

The Process of Multicultural Social Interaction Toward Rice Paddy Farming Management in Pondidaha District, Konawe Regency, Indonesia

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Abstract: *This study aims to determine the multi-ethnic social interaction on the management of rice farming in pondidaha district, Konawe Regency. This research paradigm is post positivism and descriptive qualitative research. The study was conducted on March - May 2017. The results of the study showed that the higher the social interaction of the multi ethnic community toward the process of cooperation, accommodation, assimilation rivalry and conflict, the higher the influence to the farming activity in water management, land management, the use of quality seeds, seedlings, fertilizing, weed controlling, pest and diseases, harvesting and post harvesting.*

Keywords: social interaction, rice farming, cooperation, accommodation, assimilation

1. Introduction

Social interaction is the relationships between people individually, between groups of people, and individuals with the group Gillin and Gillin (1954). Classification of social processes that arise as a result of social interactions, namely associations (processes of association) and the process of dissociation. Social interaction will not be possible if it does not meet two conditions, those are: the existence of social contact and communication (Soekanto 2012). Social processes that arise as a result of social interaction, namely: Cooperation, Accommodation, Acculturation and Assimilation, meanwhile, kinds of adverse (disassociative) interactions are Controversy, conflict and Competition (Taneko, 1990). Contravention is to frustrate the achievement of the other party's goals. This is based on a feeling of displeasure because of the success of the other party which is considered harming, even though there is no intention to destroy the other party (Narwoko and Suyanto 2010).

Research on social interaction has been carried out in Indonesia. The results of research conducted by Muhammadiyah (2012) concluded that interaction in the farming community may lead to several social relationships, including relations among laborers, relations with the government in terms of order, contribution, and market relations, especially in terms of distribution of production. Yuliana D (2016) ; examines the dynamics of interests and rural social interaction: a study of the implications of land use change in Indonesia's environmental dynamics. Ine Fausayana (2014) examined various ethnic social interactions. Jafri J (2015) about participatory interaction with agricultural extension and farmer groups. Related study Abroad was carried out by Sarangi S. (2005) about social interaction, social theory and work-related activities and Nasriadi (2014) about interaction dynamics. Kimani D (2017) on risk and social interactions in the adoption of improved dairy breeds by smallholder farmers in Kenya. This research is important because research on this case,

specified to the social interaction of rice farmers in various ethnic groups is still very rare.

2. Research Methods

Approach and Design Research

This study uses a qualitative approach with descriptive method to give a comprehensive description and explanation of several social phenomena that related to the main concepts discussed. The qualitative approach in question is to trace the background of the phenomenon under a study as a complete concept, in terms of historical and sociological aspects. (Creswell. WJ. 1994).

This study conducted in Ambulanu Village and Ahuawatu Village, Pondidaha District, Konawe Regency, Southeast Sulawesi Province.

Types and sources of data

Types of data used in this study are Primary and Secondary data. Primary data was obtained directly through semi-structured and in-depth interviews with informants, along with direct observations. Secondary data was obtained through BPS statistics of Southeast Sulawesi Province, and Konawe District.

Based on the main point of the study, in the need for data and information in this study, the researcher used some techniques in data collection, those are observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. Processing data technique and data analysis are carried out in several stages, namely data reduction, display of data and drawing conclusions and verification.

3. Result and Discussion

Associative Social Interaction

Cooperation on Rice Field Farming

The research found that Social interactions in the form of

cooperation between ethnic groups in lowland rice farming occur in various activities: a) Water and Irrigation Management; b). Provision of superior varieties and quality seeds; c) Land management; d) Planting; e). fertilization; f) rice Control on weeds and pests; g) Harvest and h) Post harvesting of paddy rice that occurs in Pondidaha District, Konawe Regency.

Cooperation in Water and Irrigation Management

Cooperation that occurs among Balinese, Javanese, Buginese, Torajanese and Tolakinese in managing irrigation to meet water needs in the management of lowland rice farming is carried out in the form of harmony that includes mutual cooperation and help with spontaneous cooperation models, direct cooperation, bargaining cooperation, that is the implementation of agreements regarding the exchange of goods and services between two or more organizations and traditional cooperation.

The cooperation that takes place in mutual water management includes cleaning up irrigation canals, cleaning sewerage channels, cooperating in repairing damaged drainage and cooperating to build more permanent channels to avoid water channel leakage to the end of the field. The nature of the cooperation includes spontaneous cooperation that is without orders from the government or the head of the farmer group, but farmers spontaneously do the work and direct cooperation that is because the benefits felt by many farmers, especially rice farmers, are instructed by the village government to work together to fix out the problematic channels.

