanate of Aceh. (Beekman, 1998)

Before the spice route in the early centuries AD made maritime commerce flourish, spices from the Archipelago had yet to become a global trade product. Initially, the spices the Romans and Egyptians obtained were not from the Archipelago but from Gujarat or India and regions in South Asia. However, in its development, the South Asian region needed help to fill the high demand for spices. After knowing that other areas also

produced spices (Archipelago), there was a change in transportation from the land route, namely the Silk Route, to the shipping or sea route (Turner, 2011). Based on its historical background, Indonesia has had a significant and highly developed kingdom in the field of maritime affairs, encompassing all aspects of its social structure. Both the economy and daily life heavily rely on the sea. (Siregar et al., 2023).

Proliferated the spice trade and became a driving force for shipping activities and maritime commerce for centuries. Maritime trading activities in various ports of the Archipelago led to the emergence of maritime kingdoms, one of which was the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai. This research aims to discover the brief history of the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai, the trade network of Samudera Pasai with other nations, and the maritime trade commodities in the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The preparation of this research was written by the author using the literature study method or Library Research method. A historian must be objective in his writing. (Rahmawati et al., 2019). Literature study is a technique for solving problems by reviewing several sources of writing that previous people have done. So that it can be said, Literature Studies can also be known as Library studies, which are ways or stages to obtain information obtained from previous writings or studies carried out and do not pay attention to secondary data or primary data used in a study (Ardianto, 2011).

Primary sources used in this research come from archives related to the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai in the 13th to 15th centuries " *Paradijzen van weleer. Koloniale literatuur uit Nederlands-Indië, 1600-1950 (vertaling Maarten van der Marel en René Wezel). 1950, 1600–1950.*" author E. M. Beekman, and a book titled *Pasai dalam Pejalanan Sejarah: Abad ke 13 hingga Awal 16* by Muhammad Gede Ismail. In comparison, secondary sources include books, articles, or other literature related to the research. This method is carried out through several stages such as collecting data, then reading, analyzing, and reviewing the reading sources needed to obtain information related to the trade network and maritime commerce commodities in the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai.

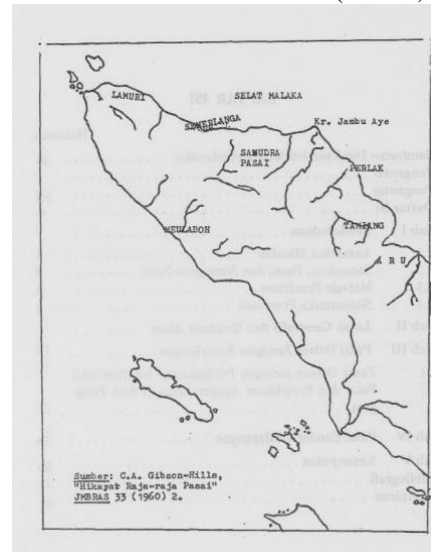
## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Brief History of the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai

The Sultanate of Samudera Pasai was a sultanate born from the merger of the Sultanate of Perlak and the Sultanate of Samudera. The Sultanate of Pasai is estimated to have been born in the early XIII century and made the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai the first Nusantara kingdom with an Islamic character. The Sultanate of Samudera Pasai, also known as the Sultanate of Samudera Darussalam was a sultanate located in the northern part of Sumatra island, and the banks of the Krueng Pase River and the banks of the Krueng Jambu Aye River were the centers of the government of the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai (Said, 2007). The location of Samudera Pasai, which is located on the coast and riverside, had a positive impact in that it became easy to connect the inland area with the coastal area, which later emptied into the Strait of Malacca, a place for various communities and ethnicities to trade. A Moroccan traveler named Ibn Bathutah visited Samudera Pasai in 1345-1346 on his voyage from India to China. He noted that various ethnicities living in Pasai, such as Persians and Arabs, and said that trade was the source of income for Samudera Pasai (Annisa, 2016).

