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Geochemical Approach for Seawater Intrusion Assessment in the Area around Yogyakarta International Airport, Indonesia

Akhmad Zamroni¹, Oky Sugarbo¹, Paramitha Tedja Trisnaning¹, Saurina Tua Sagala² and Adam Sukma Putra^{3,*}

¹ Department of Geological Engineering, Institut Teknologi Nasional Yogyakarta, Jl Babarsari, Caturtunggal, Depok, Sleman, Yogyakarta 55281, Indonesia

² Department of Mining Engineering, Institut Teknologi Nasional Yogyakarta, Jl Babarsari, Caturtunggal, Depok, Sleman, Yogyakarta 55281, Indonesia

³ Geophysics Division, Department of Physics, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Jl Bulaksumur, Yogyakarta 55281, Indonesia

* Correspondence: adamsukmaputra@ugm.ac.id

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Abstract

A total of 10 groundwater samples were obtained from groundwater wells with depths of around 8-10 meters distributed around Yogyakarta International Airport, Indonesia to test the geochemical of groundwater for assessing the seawater intrusion. Samples were taken into polyethylene bottles with a volume of 1000 ml. These bottles were rinsed to reduce the risk of any contamination prior to their filling with sampled water. Piper Diagram is used to evaluate seawater intrusion by plotting the percentages of cations and anions (in mEq/L) as a single point on the triangle. The groundwater facies' in the study area are CaHCO_3 and CaNaHCO_3 . It suggests that the origins of the elements Ca and Na were estimated to derive from the dissolution of the plagioclase, hornblende, and pyroxene minerals found in the sand sediment, while the elements of HCO_3 were estimated from the dissolution of carbonate minerals or the decomposition of organic matter and root respiration in the soil zone may enrich their concentration. The wells affected by slightly freshening were ZAM-04, ZAM-05, ZAM-06, ZAM-08, and ZAM-10. While the wells that are not affected by the intrusion or fresh were ZAM-01, ZAM-03, ZAM-07, and ZAM-09. However, ZAM-02 well which is close to the coastline and the closest to the airport development area was the only well that affected significantly by freshening, comparing with other wells. Another expected controlling factor was the fault in the northern part which continuously leads that location. By supported a flow pattern or large river, it was concluded the alluvial deposits buried the fault, and it was estimated to continue to that location.

Keywords: Piper Diagram; Groundwater facies; Freshening; Cation; Anion

1. Introduction

Yogyakarta International Airport (YIA) master plan was unveiled on 7 August 2012 and was classified as a public international airport due to the restriction of Adisucipto International Airport facilities as an international airport in the province of Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta, Indonesia. There are some requirements for deciding this airport, such as adequate land for the long runway, land layout

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for the orientation of the runway, ability to avoid vital obstacles, suitable topography, limited resident resettlement, the situation outside the volcanic zone, catchment area, compliance with provincial legislation, and no existing contracts for mining leases. The Indonesian Government agreed in 2013 that the location of YIA is in Temon District, Kulonprogo Regency, Yogyakarta, Indonesia based on these factors (Tinasar et al., 2017). YIA was built to handle up to 20 billion passengers and was constructed in an area of over 587.2 ha in the southern part of Java Island (Rachman et al., 2018).

