

## Research Article

# Understanding the Cultural Reality of *Shinobi* through the Anime Series of *Naruto* & *Naruto Shippūden*

Gema Budiarto\*

Universitas Diponegoro, Semarang, Indonesia

\*history.gema@gmail.com

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## Abstract

Naruto and Naruto Shippūden are the anime series adapted from Masashi Kishimoto's manga. The Naruto series aired in Japan from 2002-2007, while Naruto Shippūden was from 2007-2017. These animes are interconnected, Naruto is part one and Naruto Shippūden is part two. These animes took some of the original traditions of the Shinobi though not the same. Indeed, Shinobi is real and not a myth. If studied historically, Shinobi were considered ancient warriors of Japan other than the Samurai-侍. Nevertheless, the theory about the birth of the Shinobi is complicated to trace, but Shinobi existed in feudal Japan, especially during the Sengoku Jidai-戦国時代. This research tries to examine the cultural reality and facts of the Shinobi in the Naruto and Naruto Shippūden series. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative, this research is carried out by observing some Naruto and Naruto Shippūden series and comparing them with the original Shinobi traditions. The result of this study shows that Naruto and Naruto Shippūden adopted the reality of the Japanese Shinobi. Some of the original Shinobi elements were adopted in this anime such as the use of weapons, hand seals, the use of nature elements, and so on. Through these animes, viewers are invited to recognize the traditions of the Japanese Ninja world.

**Keywords:** *Naruto, Shinobi, Ninja, Japanese Martial Arts.***How to cite (APA):****Permalink/DOI:**

## 1. Introduction

Shinobi-忍び or Ninja-忍者 is a popular term known by many people. Historically, Shinobi strated as a group of “mountain hermits” who lived in the hills around Kyoto and Nara when those cities were the capital of Japan, and Buddhism became the official religion. Shinobi beliefs and practices can be said to be syncretism, which is a mixture of Shintō and Buddhism. In addition to other elements that influence Shinobi include Chinese fighting techniques and writings from Sun Tzu that emphasize spying (Trengrouse, 1993). However, another theory states that the specific origins of Shinobi are not known when and where Shinobi began, this theory is widely used by historians. However, historians agree that Shinobi are experts in espionage and disguise, Shinobi are tasked

with spying and infiltrating to the enemy side to obtain informations. In addition, Shinobi are also described as assassins (Smead, 2022). A Shinobi will undergo a wide variety of fighting training as an important part of the Shinobi's own life.

In today's popular culture, Shinobi is adapted into several films, such as *Duel to the Death* (1983), *Ninja: Shadow of a tear* (2013), *Ninja Assassin* (2009), *Shinobi: Heart Under Blade* (2005), and others. Shinobi has also been adapted into anime such as *Ninja Scroll* (1993), *Brave 10* (2012), *Batman Ninja* (2018), *Ninja Hattori* (1986), *Nintama Rantarō* (1993), and others. Naruto and Naruto Shippūden anime series are Shinobi-themed anime. This anime series is included in the list of the 100 most popular anime according to data from Anime News Network. Indeed, the Naruto

and Naruto Shippūden series do not explain in detail about Shinobi, but some elements of Shinobi originality were adapted in this series, such as the use of hachimaki-鉢巻 with the symbol “忍” in the 4th Ninja battle, the use of weapons, Shinobi ranks, and so on. However, as a means of entertainment, the Shinobi elements in the series are fictionalized.

This research cannot be separated from previous studies. First, research from Rachael Hutchinson entitled “*Manga in the Mix: Naruto and Media Specificity*”. In research carried out by Hutchinson, Naruto was used as a learning medium to teach about Japanese visual culture. Naruto which contains elements of Japanese culture can be utilized to learn contemporary ideas about ninjas and representations of Japanese myths and legends (Hutchinson, 2020). Second, research from Fujimoto Yukari entitled “*Women in Naruto, Women Reading Naruto*”. Fujimoto Yukari in his research explained that Naruto’s popularity is very extraordinary in the Western world, this can be traced back to the fact that Naruto is a Ninja story, a hyperninja story based on a science fiction worldview (Yukari, 2013).