The Sultanate of Samudera Pasai was founded in the 13th century by Meurah Silu and was initially located inland. Meurah Silu's grandfather was the king of the Samarlanga region. After his grandfather died, Meurah Silu moved from Samarlanga to Biruan and lived near the river. When Meurah Silu made bubu in the river, he obtained much gold and silver, making him rich and having followers. Meurah Silu managed to establish a kingdom called Samudera, and in 1267, as the founder of the Samudera kingdom, Meurah Silu was given the title Sultan Malik As-Saleh. Three factors made the Samudera kingdom advanced during the time of Sultan Malik As-Saleh. The first factor was that Meurah Silu accepted Sheikh Ismail from Malabar to spread Islam. The second factor was that Meurah Silu expanded the area towards the coast and established a new center of government in the coastal area called Pasai because, at that time, the coastal area was visited by trading ships. The third factor was that Meurah Silu married Ganggang Sari, who was the daughter of the Sultan of Perlak, thus making the families of the two sultanates on the

northern Sumatra coast unite and become a sultanate named Samudera Pasai (Ismail, 1997).



Picture 1. Samudera Pasai Kingdom Region (Ismail, 1993)

Samudera Pasai Sultanate, when viewed from a geographical location and socio-economic field, is a strategic area because of its location that connects trade centers between nations such as Arabia, India, and China. This made Samudera Pasai the main center of maritime commerce in the XIII century. Plus Samudera Pasai was also located in the Strait of Malacca, a strategic shipping route (Sulistiyono, 2015). Then Samudera Pasai made shipping and commerce the central sector of its economy, where the sultanate supervised shipping and commerce so that the sultanate could obtain revenue and taxes from shipping and commerce. The Sultanate of Pasai produced and sold pepper, which was in demand by merchants and trading people from outside the Archipelago such as Keling, Gujarat, and China, making Pasai known as the center of the spice trade (Marsden, 2008).

During the leadership of Sultan Malik Az Zahir or Malik Tahir, the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai experienced progress by developing into a significant place of commerce. Traders from all over the world, such as China, India, and Africa, gathered at the port of Samudera Pasai. The Sultanate of Samudera Pasai in the XIII-XVI centuries, especially in the port city, was very busy. This was also supported by the Pasai region called Pidie, which became the center of the spice trade, mainly pepper, the main export item. At

that time, the sultanate of Samudera Pasai produced 10,000 bahars every year. Besides pepper, there were also other trade goods, such as gold and camphor obtained from the interior of Pasai. Samudera Pasai also had its currency used as a means of payment called Deureuham, which was made from gold. The existence of the Deureuham currency signaled the advancement of the Samudera Pasai trading city (Alfian, 1973).

## **B. Samudera Pasai Trade Network**

The role and presence of Muslims in the Southeast Asian region's trade network are dominant, where areas with Islamic solid influence are important in maritime trade. The decline of Srivijaya in the late 12th century due to the Cola kingdom from India and internal conflicts made maritime trade move to the Samudera Pasai region and the north coast of Sumatra. The Sultanate of Samudera Pasai, located around the Strait of Malacca, was connected to other ports in the Bay of Bengal, the South China Sea, and the Indian Ocean. This indirectly led to the establishment of trade networks with other nations. The other nations with trade relations with Samudra Pasai are China and India (Lapian, 2017).

### **1. Samudera Pasai's trade network with China**

It is mentioned in Chinese records dating back to the 12th century that the main trade commodity from the port of Samudera Pasai and the Pidie region was the spice pepper. Another source from a 13th-century Chinese record says the Lamuri region, or "Lan wu li," and the Samudera region, or "Sawen ta la, " sent their envoys to China then. Also, in the 1400s, it was recorded that the king of Sumatra visited China with offerings of goods from Sumatra, which the Emperor of China happily received. Samudera Pasai is located west of Malacca, the center of the confluence of the oceans in the west. The people of Samudera Pasai lived on the coast and produced pepper. Chinese traders came to Samudera Pasai to obtain goods such as pepper, precious stones, cloves, sappan wood, and horses. Chinese traders who came to Samudera Pasai earned high profits because they would sell expensive goods from Samudera Pasai and located far away from other places or ports (Reid, 2011).