In the coastal areas, the construction of buildings is typically carried out by intense pumping. To support underground infrastructure and building foundations in urban coastal areas, extensive pumping to lower the water table is carried out. This method, however, can threaten the quality of groundwater as it can cause seawater intrusion. Furthermore, that activity can increase land subsidence, unstable buildings, and corrosion of concrete structures (Mas-Pla et al., 2013). Coastal areas, especially in areas where groundwater is over-pumped, are generally vulnerable to seawater intrusion. Owing to the over-extraction of groundwater, seawater interference is the biggest problem in coastal areas, and it contributes to the deterioration of the freshwater aquifers' qualities. The extent of seawater intrusion is affected by the hydraulic gradient, geological settings, groundwater extraction rate, and its renewability (Senthilkumar et al., 2019). Seawater intrusion is the penetration of seawater into enclosed unconfined coastal aquifers, which in turn affects groundwater quality (Nair et al., 2015). Seawater intrusion is the flow of seawater into a freshwater aquifer. The degree of penetration of seawater in an aquifer depends on the volume and level of groundwater, the gap between the aquifer, the channels of seawater, drainage sources, geological structure, and the aquifer's hydraulic properties (Arslan et al., 2012). Many features of the aquifer, which may include groundwater flow paths, lithology, and anthropogenic activity such as pumping affect seawater intrusion (Muhammad and Husam, 2011). Furthermore, as sea levels increase, seawater can percolate through groundwater, causing seawater to migrate to land, resulting in a change in the quality of groundwater resources (Nu et al., 2020). The seawater, which is slightly denser, initially invades the bottom of the aquifer and the freshwater present at the surface, as the coastal aquifers are normally hydraulically related to the sea. To meet the rising demand, over-exploitation of groundwater from such coastal aquifers accelerates the progress of seawater further into the shore. This would contribute to the closure of manufacturing wells due to groundwater pollution due to the mixing of seawater (Nair et al., 2015). Seawater intrusion into coastal aquifers is a natural phenomenon that gradually triggers the issue of groundwater salinization. In particular, it is in areas where semi-arid conditions lead to high pumping and low recharge extraction rates. The accumulation of seawater jeopardizes the future exploitation of coastal aquifers. It is a major concern in many coastal aquifers. Most agricultural crops are severely affected by the high salinity of water resources, seriously reducing yields and harming low salt tolerance crops, while wells with salinity concentration levels injecting water that exceed drinking water requirements cease production (Petalas et al., 2009). Groundwater, as a natural resource, is required in both urban and rural environments for the secure and commercial supply of potable water for the well-being of humans, certain aquatic, and terrestrial ecosystems. Recently, with the construction of electricity, agriculture, urbanization, industry growth, environment construction, and improvements in living standards, water demand has increased rapidly. In today's existence, assessing the consistency and suitability of groundwater for different utilitarian purposes is of additional concern. Therefore, studies relating to the interpretation of groundwater geochemical characteristics, the geochemical processes involved, and their evolution in natural water circulation processes not only contribute to the efficient use and conservation of this important resource but also help to envisage improvements in the environment of the groundwater (Ravikumar and Somashekar, 2017). A geochemical approach for seawater intrusion assessment has been conducted by some researchers during last decade (Han et al., 2011; Rao et al., 2011; Agoubi et al., 2013; Garing et al., 2013; Kura et al., 2014; Nair et al., 2015; Eissa et al., 2016; Isawi et al., 2016; Liu et al., 2016; Supriyadi et al., 2017; Kanagaraj et al., 2018; Naseem et al., 2018; Shi et al., 2018; Bahera et al., 2019;

Fortuna et al., 2020; Seddique et al. 2019; Dhakate et al., 2020; Sae et al., 2020; Satheeskumar et al., 2020; Shin et al., 2020; Telahigue et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2020). A variety of dynamic geochemical processes can also include seawater intrusion into the aquifers. The groundwater interacts with the surrounding rocks during natural hydrological cycling, triggering a number of geochemical processes that modify chemical components of groundwater on a local or regional scale. The geochemical processes responsible for altering groundwater's chemical composition differ with regard to space and time. Therefore, geochemical analysis is a critical instrument for quality assessment (Thin et al., 2018). With the length of its flow routes, the chemical constituents of groundwater begin to increase. Due to ion exchange and precipitation of least soluble salts first, the composition of water at an outcrop is altered when it passes through the ground. Groundwater progresses into the composition of seawater chemically. Rainfall, recharging, atmosphere, aquifer lithology, saline water, soil, air, and flow patterns are the major geological and hydrogeological factors that usually influence geochemical of groundwater (Al-Agha and El-Nakhal, 2004). Na^+ , Mg^{2+} , Ca^{2+} , K^+ , Cl^- , SO_4^{2-} , NO_3^- , and HCO_3^- are the main cations and anions in the geochemical study of groundwater. The groundwater quality is influenced by these cations and anions (Zghibi et al., 2012; Fathi Ubeid and Al-Agha, 2020). In addition, Electrical Conductivity (EC) value in the groundwater analysis is a physical parameter that important to determine seawater intrusion (Shin and Hwang 2020). Therefore, it is necessary and urgent to understand how geochemical environments regulate groundwater evolution and how hydrogeological conditions constrain circulation (Zhang et al., 2015). In addition, a distinct geochemical signature is created by the saline intrusion into fresh groundwater systems. Mixing various types of water may cause reactions that contribute to a water composition that is different from a conservative mixture. The dominant ions in seawater are chloride and sodium, but ion exchange takes place when this salty water comes into contact with a fresh groundwater environment where calcium dominates the clay (Muhammad and Husam, 2011). The chemical composition often influences the consistency of groundwater. The study of the dissolved ions, acidity (pH), hardness, Electrical Conductivity (EC), and alkalinity are normally performed to classify geochemical properties. The groundwater geochemical is the key to learn the origins, geochemical processes, hydrodynamics, and interactions of groundwater with aquifer matrix. Groundwater geochemistry influences by natural and anthropogenic factors. Natural factors include the characteristics of aquifers (geology), vegetation, climate, and even natural catastrophes (earthquakes, droughts, floods, etc.), while the anthropogenic factors include human activities and land-use changes like mining, agriculture, manufacturing, landfill sites, and domestic areas (Poetra et al., 2020). The variations in the chemical composition of fresh groundwater are due to mixing as well as chemical reactions such as ion exchange processes (Seddique et al., 2019). The purpose of this study is to assess the seawater intrusion in the area around Yogyakarta International Airport by geochemical analysis. This study has a benefit as guidelines for the future policy of groundwater using.

