



City Nicknames on the Island of Java for Strengthening Urban Identity: Study of Toponymy

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ABSTRACT

The Island of Java is an island of diverse range of cities, each with its own unique characteristics that are embedded in various aspects of daily life. One fascinating aspect of these cities is their distinct nicknames, which serve as a reflection of their individual identities. The study aims to delve into the origin-based meanings of these nicknames, investigating the historical, cultural, geographical, and social factors that have contributed to their formation. This qualitative descriptive research aims to delve into the intricate factors that contribute to the formation of these city nicknames on the Island of Java. The data for this study consists of nicknames for cities on the Island of Java that is taken from the book sources which were then analyzed by the theory of naming and referent. The study discovers a multitude of contributing elements, including culinary, natural resources, human resources, historical significance, climatic conditions, industrial prowess, and artistic expressions. The study findings illuminate that these city nicknames are forged from the most remarkable and exceptional attributes that set them apart from other cities. This exceptionalism plays a pivotal role in forging the city's identity, thus drawing people to explore its culinary delights, appreciate its natural allure, and delve into its rich history and arts. Consequently, these diverse elements collectively weave a tapestry of vibrant and multifaceted identities for Java's cities.

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ABSTRAK

Pulau Jawa merupakan pulau yang terdiri dari beragam kota yang masing-masing memiliki karakteristik unik yang tertanam dalam berbagai aspek kehidupan sehari-hari. Salah satu aspek menarik dari kota-kota ini adalah julukan unik kotanya yang mencerminkan identitas masing-masing kotanya. Penelitian ini bertujuan mengidentifikasi makna asal-usul dari julukan-julukan kota di Pulau Jawa dengan mengkaji faktor-faktor historis, budaya, geografis, dan sosial yang telah berkontribusi pada pembentukan julukannya. Penelitian deskriptif kualitatif ini bertujuan mengeksplorasi faktor-faktor kompleks yang berkontribusi pada pembentukan julukan kota-kota di Pulau Jawa. Data penelitian ini terdiri dari nama panggilan untuk kota-kota di Pulau Jawa yang diambil dari sumber data berupa buku, kemudian dianalisis menggunakan teori penamaan dan referen. Penelitian ini menemukan berbagai elemen kontributor, termasuk kuliner, sumber daya alam, sumber daya manusia, signifikansi historis, kondisi iklim, keunggulan industri, dan ekspresi artistik. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa julukan kota-kota ini dibentuk dari atribut-atribut yang paling menonjol dan spesial yang membedakannya dari kota-kota lain. Keunikan ini berperan penting dalam membentuk identitas kota sehingga dapat menarik masyarakat untuk menjelajahi keindahan kuliner, menikmati pesona alam, dan menyelami sejarah dan seni yang kaya. Dengan demikian, elemen-elemen beragam ini secara kolektif membentuk tapetrisi identitas yang dinamis dan multifaset untuk kota-kota di Jawa.

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INTRODUCTION

Every city in Indonesia and even in the world has its nickname. Nicknames cannot be understood literally or using definitions from dictionaries (Shumsky, 2016). It symbolizes the city's identity and honor since it is unique, standing out from many others for several reasons. The naming of cities depends on their history and development with various nicknames (Istiqomah et al., 2025; Nasrullah et al., 2025; Nenotek & Onyishi, 2025). In some cases, the reason behind the city's nickname is apparent. In others, nicknames have surprising histories, and sometimes, there is more than one story about how nicknames came to be. City nicknames can also be an attraction for both local and international communities so that they can impact several sectors of regional life. City nicknames can also indirectly provide information on sociocultural knowledge and interactions between its people. Furthermore, city nicknames are also closely related to the aspects that reinforce the making of a nickname. Therefore, a city is called by a particular nickname because of the differentiation of each city.

The Island of Java, located in Indonesia, is known for having a high number of cities, each with its own unique nickname. These nicknames are deeply rooted in various aspects, including social, cultural, and historical significance, and they play a crucial role in defining the distinct characteristics of each city. They serve as a significant aspect in shaping the identity and prominence of these cities. The nicknames are often associated with factors such as natural resources, local history, and remarkable events. For instance, Surabaya is celebrated as the "City of Heroes" due to its significant role in Indonesia's struggle for independence. Delving into these city nicknames provides a compelling opportunity to gain valuable insights into the rich history and individuality of each city (Istiqomah et al., 2025).