Cooperation in the supply of superior varieties and quality seeds

Cooperation among farmers in obtaining quality seeds of superior varieties in the life of rice farmers is an important thing in the form of harmony which includes mutual assistance and help.

Cooperation in the form of mutual cooperation in obtaining quality seeds by exchanging grain between seeds that are to be planted with grain that is produced into rice. Cooperate with lowland rice farmers in other places who have new types of rice varieties and have advantages over the types of rice commonly planted by considering the quality of seed in terms of good production and growth such as ethnic Javanese, Balinese, Buginese, and Tolakinese who have relatives outside the region.

Cooperation in land management

Cooperation that occurs in land management of lowland rice farming is in the form of mutual cooperation, such as the nearest farmers or neighbors in the farmer group helping each other in the activities of plowing the fields, breaking the soil and leveling the land traditionally using hoes and with the help of animal labor or using mechanized power and agricultural machinery such as hand tractor.

Cooperation in the current application of land management activities remains in the form of mutual cooperation, but the use of traditional land-processing equipment has gradually shifted to the use of mechanized agricultural equipment in the form of two-wheeled tractors so that the need for

manpower in land management until it is ready to be planted become less and less.

Cooperation in Planting

Cooperation on rice cultivation is in the form of mutual cooperation and help, that is the nearest rice farmers or rice field neighbor in a farmer group or between farmer groups and farmer families helping each other to remove wet sowing rice seeds and planting rice seeds on paddy fields that have been ready for planting.

Rice planting by using the transplanting method usually uses a lot of farmers, the planting work begins with line planting by using *caplak* (equipment for making rice planting lines) so that the planting can be straight and parallel, revoking growing seeds are done by women, after that the seeds are tied as big as an adult's wrist, then transported and spread the planting void according to the planting path. After that the planting is done with 8-10 planters per hectare per day. Planting duration depends on the cropping pattern used, usually the cropping pattern of the plant whose spacing is still planted faster than the Legowo cropping pattern which is planted in rows and between rows.

With the development of technology, especially agricultural equipment and machinery in the form of rice-growing machines, the need for human labor in cooperation of rice planting is decreasing, because it has been replaced by planting machines and the planting machine's work is more efficient in planting rice.

Cooperation in Fertilization

Fertilization of rice plants is carried out in the form of harmony between farmers who are close to the field or with group members or with relatives, whether they are family or not. The cooperation is a mutual cooperation and help. Fertilization schedule in one rice planting season was carried out 2 times, at the age of rice plants reach 14 days after planting and 30 days after planting. The cooperation is in the form of a contract or with an agreement.

Cooperation in the control of weeds and pest of rice plants (PHT)

The Cooperation in weed, pests and diseases control in rice plants carried out in the harmony of mutual Cooperation where the work involves more than one person from farmers around the rice fields. The form of cooperation is in harmony with contract or agreement.

Pest and disease control in lowland rice farming is a control approach that considers ecological factors so that the control is carried out without disturbing the natural balance and not causing large losses. PHT is a combination of various ways of controlling pests and diseases, for example monitoring pest populations and crop damage, so that the use of controlling technology can be more appropriate. Pests that often attack lowland rice plants in Southeast Sulawesi are: Mice, Stem Borer, bugs, *Keong Mas*, while the common rice plant disease in Southeast Sulawesi is *Hawar Daun Bakteri* (HDB) and Blast.

Cooperation in Rice Harvesting

The **Cooperation** in rice harvesting activities is in the form of mutual cooperation and help. Work at rice harvesting time commonly are carried out manually and use human labor which is proportional to the amount of labor at the time of planting. Harvesting activities are cutting the rice stem by using a jagged sickle, transporting and collecting rice stems that have been cut to the shelter, then dropped using a power treaser machine.

The work of cutting rice or harvesting is done by men or women together by implementing cooperation in the form of mutual cooperation, where the division of labor is indirectly divided, where women cutting rice and men lifting the rice that has been cut to the shelter.

Accommodation in Paddy Rice Farming

The result of the research on social interactions in this stage is in the form of accommodation between ethnic groups in lowland rice farming occur in the following activities: a) Water and Irrigation Management; b). Tillage; and c) Harvest and post-harvest of paddy fields that occur in PONDIDAHA District, KONAWA Regency

Water and Irrigation Management

The activity of accommodating the interests of farmers from various ethnicities in water and irrigation management activities carried out in the form of tolerance that must continue to be nurtured and developed in the community, especially among rice farmers. It will be problematic and prone to conflict if the tolerance attitude in water irrigation management is not developed, especially in the conditions where water availability is lack due to the dry season and supplying water from irrigation networks reduced, so that there are rice fields that are not irrigated while in other hand there are some fields excess of water. The impact that could be happening such as water theft or punching holes in irrigation canals, rice fields and using water suction machines. Like the case of splashing down the irrigation officers by Ahuawatu villagers because of unfair water distribution due to the breach of the irrigation channel.

