

DIVERSE SPATIAL TYPOLOGIES OF CROSS-BORDER TOURISM: INSIGHTS FROM INDONESIA

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Abstract: Globalization has undeniably positioned cross-border tourism as a crucial catalyst for driving economic, social, and cultural exchanges. As an archipelago, Indonesia shares borders with neighboring countries and possesses considerable potential for cross-border tourism. This study aims to explore the spatial typology of cross-border tourism in Indonesia. This study examines three of Indonesia's nine designated cross-border tourism areas, which correspond to the country's three land borders. This study utilized a mixed methods approach to gather data. Regional typology data were collected through map interpretation, direct observation, and secondary sources. Additionally, tourist typologies were obtained by conducting in-depth interviews with 30 border crossers from each border area. The findings highlight the diverse types of cross-border tourism in Indonesia, shaped by spatial, political, historical, and ethnic factors. While these types align with global studies, they also possess unique characteristics specific to Indonesia. Notably, the research shows that borders serve as gateways rather than barriers, with tourist attractions often located near border zones. Additionally, diplomatic relations, historical conflicts, and inter-ethnic connections significantly shape cross-border tourist movements. Furthermore, this study identifies the primary spatial typologies of cross-border tourism in Indonesia, including transit-oriented border tourism, destination-based tourism, and multifunctional tourism regions. The typologies of tourist movement patterns range from single-point visits to more complex destination loops, varying based on the level of integration between border regions. Additionally, the study finds that Indonesia's border tourism areas function as economic and cultural hubs, with market activities, local attractions, and regional mobility playing significant roles in shaping the tourism landscape. This research contributes to the limited literature on cross-border tourism in Southeast Asia. The findings offer valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders aiming to enhance tourism development, foster regional connectivity, and optimize cross-border opportunities. Future studies should investigate additional border areas and conduct longitudinal analyses to understand tourism dynamics better.

Keywords: cross-border, development, Indonesia, spatial, tourism, tourist attraction, typology

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INTRODUCTION

Various indicators increasingly show positive developments in global tourism in the last decade. As a field of study, tourism continues to receive attention from researchers from various scientific fields with various new topics (Aji et al., 2024; Bhowmik, 2021; Mulet-Forteza et al., 2019). Furthermore, the impact of tourism on the global economy is growing (Chinoune et al., 2024; Lekgau et al., 2024), reflecting the evolving relationships between nations, which is also becoming a significant issue (Rasool et al., 2021). One area of study that discusses tourism in the context of relations between countries is cross-border tourism. Regarding scientific publications, cross-border tourism is relatively new (Salouw et al., 2023). Cross-border tourism is a tourism activity that involves two neighboring countries. Nonetheless, scholars' perspectives regarding cross-border tourism, especially the location, still differ. Previous studies were conducted in areas bordering the sea and considered cross-border tourism (Hampton, 2010).

In addition, other studies also view cross-border tourism from a land border perspective (Alas & Anshari, 2021; Gorochnaya et al., 2021; Mikhaylova et al., 2022; Tambovceva et al., 2020; Timothy, 1999).

The absence of a conclusive agreement regarding the characteristics of cross-border tourism (Batala et al., 2017; Hampton, 2010) makes the urgency of research on the typology of cross-border tourism even more important. From the perspective of research locations, until now, research on cross-border tourism in Asia is still very minimal, especially in Indonesia (Salouw et al., 2023). So far, scholars from the European and American continents have produced many studies on cross-border tourism. More research on cross-border tourism will contribute to the characteristics of cross-border tourism globally. In addition, research on the typology of cross-border tourism can enrich this topic.

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Within the scope of cross-border tourism studies, several previous studies have been conducted regarding the typology of cross-border tourism. For instance, Boonchai & Freathy (2020) researched ignored shoppers. In addition, Székely (2011) also reviewed the typology of cross-border tourism in general. However, previous research on the typology of cross-border tourism has not been comprehensive in reviewing regional and tourist typologies. Therefore, this study was conducted to explore the typology of cross-border tourism in Indonesia, specifically on the spatial aspect regarding the research question; what is the spatial typology of cross-border tourism in Indonesia, and its implications for future research? The findings in this study will be an important insight for stakeholders, and contribute to the enrichment of knowledge, especially regarding cross-border tourism typologies.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Cross-border tourism