Third, a study entitled “*The Representation of Japanese Values in the Manga Naruto*” from Valérie Harvey. In this research, Harvey explained that there are several countries in the Naruto manga story. The Daimyō or nobility is the official leader of each country, and the Daimyō has the right to choose the Kage of the best Ninja to lead the country. However, Daimyō has more symbolic functions than real power (Harvey, 2019). Fourth, research from Franziska Ehmcke entitled “*The Traditional Naruto (Maelstrom) Motif in Japanese Culture*”. In this study, it is explained that the Ninja technique in Naruto relies on intertextual references to Japanese cultural history. The Ninja culture adapted in Naruto increases the appeal of the story to a global audience. Kishimoto inserted figuratives of Japanese mythical, Ninja techniques, and Japanese religious ideas in

Naruto to entice *manga* readers in search of additional meaning (Ehmcke, 2013). Four studies above, none touched on the issue of the reality of Shinobi adapted in Naruto and Naruto Shippūden. Hutchinson in his research only touched on Japanese cultural issues in the Naruto comic books. Harvey only explains the function of Daimyō in Naruto. Although Daimyō is also part of Japanese history and culture and has ties to the Ninja, Harvey does not explain the cultural reality of the Ninja. Meanwhile, Yukari and Ehmcke despite alluding to Ninja culture, they also did not explain the elements of Shinobi reality. The purpose of this study is to examine the cultural reality of Shinobi adapted in the Naruto and Naruto Shippūden anime series. To focus the discussion, the research question raised in this study is what are the cultural realities of Shinobi shown in the Naruto and Naruto Shippūden series? The significance of this research is expected to contribute to cultural science, especially related to the Japanese Ninja tradition and Japanese culture in general.

## 2. Methods

The research method used in this study is qualitative research method. Meanwhile, film analysis techniques were also used in this study. Qualitative research is a research method that allows researchers to examine an object, be it a person or object in detail using more specific approaches (Hennink et al., 2011). This research method seeks to identify, interpret, and describe an object or phenomena naturally. The object of research in this research is the Naruto and Naruto Shippūden animated series, which focuses on studying the elements of Ninja culture reality contained in the animated series. Film analysis is a process of reviewing a film through an approach. In this study, the approach used in film analysis is a cultural approach. The cultural approach was chosen because this study focuses on the elements of reality that exist in Shinobi.

### 3. Result and Discussion

#### 3.1. *Shinobido*-忍道戒: The Way of the Shinobi

The term of Shinobi means a person who carries out activities such as fraud, sabotage, spying, or sortie. The history of Ninja has many theories, each Japanese historian has his own views. Thus, it is difficult to determine the specifics of the place, person, time, or circumstances about the birth of Ninja (Hatsumi, 1981). The use of the word Ninja is a new term, according to Kawakami Jinichi when interviewed by Hiroko from Asian Boss said that the term of “Ninja” appeared in the Shōwa Era in the

1960s. The original Ninja term was Shinobi no mono which means a person who moves secretly and a person who acts secretly and quietly to achieve his goals. In addition, people who work as Ninja also perform their missions in secret (*Japan’s “Last Ninja” Explains The Naruto Run [Video File]*, 2019). In some regions, Shinobi have different calls, including Onmitsu (secret agent), Suppa (transparent agent), Kasa (*grass*), Rappa (wild wave), Toppa (attacking wave), Monomi (seer of things), and Nokizaru (monkey under the eaves) (Green, 2001). Here are other names for Ninja in terms of era and region (Kuroi et al., 2002),

**Table 1.** Ninja Names by Era

Era		Name			
Asuka (574-709)		Shinobi			
Nara (710-793)		Ukami			
Sengoku (1192-1602)	Kanjya	Kyoudan	Rappa	Mitsumono	Kenen
Edo (1603-1868)		Onmitsu		Oniwaban	