2. Geology and Hydrogeology of the Study Area

The study area is situated on the southern side of the Yogyakarta Quadrangle in the coastal area of Kulonprogo Regency. The exposed formation in the study area from oldest to youngest are Andesite, Old Andesite Formation (Upper Oligocene), Sentolo Formation (Lower Miocene to Middle Miocene), and Quarterly Alluvium. Andesite is a part of the central-proximal facies of each Tertiary volcano body in the Kulon Progo Mountains. It has become fragile as a result of deformation caused by tectonic forces. As a consequence, if there is a tectonic force, the rocks are more likely to break (Widagdo et al., 2018). Old Andesite Formation consists of andesite volcanic breccia, tuff, lapilli breccia, lapilli tuff, fragments of the andesite lava flow, fragments of volcanic sandstone, and agglomerates. Sentolo Formation consists of limestone, marl sandstones, marl tuff-boarded conglomerate, and a glass tuff in the lower section. It is part of some volcanic material from the formation of volcanic OAFs. These rocks gradually turned upwards into a well layered limestone rich

in Foraminifera. Quarterly Alluvium consists mainly of alluvial deposits distributed along the large rivers and coastal plains. These sediments are composed of gravel, sand, silt, and clay. The alluvial plain is alluvial soil from volcanic rock. On the east side, the west, and south of the Kulonprogo plain, alluvial deposits can be found. The coastal alluvial sand deposits in the south of the Kulonprogo region along the coastal area (Widagdo et al., 2016). In the area around Kulonprogo, Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) appear to be high on steep slopes. In coastal ridge, sand dune complex, swale, and coastal area, this phenomenon does not occur because it is included as a local aquifer directly recharged by rainwater, resulting in a very low TDS value. The consequence of the different geomorphological aspects is that the hydrogeochemical processes of groundwater have a typical geochemical portion that exist in each landform. Dissolution of hydroxide oxide (ferrihydrite and wustite), calcite, diaspore, albite, and gibbsite are the geochemical of groundwater processes occurring in denudational hills towards alluvial plains. Consequently, there is a trend towards increasing Na^+ , quartz, Fe (total), Ca^{2+} , and Al^{3+} concentrations. In this unit, there is also the mechanism of ion exchange on diaspores and albites and the half-reaction reduction process in ferrihydrite (if Fe^{2+} is formed). Albite dissolution is still continuing in the flow path from the alluvial plains to the fluviomarine plain, causing a rise in Na^+ and SiO_2 , contributing to precipitation of quartz minerals. It also dissolves oxide-hydroxide minerals like ferrihydrite, leading to a rise in Fe (total) concentration (Poetra et al., 2020). In the Piper diagram, the prominent geochemical facies are a form of water bicarbonate. In the distribution of geochemical facies of groundwater, seawater intrusion thus plays a minor role. In the region around Kulonprogo, a range of salinity values is noted. This is because of the large variety of coastal plains that exist in the Alluvial Plains. The presence of geochemical facies and close relation between groundwater and geological conditions (morphology and lithology) is therefore indicated. Geochemical facies can be beneficially used as data to enhance the understanding of geochemical of groundwater processes, to perform more detailed studies, and to handle better water supplies (Thin et al., 2018). The geological map of the study area is shown in Fig.1.

3. Materials and Methods

In September 2020 (dry season), a total of 10 groundwater samples were obtained from water wells with depths of around 8 -10 meters distributed around Yogyakarta International Airport, Indonesia (Fig. 2.). Samples were taken in polyethylene bottles with a volume of 1000 ml. These bottles were rinsed to reduce the risk of any contamination prior to their filing with sampled water.