The temporary movement of people from their home environment to a new place for leisure, health, sports, religion, and visiting family is part of tourism activity (Timothy & Gelbman, 2023). Thus, cross-border tourism can be seen as an activity across borders motivated by the need for travel. Cross-border tourism can be viewed from the point of view of land and sea borders. However, until now, it is still a critical discussion regarding the location of cross-border tourism (Hampton, 2010; Salouw et al., 2023). In the last decade, research on cross-border tourism has continued to increase. Previous research on cross-border has not explicitly discussed the typology of cross-border tourism and its characteristics. This study explores the typology of cross-border tourism in Indonesia.

In Indonesia, cross-border tourism has become an essential discourse for tourism stakeholders. This can be seen from the efforts of the Indonesian government to have established nine cross-border tourism areas in Indonesia (Figure 1). These nine cross-border tourism areas are located on sea and land borders in Indonesia. In this study, the cross-border tourism area studied is the cross-border tourism area that is on the land border.

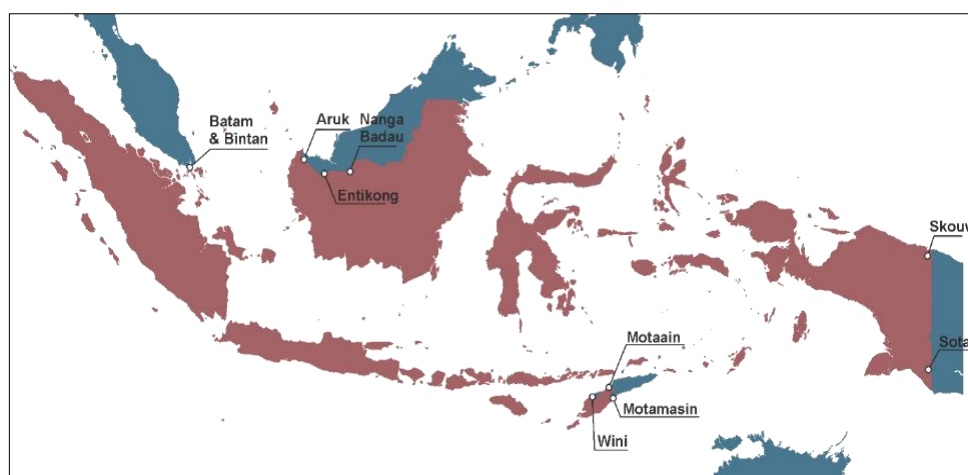


Figure 1. Nine cross-border tourism areas in Indonesia (Source: Modified from the Topographic Map of Indonesia (RBI) by the authors)

Description: A map of Indonesia highlighting various cross-border tourism areas along its sea and land borders. Key locations include Batam and Bintan on the border with Singapore; Entikong, Aruk, and Nanga Badau on the border with Malaysia; Mota'ain, Motamasin, and Wini on the border with Timor Leste; and Skouw and Sota on the border with Papua New Guinea. These areas are marked in blue, while the rest of Indonesia is shaded in red. The map visually emphasizes the distribution of cross-border tourism sites across Indonesia's eastern and western regions.

Typology of cross-border tourism

The term typology originates from the Greek words *typos* and *logy*, which mean the study of the shape or description of an object. Typological studies in tourism can study form, spatial, description, and classification according to certain phenomena in tourist motivation and behavior (Fletcher et al., 2017). Typology studies do not merely describe the object of study. However, it can provide a clear picture of a situation and contribute to a scientific field. This study explores the typology of cross-border tourism based on spatial aspects. In order to simplify and organize the explanations in this study, codes are given in each typology.

a. Typology of tourist attraction in cross-border tourism

In terms of the relationship between international borders and tourism Matznetter (1979) divides the border into three types, namely: a) the first type is a tourist area located far from the borderline, b) the second type is a tourist attraction located on one side of the border only, c) the third type is a tourist attraction that stretches across or meets the border area. In this study, the code for this typology is **a1**.

b. Border function in cross-border tourism

In his work, Timothy explains the spatial typology of cross-border tourism areas in more detail (Figure 2). According to Timothy, (2001) a) borders can become a barrier, b) borders can become tourist destinations, and c) borders can also change the tourism landscape. In this study, the code for this typology is **b1**.

