

**Social Dynamics and Local Trading Pattern
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circa 17th century**

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Doctoranda/Dra

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Declaration:

This dissertation is submitted to the National University of Singapore in accordance with the requirements of the degree of *Doctor of Philosophy* in the Southeast Asian Studies Programme, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. It has not been submitted for any other degree or diploma of any examining body. Except where specifically acknowledged, it is all the original work of the author.

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niscaya Dia akan mengadakan baginya jalan keluar (dari kesulitan).
Dan Allah akan memberinya rezeki dari jalan yang tiada disangka-sangkanya.
Dan barangsiapa yang bertawakal kepada Allah,
niscaya Allah akan mencukupkan (keperluan)-nya.”
(QS At-Thalaq: 2-3)

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Bibliography

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Abstract

Bantaeng, South Sulawesi, has traditionally been a transshipment harbor for spices. Two theoretical models applied to the analysis of interior trading patterns are the dendritic and the central place models. This study is designed to test whether one or the other of these models, or a hybrid model, is more productive for gaining an understanding of local trading during the 17th century in a region characterized by an elevated topography and Dendritic type of rivers which can not be navigated. This study will draw on historical records, archaeological data, and ethnographic research to generate a convincing explanation for historic trends.

Keywords:

Locational Analysis; Social stratification; Social dynamics; Trade networks; Archaeology; South Sulawesi; Bantaeng; circa 17th century.

Summary

The major trade networks operating in eastern Indonesia during the 17th century are relatively well known but there remains a significant gap in the historical records relating to the internal trade network. However, using archaeological and ethnographic approaches and drawing on two theoretical models, the dendritic and the central place models, used to analyze and interpret trading patterns, it is possible to reconstruct the nature of that trading system.

The dynamic of the local trading system, which continued throughout this period, is assumed to have played a particularly important role despite isolation from direct involvement in the expanding long distance trade. Little is known about how the local people sustained their trading activities during this period of change, or about the trading patterns that evolved to meet the new challenges.

In this thesis I have focused my research on Bantaeng, as this area has the advantage of being slightly peripheral to the main trade routes, in a mixed landscape region, and producing a range of goods for both local and wider markets. Bantaeng, a *Kabupaten* (regency) in south Sulawesi (Indonesia) has historically been, at various times, a vassal of three kingdoms: Majapahit, Luwu' and Gowa. Several palaces (*Ballaq Lompoa*), which are fundamental to the local culture, have been recorded in this region. The Bantaeng region has also traditionally been a transshipment harbor for spices and other resources.

This study is designed to test which of these models, or a hybrid model, is more productive for gaining an understanding of local interior trading during the 17th century in a region characterized by an elevated topography. The main contribution which this study will make is to draw not only on historical records but also on archaeological data and more current ethnographic research in order to generate a convincing explanation for historical trading trends.

Based on the archaeological and ethnographical approaches, it can be seen that the elite local group created a long distance trading network during the peak trading period of the 16th century to gain access to luxury items used for burials and ceremonials. In contrast, the non-elite trading groups developed their local trading activities to meet their subsistence needs. A significant shift in trading patterns along the coastal area of Bantaeng occurred in the 17th century when the VOC began to dominate the transshipment activity, a change that was parallel to the introduction of Islam by the Gowa Kingdom. Evidence for the separation of political and sacred centers from the trading centers, the unequal distribution of luxury objects, and in land ownership supports this interpretation. This study has found that a hybrid local trading pattern in Bantaeng was characteristic of the dynamic social adaptation of the Bantaeng region in this period.

Keywords:

Locational analysis; Social stratification; Social dynamics; Trade networks; Archaeology; South Sulawesi; Bantaeng; circa 17th century.

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