

## Characteristics of Bobotoh Football Supporters in Providing Militant Support to PERSIB

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### Abstract

This research is motivated by the diverse characteristics that exist among Bobotoh Supporters in their efforts to support Persib, such that the character possessed by each individual generates a variety of perspectives among fellow Bobotoh. This is a qualitative study using a phenomenological approach, which refers to a method that explains the similarity of meaning that exists between concepts or phenomena in a group or individual. The data for this study came from Bobotoh Supporters, who were represented by two districts, Viking Galuh Ciamis and Viking Cirebon, which included the Supporter's chief and members residing in West Java. According to the findings of this study, the characteristics of Bobotoh supporters who support Persib are generally favorable, although they vary by match. The association between Bobotoh Supporters' characteristics and the match will be consistent if Bobotoh has excellent character while watching the match. The ideal Bobotoh Supporter possesses the following characteristics: Bobotoh who is prudent in responding to match results, vigilant in purchasing match tickets, honest in supporting Persib, and never causes Persib to suffer losses. The research concludes that the characteristics of Bobotoh Supporters in West Java already exhibit positive characteristics as supporters; however, under certain circumstances, even when Bobotoh exhibits positive characteristics, the emotionality of each individual Bobotoh Supporter remains difficult to control, particularly during Super Bigmatch matches involving rivals. Therefore, there are still a large number of characters in Bobotoh Supporters who support Persib, particularly during the Super Bigmatch match.

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## INTRODUCTION

Football is one of Indonesia's most popular sports. Football, particularly among children and teenagers, has its own allure in Indonesia. Of course, we can see this as SSB continues to spread throughout Indonesia. It is indisputable that most youths aspire to be professional footballers in the future. Football is a team sport in which each team comprises eleven players, one of whom handles goalkeeping (W. Hidayat & Rahayu, 2015). Football, psychologically, may instill team spirit in the 22 players on the field. Football can also increase enthusiasm and rivalry, particularly when national or team pride is at stake. (Nurchayyo & Utomo, 2014) from the foregoing, it can be concluded that football is a huge ball sport involving 11 players on each team, with the winning team determined by the team that scores the most goals.

The meaning of supporters often refers to people who support the club of whom they are proud. Supporters take an active role, providing support motivated by feelings of love and fanaticism. There are many methods for supporters to show their support, one of which is to appear at the stadium with complete attributes and with a loud voice to sing the chants that are frequently heard throughout the stands. Supporters are an important component of any football club, and in this case, they definitely have a positive impact on the players' performance on the field. However, it is not uncommon for a club or player to suffer a negative impact because of the actions of the fans. Supporters' actions such as fighting, igniting flares, and throwing bottles will cause stadium relocations, spectator bans, and the worst-case scenario, a loss of points. Supporters are a group of people that gather to cheer for their favorite team. They are an important element of a football match; without them, the game would be bland, like a meal without salt, insipid (A. Hidayat et al., 2014). A supporter is someone who cheers for or encourages another player during a match (Johan & Akhiruyanto, 2020).

From the abovementioned, it can be inferred that supporter are the 12th player whose function or role is to provide support to their beloved club.

Indonesian football fans are zealous and militant in their support for their proud team. Many groups of supporters, particularly the Persib supporters group, or more often known as Bobotoh, might be used as a model in this regard. Without a doubt, Bobotoh supporters' devotion and passion are well-known throughout the country, and even around the world. Bobotoh supporters are extremely militant in their support for Persib, to the point of being reckless, as they will sacrifice everything to support and watch every Persib games. While such events will certainly benefit Persib, the support of the fans will serve as an additional incentive for the players to perform at their best on the field.

In fanaticism, it can never be separated from the supporters' characteristics, because and the environment in which they live mostly developed such qualities. Along with the advancement of increasingly modern times, social media has played a significant part in defining the character of Bobotoh supporters and their willingness to support Persib. The character referenced to here is that of ardent supporters who are prone to riot; it will be simple for this type of supporter to be aroused, resulting in rioting between supporters, even within Bobotoh. Fanaticism is an excessively passionate attachment to a cause or a point of view (Setyawati & Setyawati, 2020). Fanaticism is a state in which an individual or group adheres excessively to a concept, whether political, religious, cultural, or anything else. (Lucky & Setyowati, 2013 184). As a result of the foregoing, it may be concluded that football fanaticism is an extreme reaction to something that occurs on the field during a match.

The term militant is always related to supporters; supporters' militancy will always correlate with their fighting spirit as they watch their proud team compete, Bobotoh included. Bobotoh has a sizable fan base in the

Indonesian football scene, as evidenced by their presence and role for Persib during a match. The militant category comprises 1) always attempting to be there at every match in whatever way feasible. 2) Total support for Persib. 3) accompany Persib to and from home matches. Militants are physically or mentally unwell individuals or groups who frequently express sorrow and a desire to return to their country of origin (Lukman & Parsa, 2019). Militant is an attempt to enforce fair rules that protect the rights of individuals and groups in countries with a high religious or multicultural population (Purwastuti, 2011). As a result of the preceding, it can be concluded that the militant is an individual who is extremely committed to a cause and makes every effort to participate in every chance.

