

## Conference Paper

# The Relationship between Organizational Politics, Job Satisfaction and Turnover Intention in the Maritime-Related Agencies in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia

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## Abstract

The study aimed to examine the relationship between organizational politics, employee's job satisfaction and turnover intention in the public maritime-related agencies in the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia. The study utilized cross sectional research design. An enumeration of entire population (census) was conducted on 140 employees from Royal Malaysian Custom and Department of Fisheries in Terengganu. Data for the study were collected through questionnaire. 140 set of questionnaire were distributed and 109 copies were returned. Preliminary analyses were performed to ensure violation of assumptions of normality, linearity and homogeneity which enables us to analyze the data with the aid of Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and SmartPLS softwares. The findings revealed a significant association between organizational politics, employee's job satisfaction and turnover intention. The study therefore recommended that the agencies should actively focus on positive political behaviour that will fuel workers' job satisfaction and they should ensure proper pay structure including pay performance and other bonuses that will lead to employee job satisfaction and reduce turnover intention. Finally, the findings of this study could assist the public maritime-related agencies in the area of organizational politics that would promote employee job satisfaction.

**Keywords:** organizational politics, job satisfaction, turnover intention

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## 1. Introduction

Organizations are social entities that individual and group use variety of strategies that include personal conflict to achieve their benefit, goals and also to promote and protect their self-interest in the organization [1]. Organizational politics (OP) is a common

situation in organizational life, which stems out from the use of power by authority or top management and also about the how individuals use their power and influences the activities of the systems [2]. According to [3], organizational politics is the management of power by using the way that not approved by organization or use unsanctioned influence to get or to reach their own aim or goal. The importance of organizational politics lies in its potential consequences and effect on work outcomes. Many scholars argued that politics often interferes with normal organizational processes (e.g., decision making, promotion, and rewards) and affect productivity and performance on individual and organizational levels [4]. Many studies related to OP have been conducted in the public sector but in fact they were conducted mainly at universities or they used mixed samples of private and semipublic agencies like hospitals and government-owned industries [4]. Furthermore, most studies of OP were conducted in the Western context. In most countries, wages of public servants are lower than those of private sector employees, promotion is slower, and rewards are generally not related to work outcomes [5]. Nevertheless, public organizations usually offer a stable work environment and higher job security. The internal politics of public agencies could possibly have a unique effect on the employees which still remain unclear and deserves more attention. Therefore, it is the aim of this study to examine the impact of OP to the job satisfaction and turnover intention in the public maritime-related agencies in the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia to contribute to the existing literature of OP.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1. Organizational politics

Organisational politics is management of power that influence a variety of action or act to reach the good outcome to the worker [6, 7]. [8] defined perception of organizational politics as the degree that individuals view an environment of their work as the politics which are unfair. According to [9], there are three aspects of organization politics i.e. general political behavior which related to worker perceptions of their co-workers engaging in political activities. It is also the behavior of individuals that act in a self-interest manner to gain valued outcomes. Another aspect is pay and promotion representing organization behaving politically through the policies that enacts its. The last aspect is go along to get ahead which influenced to tactics such as placing oneself purposely by agreeing with those in power or a lack of action by individuals in order to

locked valued outcomes. [10] argued that using power also can influence the decision making, or in giving ideas to reach the goal and productivity of company or individuals itself. For example, organizational politics influence the decision of the management such as supervisor rating in performance appraisal of the employees and when giving idea in organization. [11] stated that individual will feel pressure derived from factors such as perceptions of organizational politics which impacting on job satisfaction and turnover intention of the employees. In addition, in a much positive view in political behaviour of organizations, it regards it as an unavoidable part of the need for groups and individuals to function in a collective context [12, 13]. It is supported by [14], in which managers use politics as a functional tool in organization to make sure all works are done.

## 2.2. Job satisfaction

Job satisfaction can be defined as an individual's feelings about their work and their attitudes towards various aspects of their work, as well as attitudes and perceptions that may influence the degree of fit between the individual and the organization [15, 16]. [17] state that good fit between an employee and his or her work environment is important because the work environment such as organizational culture will be a predictor of the employee's job satisfaction in order to reach a high level of job-satisfaction. According to [18], research has indicated that job satisfaction is dependent on organisational variables such as structure, size, pay, working conditions and leadership, which represent the organisational climate and does not come about in isolation. [19] reiterates that a person with high job satisfaction appears to hold positive attitudes, and one who is dissatisfied to hold negative attitudes towards their job. Job satisfaction also a major predictor of employee burnout, turnover and intention to quit [20]. When employees are unsatisfied with their work environment, they may not be willing to forfeit their personal interests to help the organization thus it will decrease the performance of organization [21].

