ABSTRACT

VILLAGE–STATE RELATIONS: A STUDY OF POWER RELATIONS OF THE VILLAGE HEADS WITH THE STATE IN THE POST-NEW ORDER GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

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The purposes of the present study were to describe the post-New Order village–state relations, to describe power relations of the village heads with the villagers and village elites, and to describe power relations of the village heads with the state (sub-district heads and regents).

The study used a qualitative approach by collecting data through in-depth interviews, document recordings, and observations. Data was analyzed both in the field and after the completion of data collection with qualitative analysis technique recommended by Miles and Huberman, including data collection, data reduction, data presentation, inference or verification. The study was conducted in Sunyalangu village, Karanglewas Sub-district, Banyumas Regency. It employed Goodin’s new institutional approach and Burns’ leadership perspective.

Results showed that the village–state relations, specifically the power relations of village heads with the state in the post-New Order governance and development, could be described as follows: firstly, the post-New Order village–state relations showed the village into the state (the village representing the state) and state formation process with a hegemonic power relation pattern through political-economic transactions and synergy of statisme, voluntary exchange and intimacy. Secondly, village heads and villagers organization affected the state and group complexity have spawned decision-making elites (kasepuhan desa and community leaders) and strategic (structural and cultural) groups, causing village heads’ power division. Thirdly, power relations of the village heads and the state (sub-district heads and regents) were influenced by the pattern of transactional leadership.

Keywords: the village and the state, power relations, village heads, new institutional and leadership perspectives.