Fig.1. Geological map of the study area (Modified from Rahardjo et al.1995)

The main ions: Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Na^+ , K^+ , SO_4^{2-} , HCO_3^- , Cl^- , and NO_3^- were analyzed, and in situ Electrical Conductivity (EC) is measured. By the titrimetric method, magnesium (Mg^{2+}), sodium (Na^+), potassium (K^+), calcium (Ca^{2+}), bicarbonate (HCO_3^-), and chloride (Cl^-) ions were analyzed. A spectrophotometer was used to detect the sulfate (SO_4^{2-}) and nitrate (NO_3^-) ions. The flame photometer was used to analyze the sodium (Na^+) and potassium (K^+) ions. Using a conductivity meter, Electrical Conductivity (EC) was measured. Piper Diagram is used to evaluate seawater intrusion by plotting the percentages of cations and anions (in mEq/L) as a single point on the triangle (Muhammad and Husam, 2011). Kelly (2005) developed a diagram to characterize seawater intrusion, using seven distinct grading criteria, from freshwater to conservative mixing water.

Fig.2. The satellite image shows the location of the study area and the groundwater sampling sites.

4. Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows the results of the hydrochemical analysis of groundwater in the study area. The chemical analysis results were verified for ion-balancing averages errors (<15%). Electrical conductivity (EC) is a measure of current conduction potential and higher EC implies salt/dissolved matter enrichment in the groundwater. Water can be graded as type I on the basis of EC if the salt enrichment is low ($\text{EC} < 1,500 \mu\text{S/cm}$); type II if the salt enrichment is medium ($\text{EC}: 1500 \text{ to } 3000 \mu\text{S/cm}$); and type III if the salt enrichment is high ($\text{EC} > 3,000 \mu\text{S/cm}$) (Rao et al. 2012). All the groundwater samples fall under type I (low enrichment of salts) in the study area except for one sample (ZAM-06), as belongs to the medium salt enrichment class (type II). Groundwater samples represented by low salt enrichment suggest that no seawater intrusion has occurred in the study area. A sample (ZAM-06) which has a medium salt enrichment was indicated that groundwater in the sampling location contact with the saltwater. The saltwater is probably come from seawater, connate water, or dissolved mineral elements (plagioclase, hornblende, and pyroxene) from sandstones, therefore, geochemical approach is assessed to answer that circumstance furthermore (Table 1).

Table 1. Geochemical data of groundwater in the study area

Location	Ca (mg/l)	K (mg/l)	Mg (mg/l)	Na (mg/l)	Cl (mg/l)	SO ₄ (mg/l)	HCO ₃ (mg/l)	NO ₃ (mg/l)	EC (μS/cm)
ZAM-01	24	4	9.7	19	18.9	13.4	120	6.91	269
ZAM-02	24	117	29.2	468	119	40.3	180	57.4	909
ZAM-03	40	17	24.9	37	27.8	20.2	128	32.4	410
ZAM-04	27	8	7.8	31	15.9	10.7	40	34.7	245
ZAM-05	24	13	16.5	44	30.8	24.7	104	51.8	385
ZAM-06	158	12	39.9	343	41.7	483	620	0.47	2650
ZAM-07	58	3	23.3	47	33.8	12.3	304	0.24	639
ZAM-08	40	2	20.4	37	13.9	8.78	276	0.53	486
ZAM-09	53	2	19.4	25	20.8	21.7	228	0.71	474
ZAM-10	29	6	11.7	22	10.9	5.49	158	0.41	168