The Sultanate of Samudera Pasai was an early producer of pepper, which began to be planted in the Archipelago in the 13th century. In the 16th century, the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai managed to produce 1,800 tons of pepper. The harvest time of pepper spice is done twice a year where. The first harvest is in October and March, which is a large harvest, and the second harvest is done in April and September with small yields. The planting and trading of pepper spice attracted the Chinese, as mentioned in a Chinese source 1416: "Samudera Pasai pepper is planted in gardens and mountains, pepper creeps on other objects. The pepper flowers are white and yellow, initially green, then red when ripe. When ripe, the harvested pepper will be dried under the sun. Pepper is sold for one tahlil of silver or 80 gold pieces for a standard weight of one hundred catties". Samudera Pasai was strategically located because it was the western entrance gate of the Malacca Strait for ships traveling in the Indian Ocean. Because of its position, Samudera Pasai became a shipping route for ships sailing, especially from China to the Archipelago or vice versa. Because when the trade winds from China and the Indian Ocean monsoon winds ended in the Malacca Strait, the sailing ships were required to rest and anchor at the port of Samudera Pasai (Poesponegoro, 1993).

The Sultanate of Samudera Pasai was visited by merchant ships from other nations to stop by and trade. In trading with Chinese traders, the currencies used were white tin and gold coins. Gold coins can also be called Dinar, which contain 70% pure gold and weigh 10 grams in a round shape. The trade network between Samudera Pasai and China can be seen from the presence of Cheng Ho, a Chinese admiral, in Samudera Pasai between 1405-1433, which was the beginning of the China and Samudera Pasai network formation. However, in 1411 when Admiral Cheng Ho brought Iskandar, who was the son of Sultan of Pasai Zainal Abidin, Iskandar was killed when he arrived in China, so since then, the network between China and Samudera Pasai has been tenuous (Inagurasi, 2017).



Picture 2. Shipping routes from Samudera Pasai to China in the 13th-14th centuries (Inagurasi, 2017)

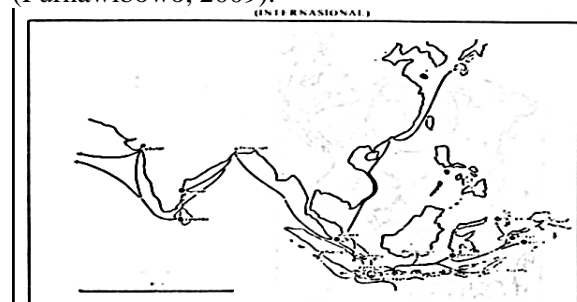
## 2. Samudera Pasai's trade network with India

The ports of Southwest India were prosperous in the trade of ivory, spices, and gems. The ports of Southwest India were also the most peaceful and secure harbors for ships wishing to dock for long-distance voyages through Arabian waters and the Bay of Bengal. Around the area were rich and large cities around the Malabar Coast, where the merchants and trading people of Malabar were Muslims. Malabar is a series of maritime commerce in the Arabian waters and the Bay of Bengal. Malabar produces 2,000 bahars of pepper and more than 2,000 quintals of ginger annually, which is taken to the most profitable regions. In April-October, the Indian merchants left their ports with the southwest monsoon, then in the middle of the following year, with the northeast monsoon, the Indian merchants returned to their ports from the Archipelago carrying the commodities obtained from the Archipelago (Reid, 2014).

Only the Archipelago's ports in the western part of the Archipelago were where Indian traders stopped and traded due to the rivalry of spice-related trade with traders from Europe and China. An explorer named Muhammad bin Batutah or Ibnu Batutah from Morocco noted that the Sultan of Delhi had a good relationship with the Sultan of Samudera Pasai (Sulistiyono, 2015). In addition, Indian Muslim traders had established a trade network with the Archipelago. Indian Muslim traders settled around the port city of Samudera Pasai, where in addition to trading, they also spread the teachings of Islam and even married women from Samudera Pasai. When examined more closely, the Islamic teachings embraced by the people of Samudera Pasai have similarities with those of the Malabar people, showing a

connection between the maritime trade route and the spread of Islam (Aldian, 2005).

