

TESIS

Kajang in the Face of Corporate Globalization: The Role of Local Wisdom as a Tool for
Reclaiming the Rights of Indigenous Land from PT. Lonsum



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(Manuel Gultom.....)

FOREWORD

These past three years have not been easy for me personally in every aspect of my life. I won't entirely blame the pandemic because I believe the major decisions I made (including severely procrastinating during the writing of this thesis) came from my laziness and insecurity. Graduated as a Bachelor of Psychology with no clear prospect of career, I decided to get my master's in a major I always deemed as interesting. Growing up with an obsession toward maps and countries, International Relations was a clear answer for myself who would like to study something new. Of course with the virus and lockdowns, I couldn't really pour my heart into this new academic venture. Is it the distraction? The loneliness? The sudden change that everyone needs to cover their faces before going out? I do not have the answer. Maybe the pandemic and everything happened in 2020 – 2022 were trying to shape me into someone with more maturity, with less questions and more doings, and with clear goal in mind before deciding anything. I hope this thesis could be the symbol of the writer's growth.

Thank you God for always looking out for me. Thank you Bu Ani and Bu Irma for being with me until this very end. I sincerely apologize for this tardiness. Terima kasih untuk Masyarakat Adat Ammatoa Kajang yang sejak sebelum proposal sudah menarik hati saya yang ingin menulis tentang budaya. Terima kasih telah menjadi simbol betapa baiknya menjaga nilai – nilai leluhur dan menekuninya. Terima kasih juga untuk para narasumber tesis ini, Pak Alam; Pak Salam; dan Pak Joeni. God be with you in every step that you take. Terima kasih Mama dan Papa yang kucintai. Maaf harus berlama – lama sabar menunggu. Aku harap setelah ini Aku bisa membalas kebaikan Mama Papa berlipat ganda. Terima kasih Mama Papa karena masih sayang sama Nuel. To Ine, I love you. Thank you for the support, and thank you for always being the better half of me. To Dendy, the best friend and the big brother that I cherish more than myself. Without you these past three years would have been insufferable. I will always look out for you like you do for me. I love you. To Kak Puni who I love, thank you for the support. You have always been my inspiration since early age, and will always be. To Matius, thank you for the companionship especially when we went to Kajang together for this thesis. Always remember how wonderful you are. Untuk S2 HI UNAIR angkatan 2019 terutama Reza; Sahla; Imel; Madelline; Fajar; Fitri; dan Fadilla, terima kasih untuk pertemanan dan tawanya walaupun kita hanya bisa berada di kelas bersama selama satu setengah semester. Kenangan bersama kalian tak kalah dengan kenanganku pada saat S1 dulu. Kalian semua keren dan hebat. To Helen, thank you for these past three years. I feel our bond is getting stronger during these lonely days and I hope you treasure it as much as I do. To Samuel Kharish, thank you for the time and the knowledge. It's an honor to be your friend. To my online circle; Kak Ndari; Ko Cavin; Nipao; Adrian; and Gisel, thank you for the safe space where I can actually express myself.

Let's remember our divinity always,
Manuel

ABSTRACT

Globalization has changed the nature of survival into a more capitalistic and individualistic sense. For indigenous people across countries with a more communal and less materialistic worldview, globalization might seem destructive especially when it starts to penetrate their concrete space through the existence of outer actors near their indigenous areas. Kajang indigenous community of Bulukumba has struggled against an international corporation named PT. Lonsum for decades in order to protect their forest and land from being exploited by the rubber plantation company. Armed with local wisdom called *Pasang ri Kajang* which taught the community to live in simplicity, the indigenous community has managed to protect their innermost forest which is deemed as sacred. This thesis would like to discuss the importance of the local wisdom as a tool of resistance and conflict resolution against an exploiting international company with no regard of their environment. The local wisdom also played an important role in creating the 2015 Kajang Regional Regulation, which recognize the Kajang's people ownership of their land and forest.

Keywords: Local Wisdom, Indigenous Resistance, Conflict Resolution, Globalization, Kajang

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