## METHODS

This study employs a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. This method was selected since the study's objective is to investigate the characteristics of Bobotoh supporters who support Persib. Because this approach is based on natural conditions, the issues mentioned aim to resolve current societal problems or phenomena. The researcher interviewed Bobotoh supporters who were giving support to Persib in West Java, in real-world situations that were not manufactured, to ensure that the facts acquired were truly original.

The approach technique or method used in a study will continue to refer to and adhere to scientific guidelines. The purpose of this study is to achieve accurate and accountable results. This is a descriptive qualitative study that employs a phenomenological approach to the study of Bobotoh supporters in West Java, specifically Viking Galuh Ciamis and Viking District Cirebon.

The purpose of this study is to examine the characteristics of Bobotoh supporters in terms of providing militant support to Persib in West Java in terms of Home, Away, and

Super Bigmatch matches, the significance of the Bobotoh supporters' characteristics, and the characteristics of the ideal Bobotoh supporters in supporting Persib.

The sampling strategy used in this study was tailored to the study's purpose and flow. Researchers frequently choose informants who are regarded to understand and can be trusted to serve as data sources, since they are well familiar with the topic. Informants are those who are believed to understand the issues that will be addressed and are willing to offer the information requested. Members and administrators of the Viking Galuh Ciamis and Viking Cirebon supporter groups provided data. Then it was developed to include more words/talks that pertain to the development of information received by researchers through field observations, interviews, videos, and photographs of all research objects (documentation). Thus, in-depth interviews and a knowledge of the received expressions are used to ascertain the qualities of the supporters. Additionally, researchers consult with colleagues as key data sources and triangulators.

After obtaining data from the field by 1) Observation, 2) In-depth interviews, and 3) Documentation, the data analysis approach was used. In addition to establishing facts, the research will analyze the personalities of the Bobotoh support group and their role in providing militant support to Persib. After data collection, the data reduction and presentation components are carried out concurrently with the data collection process. Following data collecting, the three components (data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing) interact.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Bobotoh supporters' characteristics in terms of supporting Persib can be noticed in their conduct during Home, Away, and Super Bigmatch matches. According to the findings of general interviews with informants, the

chairman/members of the Viking Galuh Ciamis and also the Vikings of Cirebon exhibit appropriate characteristics as supporters, both at home and away matches. However, there are still a few Bobotoh elements who cannot contain themselves when the match's outcome is unexpected. There are several members of both the Galuh Ciamis and Cirebon Vikings who are immature in their support for Persib, as evidenced by the continued prevalence of physical aggressive actions such as throwing and destroying stadium facilities, as well as provocative chants heard at every match, especially when the club is proud to win and the match is held in Bandung.

During the away match, however, both members of the Viking Galuh Ciamis and Viking Cirebon were more eager to directly enter the opponent's home as a show of loyalty and affection for Persib. While backing Persib in the away match, Bobotoh maintained a more composed demeanor and expressed gratitude to the host as a sign of respect from the guest to the host. They are not disappointed with the outcome of the match, because being able to cheer Persib at home is a source of happiness in and of itself.

Apart from that, it demonstrates that Bobotoh Supporters are generally correct, since he is the twelfth player whose capacity is present and supports Persib both at home and away, in Home, Away, and Super Bigmatch matches. The study used 22 informants from two districts, Viking Galuh Ciamis and Viking Cirebon. However, despite Bobotoh's enthusiasm for watching Persib compete, there is still a lack of awareness among supporters, which results in fanaticism and love for the proud club becoming less relevant; this is why supporters' image is still underestimated by the National Football public.

The significance of Bobotoh supporters' characteristics for the Persib match's continuation. Without the presence of supporters, a match feels incomplete. Supporters are the most important factor in making football more appealing and colorful in terms of euphoria. Bobotoh Supporters are

important; when they can be controlled and are fully aware of their capability to support only their favorite side, it has a direct effect on the contest.

On the other side, if Bobotoh followers are unable or unwilling to support Persib wisely, it will undoubtedly have a negative impact on Bobotoh and Persib in general. While Bobotoh, with its diverse cast of characters, definitely has its own way of supporting Persib, excessive fanaticism might make it difficult to refrain from negative actions, which can effect the match's result.