Traders from Bengal, Gujarat, and India visited Pidie and the port of Samudera Pasai due to the presence of Lada. The development of the port city of Samudera Pasai into a center of commerce in the Malacca Strait region was inseparable from the local connection between upstream and downstream. Pepper and camphor produced upstream were traded at coastal ports intersecting with India. The busy maritime trade and religious activities brought many people worldwide to Samudera Pasai, which resulted in the glory of Samudera Pasai. Samudera Pasai Sultanate produced 10,000 bahars of pepper per year. Besides producing pepper Samudera Pasai, they also produced frankincense and silk. Traders from Gujarat, Keling, and India gathered at the port of Samudera Pasai, where they received abundant profits when selling commodities from Samudera Pasai in Indian markets or ports (Purnawibowo, 2009).



Picture 3. 15th Century Trade Route (International) (Ismail, 1993)

Before producing pepper, Samudera Pasai was known amongst the trade as a gold producer, which attracted trade people, especially those from India, to use it as jewelry. The gold produced by Samudera Pasai was sourced from soil from the banks and bottom of the river, which was then cleaned with river water that had been made to flow towards it. There were two kinds of gold produced by Samudera Pasai, namely Supayang gold and Sungai Abu gold. Supayang gold comes from quartz stones that unite with delicate gold veins, forming beautiful pieces. Meanwhile, Sungai Abu gold comes from a collection of pebbles (Pamoentjak, 1993).

### C. Maritime Trade Commodities in Samudera Pasai

Samudra Pasai, in its heyday, was an international port city and maritime trade center in Southeast Asia, where merchants from various nations such as India, Persia, China, and Siam visited the port of Samudera Pasai. The large number of traders from various nations made all commodities or trade goods from all over the world can be found and obtained in the port city of Samudera Pasai. In the port city of Samudera Pasai, commodities or trade goods, both imported and exported, were necessary for the economy and source of income of the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai. The types of imported commodities or goods that came from outside the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai were tombstones and ceramics (Koentjaningrat, 2009), while the types of commodities that came from Samudera Pasai or locally were pepper, pottery, and salt. The glory of the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai as a port city and commercial city in the XIII-XVI century period was inseparable from commodities or trade goods that had a vital role. Trade good or commodity was significant for port and commercial cities because it was the main spearhead of the economy and source of income for the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai (Hamid, 2021).

#### a. Commodities imported or outside Samudera Pasai.

Pasai was a city or trading port on international shipping and trade routes in the 13th to early 16th centuries. The export value of pepper increased yearly, making pepper cultivation a top priority. Samudera Pasai imported rice from East Java for its food needs. Besides foodstuffs, other imported goods imported to Pasai were colored silk, pottery, copper, iron, and cloth from China (Ismail, 1993). More details can be seen in the table below:

Tabel 1. Samudera Pasai import commodities

| No | Commodities | Importing Country                                    |
|----|-------------|--|
| 1  | Tombstone   | Gujarat, India, called Cambay.                       |
| 2  | Ceramics    | China, Vietnam, Siam (Thailand), and Burma (Myanmar) |

#### 1. Tombstone

A product or commodity that was imported or not produced in Samudera

Pasai was tombstones. It was imported in the 15th century from a trading port in Gujarat, India, called Cambay. This can be seen from the similarity between the tombstones in the tombs of Samudera Pasai and the tombstones found in Cambay, west of India. The similarities are that the tombstones are made of marble, and the decorations are similar. The tombs that have similarities with the tombstones of Cambay are the tomb of Sultanah Nahrisyah and the tomb of Tengku Sidi. Both tombs are made of marble, with a small porous surface and smooth texture (Amiruddin, 2008). In addition, the top of the tomb is also curved. At the four corners, there are pillars. The base of the tomb is rectangular, and the north and south of the tomb are curved in shape. Whereas in the tombs in Gujarat, India, similar tombs are placed in beautiful and large grave buildings or called "Mausoleums". This mausoleum is sometimes combined with a mosque building, and an example is the tomb built in the XIV century near Mahmudabad to immortalize Mubarak Sayyid (Fitriani, 2019).