**Table 2.** Ninja Names by Region

Region	Name				
Kyoto/Nara	Suppa	Ukami	Dakkou	Shinobi	
Aomori	Hayamichi no mono		Shinobi		
Miyagi	Kurohabaki				
Kanagawa	Kusa	Kamari	Monomi	Rappa	Toppa
Tokyo	Onmitsu	Oniwaban			
Yamanashi	Mitsumono	Suppa	Sukinami	Denuki	
Aichi	Kyoudan				
Fukui	Shinobi				
Niigata/Toyoma	Nokizaru	Kyoudou	Kyoudan	Kanshi	Kikimonoyaku

The existence of shinobi as ancient warriors is confirmed by Masaaki Hatsumi, a 34th Ninja Grandmaster Tokagure Ryu, an ancient story tells that Shinobi played an important role as the behind-the-scenes forces of Okume no Mikoto in the country-building operations and the conquest of Yamato by Emperor Jimmu, this story takes place around 600 BC. Price Shotoku (574-622) also used shinobi (Hatsumi, 2004). According to Masaaki Hatsumi who quotes from ancient scrolls explains that there was a former Chinese statesman who left his homeland to seek refuge in Japan. The Chinese people of warriors, scholars, and monks collectively made explorations to discover new life in the forests of Ise and

Kii (the area around Nara). Chinese immigrants such as Taoist scholars Gamon, Garyu, Cain, and Unryu, and Tang Chinese generals Cho Gyokko, Ikai, and Cho Busho brought their knowledge to Japan. Military strategies, religious philosophies, folk traditions, cultural concepts, medicine, and other general knowledge that were a blend of Chinese concepts with Indian, Tibetan, Eastern European, and Southeast Asian, they imparted to their followers in Japan. Ninja ancestors were born naturally and mystically far away from the imperial sphere (Hatsumi, 1981).

Meanwhile, in Naruto, the roots of Ninja history began with a Goddess who came from the sky named Kaguya Ōtsutsuki

(Naruto Shippūden Episode 458). The time setting of Kaguya Ōtsutsuki's life in the Naruto Shippūden series takes the Japanese Kofun period, this can be seen from several aspects shown in the anime, including: the hairstyle worn by the people is Mizura (hair tied on the right and left), the model of a stilt house with a hipped gable roof, the sword used is a Tsurugi type (straight and short double-edged sword), and clothing model. The story of Kaguya Ōtsutsuki in the Naruto Shippūden series adopts the Japanese form Kaguya Hime no Monogatari (The Tale of the Princess Kaguya). Kaguya Ōtsutsuki was not the first Ninja but she was the first chakra generator and user, in which this chakra in later times played an important role in ninjutsu. In Naruto and Naruto Shippūden were not told who the first Ninja, but it is said that there were Ninja clans in the Sengoku period, namely the Senju clan and the Uchiha clan.

Like Samurai, the Ninja profession is not only engaged by men, but women can also become a Ninja. Female Ninja were called Kunoichi, while female Samurai were called Onna-bugeisha. However, the duties of the Kunoichi are slightly different from those of male Ninja. Male and female Ninja basically have something in common, they are experts in using weaponry. However, female Ninja used their beauty to get close to their targets who were targeted for assassination or information search. In the layman's view, the Ninja will hide behind his mask, but for the Kunoichi to hide behind his beauty "poisonous cherry blossoms". The kunoichi took advantage of the opponent's weakness and that's when they launched their action. Kunoichi often use small arms that can be hidden behind a Kimono or Yukata. The weapon can be Tanto, Neko-te, Kogai, Kozuka, Kogatana or other small arms that have been poisoned. In ancient times in Japanese history, Japanese women from noble families used to practice martial arts using Naginata. In addition, these noble-class ladies also practiced using Wakizashi and

Tanto. However, it is different from women from the Shinobi family. Kunoichi has the same portion of training as male Ninja. In doing their job, Kunoichi can be said to be effective because often Ninja missions are successfully completed by Kunoichi (Borda & Winiecki, 2013). Some of the Kunoichi in Naruto and Naruto Shippūden include: Tsunade, Mei Terumī, Uzumaki Kushina, Hinata Hyūga, Konan, and many more (Naruto Episode 93-96; Naruto Shippūden Episode 204; Naruto Shippūden Episode 249; Naruto Shippūden Episode 166; & Naruto Shippūden Episode 129).