The following text highlights several studies on nicknaming conducted by various researchers (Al-Darabsih, 2020; Faloju & Fadairo, 2020; Mamvura, 2020; Otlogetswe & Ramaeba, 2022; Sofyaningrum & Faujiyah, 2024; Wijana, 2015). (Wijana, 2015) explored the Northern Balinese nickname system, focusing on forms, their relation to the owner's real names and various references, and their relation to the people they refer to. (Al-Darabsih, 2020) examined the origins of offensive nicknames used by Jordanians in the Horan district from a sociolinguistic point of view. (Faloju & Fadairo, 2020) analyzed the sociocultural functions and cultural implications of Yorùbá names in traditional and modern Yorùbá societies. (Mamvura, 2020) investigated the social construction of cultural geographies conveying a political ideology established by the Zimbabwean regime of Mugabe. Wijana (2015) demonstrated that indicators directing the quality of a brand connection, such as brand nicknames, improve the perception of information authenticity in online communication. Otlogetswe & Ramaeba (2022) examined how the Setswana people's naming customs are evolving. Istiqomah et al. (2025) studied the meaning and history of the name of a city in Central Java. Additionally, some researchers also investigated place naming or toponymy from its language structure (Budiono et al., 2023; Wulandari & Sulistyowati, 2023).

Based on the explanation above, the study of nicknames has primarily focused on analyzing people's names rather than their nicknames with little emphasis on the nicknames of places and cities. Existing research on place naming has not yet gained significant traction. The studies



of names have rarely paid much attention to people's nicknames, and even places' nicknames Shumsky (2016), and the study of place naming has yet to be a study of interest (Triana et al., 2022). However, nickname research for cities still needs to be made available. Istiqomah et al. (2025) have researched several city nicknames in Central Java and their scope are limited. However, this study aims to investigate and to fill the gap by investigating city nicknames on the Island of Java. The purpose of this study is to identify and analyze the creation of city nicknames on the Island of Java, shedding light on the social and cultural dynamics of Java and how the local populace shapes their sense of place.

METHODS

This research employs a descriptive qualitative methodology to explore the phenomenon of city nicknames on the Island of Java, Indonesia. It relies on comprehensive data gathered from two pivotal works, that is *Fakta di Balik Julukan Nama Kota di Indonesia* by Mawardi, (2021) , which provides an in-depth look at the factual background behind the nicknames of Indonesian cities; and *Endonezya Mütalaâlari 3: Pertimbangan Tentang Indonesia* by Muş (2021), offering critical reflections on various aspects of Indonesia, including its urban identities. The data for this study consists of nicknames for cities on the Island of Java, sourced from those two books. Hence, the analysis delves into the origin-based meanings of these city nicknames, aiming to discern the factors contributing to their formation.

This study was also conducted by applying Chaer (2012) theory of naming, which defines naming as two processes of symbolizing a concept to refer to something outside of language. Naming is part of the study of various linguistic sciences, particularly semantics and onomastics (Cahyati et al., 2025). In addition, this study also implemented Wijana's referent theory Wijana (2015), explaining that the referent is an external reality outside of language, not within language. The study's focus is also on city nicknames that are still prevalent and widely recognized in modern times. This means examining not only historical nicknames but also those that have withstood the test of time and continue to hold significance in contemporary culture. The focus of the study is on city nicknames on the Island of Java, specifically emphasizing those that continue to be well-known in contemporary times. The research aims to delve into the origin-based meanings of these nicknames, investigating the historical, cultural, geographical, and social factors that have contributed to their formation and endurance.

The research will utilize a range of analytical methods to comprehensively examine the origins and perpetuation of city nicknames. Specifically, the study will employ historical analysis, delving into historical records, local legends, and past events that may have contributed to the development of these monikers. Cultural examination will explore the impact of local customs, traditions and cultural practices on the adoption and longevity of these nicknames. Moreover, social factors will be investigated to understand how community identity, pride, and local narratives have shaped the maintenance of these nicknames. Furthermore, geographical influence will be considered to assess how the geographical characteristics of the cities, including landmarks, natural features and strategic locations, may



have influenced the creation of specific nicknames. Through analyzing these nicknames from different viewpoints, the study seeks to emphasize the complex relationship between language, culture and history in shaping urban identities.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