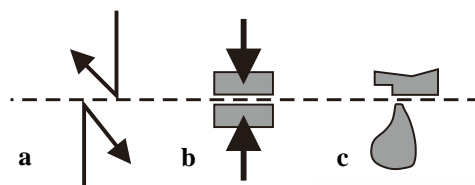


Figure 2. The function of the border in tourism according to Timothy (2001)

Description: Diagram representing three types of borders based on their function in cross-border tourism, adapted from Timothy (2001). (a) Shows a border as a barrier with arrows indicating that crossing is not permitted, symbolized by arrows being blocked by a vertical line. (b) Illustrates a border as a tourism destination, depicted by arrows converging at a central square, signifying a point of interest or attraction. (c) Depicts the border as a landscape transformer with a symbol of a dripping faucet, suggesting the border's impact on altering the tourism landscape. Each part is marked with a dotted horizontal line representing the border line. In their recent book, Timothy & Gelbman (2023) describes the attractiveness factors in cross-border tourism in 3 factors, namely; 1) The Border as the subject of a tourist attraction (geopolitical, historical, heritage, markings on the ground), 2) The Location and Environment of the border as a tourist attraction (natural and cultural appeal), 3) The Development of the Borderland as a tourist destination (recreation, shopping, gambling). In this study, the code for this typology is **b2**.

c. Development phase and location of the cross-border tourism region

One of the spatial aspects in the cross-border tourism area is the development phase of the region, as explained by Więckowski (2011). According to Więckowski, there are four phases in the development of cross-border tourism (Figure 3), namely, (a) coexisting spaces, (b) connected spaces, (c) open spaces, and (d) integrated spaces. In this study, the code for this typology is **c1**.

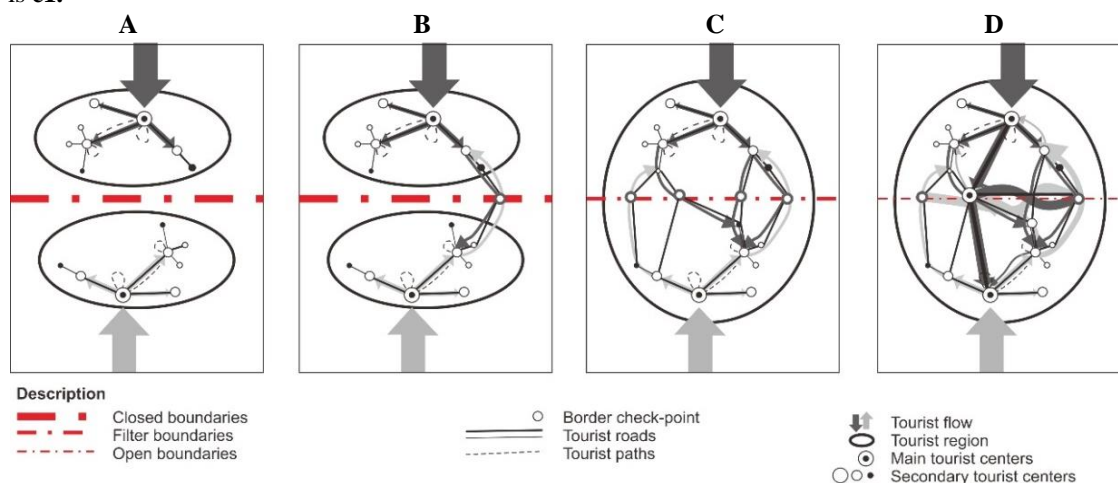


Figure 3. The development phase of cross-border tourism (Source: Więckowski, 2011)

Description: A series of four diagrams illustrating the developmental phases of cross-border tourism according to Więckowski (2011). Panel A displays 'Coexisting Spaces' with separate tourist flows and centers, indicated by isolated paths within closed boundaries. Panel B, labeled 'Connected Spaces,' shows paths that converge at border checkpoints within filter boundaries, suggesting interaction between regions. Panel C, titled 'Open Spaces,' features open boundaries with interconnected paths and regions, indicating free movement. Panel D represents 'Integrated Spaces' where all elements including tourist flows, regions, and centers are fully connected across open boundaries, demonstrating complete integration. Each panel includes symbols for closed, filter, and open boundaries, border checkpoints, tourist roads, paths, regions, main, and secondary tourist centers. Moreover, in his studies in Central Europe, Więckowski (2011) also describes the typology of cross-border tourism in five types (Figure 4). First, cross-border tourism, which is located in a protected area (a), sky cross-border tourist region (b), transit cross-border tourism (c), Cross-border tourism of borders town (d), and multifunctional cross-border tourist region (e). In this study, the code for this typology is **c2**.