There are two famous Shinobi colleges that still exist today: Iga-ryū in Mie Prefecture and Koga-ryū in Shiga Prefecture. These two clans were located in remote areas and access to them was very difficult. The geographical situation of the two regions is an advantage because the Ninja can practice secretly without any interference. Professional Ninja will usually be hired by Daimyō. In the past there were many Shinobi colleges, some theories say as many as 73 colleges and some say as many as 103 Shinobi colleges. No one knows the exact number. However, some of the many Shinobi colleges are Negishi-ryū, Shirai-ryū, Shinto-ryū, Hakuun-ryū, Koshu-ryū, Kishū-ryū, Gen-ryū, Genjitsu-ryū, Ryumon-ryū, Tentonhappo-ryū, Gotonjuppo-ryū, Kurama-ryū, and Yasuda-ryū (Hatsumi, 2004).

In the Naruto series, the Shinobi college is synonymous with Ninja villages or countries such as Kumogakure, Iwagakure, Konohagakure, Sunagakure, Kirigakure, and others (Naruto Shippūden Episode 200). Each village is led by a Kage. In fighting techniques, these villages have their own distinctive jutsu. For example, Sunagakure with wind-based jutsu, Kumogakure with lightning-based jutsu, Konohagakure fire-based jutsu, Kirigakure water-based jutsu, and Iwagakure earth or earth-based jutsu.

In Shinobi teachings there are three levels, starting from the lower level namely Genin-下忍, the middle level is Chūnin-中



忍, and the upper level is Jonin-上忍. Genin are the lowest level of the Shinobi hierarchy. Genin usually carry out dangerous missions (Marini, 2014). Although their low level, Genin-class Shinobi cannot be underestimated. Genin-class Shinobi are highly trained Shinobi, capable of carrying out activities unnoticed and they are great espionage agents. The Genin were trained as children by the Ninja family, they understood that one day he would be involved in a mission, whether it was an assassination mission or a spy. Genin inherit a legacy to serve the total and loyal Jonin they don't know and the landlord who contracts with Jonin (Hayes, 1980).

Genin in childhood are given training such as how to jump, run, and train balance disguised as children's play. After they are in their teens, they begin to be trained in fighting techniques and the use of weapons and psychological training as mental processes that will have an impact on their physical performance. In the late teenage years, Genin are trained in espionage skills and at the same time prepare Genin as a Shinobi (Hayes, 1980).

The middle level of Shinobi is Chūnin who serves as Jonin's direct servant as the head of the Shinobi organization. The Chūnin have the responsibility to explain and carry out the orders of the Jonin. Chūnin is both a deputy chief and a planner (Marini, 2014). Since the Chūnin directly worked under Jonin, this gave the Chūnin the responsibility of ensuring Jonin's anonymity. Chūnin has the skill of knowing how to get things done and is familiar with the strengths and specialties of all Shinobi agents. In addition, the Chūnin had expertise in organizing logistics and were also experts in contemporary and unconventional methods of warfare (Hayes, 1980).

The top level of the Ninja hierarchy is Jonin or can be said to be the commander-in-chief. Jonin has the capacity as a philosopher and also a soldier, besides that Jonin is also responsible for determining who his Ninja soldiers will support. Only

Jonin is allowed to make contact with the outside world (contact with people outside the Ninja) and has the right to accept or reject a job (Marini, 2014). The identity of a Jonin in most Ninja organizations will be kept secret and hidden, this is intended for security. Jonin's position cannot be achieved easily, but the process of becoming a Jonin goes through a very long and not easy process. They also learn and seek experience to build expertise (Hayes, 1980).

The level in Shinobi is also used in the Ninja Academy in Naruto. In the Naruto series, the Genin level is a child Shinobi who is guided by a Jonin-level Shinobi. Three Genin will be guided by one Jonin, for example, when Uzumaki Naruto, Haruno Sakura, and Uchiha Sasuke were at the Genin level, they were guided by Hatake Kakashi who at that time was at the Jonin level. In the Naruto series, Chūnin is also an intermediate-level shinobi. A Genin must first pass an exam if he wants to become a Chūnin. Chūnin-level Ninjas are identified with Ninjas who wear long-sleeved gray uniforms. Meanwhile, Jonin's level in the Naruto series is a high-end Ninja who has above-average abilities and war experience. In the Naruto series, the Jonin class Ninja is identified with Ninja who wear green vest uniforms with long-sleeved blue underwear, such as Minato Namikaze, Yamato, Hatake Sakumo, and so on. However, there are also those who don't wear uniforms like Kurenai Yuuhi.