The study presents an analysis of the diverse factors contributing to the nomenclature of cities on the Island of Java. These factors encompass culinary, natural resources, human resources, historical significance, climatic conditions, industrial prowess, and artistic expressions. Novel findings from this study encompass the identification of previously unexplored aspects such as food, weather, industrial production, and arts, which had not been addressed in prior research (Anam et al., 2022; Leslie & Skipper, 1990; Nikolenko, 2023; Triana et al., 2022). Food stands out as the preeminent theme in city nomenclature, representing distinctive local culinary traditions. For instance, “Pecel City” denotes Madiun’s renowned pecel dish. Moreover, region-specific foods are pivotal to local economies, exemplified by “Tofu City” as Kediri’s hub for tofu production. Using food-related monikers for Indonesian cities underscores the profound entwinement of cuisine with local cultural identity, economy and tourism.

City appellations on the Island of Java also reflect the region’s natural endowments. This aspect assumes critical importance in defining the character and heritage of Indonesian cities. As revealed in this study, subcategories of natural resources encompass the geographical flora and fauna, topography and mineral reserves. For instance, cities like Malang, known as “Apple City”, Sumenep dubbed “Salt City” and Tulungagung recognized as “Marble City” epitomize settlements bearing nomenclature derived from their natural resources. These designations signify the ethical use of local resources and their synchrony with the region’s ecology. Moreover, they underscore Java’s resource potential, indirectly driving interest and facilitating economic and tourism development.

In the realm of city nicknames, various influential determinants come into play. These determinants encompass human resources, historical events, weather patterns, industrial products, and artistic attributes. The assignment of a nickname to a city based on its human resources underscores the distinctiveness of its community identity, encapsulating its populace composition and demographic diversity. For instance, Jombang’s designation as “Santri City” denotes its populace characterized by students and migrants. Moreover, city nicknames often derive from historical events; for instance, Surabaya earns recognition as the “City of Heroes”, symbolizing its pivotal role in the struggle for Indonesian independence. Additionally, climatic conditions contribute to the nomenclature of cities, as exemplified by Bogor’s appellation as the “City of Rain”, indicative of its notably high and unpredictable precipitation. These designations operate as informative descriptors of the singular attributes and features of each city, holding significance for inhabitants and visitors alike.

Additionally, the term “industrial products” is used to denote a city located on the Island of Java. The local community is extensively involved in mass industrial production, distributing their goods across Indonesia and beyond. This nickname not only reflects the city’s economic



activities but also serves to promote its industrial products to consumers and businesses. Furthermore, it instills a sense of pride in local products and acts as a driving force to continually enhance their quality. Moreover, the artistic aspect embodied in the city's nickname is notably unique compared to other cities. The city boasts various nicknames, including Ponorogo, known as the "Reog City", and Banyuwangi, referred to as the "Gandrung City". This cultural element plays a vital role in preserving and promoting the community's cultural identity through the perpetuation of its arts.

The Island of Java is home to several vibrant cities, each with its own unique identity and charm that is reflected in its diverse and captivating nicknames. These monikers are not just arbitrary labels; they capture the essence of each city, offering a glimpse into its rich cultural heritage, gastronomic delights, breathtaking landscapes, and profound historical significance. They serve as a testimony to the multifaceted appeal of the cities and provide a compelling invitation for travelers to experience their individual allure. Furthermore, these nicknames play a pivotal role in shaping the local ethos, fostering a deep sense of belonging and unity among the residents. By encapsulating the soul of the city, these monikers amplify its recognition and allure, promoting it as an unforgettable destination for tourists eager to immerse themselves in exquisite culinary experiences, awe-inspiring natural wonders and captivating historical landmarks.

The use of distinctive nicknames for different cities offers a powerful way to foster individuality and distinction within the urban landscape. By assigning unique nicknames to cities, it becomes easier for people to recognize and discuss each city. Additionally, these nicknames can have a substantial impact on the local economy by drawing in visitors who are attracted to the city's distinct attributes. This influx of tourists can lead to greater economic activity, promote local businesses and drive investment in infrastructure. Embracing and highlighting a city's unique characteristics through creative nicknames not only enhances its overall branding efforts but also contributes to sustained economic development and growth.