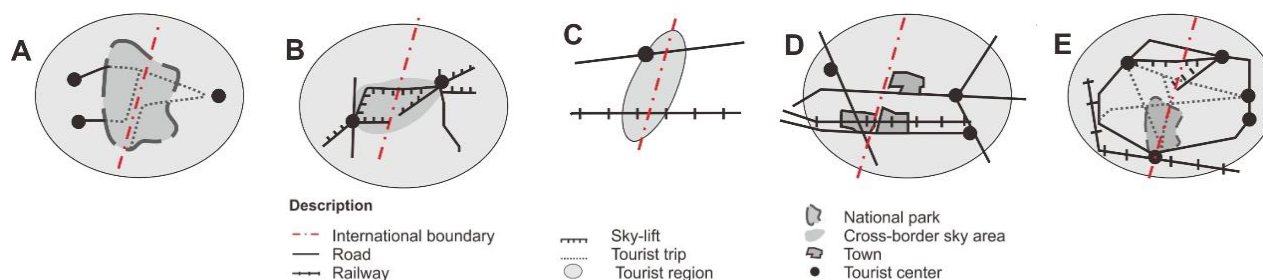


Figure 4. Typology of cross-border tourism locations (Source: Więckowski, 2011)

Description: A series of five diagrams illustrating the main types of cross-border tourist regions, adapted from Więckowski (2011). Panel A depicts a cross-border protected area, marked by a dotted international boundary encompassing roads, railways, and a national park. Panel B shows a cross-border ski area, featuring ski lifts and roads intersecting through the boundary. Panel C represents a transit cross-border tourism area, with roads and railways crossing a simple dotted line for the boundary. Panel D illustrates a border town tourist region, with towns connected by roads and railways across the boundary. Panel E shows a multifunctional cross-border tourist region, where roads, railways, and diverse tourist centers and trips form a complex network within a national park and across the boundary. Each diagram includes legends for roads, railways, sky-lifts, tourist trips, regions, and centers to clarify the interactions and connectivity in these cross-border areas.

d. Tourist Spatial Movement Pattern

This study uses the tourist spatial movement pattern Lau & McKercher (2006) to explore tourist movement patterns in cross-border tourism areas (Figure 5). Lau & McKercher (2006) summarised tourist movement patterns in three groups: single patterns, multiple patterns consisting of baseline, stopover, and chain loop, and complex patterns consisting of destination region loop and complex neighborhood. In this study, the code for this typology is **d1**.