## 2.3. Turnover intention

[22] defined turnover intention as the individual behavior across the membership boundary of an organization, while [23] defined turnover intention as a mental decision that had been taken by an individual with respect to his employment whether to continue or leave their jobs. In addition, [24] defined employee turnover intention as

“individuals’ own estimated probability (subjective) that they are permanently leaving the organization at some point in the near future. Turnover intention phenomena often occur in an organization’s enterprise whether in the private or government sector. This happens often associated with the company’s environmental conditions, given the pressures of work, and a variety of complaints and the reasons given by the employees. [25] argue that when employee cannot get happiness from their work then the dissatisfaction of job is high, they will look for other opportunities which can give them happiness or satisfaction. Hence job satisfaction is viewed as significant predictors of turnover intention. Intention represents or it can be interpreted as an act of conscious and deliberate control to leave the organization. Meanwhile, turnover was previously understood as termination contract of the employment. [26] argue that intention is a predictor of actual behaviour. Intention have significant effect to the actual behaviour in order to leaving or staying at the organization [27]. If symptoms of turnover intentions occur, it negatively affects the organization itself. This is because, when the employee has terminated the contract of work in an organization then the company will incur a loss in terms of labour, the cost of hiring, the cost of training new employees and so on.

#### **2.4. Relationship between organizational politics, job satisfaction and turnover intention**

There are many research conducted to examine the relationship between organization politics and job satisfaction in various industry or sector. A study by [28] on 125 individuals working in diverse organizations in Senegal found that employees perceiving higher level of organizational politics were less satisfied with their job and reported lower level of organizational citizenship behaviour and organizational commitment. A similar study by [29] on 300 employees of the commercial banking sector in Sri Lanka found that perceived organizational politics impact negatively on job satisfaction. Studies in the public sector also found a similar result. [30] examined the relationship between perception of organizational politics, job attitudes, and several other work outcomes among 303 public sector employees in Israel. Perception of organizational politics was found to have had a negative relationship with job attitudes (e.g., job satisfaction and organizational commitment), a positive relationship with intention to leave the organization (exit), and a stronger positive relationship with negligent behavior (neglect). [31] conducted a study on 200 randomly selected employees of

Babcock University Ilishan, Ilishan – Remo, Ogun State, Nigeria to examine the relationship between organizational politics and turnover intention. The findings revealed a high and positive correlations between organizational politics and turnover intention, work efficiency and organizational commitment. In simple words, the higher of organizational politics will consequently results in the higher of turnover intention in the organization.

Based on the above literature review, the study forwarded three hypotheses as follows: -

- H1: There is a significant positive relationship between organisational politics and turnover intention
- H2: There is a significant negative relationship between organisational politics and job satisfaction
- H3: There is a significant negative relationship between job satisfaction and turnover intention

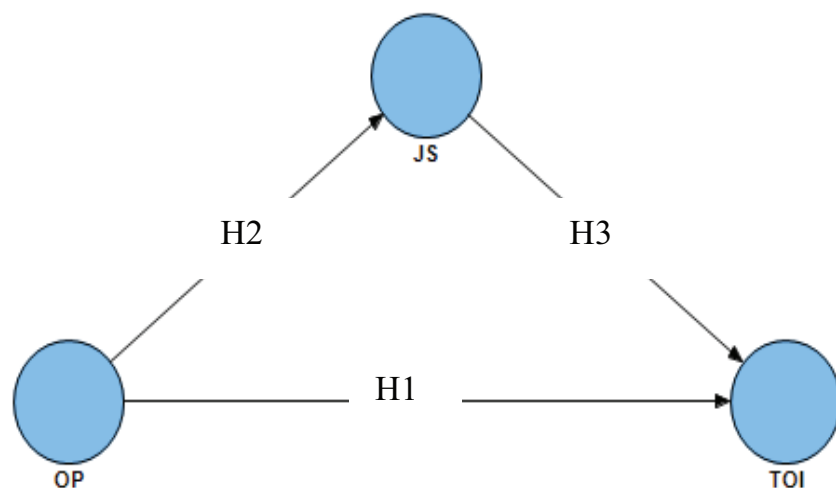


Figure 1: Theoretical framework.

### 3. Methodology

A quantitative approach was adopted to examine the relationship between organizational politics, job satisfaction and turn over intention in the public maritime-related agencies i.e. Royal Malaysia Custom and Fisheries Department in Terengganu, in the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia as the target population. These organizations were

selected based on their proximity, accessibility and their willingness to take part in the study. There are 80 of employees at Royal Malaysia Custom and 60 employees at Fisheries Department. The study conducted a numeration of the entire population (census) to collect data because the target population/sampling frame (140 employees) could not be reduced to select a sample, due to low response rate of the questionnaire method [32]. Three data collection instruments were utilized for the study: 1) Perception of Organisational Politics scale (POP) developed by [9] and 2) Abridged Job In General (ajIG) developed by [33] and 3) Turnover Intention [34].