There is a term in Ninja, namely Kuji-Kiri-九字切り has something to do with the mental and spiritual power of Ninja practiced in the form of movement symbols or Mudra or hand seals. Kuji-Kiri has a unique impact, which is as a clue to know yourself. Only understanding oneself can also understand the enemy. This allows knowing the enemy and recognizing in advance what the enemy is planning and when it will do that. It means here that a soldier can avoid danger early through divine protection. Therefore, the practice of Kuji-Kiri was not only known by Ninja but

there were also some Samurai who practiced it (Hosak & Luebeck, 2006).

Similarly, Kawakami Jinichi explained that Kuji Goshin Ho means Buddhist called Sanmitsu. In Sanmitsu there are three aspects, namely actions, speech, and thoughts. These three points do not stand alone. However, the three are interrelated and combined. This has the meaning of self-protection. The technique was adopted from Buddhist spiritual practice. The Kuji-Kiri technique, in addition to strengthening mental and spiritual, is also used to build the confidence and physical strength of the Ninja.

In an online seminar organized by the Japan Foundation London in 2020, Yamada Yuji from International Ninja Research Center, Mie University informed that a Shinobi should always resolutely avoid alcohol, romantic relationships, and greed, and should not indulge in any of these. Alcohol, romantic relationships, and greed are opponents or enemies that can take over the senses. Since ancient times, there have been countless cases of leaky plans and suffering caused by indulgence in alcohol, relationships, and greed (Yamada, 2020).

There are nine hand seals used by Ninja, sequentially include: Rin-臨 (Power), Pyo/Hyo-兵 (Energy), Toh-鬪 (Harmony), Sha-者 (Healing), Kai-皆 (Intuition), Jin-陣 (Consciousness), Retsu-列 (Dimension), Zai-在 (Creation), Zen-前 (Absolutivity) (Hosak & Luebeck, 2006). Today this practice can be found in rituals performed by Shugendo-修験道 or Yamabushi-山伏 and Shingon-shū-真言宗. Shinobi seems to be full of mystical things, but this is true and is explained in the Nagata Shinobi Scrolls. The scroll in the first point states that Shinobi is a form and tradition of religious belief (Cummins & Minami, 2012).

In the Naruto series, several hand seals are also shown, but these hand seals represent the names of animals. There are 12 hand seals in the Naruto series,

including: Saru-申 (Monkey), Tatsu-辰 (Dragon), Ne-子 (Rat), Tori-酉 (Bird), Mi-巳 (Snake), Ushi-丑 (Ox), Inu-戌 (Dog), Uma-午 (Horse), Tora-寅 (Tiger), I-亥 (Boar), Hitsuji-未 (Ram), and U-卯 (Hare). The hand seals in the Naruto series are also related to mystical things. A Ninja must use and combine several hand seals to use his mystical jutsu. For example, the Edo Tensei jutsu (soul summoning technique) uses the hand seals of Tiger, Snake, Dog, and Dragon (Naruto Episode 69); Shiki Fujin jutsu (Shinigami summoning technique or God of death) hand seals worn by Snakes, Wild Boars, Sheep, Rabbits, Dogs, Rats, Birds, Horses, and Snakes; and other jutsu also use hand seals (Naruto Episode 72).