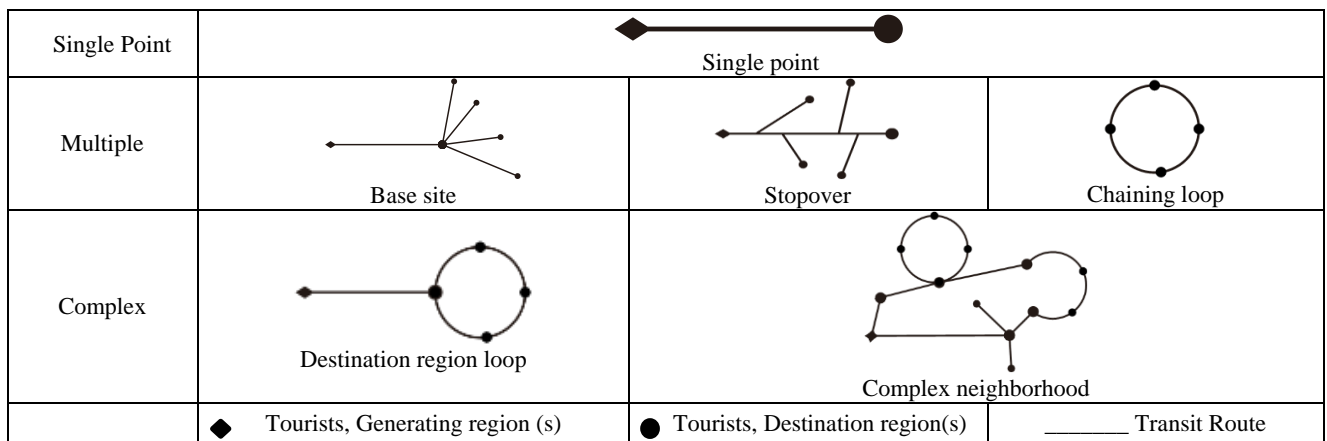


Figure 5. Tourist movement pattern (Source: Lau & McKercher, 2006)

Description: A diagram illustrating four categories of tourist movement patterns, categorized as Single Point, Multiple, and Complex, adapted from Lau & McKercher (2006). In the Single Point category, a line with two ends represents non-diversified travel where tourists visit a destination and return directly, using the same route. The Multiple category showcases three sub-patterns: 'Base site,' characterized by multiple short trips emanating from a central point; 'Stopover,' involving sequential stops; and 'Chaining loop,' a circular route connecting various stops. The Complex category includes 'Destination region loop,' a circular route within a single destination, and 'Complex neighborhood,' featuring interconnected travel paths across multiple nearby locations. Icons represent tourists' generating regions (diamonds) and destination regions (circles), with lines indicating transit routes.

METHODS

This study was carried out in three cross-border tourism areas in Indonesia (Figure 6). Indonesia's three selected cross-border tourism areas are Mota'ain, Skouw, and Entikong. The three cross-border tourism areas represent three land borders in Indonesia. In addition, the three cross-border tourism areas have the highest visits compared to other regions on the same border. Mota'ain is the border area between Indonesia - Timor Leste, Skouw is between Indonesia - Papua New Guinea, and Entikong is between Indonesia - Malaysia.

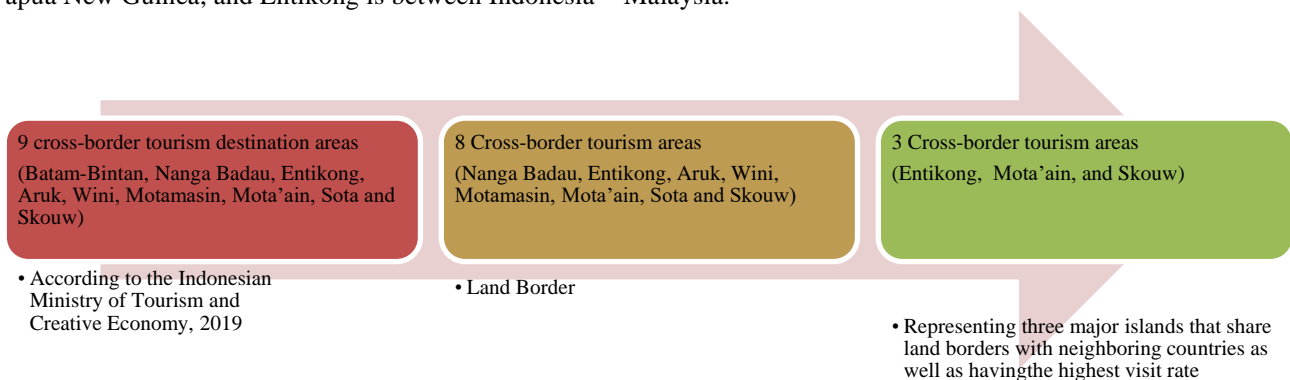


Figure 6. Research area selection criteria (Source: Authors, 2024)

Description: The image representing the selection of this research location. The image is divided into three segments: The first (left diagram) lists nine cross-border tourism areas determined by the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism and

Creative Economy. The second (middle diagram) narrows the focus to eight areas specifically on the land border. The final segment (right diagram) highlights three areas representing the major islands in Indonesia with the highest visitation rates. This image captures the methodical selection process for the research areas.

Data collection in this study was carried out for six months. The first three months were used to collect secondary data such as maps and other supporting documents to assess spatial typology. The next three months are data collection through direct observation of tourists. In-depth interviews were conducted with 30 tourists in each cross-border tourism area. Since this study uses an Indonesian perspective, the tourists interviewed are tourists who have finished visiting Indonesia and will return to their country of origin through cross-border tourism areas.