Demographic questionnaires were also created to obtain personal information of the respondents. All the instruments were combined to form a single survey instrument for this study. The survey questionnaire consisted of 4 parts i.e. Part 1: Demographic information; Part 2: Perception of Organisational Politics questionnaires (12 items); Part 3: Abridged Job In General (8 items); and Part 4: Intention to leave (4 items). 140 questionnaires were distributed to the respective agencies, and 109 questionnaires were returned constituted a 77.9% returned rate. After data screening, 106 samples were retained for further analysis. On average, the majority of the employees were between 31 – 40 years old and the majority of respondents have been working with their current organisation between 5-10 years. The result of the demographic analysis is presented in Table 1 of this study.

TABLE 1: Demographic analysis.

Demographics features	Frequency	Percent	Demographics features	Frequency	Percent
<b>Gender</b>			<b>Period with organisation</b>		
Female	51	48.1	Less than a year	6	5.7
Male	55	51.9	1 - 5 years	22	20.8
Total	106	100.0	5 - 10 years	46	43.4
<b>Age</b>			Over 10 years	32	30.2
Less than 20	1	0.9	Total		
21-30 years old	29	27.4	<b>Job type</b>		
31-40 years old	50	47.2	Office administration	73	68.9
41-50 years old	17	16.0	Operation/Shift	13	12.3
50 and above	9	8.5	Others	20	18.9
Total	106	100	Total	106	100
<b>Education</b>					
Secondary education	44	41.5			
Tertiary education	37	34.9			
Others	25	23.6			
Total	106	100			

### 3.1. Data analysis

In this study, Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) 18.0 and SmartPLS software package 2.0 were used for data analyses. The choice of PLS-SEM in this study is based on the fact that it offers a simultaneous test of an entire system of variables in a hypothesized model and thus enables assessment of the extent to which the model is consistent with the data. PLS has the advantage that it “involves no assumptions about the population or scale of measurement” [35]. Therefore, PLS was chosen to establish the construct, measurement and structural models of this study. PLS provides the measurement model, which includes an assessment of the reliability and validity of the measures and an evaluation of the structural model, which describes the relationship between dependent and independent variables by generating the estimates of standardized regression coefficients for the model [36]. PLS requires a relatively small sample size [37]. For example, [38] recommended that 20 cases per a dependent variable are suitable to test the statistical model. A well-known standard for PLS sample size developed by [39] and [40] is to consider the number of structural paths and dependent variables. Specifically, [39] suggested ten times the largest number of structural paths directed at a particular construct in the inner path model. [40] suggested ten times the number of predictors for a dependent variable that includes the largest number of indicators. Thus, the number of valid samples in this research, 106, is sufficient to use PLS and in turn, to obtain reliable results.

### 3.2. Results for the measurement model

The measurement model was evaluated by assessing the convergent validity, which is measured by loading, the average variance extracted (AVE) and the composite reliability (CR) result. The result revealed good items loading above the recommended threshold (0.5) by [41]. The items which showed lower than 0.5 were dropped. The result of the average variance extracted (AVE) indicates a value above 0.5 recommended threshold [41]. The summary of the measurement model in this study is presented in Table 2.

In order to test the constructs' convergent and discriminant validity, additional analyses were run by comparing the AVE and correlation between constructs. A comparison of the correlation with the square root of AVE (as shown in bold in Table 3) indicates that the correlation between two constructs is less than the square root of AVE of both

TABLE 2: Summary of Constructs Items Loadings, AVE, CR, and R-Square.

Construct	Indicator	Loadings	CR	AVE	R <sup>2</sup>				
Organisational politics	OP1	0.683	0.888	0.501					
	OP2	0.793							
	OP3	0.622							
	OP4	0.575							
	OP5	0.770							
	OP7	0.683							
	OP8	0.778							
	OP10	0.732							
	Job satisfaction Job SATI	JIG2				0.763	0.901	0.768	0.164
		JIG3				0.881			
JIG5		0.904							
JIG7		0.780							
Turnover lntention	TOI1	0.880	0.908	0.700	0.324				
	TOI2	0.900							
	TOI3	0.848							

groups. This means that discriminant validity exists [42]. Therefore the results supported adequate convergent and discriminant validity of the constructs in the model.

TABLE 3: Latent variable inter-correlation, and square root of AVE for assessing convergent and discriminant validity.

Constructs	OP	JS	TOI
OP	<b>0.708</b>		
JS	-0.405	<b>0.834</b>	
TOI	0.4121	-0.525	<b>0.876</b>

Note: The diagonal elements (in bold) are the square root of Average Variance Extracted.

Other non-diagonal elements are latent variable correlations.