#### 2. Ceramics

Ceramics are trade goods or products not produced in Samudera Pasai and from outside Samudera Pasai. Ceramics were generally used for containers or containers for liquid objects and salt containers for sailing supplies. Ceramics were goods or products of maritime trade brought and traded by traders from China, Vietnam, Siam or Thailand, and Burma or Myanmar in the port city area of Samudera Pasai (Dunn, 2018). This is evidenced by the presence of foreign ceramics in the site of the former center of the sultanate of Samudera Pasai, which are thought to be evidence of foreign shipping and trade in Samudera Pasai. Ceramics from trade in the past can be seen at the Samudera Pasai Site as a type of foreign artifact, where examples of ceramics can be seen in the ponds in the western part of the Pase River, which is an area that was once the center of the sultanate of Samudera Pasai, and examples of ceramics can also be seen in Kampung Lama in the eastern part of the Pase River. Ceramics relics of commerce located in the pond west of the Pase River are Chinese ceramics from the XII-XVII

centuries and Vietnamese ceramics from the XVI-XVII centuries. The oldest ceramics in the pond are Chinese ceramics from the XII century, and the number of Chinese ceramics in the pond is the highest. Ceramics relics of commerce located in Kampung Lama on the east side of the Pase River a Thai ceramics from the XIV-XVI century, and there are also Chinese ceramics from the XII-XVI century (Guillot, 2008).

- b. Local trade commodities from Samudera Pasai.

The strategic location of Samudera Pasai Kingdom made it the center of international trade at that time. The Samudera Pasai Kingdom's export goods were primarily natural products and handcrafted items like ceramics, pottery, and tombstones. In detail can be seen in the table below:

Table of export commodities and destination countries

| No | Commodities   | Destination Countries                |
|----|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1  | Natural Products (pepper, gold, silk cloth, and salt) | China, Bengal, Gujarat, and European |
| 2  | pottery and earthenware                               | China, Bengal, Gujarat, and European |

- 1. Natural Products

European sailors concentrated their primary efforts in the East because they dreamed of spices. Although the term 'spices' once denoted a bewildering variety of goods in the 15th century. At that time, spices were fragrant ingredients for seasoning and preserving food as we know them today. The main ones were pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves. (Beekman, 1998).

Natural products that became commodities or local goods from the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai were pepper, gold, silk cloth, and salt. The existence of the silk cloth trade in Samudera Pasai is proven by a letter written by Sultan Abdulah, who was the Sultan of Pasai. In 1512, Sultan Abdullah sent a letter to the Portuguese Governor in India, Alfonso de Albuquerque. The letter's content was about trade issues related to the unique right to purchase silk cloth produced by Samudera Pasai, which at that time was

only given to Indians. In addition to silk cloth, there was also a valuable local trade commodity, the spice Lada. Information related to the pepper trade is written in many explorers' or historical records. This is because pepper has been the leading local commodity in Sumatra since ancient times. Besides spices, Samudera Pasai also had mineral resources such as gold, sulfur, and tin (Iswanto, 2021).

Pepper was the most desirable natural product for merchants and traders from China, Bengal, and Gujarat who visited Samudera Pasai port. One of Aceh's ports was famous for its pepper port (F.V.H.A. de Stuers, 1874). The Sultanate of Samudera Pasai produced 8,000 bahars of pepper yearly, and even during the main harvest, Samudera Pasai could get 15,000 bahars in one year. These figures show that pepper was massively cultivated or planted in the early 16th century in the northern part of Sumatra, and one of the areas that produced pepper was Pidie. The beginning of the 16th century was also marked by the arrival of Europeans in Samudera Pasai, starting with the arrival of the Portuguese fleet in 1509 in Pidie to obtain pepper.

Besides pepper, the natural product of Samudera Pasai that was exported was salt, a commodity or food trade item that has been known since long ago (Kasnowiharyo, 2017). People living in coastal areas only possessed the knowledge and skills to produce salt. However, the existence of food trading materials between salt and rice creates a trading relationship between people who live inland and people who live in coastal areas. Salt is also needed in shipping to supply food. Because on a voyage, merchant ships cannot only contain silk and pepper but are also specific and required to carry salt. Salt in shipping serves to preserve food, especially fish. In buying and selling or trading salt usually uses a unit called takar gantang, where the Gantang unit is a measure of weight equal to one gallon.