Interpretation is carried out on the map obtained to produce an area typology. On the other hand, the results of in-depth interviews were analyzed using the Nvivo application to reveal the qualitative and structured meaning of the interview results. Specifically, each typology is answered using the following methods:

Table 1. Data sources and analysis methods (Source: Authors, 2024)

code	Typologies	Data source	Analysis method
a1	Typology of tourist attraction	Satellite imagery and direct observation	Satellite imagery and spatial analysis
b1	Border function in tourism	Direct observation	Descriptive
b2	Border function in tourism	Direct observation	Descriptive
c1	Development phase of cross-border tourism region	Direct observation and literature study	Spatial and descriptive analysis
c2	Cross-border tourism location	Direct observation and literature study	Spatial and descriptive analysis
d1	Tourist spatial movement pattern	In-depth interviews with tourists	Spatial and descriptive analysis

RESEARCH RESULTS

This study has successfully explored the typology of cross-border tourism in Indonesia (Figure 7). Each typology is explained descriptively based on the results of direct observation, literature study, in-depth interviews, and interpretation of satellite imagery. Typology of tourist attraction in cross-border tourism (a1).

In the three cross-border tourism areas included in this study, the typology of cross-border tourist attractions in Indonesia tends to be homogeneous. Generally, the gate is the main tourist attraction in every cross-border tourism area in Indonesia. Each gate's architecture in Indonesia's cross-border tourism area is unique. It has its characteristics so that it becomes a tourist. In addition to architecture, other tourist attractions in the three cross-border tourism areas are beaches (Skouw and Mota'ain), traditional markets, and forests. Thus, the typology of tourist attraction in the three cross-border tourism areas in Indonesia is a tourist attraction that stretches across or meets in border areas.