Discussion

The city nicknames on the Island of Java are more than just playful monikers; they are reflective of local knowledge, historical anecdotes and cultural heritage. These nicknames play a crucial role in fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of each city's identity. They serve as a powerful medium through which the values, traditions and historical narratives of the city can be effectively communicated to a wider audience. Essentially, these nicknames are instrumental in not only establishing and reinforcing the unique identity of each city but also in driving tourism and economic development. They encapsulate the distinctive attributes and wisdom of each city, making them more captivating and memorable for both residents and visitors.

Culinary

In Java, cities are often recognized for the distinct food items they create, which then become their defining monikers. These monikers typically derive from foods that initially gained popularity within the city before gaining broader appeal. Typically, the foods associated



with these monikers are in their natural or minimally processed forms, showcasing their local production and inherent quality.

For instance, Boyolali is affectionately known as the “Milk City” due to its significant role as a primary hub for fresh cow’s milk production in Central Java. The city’s renown for producing fresh, delightful milk has become a source of pride for its residents and a defining feature of its identity. Boyolali’s milk is not simply a commodity; it symbolizes the city’s agricultural expertise and commitment to excellence. Additionally, Bondowoso is famed as the “*Tape* City” because of its renowned cassava *tape*. *Tape*, a fermented cassava delicacy, is a distinctive product that underscores Bondowoso’s culinary skill. The process of making *tape* involves fermenting cassava roots, resulting in a sweet, mildly alcoholic delicacy that is cherished by many. Bondowoso’s *tape* is distinguished by its flavor and texture, leading to its fame extending beyond the city’s boundaries. The title “*Tape* City” highlights Bondowoso’s contribution to Indonesia’s culinary heritage and its specialization in this unique food item.

The monikers for different towns in Java frequently stem from their renowned dishes, each showcasing a distinct culinary heritage and adding to the city’s cultural identity. Garut is nicknamed the city of dodol because dodol, a traditional sweet sticky rice cake, was first made there in 1949 and has gained popularity across Indonesia. The moniker “Dodol City” not only highlights Garut’s contribution to Indonesian sweets but also reflects the city’s pride in its culinary legacy. Kediri is dubbed “Tofu City” owing to its numerous tofu production centers, which have existed since the large-scale Chinese migration in the 1900s. The moniker “Tofu City” underscores Kediri’s importance in the tofu industry and its significant role in popularizing this adaptable food. Tofu production has not only bolstered the local economy but also influenced Kediri’s culinary landscape. Semarang is recognized as “Lumpia City” due to its signature dish, lumpia, a Chinese-Indonesian delicacy that has become one of Semarang’s culinary symbols. The moniker “Lumpia City” not only showcases Semarang’s signature dish but also signifies the city’s diverse culinary heritage and its role in promoting Chinese-Indonesian cuisine. Garut, Kediri and Semarang’s food-based monikers function as cultural symbols, underscoring the significance of these dishes to the cities’ identities. These monikers honor the local culinary traditions, historical influences and economic contributions associated with each city’s specialty.

The food is referred to as the nickname because it is considered the staple food. Trenggalek is known for its nickname, “Gaplek City”, which is a regional specialty and a food ingredient made from mashed and dried cassava. Gaplek is widely produced in the karst highlands of Java, where the soil is not fertile enough for rice cultivation. Due to this, people grow cassava and process it into their staple food. Similarly, Wonogiri is called “Gaplek City” because of its natural conditions, which are dominated by limestone or calcareous soil. These conditions make rice production unsuitable in some areas due to limited water resources. As a result, agricultural activities in Wonogiri are more focused on cassava crops. One of the popular cassava agricultural products from Wonogiri is cassava flour, which can be processed into various dishes. The nicknames emphasize the cultural, economic and agricultural significance of cassava in these communities, demonstrating their ability to adapt and thrive by utilizing their natural surroundings to meet their food requirements.



Briefly, nicknames for cities often stem from the traditional foods linked to the city, reflecting its culinary character. The distinct food items from cities in Java influence their unique nicknames, highlighting their culinary legacy and local specialties. These nicknames also honor the cities' agricultural prowess, culinary customs and their impact on Indonesia's varied culinary scene.

The explanations of city nicknames based on culinary aspects, as discussed above, are summarized in the Table 1 below.