### 3.2. *Ninjutsu*-忍術

A Ninja must hold the technique of Ninjutsu or often called Ninpo or Shinobi no jutsu. Some opinions say that Ninjutsu is a martial art. However, Ninjutsu is not just a martial art but Ninjutsu is a tactic and strategy of warfare. Thus, if Ninjutsu is called a martial art it is true, but not quite right. More precisely, Ninjutsu is the art of killing. It should be noted that Ninja is not primarily aimed at conducting face-to-face combat. Ninjas avoid any form of direct combat and indeed they basically do not exist in combat. The art of killing in Ninjutsu is already represented in the clothes used by Ninja. Ninja's outfit, which is mostly all black, is not just camouflage in the dark or cover up his identity. But more than that, the black clothes were a sign for his victims to be killed. The Ninjas in the Naruto anime series are not shown wearing all black. Meanwhile, the face covering was only used by a few ninjas such as Hatake Kakashi, Zabuza Momochi, Haku, Kakuzu, Tobi, and Konoha's Anbu Team. Clothes that are almost similar to the original Ninja are Ninja from Otogakure (Naruto Episode 112-113; Naruto Shippūden Episode 83; & Naruto Shippūden Episode 32).

Kawakami Jinichi said that Shuriken or often referred to as a secret

weapon that is identical to Ninja is not a Ninja weapon. However, Shuriken is part of the Samurai's weapons. In Ninjutsu, Shuriken is actually very useless because it is very annoying when carried. In addition, Shuriken was also a waste of iron made, because at that time the price of iron was very expensive. The Shuriken technique is quite difficult to hit the target precisely, especially if the target is moving. Shuriken is therefore an unreliable weapon. Jinichi thinks it is better to throw your opponent with a few stones (*Japan's "Last Ninja" Explains The Naruto Run [Video File]*, 2019). Kawakami Jinichi also said that in Ninjutsu will learn various ways to kill people. Basically, the meaning of "Nin" is brutality, and it contains the meaning of killing people without a doubt.

Shuriken is a weapon often used by several Ninja in the Naruto series. Sasuke Uchiha has a shuriken named Fūma Shuriken. Sasuke's shuriken is four-eyed (Naruto Episode 8). Hiruzen Sarutobi during fighting Orochimaru using Shuriken Kage Bunshin no Jutsu (Naruto Episode 69). Hatake Kakashi when resurrecting Susanoo against Kaguya Ōtsutsuki using Kamui Shuriken (Naruto Shippūden Episode 473). Naruto himself also has a shuriken technique called Rasenshuriken (Naruto Shippūden Episode 88).

The basic teachings and principles of Ninjutsu are built through an experience of fighting science techniques, human psychology and cultural patterns, and work by utilizing natural phenomena and getting closer to nature. As a profession, there are two important knowledge as a basis for teaching Ninjutsu, namely Hei-ho (fighting strategy) and Bu-jutsu (warrior skill) (Hayes, 1980). Basically, the basic principles of Shinobi are rooted in several mixtures such as Shintō (animist beliefs) as the native religion of Japan, Kiaijutsu, Reigaku, and Chinese military tactics and strategy (Hayes, 1985b). More specifically, Shinobi must master several fundamental techniques such as (1) Taijutsu, Hichō-jutsu, Nawa-nage (body skills and rope

throwing techniques); (2) Karate Koppo Taijutsu, Jūtaijutsu (hand-to-hand combat); (3) Sō-jutsu, Naginata-jutsu (spear technique); (4) Bō-jutsu, Jō-jutsu, Hanbō-jutsu (stick technique); (5) Senban-nage, Ken-nage-jutsu, Shuriken (weapon throwing technique); (6) Ka-jutsu, Sui-jutsu (use of fire and water); Chikujō Gunryaku Hyōhō (military defense tactics and strategies); and (7) Onshin-jutsu (hiding technique) (Hatsumi, 2004).

Ninja must be able to unite and take advantage of nature, this is an important term for a professional Shinobi. Related to the term, Shinobi must be able to use nature to protect themselves from danger and enemy threats in carrying out their duties. The utilization of nature in Ninja culture is referred to as Goton-po (vanishing technique). This technique represents the five elements of nature, such as Water can extinguish fire, Fire can soften metal, Metal can cut wood, Wood can break the earth, and Earth can hold water. In the Shinobi world these are known as Doton no jutsu (techniques using land), Suiton no jutsu (techniques utilizing water), Katon no jutsu (techniques using smoke and fire), Mokuton no jutsu (techniques utilizing wood), and Kinton no jutsu (techniques utilizing metal) (Hayes, 1985a).