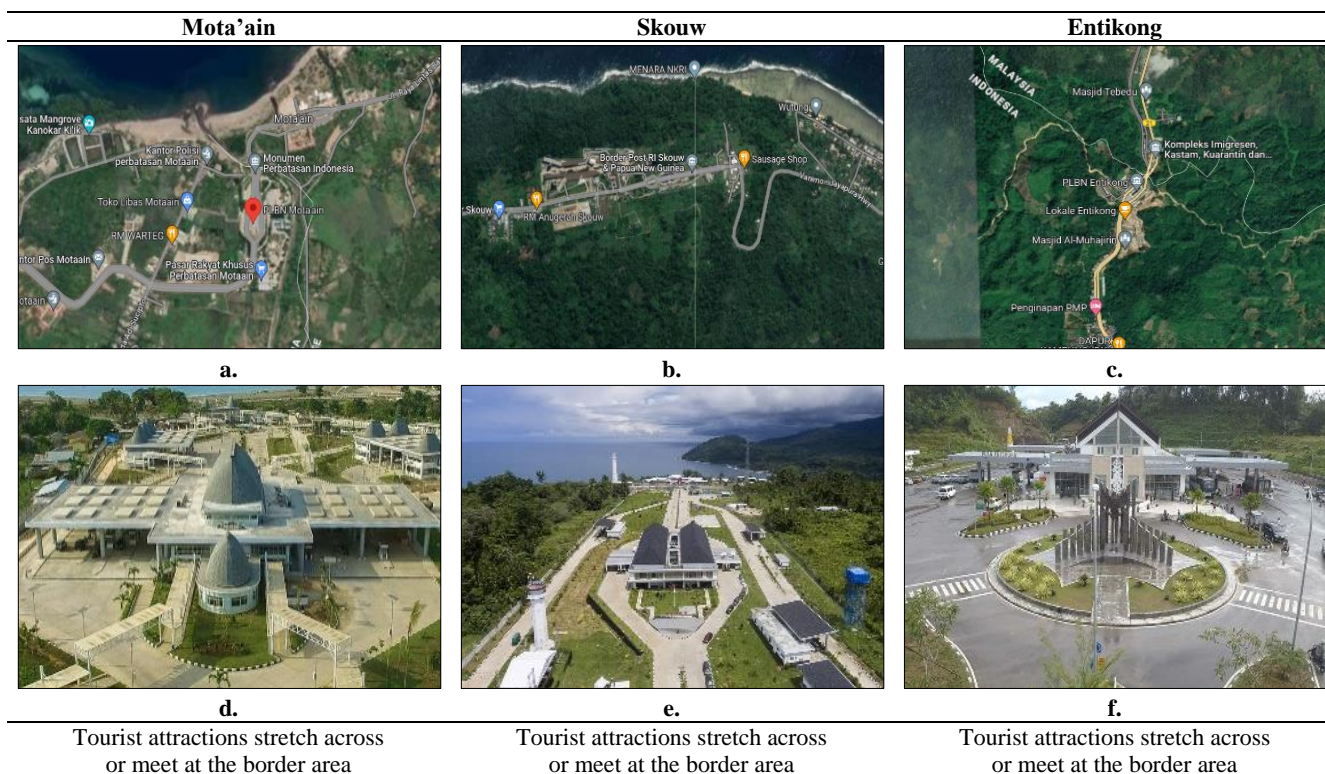


Figure 7. Typology of tourist attractions in the cross-border tourism area

Description: A collage of six images showcasing tourist attractions in cross-border areas of Indonesia.

a. Satellite image showing the border area between Indonesia and Timor-Leste at Motaain. Source: Downloaded from Google Earth, 2024.

b. Satellite image showing the border area between Indonesia and Papua New Guinea at Skouw. Source: Downloaded from Google Earth, 2024.

c. Satellite image showing the border area between Indonesia and Malaysia at Entikong. Source: Downloaded from Google Earth, 2024.

d. An aerial view of the State Border Crossing Post building (PLBN), which serves as the border entry and exit point in Motaain, Indonesia. Source: Motaain PLBN Document. Accessed November 2024.

e. An aerial view of the State Border Crossing Post building (PLBN), which serves as the border entry and exit point in Skouw, Indonesia. Source: Skouw PLBN Document. Accessed Januari 2024.

f. An aerial view of the State Border Crossing Post building (PLBN), which serves as the border entry and exit point in Entikong, Indonesia. Source: Entikong PLBN Document. Accessed April 2024.

Border function in tourism (b1).

Based on the typology of border function in cross-border tourism, through direct observation, it is clear that all cross-border tourism in Indonesia also plays a role as a tourist destination (Figure 8). In addition, border areas in Indonesia also function as a change in the tourism landscape. No border becomes a barrier in the context of cross-border tourism in Indonesia.

Border function in cross-border tourism (b2).

Descriptively, it can be explained that the location of cross-border tourism in Indonesia is based on the views of Timothy and Gelbman (Timothy & Gelbman, 2023); all of them can be found in the cross-border tourism area in Indonesia. Based on the results of direct observation, the three cross-border tourism areas in Indonesia play a role as the subject of tourist attraction with historical and geopolitical values.

In addition, the location and environment of cross-border tourism in Indonesia have also become a tourist attraction. It is also clear that the development of border areas as tourist destinations, especially shopping tourism in Indonesia's three cross-border tourism areas, has both traditional and modern markets.



Figure 8. Market activity in the border area of Indonesia

Description: This image set illustrates market activities at three of Indonesia's land border areas. These images collectively highlight the vibrant commercial interactions typical of Indonesia's border markets

a. Image (a) depicts the lively shopping environment at the traditional market in Mota'ain, where vendors and shoppers interact under a large open structure.

b. Image (b) shows the shopping process at Skouw Market, featuring an Indonesian vendor interacting with buyers amidst colorful merchandise.

c. Image (c) shows the modern market in Entikong, bustling with activity as people and vehicles gather in a spacious paved area surrounded by lush hills. These images together highlight the vibrant commercial interactions typical of Indonesia's border markets.

Source: Authors, 2024.

Development phase of cross-border tourism region (c1)

Direct observation clearly shows the typology of spatial development in Indonesia's cross-border tourism context. The three borders have the same typology of connected space because the type of international border in Indonesia still applies filters with limited border crossing checkpoints.

Cross-border tourism location (c2)

Cross-border tourism in Indonesia is generally a transit area. Border cities in Indonesia are usually far from the border gate, so there is no typology of cross-border tourism in border cities.

