Juggling Money in Yogyakarta. Financial self-help organizations and the quest for security

Lont, H.B.

Citation for published version (APA):
Acknowledgements

Many a reader immediately skips the acknowledgements of a book. To me it is the favourite part, because it contains an interesting view on where a person stands in the (academic) world, to which groups and networks he belongs or wants to belong, and how the book has come into being. Perhaps the following reveals one or two things about my book and me.

During the past five years I have spent most of my working hours in splendid isolation behind my computer screen. Nevertheless, there are a number of people who substantially contributed to this dissertation. The first word of thanks, obviously, goes out to my two promotors, Abram de Swaan and Frans Hüsken. Both being resourceful scholars in their respective fields, they have given a solid contribution to this work. They have stimulated me with their insights on different aspects of the subject matter and with their recurring efforts to adjust my direction. Both protected me from being satisfied with too simple explanations, and pushed my attention towards the broader historical and social context of the object of my study.

I also received great support from the other participants in the two research projects in which I took part. In the first place these are the members of the 'mutual club': Erik Bähre, Aspha Bijnaar, Abdoulaye Kane, Peer Smets, and Marcel van der Linden. In the second place these are the participants and affiliates of the 'Social Security and Social Policy in Indonesia' research project: Gerben Nooteboom, Ruli Marianti, Pujo Semedi, Andreas Susanto, Erwan Purwanto, Irwan Abdullah, Frans Hüsken, Huub de Jonge, Jan Breman, Ratna Saptari, Juliette Koning, and Jacqueline Vel. They all played their part on the stage where I was able to spout my immature ideas. At the same time, they proved to be equally good company for dinner parties and evenings at the bar. Thinking about my time with them, I can only feel pity for those PhD students who have to do the whole job on their own, outside the framework of a research project. Various others also contributed to this work. Otto Hospes stimulated me to study people’s
Acknowledgements

financial arrangements and persuaded me to try my luck in academics. F.J.A. Bouman, Dale Adams, Ot van den Muijzenberg, Ben White, Mario Rutten, Henk Schulte-Nordholt, Beverly Lemire, Parker Shipton, Laurence Fontaine, Heru Nugroho, Lindy Williams, Anke Niehof, Michel Lelart, Sediono M.P. Tjondronegoro, Adam Seligman, and Peter Boomgaard contributed by critically reading and reacting to early papers.

I am most grateful to the people of the secretariat and management of the Amsterdam School. Hans Sonneveld, José Komen, Annelies Dijkstra, Miriam May, Teun Bijvoet, Anneke Dammers and Heleen Bonte continuously did their utmost to solve my problems and ease my life at the university.

This study would not have been possible without the funding of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. Different forms of support were given by the Amsterdam School for Social science Research, the Population Studies Center in Yogyakarta, and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI). The Stichting Fonds voor Geld- en Effectenhandel, and the Stichting Sint Christophorileen tot Oldehove provided useful financial support for printing and editing this dissertation. I would like to thank Stuart Robson for his editing, Mbak Harti for preparing the layout, Gerard Lont for drawing the maps, and Jan Mark Moquette for upgrading the maps and designing the book cover.

The PhD students at the Amsterdam School usually go their own solitary way, and so did I. Nonetheless I always appreciated the presence of companions, under the same roof and in the same boat. Erik Vermeulen, Cathelijne Akkermans, Gerda van Roozendaal, Giselinde Kuijpers, Sikko Visscher, Jeroen de Kloet, Reinhilde König, Ferdinand de Jong, Song Ping, Damian Zaitch, Margit van Wessel, Pepijn van de Port, Margaret Sleeboom, Jan-Willem de Lindt van Wijngaarden, and Sean Chabot were there to share my laments or to have a cup of coffee in the kitchen.

It already seems light-years ago, but for writing this dissertation I had the pleasure of spending more than a year in Yogyakarta. Many
people were helpful there. Pak Sartono and his wife were there for me during the months I stayed at Bulaksumur. Dwi Esteri, Muhammad Nuh, Anto, Ratih, Kamti, Antin, Nining, Iih and Wulan did a most valuable job as my research assistants. For all their generous support, I am grateful to the people at the Population Studies Center of UGM. Thanks also to Chris Kijne for his inspiring visit.

Of course a truckload of thanks go out to all those people in Bujung who, each in their own way, made a contribution to this work. They invited me in their homes, patiently answered my questions, offered me food and drinks, and were pleasant company for playing cards, small talk and watching football. Altogether, there were more wonderful people than I can mention here. Taking the risk of omitting a few important people I want to mention the families of Soedjijono, Tiyarno, Puryono, Tisna, Pawiro, Muji Santoso, Parmin, Sondhi, Poniman, Slamet, Narto, and special thanks to Agus, Gentong and Bu Sehmi. I owe a lot to Pak Lerah, Pak Nardi and Pak Ontong, for enabling me to conduct research in Kricak. The only thing I can say to them is: Kalau ada kesalahan atau kekurangan, saya mohon dimaafkan.

Also in the Netherlands a sensible human being cannot work on a dissertation all day. There were many people with whom I could pleasantly pass my time. Harald, Douwe, Stefan, Rashila, Nicole, Olivier, Erik, Annick, Tinus, Bart, Alex, Lucian, Ton, Mary, Corine, Trissa, Kevin, Jacqueline, Tom, Gerbert, Mark-Jan, Albert, and many others were good company. Their presence, jokes, stories and worries helped me to at times to forget my dissertation and step away from it, in itself a very useful contribution to this book. The same hold for my family whom, in spite of my critical analysis on the limited significance of the family as a source of material support, in this book and elsewhere, I appreciate very much. Where would I be without them? For their meddling, concern and love, I wish to thank Yfke, Tiemen, Gerard and Elly, the 'lontjes', my own keluarga dekat. Already almost similar gratitude goes out to the cold and the warm side of the Mastenbroek family.

As I approach the end of these acknowledgements, experienced acknowledgement readers already anticipate attention to the more
important people, and a delicate balance between expressing deep-felt feelings and cheap sentiment. Very special thanks go out to Sonja, who has recently filled my life with her cheerful self. I consider myself more than privileged for having been able to add such delightful 'new flesh to the human race'. Her smile and presence surely contributed to the finalisation of this manuscript.

The last in line is of course Brigit, to whom I did not dedicate this book. To dedicate to her something as trivial as a socio-economic study on financial self-help organisations would be a grave insult. Her love and warmth deserve only to be reciprocated with my full dedication, care and support. Therefore, I hope that she forgives me for having spent so much of our precious time on the silly idea of writing this dissertation.

Enjoy your reading!

Hotze Lont
Amsterdam, November 2001