In trading activities in Samudera Pasai, trade transactions could be carried out with cash transactions using a medium of exchange in the form of unmelted pieces of gold or tin from China. There was also a currency called deureuham in the form of gold coins issued by the sultanate of

Samudera Pasai. Then in the pepper trade, in addition to cash payment transactions, it could be bartered or exchanged goods, such as cloth, for pepper. Furthermore, trade could also use the takaran system, which was the unit of measurement for commodity trade at that time. At that time, trade-in buying or selling pepper in the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai used a measure called bahar. Bahar is a weight measure used in the spice trade in the Archipelago. Besides the Nusantara people, the Portuguese also used the Bahar weight measure. One bahar is equal to 500 pounds or six sacks, but in some places, the unit of Bahar weight measure varies (Yuliati, 2014).

2. Goods or products made from soil

Pottery and earthenware were goods or commodities from the land from local trade or Samudera Pasai. Pottery, a local trade item, can be seen in the archaeological remains at the former Samudera Pasai Site. Many solid pottery flakes have been combined with ceramic flakes scattered across the ground, making the ground reddish. Flakes of pottery were also found in the tombstone collection. The flakes of pottery that have been combined show the shape of a place or container for household utensils, and its shape can be concluded as a form of pots and stoneware. The pottery produced by the sultanate of Samudera Pasai was made through the massage technique, which is made by hand or fingers. This can be seen from the presence of remains, such as fingerprints on the pottery, especially at the base of the pottery flakes, on the surface position, and inside the pottery (Herlina, 2021).

There is one type of pottery that has a unique shape because there is a hole around the neck of the pottery, and this type of pottery is found in a place that used to be the center of the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai. In addition to pottery, a tool used in producing pottery was also found, namely pelandas, which has a round shape and is made of clay that has previously been burned. The discovery of pelandas and pottery can be used as an assumption that the area where the pelandas and pottery were found used to be the center of the pottery production industry in the sultanate of Samudera Pasai. The assumption that the

pottery was made in Samudera Pasai is also strengthened by the type of soil in Samudera Pasai. The soil type where the pottery sherds were found in river sediment and coastal sediment. River sediment is made up of mud and clay, while beach sediment is made up of mud and sand. Both sediment types support the notion that the pottery was made in Samudera Pasai (Inagurasi, 2017).

## CONCLUSION

Samudera Pasai, or Samudera Darussalam was a sultanate located in the northern part of Sumatra island. The Sultanate of Samudera Pasai has a strategic location because it is located in the Strait of Malacca, so it becomes a business link between nations. This made Samudera Pasai in the XIII century the center of maritime commerce. Samudera Pasai sultanate also produced and sold pepper which attracted other nations to Pasai, so the Samudera Pasai sultanate was known as a place of spice trade. The collapse of the Srivijaya kingdom made maritime trade move to the Samudera Pasai region and the north coast of Sumatra. The Sultanate of Samudera Pasai, which was strategically located in the Malacca Strait, indirectly established trade networks with other nations, especially India and China.

In the trade network with India, the Sultan of Delhi had a relationship with the Sultan of Samudera Pasai. Indian Muslim merchants had also previously established trade networks with the Nusantara people. Indian traders gathered at the port of Samudera Pasai, where they received abundant profits when selling commodities or merchandise from Samudera Pasai in Indian markets or ports. Meanwhile, the trade network with China began when Cheng Ho, a Chinese admiral, arrived in Samudera Pasai around 1405-1433. Chinese traders came to Samudera Pasai to obtain goods such as pepper, precious stones, cloves, sappan wood, and horses. Chinese traders who came to Samudera Pasai earned high profits because they would sell expensive goods from Samudera Pasai located far away from other places or ports.

Samudera Pasai, as a center of maritime commerce, made many traders from various nations such as India, Persia, China, and Siam anchored at the port of Samudera Pasai. With so many traders from all over the world, all commodities or trade goods from all over the



world could be found at the port of Samudera Pasai. Trade goods or commodities have a vital role for ports and commercial cities because they are the main spearhead for the revenue source of the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai. The types of commodity goods imported or originating from outside the Sultanate of Samudera Pasai were tombstones and ceramics. Meanwhile, the types of commodity goods originating from Samudera Pasai or locally were pepper and pottery.

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