Table 1. City Nickname of Culinary

No	Nickname	City
1	Milk City	Boyolali
2	Lumpia City	Semarang
3	Tape City	Bondowoso
4	Gaplek City	Trenggalek
5	Dodol City	Garut
6	Gaplek city	Wonogiri
7	Tofu City	Kediri
8	Pecel city	Madiun

Natural Resource

The Island of Java is renowned for creating city nicknames based on its natural resources, which encompass plants, animals, landscape, and non-living natural resources. Five cities on the Island of Java have received nicknames based on the predominant plant in each city. Bandung is known as the "Flower City" due to its abundant flowering plants in city parks (Zebua, 2016). Similarly, Indramayu is called the "City of Mangoes" due to its focus on mango agricultural products (Bamanyisa, 2024; Gamarcha et al., 2022). Brebes is referred to as "Onion City", as it is a major center for shallot production (Hidayah, 2015), and Temanggung is known as the "City of Tobacco" due to its significant tobacco cultivation (Hidayah, 2019). Lastly, Banyuwangi is nicknamed the "City of Bananas" due to its prominence in banana production. These nicknames accurately reflect the main agricultural products of each city.

The next aspect of natural resources involves city nicknames derived from animal names to represent the characteristics of the region. For example, Banten is famously known as "Rhinoceros City" since it is home to protected rhinoceroses. Cirebon and Sidoarjo are also referred to as "Shrimp City" due to their leading marine product, shrimp. Additionally, Bangkalan is nicknamed a cow town due to the high-quality livestock products, particularly cows, in the area. These nicknames accurately reflect the unique characteristics of the cities and can indirectly contribute to economic development in those regions.

The natural features of Java's cities have inspired unique nicknames that reflect their distinct characteristics. For instance, Karimun Jawa is hailed as the "City of Underwater Paradise" owing to its breathtaking blue ocean and captivating underwater landscape. Tegal earns its moniker as a marine city due to its prime location on Java's north coast. Magelang is aptly named the "City of Million Flowers" for its lush surroundings, nestled among verdant mountains and adorned with a myriad of exquisite flower gardens. Meanwhile, Magetan is recognized as the city at the foot of the mountain, owing to its proximity to Mount Lawu.



Mojosari is affectionately referred to as “Mozart van Java”, and Jember is celebrated as the “City of Thousand Hills” with an impressive count of approximately 1,660 hills, setting it apart from other regions in Indonesia.

The last is non-living natural resources like metal and rock that play a significant role in shaping a city’s nickname. Indonesia boasts rich and abundant resources, including plants, animals, metals, and rocks. For instance, Cilegon city is renowned for its extensive steel production, earning it the moniker “City of Steel”. Similarly, Tulungagung is known as the “City of Marble” due to its substantial marble production. This demonstrates how city nicknames in Java are influenced by a diverse array of natural resources, encompassing flora, fauna, natural conditions, metals, and rocks.

The explanations of city nicknames based on natural resource aspects, as discussed above, are summarized in the Table 2 below.

Table 2. City Nickname of Natural Resource

No	Natural Aspects	Nickname	City
1	Plants	City of Flowers	Bandung
		City of Mangoes	Indramayu
		City of Onion	Brebes
		City of Tobacco	Temanggung
		City of Bananas	Banyuwangi
2	Animals	City of Rhinos	Banten
		City of Shrimp	Cirebon
		City of Sheep	Garut
		City of Shrimp	Sidoarjo
		City of Cattle	Bangkalan
3	Landscape	City of Underwater Paradise	Karimun Jawa
		City of the Sea	Tejal
		City at the Foot of the Mountain	Magetan
		Mozart van Java	Mojosari
		City of a Million Flowers	Magelang
		City of a Thousand Hills	Jember
4	Non-Living Natural Resources	City of Steel	Cilegon
		City of Marble	Tulungagung

Human Resource

The city’s monikers are a reflection of its populace and their unique characteristics. Two noteworthy nicknames, “Santri City” and “Student City”, are indicative of this influence. “Santri City” is a label attributed to several cities on the Island of Java, such as Serang, Tasikmalaya, Kendal, Jombang, Pasuruan, and Situbondo. These cities are celebrated for their Islamic boarding school education, which is a defining aspect of Java. The abundance of Islamic boarding schools, known as *pesantren*, not only attracts local students but also *santri* migrants from other regions who seek to pursue Islamic religious education. Moreover, the Island of Java has a strong tradition of Islamic education, with numerous cities home to a large number of *pesantren*, or Islamic boarding schools. These schools play a crucial role in the cultural and educational fabric of the island, offering a rich setting for religious education. The



presence of *santri* students further emphasizes the cities' reputation as hubs of Islamic learning and academic excellence, earning them the nickname "Santri City".