These nature elements are also featured in the Naruto series. The use of the earth element was once used by the Ōnoki, namely Doton-Kajūgan no Jutsu (Naruto Shippūden Episode 204). The use of water element, used by Tobirama Senju, namely Suiton-Suishoha (Naruto Episode 71). The use of the fire element, used by Jiraiya, namely Katon-Gamayu Endan and Madara Uchiha, namely Katon-Gōka Mekkyaku (Naruto Episode 96 & Naruto Shippūden Episode 322). The wooden element used by Hashirama Senju is Senpō Mokuton: Shin Sūsenju (Naruto Shippūden Episode 369). In addition, there are two other natural elements used in the Naruto series, namely wind and lightning. Shimura Danzo's use of the wind element is Fūton-Shinkūgyoku (Naruto Shippūden Episode 209). Sasuke

Uchiha's use of the lightning element is Kirin (Naruto Shippūden Episode 138).

In addition, the weapons used by Ninja are very diverse and have their respective functions. Weapons that are often used by Ninja such as Kaginawa, Kama, Katana, Ninjato, Yumi-Ya, Yari, Wakizashi, Kusarigama, Kusarifundo, Shuriken, Teko, Kunai, Tessen, and others. When carrying out his mission, Ninja do not carry all these equipment. Equipment is adapted to situations and conditions such as seeing who and where the target is. In the Naruto series, several Ninja have their unique weapons, Kusarigama owned by Hanzō (Naruto Shippūden Episode 272); Ninjato, Kunai, and Shuriken the majority of Ninja use it; Katana used by Mifune (a Samurai) (Naruto Shippūden Episode 272); Kusarifundo is used by Hatake Kakashi (Naruto Shippūden Episode 159); and Tessen is used by Temari (Naruto Episode 43). As explained above, in addition to using weapons, Ninja must also master hand-to-hand martial techniques. In Naruto and Naruto Shippūden, in general, all Ninja can use hand-to-hand techniques, but there are several famous Ninja who use hand-to-hand martial arts, including: Mighty Guy, Neji Hyūga, and Rock Lee (Naruto Shippūden Episode 420; Naruto Episode 115 & 116; & Naruto Episode 123).

Not only mastering martial arts. However, more importantly, Ninja must be able to master the techniques of spying, deceiving enemies, counter-intelligence, and spreading rumors to the public (*Japan's "Last Ninja" Explains The Naruto Run [Video File]*, 2019). Regarding the task of Shinobi as intelligence, there are five types of spies or Gokan 五間. First, Inko no kan-因口之間 or local spies are in charge of gathering information. To achieve the goals to be obtained, the shinobi uses the tactics of his local dialect as a medium of approach to the community. In Japanese terms dakkō-奪口 is a method of spying, deceiving, or gathering information by having good skills in the local dialect. The dialect is needed, so that people or people do not suspect the

Shinobi (Cummins & Minami, 2017). Second, Nairyō no kan-内良之間 or inner spy (intruder). These spies are tasked in secret by interfering with the enemy from within or disturbing people or groups close to the enemy. These spies will carry out their missions very thoroughly and precisely. But it should be noted that the enemy may also use the same method with this technique on us, they can get one of our members as their ally or infiltrate their members into our members. To perform this technique, it is necessary to prepare many years in advance (Cummins & Minami, 2017).

Third, Hantoku no kan-反徳之間 if an enemy Shinobi spy is found to be in our organization, then the Shinobi must be captured. The Shinobi spy was asked to turn on our side. However, this method is not easy and is most often done using coercion, threats, and violence so that enemy Shinobi spies are willing. The captured Shinobi becomes a double agent because he is still tied to the enemy but becomes a spy for our side. We tell the Shinobi to come back to report false or false information to deceive the enemy. Therefore, enemy spies who become double agents must be watched out for (Cummins & Minami, 2017). There is an oral tradition that says that,

*"If someone from the lower class speaks with more reason or intelligence than befits their status, you should be aware he might have been told to do so. You should observe people according to their type and discover if their words are true or false".*

Fourth, Shicho no kan-死長之間 or banished spy. These spies are tasked with infiltrating the enemy by pretending to defect and then providing false information to the enemy (Loriega, 2018). Fifth, Tensei no kan-天生之間 deals with Shinobi spies who infiltrate the enemy and complete their secret missions very well. The infiltrated Shinobi disguised themselves and studied the situation and tactics and brought the



information back to report. These Shinobi must work within the core of the enemy organization that controls and knows everything about the organization's plans. Thus, the spy shinobi will get valid information from the enemy.