When viewed from the research (Safitri & Andrianto, 2015) with the title of the relationship between cohesiveness and the intention of aggressive behavior in football fans, it can be seen from the results of the correlation analysis which means that there is a very significant positive relationship between cohesiveness and aggressive behavior intentions in soccer fans. This means that the higher the level of cohesiveness possessed by the supporters, the higher the intention to behave aggressively. Conversely, the lower the level of cohesiveness possessed by the supporters, the lower the intention to behave aggressively. It can be concluded that supporters basically have various behaviors in providing support.

In essence, the Bobotoh Supporters have positioned themselves as the twelfth player, which they should be. However, there are still some Bobotoh Supporters who are unaware of the connection between their characteristics and the success of the Persib match, such as when Supporters behave correctly and refrain from rioting or taking activities that could cause the match to be postponed. There are still many of them who believe that simply shouting out loud and being able to fill the stadium constitutes support for Persib. However, it should be more than that if the supporters truly love their club. Bobotoh and Persib are important components.

The Characteristics of Ideal Bobotoh Supporters In Providing Support To Persib.

According to the research findings above from two existent Viking Districts, in this case the Viking Galuh Ciamis and also the Viking Cirebon, regarding the ideal characteristics of Bobotoh Supporters in providing support to Persib. In short, Bobotoh supporters already possess the ideal character for supporting Persib. Bobotoh Supporters, in general, already possess excellent characteristics as supporters; here, many have wise, disciplined, and honest personalities. Although there are still some Bobotoh Supporters who are not ideal, in this case, there are still a few Bobotoh who are unable of responding rationally to match outcomes and frequently result in defeats for Persib itself owing to emotional outbursts.

The results of the analysis are in line with research (Akbar, 2015) with the title Football Fanaticism Supporters Group (Case Study of Panzer Biru Semarang). The results showed that (1) the forms of fanaticism of Panzer Biru supporters were in the form of using attributes such as t-shirts, scarves, hats and knick-knacks around PSIS Semarang. Supporters in the form of creations include choreography, chants or songs and the Blue Panzer mural. In the form of behavior, namely protecting PSIS Semarang when exposed to sanctions such as installing PSIS save banners, 10,000 signature actions and PSSI; donated materials; prioritizing personal interests such as leaving work and disrupting school; and reckless actions such as supporting PSIS into prohibited cities, violating driving regulations, climbing stadium lights and reckless bondhos. The research found two categories of fanaticism, namely positive fanaticism such as social action, fan creation, use of attributes and actions that heed the organizational goals of Panzer Biru; and negative fanaticism such as clashes, bullying, and actions that violate the goals of the Panzer Biru organization. (2) The fanatic behavior of the Blue Panzer supporters group in supporting PSIS Semarang is influenced by regional sentiment factors, match situation factors and the existence of supporters themselves.

Many causes contribute that there are still some Bobotoh Supporters who are not ideal; specifically, there are still a few Bobotoh Supporters who struggle with self-control under certain circumstances. This is bolstered by external influences originating from supporters, which exert a strong influence on one's emotions. As a result, it will cause a diversity of attitudes or ways of coping with difficult-to-control events on the field if there is no one who can serve as a role model, either before or after the match.

Apart from that, it shows that Bobotoh Supporters have positioned themselves as the twelfth player with the capacity to collectively support and encourage their proud club. In general, existing football supporters, but the issue that is difficult to control is the understanding and mindset of Bobotoh supporters who are unaware of their obligations as supporters in providing support, plus there are still many unstable old Bobotoh supporters who provide support and are easily influenced by the ground situation.

The results of the study above are in accordance with Research (Hapsari & Wibowo, 2015) which reveals that supporters of a football club with high fanaticism have a higher tendency to behave aggressively. Meanwhile, the results of the study (Effendy & Indrawati, 2018) show that there is a significant negative relationship between empathy and aggressive behavior in Panzer Biru Banyumanik Semarang football fans. The correlation coefficient between empathy and aggressive behavior in this study was -0.520 with a significance level of  $p = 0.000$  ( $p < 0.05$ ). While the results of the study (Rianingsih et al., 2019) are the process of forming the self-identity of babes due to the influence of family, friends and the mass media. The formation of this fan identity through two important components, namely exploration and commitment. The fanaticism of the babes is shown from the aspects of fanaticism, namely, activities carried out to support Manchester United, personal attitude, long support, and family support.

## CONCLUSION

The research concludes that the characteristics of Bobotoh Supporters in West Java already show a high level of character in providing support to Persib as a Supporter; however, under certain circumstances, the emotionality of each individual Bobotoh remains difficult to control, even when Bobotoh demonstrates a high level of character, particularly during super matches. Bigmatch involving rivals. The significance of the Bobotoh Supporters' characteristic in the continuity of the Persib match is that if they are positive, Bobotoh also contributes to the match's success. Bobotoh followers have been described as ideal supporters because they are more prudent in their response to match results, patient with rival fans' pressure not to be provoked by emotions, and diligent in collecting attributes of their proud club.

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