Renowned as "Santri City" Java is also home to other cities earning the moniker "Student City" notably Malang and Yogyakarta. These cities stand out due to their plethora of colleges and universities, drawing students not only from Java but also from other regions. The educational offerings across diverse fields in these cities make them bustling academic centers. The nickname "Student City" highlights their allure to a wide-ranging student body pursuing higher education. The monikers "Santri City" and "Student City" are deeply intertwined, highlighting the central role of education in these communities. These names underscore the large population of individuals in these cities dedicated to pursuing their educational aspirations, whether through religious studies at pesantren or across diverse academic fields at universities. The pursuit of knowledge not only defines the identity of these cities but also fosters vibrant, learning-oriented communities. Hence, the monikers "Santri City" and "Student City" perfectly capture the vibrancy of these urban areas as flourishing hubs of learning. They symbolize these cities' significance in fostering both religious and non-religious education, drawing in a varied community of students committed to their intellectual and spiritual advancement.

The explanations of city nicknames based on human resource aspects, as discussed above, are summarized in the Table 3 below.

Table 3. City Nickname of Human Resource

No	Nickname	City
1	<i>Santri</i> City	Serang
		Tasikmalaya
		Kendal
		Jombang
		Pasuruan
		Situbondo
2	Student City	Yogyakarta
		Malang

Historical Significance

Historical aspects are aspects that intersect with the history behind the naming of city nicknames in Indonesia. The historical aspect also makes a shaper of the nickname of an area on the Island of Java. The areas that get nicknames from the historical aspect include Kuningan, Karawang, Blitar, and Surabaya. It is explained that the "City of Horses" is the nickname of Kuningan city. The nickname was obtained not from the number of horse farms as well as from the aspect of natural wealth but from the departure of the horse symbol listed on the Kuningan logo and also had historical value. The historical value is obtained from folklore that developed in the Kuningan community. The horse in question is a war horse owned by Adipati Kuningan and has carried out essential tasks.

Furthermore, the designation for Karawang is the "City of Pangkal Perjuangan". This is related to the events of Indonesian independence in Karawang. The most remembered history



as part of the Indonesian nation's struggle for independence is the Rengasdengklok area, which witnessed the beginning of the independence movement of the Republic of Indonesia. Blitar is named "City of Proclamator" since it is the burial place of Bung Karno, the Proclaimer, the First President of the Republic of Indonesia, an ideologist, and a great world thinker who is admired by both the Indonesian people and the world community. Blitar is also one of the historical places for the Indonesian nation, where before the proclamation was proclaimed, Indonesian independence was called for, followed by the raising of *Sang Merah Putih*. Surabaya is nicknamed the "City of Heroes" because it is the birthplace of the nation's leaders who fought the invaders to gain their independence.

The explanations of city nicknames based on historical significance aspects, as discussed above, are summarized in the Table 4 below.

Table 4. City Nickname of Historical Significance

No	Nickname	City
1	City of Horses	Kuningan
2	City of Pangkal Perjuangan	Karawang
3	City of Proclamator	Blitar
4	City of Heroes	Surabaya

Climatic Conditions

The climate significantly impacts the naming of cities on the Island of Java, with distinct weather patterns leading to unique and descriptive nicknames that encapsulate the climatic conditions of each area. An example of this is Bogor, which is affectionately referred to as "Rainy City". This moniker stems from Bogor's incredibly high and consistent rainfall, which persists throughout the year, even during the dry season. The city boasts a substantial number of rainy days annually, positioning it as one of the wettest areas in Indonesia. This copious rainfall not only shapes the city's verdant, lush landscape but also plays a pivotal role in shaping its agricultural practices and daily life.

Majalengka and Nganjuk are known as "Windy City" due to the powerful and frequent winds that characterize the local climate. These winds significantly impact various aspects of the cities, from influencing architectural styles and construction techniques to shaping the daily lives of the residents. While the winds provide advantages for specific agricultural practices and renewable energy production, such as the establishment of wind farms, they also present challenges that the local communities have learned to navigate and adapt to over time.