### 3.3. Results for the structural model and hypotheses

A satisfactory evaluation of the structural model in PLS must consist of three indexes including path coefficients, squared multiple correlations (R<sup>2</sup>), and t-value. The high values of R<sup>2</sup> verify the good fitness and validity of the built model [36]. Threshold value of 0.25, 0.5 and 0.7 are often used to describe a weak, moderate, and strong coefficient of determination [43]. As shown in Table 2, R<sup>2</sup> for turnover intention was 0.324, which meant that organizational politics and job satisfaction jointly explained about 32.4% of variance of turnover intention.



Hypothesis testing is conducted to analyse the cause-effect relationships (causality) among the variables in the model based on the value of the critical ratio (CR). In terms of PLS-SEM, CR is known as the t-stat value. T-values are obtained through the bootstrap routine and must be more than 1.96 [40]. If t-stat values higher than 1.96 (sig. 5% two-tailed) means that the hypothesis is supported. The results of hypothesis testing can be observed in Table 4. In this research, the results supported positive impact of organisational politics on turnover intention. Therefore, the first hypothesis of this research was supported significantly. PLS analysis showed that organisational politics and job satisfaction jointly accounted for about 32.4% of the variance in turnover intention (see Table 2). Furthermore, this research elaborated the relationship between organisational politics and job satisfaction. Based on the results of the second hypothesis (H2), a significant negative relationship of organisational politics and job satisfaction was found in this study. The results also showed that job satisfaction has a negative relationship with intention to leave and the third hypothesis (H3) of this research was supported significantly. Table 4 presents a summary of results of the hypotheses testing.

TABLE 4: Summary of hypotheses testing.

Hypothesis	Path Co-efficient	T- Statistics	Hypothesis Testing
OP → TOI (H1)	0.239	3.011	Supported
OP → JS (H2)	-0.405	4.628	Supported
JS → TOI (H3)	-0.429	5.332	Supported

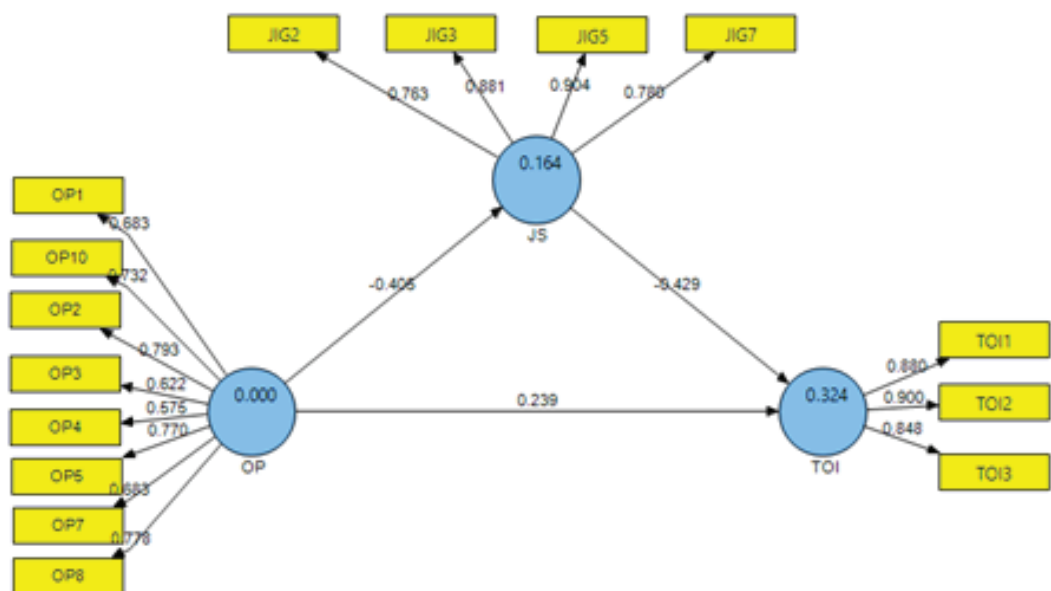


Figure 2: Structural model.

## 4. Conclusion

The results of this study were found to be consistent with the study by [28–31]. Organizational politics were found to be positively related with turnover intention and negatively related to job satisfaction. The higher the perception of organizational politics by the employees means the lower job satisfaction and the higher the turnover intention of the employees. It can be concluded that both public and private sectors showed similar results. The study therefore recommended that the public agencies should actively focus on positive political behaviour that will fuel workers' job satisfaction and they should ensure proper pay structure including pay performance and other bonuses that will lead to employee job satisfaction and reduce turnover intention. Finally, the findings of this study could assist the public maritime-related agencies in the area of organizational politics that would promote employee job satisfaction. Future study on the impact of organizational politics on the employees' outcome should extend on larger public organizations to obtain a clearer understanding on the importance of organizational politics to the organizational outcomes.

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