Shinobi in the espionage frame have an integration of one of the important elements of espionage described by Ursula M. Wilder, namely "a state of crisis" (Wilder, 2017). If a country experiences a political crisis, collecting information carried out by intelligence is essential. This information was used as a key to defusing the crisis. However, in addition to suppressing the crisis, the information is also used to monitor the movements of political opponents. The Sengoku era was a time of crisis filled with conflicts between regional lords, thus requiring Shinobi to perform their duties as extractors of enemy information or other tasks to weaken the enemy.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) formulates intelligence as follows (Information+Evaluation=Intelligence). It can be concluded that the task of intelligence is closely related to the collection of information. However, basically the information obtained is raw information, therefore the information is not received raw but must go through an analysis process. After going through a series of analysis and evaluation, a decision or action is taken. The term intelligence can also be used to describe a process of interpreting information to give it meaning (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2011).

All of informations that is the duty of Shinobi must be obtained through spies. Getting this information is not easy, Shinobi as much as possible must still get a way to enter or infiltrate the enemy's area. Hence, they must study the topography of the region. This is a way to make it easier to send the information they get. Spying (intelligence) is a very essential thing, if the ruler does not use spies in his government,

it will cause encouragement on the enemy to be able to easily bring down power through the agents he sends. Therefore, it can be concluded that there would be no victory without the use of spies. The Kōga Shinobi tradition says that,

*"Shinobi are the ears and eyes of the lord and the role of the ear and eye is to hear and observe and recognise things. If they see or hear something incorrectly, it may cause the defeat of the army and the ruin of the country. Therefore, the essence of warfare lies in the task (of the spy)".*

The same thing can be found in the Iga Shinobi tradition,

*"If you fight a war without using Shinobi, you will not able to succeed in even a single conflict out of 100 battles. They (Shinobi) serve as the ears and eyes of the commander in chief. If you fight without ears and remain deaf, then this will be a so called 'war of the blind.' Therefore, Shinobi are the key to the victory of any army"* (Cummins & Minami, 2014).

Ninja infiltration activities against the enemy in Naruto and Naruto Shippūden have been carried out by Orochimaru and Jiraiya. Orochimaru has done it in Kumogakure and Konohagakure. While infiltrating Kumogakure, Orochimaru disguises himself as an elite Kumogakure Ninja, the purpose of which he infiltrates Kumogakure to retrieve Hachibi's (the eight tailed beasts) samples (Naruto Shippūden Episode 318). Meanwhile, when infiltrating Konohagakure, Orochimaru disguised himself as Kazegake from Sunagakure. Where in this infiltration, Orochimaru succeed to kill his own teacher, Hiruzen Sarutobi (Naruto Episode 68). Jiraiya, a senior ninja from Konoha once infiltrated Amegakure. In this infiltration, he fought his former students Nagato, Konan, and Yahiko, but in that battle Jiraiya was defeated by Yahiko (Pain) (Naruto Shippūden Episode 129).

#### 4. Conclusion

Shinobi is not a fairy tale or fiction. Although the early history of how Shinobi emerged is not widely known, the existence of Shinobi helped carve the history of Japan in the feudal period. Indeed, Shinobi were not as famous as the Samurai, but in the Warring States period, Shinobi played an important role as their skills were in high demand by the Daimyō. Elements of Shinobi reality were adopted in the Naruto and Naruto Shippūden anime series. Although it is only an entertainment and fiction, through this anime can be understood some of the original Shinobi culture. In this series, not only shows Ninja culture but other Japanese cultural symbols such as folklore or Japanese mythology are also adopted in the Naruto and Naruto Shippūden series.

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