Depok has earned the moniker "City of Lightning" due to the frequent and intense lightning storms that are a common occurrence there. The city's geographical location and climatic conditions make it particularly susceptible to thunderstorms, which often manifest as vivid and powerful displays of lightning. These storms contribute to Depok's unique identity and are a dramatic and awe-inspiring aspect of its weather. The nickname not only emphasizes the prevalence of these natural phenomena but also underscores the significance of awareness and preparedness among the city's residents.

The distinct weather-related nicknames are unique identities for different regions in Java,



highlighting the diverse climatic conditions in each area. These nicknames offer a quick and evocative way to describe the essence of the weather patterns in each city, influencing both local culture and outsiders' perceptions. Furthermore, these nicknames can also impact tourism, as visitors may be interested in experiencing the unique weather characteristics of each region firsthand. The diverse weather patterns in Java greatly influence the nicknames of its cities. Each nickname is a reflection of the specific climatic conditions that characterize the local environment. For example, Bogor is known as the "Rainy City" due to its consistent rainfall, while Majalengka and Nganjuk are referred to as the "City of Wind", highlighting their strong winds. Depok is dubbed the "City of Lightning" due to its frequent lightning storms. These unique nicknames not only capture the distinct weather patterns of each city but also play a significant role in shaping their regional identities, adding to the cultural richness of Java.

The explanations of city nicknames based on climate conditions aspects, as discussed above, are summarized in the Table 5 below.

Table 5. City Nickname of Climatic Conditions

No	Nickname	City
1	Rainy city	Bogor
2	Windy City	Majalengka
3	Windy City	Nganjuk
4	Lightning City	Depok

Industrial Prowess

The study discusses industrial prowess focusing on the extensive manufacturing activities in various cities, where the majority of inhabitants are involved in producing goods. This production is not only a vital part of the local economy, but also deeply intertwined with the cultural, social and political fabric of these cities. For example, Jepara is renowned for its long-standing tradition of woodcarving and has gained global recognition for its exquisite carvings, establishing itself as a premier center for woodcarving since the 19th century. The intricate craftsmanship and artistic excellence of Jepara's woodcarvers have made the city's name synonymous with high-quality furniture and decorative pieces. Woodcarving in Jepara is more than just an industry; it is a cultural heritage passed down through generations. This craft has influenced every aspect of life in Jepara, from its economy to its social and political structures. The city's identity as the "City of Carving" is a testament to the skill and dedication of its artisans, and it highlights the city's significant role in preserving and promoting traditional Indonesian art.

Similarly, Kudus is known as the "City of Kretek" due to its widespread involvement in the Kretek cigarette industry. Kretek cigarettes are a distinctive product originating from the Indonesian archipelago. They are crafted by blending tobacco with cloves and other aromatic components. The city of Kudus holds the honor of being the birthplace of Kretek cigarettes, as the product's inventor originated from this city. The creation and widespread production of Kretek cigarettes have significantly impacted Kudus, transforming it into a prominent hub for



this industry. The clustering of Kretek companies in Kudus has not only bolstered the local economy but has also played a significant role in shaping the cultural heritage of the city. Known as the “City of Kretek”, Kudus stands as a testament to the historical importance and evolution of this iconic Indonesian commodity.

Conversely, Pekalongan is known as the “City of Batik” because of its extensive history of batik production. For centuries, the creation of batik textiles has been a fundamental part of life in Pekalongan, deeply intertwining this art form with the local community. Batik from Pekalongan is famous for its bright colors, intricate patterns and distinct designs, setting it apart from other regional styles. The production of batik is deeply rooted in the city’s culture, impacting its social and economic aspects. The batik industry in Pekalongan has not only supported numerous families but has also played a significant role in promoting Indonesian batik globally. The title “City of Batik” highlights the city’s historical and cultural importance in the realm of textile arts.

Therefore, the production of goods in these cities plays a crucial role in shaping their unique identity and distinction. This is evident through the nicknames they have earned. Each city’s primary industry, woodcarving in Jepara, Kretek cigarette production in Kudus, and batik making in Pekalongan, exemplifies the specialized skills and rich cultural heritage of its residents. These industries are not only significant economic activities but also integral to the social fabric and cultural legacy of these cities. The nicknames derived from these industries highlight the exceptional contributions of these cities to Indonesia’s cultural and economic landscape. It showcases the deep interconnection between industrial production and local identity. This close relationship emphasizes how the history and tradition of each city are closely tied to its industrial prowess and economic significance.