Accommodation in Land Management

The form of accommodation in rice farming management is tolerance. The tolerance created among farmers bordering the field plot occurs if they are going to cultivate paddy fields, so that land processing equipment in the form of hand tractors are allowed to cross other farmers' settlements, especially on paddy fields that do not have farming roads. This tolerance aims to provide opportunities to other farmers who are positioned in the interior of the rice fields to first cultivate the rice fields and through the neighbor's rice fields plot.

This tolerance attitude is built in realizing a peaceful social interaction so that the harmony of the rice farmers' community is well established, the potential problems and conflicts can be avoided by attitudes and behaviors of tolerance among farmers.

Accommodation in rice harvest

Harvest and post-harvest farming activities are the last business unit in rice farming activities. The form of social interaction is in the form of accommodation which is

indicated by the use of other people's fields to pass through manual cutting machines with human power or with mechanization (rice cutting machines and tools).

Tolerance attitude from the farmers who owned the paddy fields and the embankments that were passed and the behavior conveyed to the landlord owner by communication facilitated the harvest process to be carried out.

Assimilation in Paddy Field Farming

The assimilation process arises when there are different groups of cultures, associating directly and adjusting to each other (Gerungan 1988). The results of this research shows that social interactions in the form of assimilation between ethnic groups in lowland rice farming occur in activities: a) Water and Irrigation Management; b). Superior varieties and quality seeds; c) Land management; d) Nursery; e) Planting; f) Fertilization; and g) Lowland rice farming harvest in PONDIDAHA District, KONAWA Regency.

Assimilation on Water Management and Irrigation

Social interactions in the form of assimilation or combination of two cultures or customs in multi-ethnic communities in water management and irrigation of wetland farming, aiming to reduce differences and increase the unity of actions in water and irrigation management activities into rice fields.

Assimilation in superior varieties and high quality seeds

There is a combination of culture and customs in the selection of superior varieties and quality seeds. Buginese ethnic who are accustomed to planting and consuming *Mandi rice*, *Pandan Wangi*, and IR 42 and 64 rice varieties have now changed according to the patterns and habits commonly planted by most people in rice fields.

Lowland rice farmers in PONDIDAHA Subdistrict from various ethnicities have known and used a lot of quality seeds, because there are several breeders who produce quality and certified seeds. Awareness of using quality seeds is quite high because quality seeds increase rice yields compared to original seeds. Quality seeds can be guaranteed the ability of yield and high seed uniformity.

Assimilation in farming land management

The assimilation in this stage is built from the processing of rice fields land in the community in PONDIDAHA Subdistrict as the habit of local people who do the planting without doing land processing, commonly people clean the land that will be planted by using machetes or axes and then allow the grass and tree leaves to dry after it is burned on the farming land, then a few days after the rain people then plant rice or corn .

Assimilation of the Rice Nursery

The form of assimilation that occurs in rice nurseries are all ethnic groups; Balinese, Javanese, Buginese, Torajanese and Tolakinese have known and conducted nurseries to produce rice seeds that are ready to be planted in rice fields. Rice nurseries were introduced by the ethnic of Balinese, Javanese and Buginese people who had previously been applied in their respective regions before moving their homes and farms in their own ways.

Assimilation in Rice Planting

The process of assimilation that occur in the implementation of rice planting in PONDIDAHA Subdistrict vary based on habits, which is there are people who plant seeds directly, either with planting tools in the form of drawn paralon pipes or scattered methods, there is also a method of transplanting by planting seeds that can be manually planted with humans' energy and planted by using mechanical power.

The understanding of habitual planting method which is continuously carried out by lowland rice farmers is a process of assimilation of diverse ethnic groups by means of different planting techniques. Farmers can easily see, hear, read and at the same time practice based on this knowledge in their farms and then adopt the best method based on the potential of human resources, land and capital support.