In the Piper Diagram, concentrations of the cations and anions were graphed. By using the trilinear plotting systems, the hydrochemical facies of groundwater is inferred (Piper 1944). The samples on the Piper diagram are labeled as several chemical facies (Fig.3.). According to Fig.3., the CaHCO₃ facies (ZAM-01, ZAM-03, ZAM-07, ZAM-08, ZAM-09, and ZAM-10) and mixed CaNaHCO₃ facies (ZAM-02, ZAM-04, ZAM-05, and ZAM-06) are the types of groundwater in the study area. It is estimated that the groundwater facies in the study area derived from alluvial deposits. Gravel, sand, silt, and clay along large rivers and coastal plains formed the alluvial deposit. The alluvial plain is composed of alluvial volcanic rock material (Widagdo et al., 2016). Sand sediment is divided into two types in the coastal area of Kulonprogo, namely, type 1 sand sediment and type 2 sand sediment. Type 1 sand sediment is gray sand, a mixture of mafic minerals, quartz, and coral reef fragments, while type 2 sand sediment is black sand, dominated by iron sand and limited mineral content of quartz. The source of these mafic minerals is the northern lithology of the Kulonprogo Mountains, dominated by mafic to intermediate types. In addition, iron (Fe), hematite (Fe₂O₃), rutile (TiO₂), and iron oxide (FeO) are minerals in the Kulonprogo coastal sand sediments (Noviadi and Setiady, 2020). It can be understood from this assertion that silica and mafic minerals that are rich in Fe, Mg, and Ca dominate the minerals found in the sand deposits. The physicochemical conditions during deposition can be deduced from the chemical composition in the lithological features (Tobia and Mustafa, 2019). In addition, one of the deciding factors for lithological features is geologic history. The key to understanding past rock stories is their geologic history (Zamroni et al., 2020). CaHCO₃ facies and CaNaHCO₃ facies are the groundwater facies in the study area. It suggests that the origins of the elements Ca and Na were estimated to derive from the dissolution of the plagioclase, hornblende, and pyroxene minerals found in the sand sediment, while the elements of HCO₃ were estimated to originate from two alternative sources. The main one is associated with the dissolution of carbonate minerals (calcite and dolomite) by carbonic acid, while the second one is the decomposition of organic matter and root respiration in the soil zone may enrich their concentration (Bouteldjaoui, 2020). It is also estimated that the carbonate minerals derive from the dissolution of coral reefs fragments. Moreover, hydrochemistry of the groundwater was used to assess seawater intrusion using a modified Piper Diagram (Kelly, 2005) (Fig.4.). According to Fig.4., the wells affected by slightly freshening were ZAM-04, ZAM-05, ZAM-06, ZAM-08, and ZAM-10. While the wells that are not affected by intrusion or fresh were ZAM-01, ZAM-03, ZAM-07, and ZAM-09. However, ZAM-02 well which is close to the coastline and the closest to the airport development area was the only well that affected significantly by freshening, comparing with other wells. Both a drop-in groundwater pumping and coastal reclamation caused the aquifer freshening, which shifted the interface between fresh groundwater and seaward saline groundwater. The aquifer will be recharged in such a

way that the system is predominantly regulated by natural topography-driven flow through the shallow soil and outcrops of the aquifer, contributing to the gradual refreshing of the coastal aquifer that once endured the seawater intrusion (Chen and Jiao, 2007).

Fig. 3. Piper Diagram of major chemical components of groundwater in the study area

According to the data analysis, the location of wells affected by freshening was not always near to the sea and vice versa. It means the freshening process was estimated due to groundwater over-pumping in some locations or it has occurred in the river when the river freshwater contacted seawater and it affected the well near the locations. But ZAM-02 well was the only location affected by freshening, this condition was estimated not only the position of the well of ZAM-02 which was close to the coastline but also the closest to the airport development area. It can cause the groundwater level in the aquifer to be lower than the sea level so that seawater would intrude into the landward. Another controlling factor was the fault in the northern part which continuously leads that location. The Digital Elevation Model (DEM) shows an alignment pattern at the study area which indicates a fault (Fig.5.). By supported a flow pattern or large river, it was concluded the alluvial deposits buried the fault, and it was estimated to continue to that location. This fault can become a route for the entry of seawater into freshwater.

Fig.4. Assessing seawater intrusion in the study area using a modified Piper Diagram

Fig.5. The digital elevation model (DEM) at the study area.

5. Conclusions

The wells affected by slightly freshening were ZAM-04, ZAM-05, ZAM-06, ZAM-08, and ZAM-10. While the wells that are not affected by intrusion or fresh were ZAM-01, ZAM-03, ZAM-07, and ZAM-09. However, ZAM-02 well which is close to the coastline and the closest to the airport development area was the only well that affected significantly by freshening, comparing with other wells. It suggests that the origins of the elements Ca and Na were estimated to derive from the dissolution

of the plagioclase, hornblende, and pyroxene minerals found in the sand sediment, while the elements of HCO_3 were estimated to originate from two alternative sources. The main one is associated with the dissolution of carbonate minerals (calcite and dolomite) by carbonic acid, while the second one is the decomposition of organic matter and root respiration in the soil zone may enrich their concentration. The wells affected by slightly freshening were ZAM-04, ZAM-05, ZAM-06, ZAM-08, and ZAM-10. While the wells that are not affected by intrusion or fresh were ZAM-01, ZAM-03, ZAM-07, and ZAM-09. However, ZAM-02 well which is close to the coastline and the closest to the airport development area was the only well that affected significantly by freshening, comparing with other wells. ZAM-02 well was the only location affected by freshening, this condition was estimated not only the position of the well of ZAM-02 which was close to the coastline but also the closest to the airport development area. It can cause the groundwater level in the aquifer to be lower than the sea level so that seawater would intrude into the landward. Another controlling factor was the fault in the northern part which continuously leads that location.

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