The explanations of city nicknames based on industrial prowess aspects, as discussed above, are summarized in the Table 6 below.

Table 6. City Nickname of Industrial Prowess

No	Nickname	City
1	City of Carving	Jepara
2	City of Kretek	Kudus
3	City of Batik	Pekalongan

Artistic Expression

The artistic landscape of Indonesia, particularly on the Island of Java, is incredibly diverse and dynamic, showcasing a rich array of cultural expressions. For instance, the city of Ponorogo, also known as “Reog City”, is celebrated for its association with the traditional Reog dance. This captivating dance, originating in Ponorogo, serves as a compelling embodiment of Indonesia’s traditional arts, reflecting local customs, values and historical narratives. The Reog Ponorogo dance features intricate costumes, lively music and dramatic performances that enthrall audiences, holding a significant place in Indonesia’s cultural history and contributing to its global cultural richness. Similarly, Banyuwangi is synonymous with the Gandrung dance, earning it the moniker “Gandrung City”. The Gandrung dance, a traditional performance rooted



in the deep reverence of the agrarian community for Dewi Sri, the goddess of rice and fertility, symbolizes prosperity and celebrates the agricultural heritage and cultural identity of Banyuwangi. Characterized by graceful movements, elaborate costumes and expressive music, the Gandrung dance underscores Banyuwangi's profound connection to this tradition, preserved meticulously and performed at various cultural and ceremonial events, further enhancing the city's cultural significance (Alwi et al., 2024).

The Reog Ponorogo dance and the Gandrung dance are not just mere performances; they are deeply ingrained in the cultural tapestry of the cities they represent. These mesmerizing dances grace festivals, ceremonies, and public gatherings, weaving a strong sense of community and tradition. Furthermore, they serve as educational tools, passing down the rich cultural heritage to younger generations and nurturing a profound pride in local customs. Beyond their local impact, these traditional dances hold great significance in showcasing Indonesia's cultural heritage to a global audience. Their allure draws in tourists, scholars and artists from far and wide, all eager to immerse themselves in and study these exceptional cultural phenomena. By preserving and promoting these art forms, cities like Ponorogo and Banyuwangi not only enrich their cultural identity but also contribute to a deeper understanding and appreciation of Indonesian culture across the world. In conclusion, the arts in Java, as showcased by the captivating Reog Ponorogo dance in Ponorogo and the enchanting Gandrung dance in Banyuwangi, play a pivotal role in preserving Indonesia's cultural identity and heritage (Atmadiredja et al., 2024; Pramudiyanto et al., 2024). These age-old performances beautifully capture the intricacies of local customs, values and historical tales, thus enhancing the rich cultural fabric of the nation while instilling a profound sense of pride and tradition in its populace.

The explanations of city nicknames based on climate conditions aspects, as discussed above, are summarized in the Table 7 below.

Table 7. City Nickname of Artistic Expression

No	Nickname	City
1	Reog City	Ponorogo
2	Gandrung City	Banyuwangi

CONCLUSION

Each city on the Island of Java has its own unique set of nicknames, which are derived from various characteristics of the city. These characteristics help to define the identity of the region. Some of the aspects that contribute to the nicknames of cities on the Island of Java include culinary, natural resources, human resources, historical significance, climatic conditions, industrial prowess, and artistic expression. The food aspect refers to distinctive flavors that originate from the city and are widely known by many people. Natural resources, including flora, fauna, metals, rocks, and geographical conditions, also play a role in creating the city nicknames, showcasing the abundance of resources on the Island of Java. In addition, some aspects also have a role in creating some aspects, such as food, weather, industrial production, and arts that are merely found in naming a place. The city nicknames are based on



the most distinctive and unique attributes compared to other cities. This distinctiveness contributes to the city's identity, attracting people to experience its culinary offerings, admire its natural beauty, and learn about its history and arts. City nicknames not only set a city apart from others, but they can also indirectly enhance its potential in other areas such as the economy and tourism by leveraging its local characteristics and wisdom. Therefore, city nicknames play a crucial role in the development of a city. Future studies are recommended to expand the scope of analysis by incorporating perspectives from local communities and policymakers, as well as examining the role of city nicknames in digital media, branding strategies, and public discourse to better understand their dynamic influence on urban identity, tourism, and socio-economic development.

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