

Interviews with local fishermen onboard at the 2004 Sumatra-Andaman tsunami off west coast of Northern Sumatra

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The disaster of tsunami is most destructive disaster in various natural disasters. But the tsunami doesn't occur rarely. Hence, we completely carry out the research about the tsunami and following disaster which occurred, and we have to try to share observation records and disaster knowledges altogether societies.

Observational records of tsunami are insufficient comparing to earthquake and volcanic activity, clearly. Although tidal gages are installed all over the world, the stations are very sparse than earthquake observatories. So we note the witness of people who survived from tsunami. We used the semi-structuring interview method in this study. We paid attention to the time sequence and spatial attribution of these events which the interviewee faced. In some case, we try to measure the time, height and velocity of watched tsunami from the support of natural measures like tree or walking speed of men.

In 2006 November and 2007 February, we carried out field surveys in and around Banda Aceh, Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam, Indonesia. The number of interviewee were 36 persons whose ages are between 15 and 55. 26 persons are men and 10 persons are women. The occupation of them are various, for example, salt worker, high school student, university student, school teacher, shop clerk and fishermen. In this research, we addressed the tsunami which watched by fishermen on the ocean.

A number of fishermen encountered large amplitudes of tsunami in the offshore. One people said that he stayed the point where 20km far from the coast. Next, we investigated the depth of that point from the catching fish's behavior. 'Garapu', the name of fish in Indonesian lived in about 30 to 50 meter depth and this fish like the rock bed. Perhaps the enormous sea wave watched in 20 km offshore will relate to submarine topography.