

Classical Literature as Cultural Bridge: Strengthening Indonesia–Thailand Relations through BIPA Learning

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This paper explores the potential of Indonesian classical literature as a medium for cultural diplomacy and intercultural understanding in the teaching of Indonesian as a Foreign Language (BIPA). As Indonesia and Thailand celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations, the integration of literary heritage such as Babad Tanah Jawi, Serat Kalatidha, and Gurindam Dua Belas into BIPA learning serves not only as a linguistic resource but also as a cultural bridge connecting ASEAN communities. Through a qualitative descriptive approach, this study identifies pedagogical practices that merge language learning with cultural literacy, emphasizing the transmission of moral values, worldview, and symbolic aesthetics rooted in the Nusantara tradition. The findings highlight that classical literature can foster intercultural competence, empathy, and respect for diversity among international learners, while simultaneously promoting Indonesia's cultural identity abroad. Furthermore, by aligning BIPA instruction with cultural heritage content, teachers contribute to strengthening soft power diplomacy and educational collaboration between Indonesia and Thailand. This paper concludes that revitalizing classical literature in BIPA education reinforces

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