Assimilation in Rice Fertilization

Assimilation in this stage related to the use of fertilizers by lowland rice farmers includes fertilizing time which is an effective time to fertilize, it is expected that the fertilizer given to rice plants is successfully absorbed as nutrients for the plants, the method of fertilization is the application of fertilizer in plants can be done by stocking or immersing in the soil Fertilization dosage is the amount of fertilizer requirements for plants that are not deficient and also not excess, and the type of fertilizer used is using organic fertilizers derived from plant or animal organs such as fermented crop residues, animal waste and others as well as inorganic fertilizers or chemical fertilizers with types of urea sources Nitrogen (N), SP36 sources of Phosphorus (P), KCL sources of Potassium (K) and also compound fertilizers that have Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium and Sulfur (S) elements.

Assimilation in Rice Harvest

The combination of culture and customs of the people in the agricultural areas of paddy fields in harvesting activities is very diverse, starting from the use of traditional harvesting tools such as bamboo and iron, then developed to the use of sickles, jagged crescents, using semi-current opium with more modern harvesting tools that is, the rice cutting machine which concurrently separates the grain from the rice panicle called Combine harvester.

Harvesting methods among ethnic groups are also different where Javanese and Balinese ethnics usually cut rice by using sickles and jagged crescent, cutted rice are put in a basket and then transported to haystacks, while Buginese and Tolakinese cutting rice by using jagged crescents, pieces of rice stalks are laid in the pond or neatly slotted into the cutting line after it is transported using a sack pad to a pile of rice stacks for further loss using a power treaser.

Dissociative Social Interaction in Paddy Rice Farming

Competition

The forms of competition in lowland rice farming occur in activities: a) Water and Irrigation Management; b). Superior varieties and quality seeds; c) land management; d) Planting; e) Fertilization of paddy fields and f) rice harvesting in PONDIDAHA District, Konawe Regency.

Competition in Water Management and Irrigation

Water availability and good irrigation networks in the area of rice fields support the optimalization of rice production and also with the support of other needed facilities. Likewise, in rice fields where water availability and irrigation networks are still limited, there will be implications for competition and water grabbing that can lead to conflict among farmers.

Competition in superior varieties and quality seeds

Competition that occurs in the selection of superior varieties and good seeds between lowland rice farmers in obtaining seeds that are truly superior in terms of plant growth is strong growth, lots of tillers, not easy to fall, drought resistant or inundation, many panicles, the number of grains is large resistant to pests or diseases, tolerant to grass and low fertilizer use, producing high production yields and low rice management costs.

Competition in Land Management

Competition in land management along with the competition for water to irrigate rice fields, competition in land management occurs in the limitations of land processing equipment, especially tractors. So that farmers are competing to immediately process their rice fields so that they are not late with the surrounding rice fields. If paddy farmers are late in processing, the consequence is that the entrance to the plot of the rice field has been closed because the neighbor's rice fields have been planted. To anticipate the delay in processing the land, rice farmers often bring in land processing equipment from outside the village, so that the compactness of the crop can be achieved.

Competition in planting

Competition in rice cultivation occurs in planting labor, and cropping patterns. The need for planters as the planting time come make the planting labors scarce, because all farmers will try to get the planting labor as soon as possible, to avoid the revoked rice seeds withering and dying, then avoiding dry field plots because the water channel has been temporarily closed and diverted to other groups.

Competition also occurs in the pattern of planting, where farmers who have the ability will be more likely to use the method of transplanting with legowo, either legowo 2 or legowo 4 system. Because it is based on the experience of farming where there are differences in the way of transplanting by direct planting. Whereas farmers who are incapable will apply direct seed planting patterns because the need for enough personnel is 2 people can already complete planting with an area of 1 hectare in a short time, besides that there is an efficiency in the cost of removing seedlings and planting in transplanted systems (Fausayana I and Tarappa W, 2018).

Competition on fertilization and harvesting

Rice farmers will always and continue to compete to produce rice. The production of agricultural rice in paddy fields in the form of grain is determined by the factors of production including water availability, tillage, the use of quality seeds, maintenance of plants (fertilization and harvesting) that are correct and appropriate.

Competition in the rice harvest occurs almost every harvest season, this is due to the unbalance of the number of workers to harvest with the width of the harvested area due to the simultaneous harvest of rice crops.

4. Conclusion

The higher social interaction of the multi ethnic communities to the process the cooperation, accommodation, assimilation rivalry and conflict the higher the influence to the activity of paddy rice farming in terms of water management, land management, the use of quality seeds, seedlings, fertilizing, weed controlling, pest and diseases, harvesting and post harvesting. Social interaction of Multi-ethnic communities are seen as they are being able to interact associatively well in the midst of ethnic diversities in the area by building cooperation, tolerance, respect to their respective cultures, understanding each other, accommodating the interests and problems that occur and creating elemental assimilation in high cultural elements among them to live in a community in Pongidaha District and minimizing dissociative (not constructive) social interaction.

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