Tourist spatial movement pattern (d1)

The tourist spatial movement pattern in this study is elaborated in general to assess the trend of the spatial movement of tourists in three cross-border tourism areas in Indonesia. There are various movement patterns in Indonesia's three cross-border tourism areas. Based on the in - depth interviews with 30 cross-border tourists, the results show that in the cross-border tourism area between Indonesia - Timor Leste, the tourist movement pattern is dominated by complex patterns. In the Indonesia-Malaysia border area, the tourist movement pattern is dominated by multiple patterns. On the other hand, the cross-border tourism area between Indonesia - Papua New Guinea is dominated by single points.

DISCUSSION

This study has successfully explored the spatial typology of cross-border tourism in Indonesia based on pre-existing typologies from previous studies. Not all typologies generated based on previous scholarly studies are identical to those in Indonesia. The reason is that each cross-border tourism area has unique characteristics.

In this study, the delimiter type was found. Delimiter types in cross-border tourism in Indonesia follow natural barriers such as rivers and mountains or artificial boundaries such as roads and dams. This typology was added to the study as a finding. Table 2 clearly shows the spatial typology of cross-border tourism in Indonesia.

Table 2. Spatial typology of cross-border tourism in Indonesia (Source: Authors, 2024)

The typology of cross-border tourism		Cross-border tourism in Indonesia		
Typology	Characteristics	Mota'ain	Skouw	Entikong
Typology of tourist attraction (Matznetter, 1979) (a1)	Tourist area located far from the borderline			
	Tourist attractions located on one side of the border			
	Tourist attraction stretches across or meets the border area	✓	✓	✓
Border function in cross-border tourism (Timothy, 2001) (b1)	Borders as barriers			
	Borders as tourist attractions	✓	✓	✓
	The border changes the tourism landscape			
Border function in tourism (Timothy, 2001) (b2)	The Border as Subject of a tourist attraction	✓	✓	✓
	The Location and Environment of the border as a tourist attraction	✓	✓	✓
	The Development of the Borderland as a tourist destination	✓	✓	✓
Development phase of cross-border tourism region (Więckowski, 2011) (c1)	Coexisting space			
	Connected space	✓	✓	✓
	Open space			
	Integrated spaces			
Cross-border tourism location (Więckowski, 2011) (c2)	Cross-border tourism in protected areas			
	Sky cross-border tourist region			
	Transit cross-border tourism	✓	✓	✓
	Cross-border tourism of borders town			
	Multifunctional cross-border tourist region			
Tourist spatial movement pattern (Lau & McKercher, 2006) (d1)	Single Point		✓	
	Multiple			✓
	Complex	✓		
Delimiter type (e1)	Dam			
	Road			
	River	✓	✓	
	Mountain		✓	✓

The analysis results indicate that two main factors influence the spatial typology of cross-border tourism. The first is the natural factor, and the second is the human factor. Some typologies are influenced by just one factor, and both factors influence some. Although all international borders are man-made (Timothy, 2001), this study found that natural factors are also crucial because borders can be formed from natural factors such as mountains and rivers.

In this study, the typology is also influenced by the diplomatic relations of bordering countries, the history of conflict, and ethnic relations. State diplomatic relations can be seen in cooperation documents, border agreements, and coordination between bordering countries. The history of the conflict is also a part that influences the typology. Finally, inter-ethnic relations are one of the vital factors influencing typology.

CONCLUSIONS

This study successfully elaborates on the typology of cross-border tourism in Indonesia, enriching the findings of the typology of cross-border tourism and showing the characteristics of cross-border tourism specifically in Indonesia. This is important because research on cross-border tourism has rarely been carried out in Asian countries, especially in Indonesia. It can be concluded that the typology of cross-border tourism in Indonesia is generally similar to previous studies that scholars have conducted. However, several characteristics look different and have uniqueness.

In addition to the critical findings in this study, the limitation is the wide area coverage that requires more time to explore the characteristics of cross-border tourism in more depth. Further studies are suggested to examine each spatial characteristic of cross-border tourism in Indonesia to make the findings more detailed and in-depth. Furthermore, since this study focuses exclusively on land borders, future research should explore sea borders or a combination of both. This approach would yield a broader range of findings and provide a more in-depth contribution to the discussion on cross-border tourism.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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