Literature on Indonesia’s Democratisation: Plenty of Empirical Details, Lack of Theories
Ulla Fionna

How is Indonesia Possible?
Anton Novenanto

Memahami Teori Konstruksi Sosial
I. B. Putera Manuaba

The Construction of Cultural Identity in Local Television Station’s Programs in Indonesia
Yuyun W.I Surya

Peran Benda Cagar Budaya dalam Proses Pembelajaran
Djoko Adi Prasetyo

Slang sebagai Simbol Replikasi Klas di Yogyakarta
Yusuf Ernawan

Studi Etnografi Semiotika: Angkutan Umum sebagai Gaya Hidup Metropolitan dalam Kartun Benny Rachmadi
Roikan

Metafora Budaya Sebagai Pendekatan Menajemen
Siswanto

Penerapan POLDA Jatim Standard Organisation (PJSO) 2006: Studi Evaluasi
Yan Yan Cahyana

Acromiocristalis Populasi Pygmy Rampasasa (Kabupaten Manggarai, Pulau Flores, Propinsi Nusa Tenggara Timur)
Rusyad Adi Suriyanto, Janatin Hastuti, Neni Trilusiana Rahmaawati, Koeshardjono dan T. Jacob

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Studi Metaforis Lingkungan &quot;Sakral&quot; Konsumerisme, Kasus Mall Panakkukang Makassar: Evaluasi terhadap Paradigma Katedral Konsumsi</td>
<td>1 - 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Role of International Environmental Norms in Promoting the Global Environmental Movement in the Post-Cold War Period</td>
<td>9 - 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Public Process of Designing City and Inquiry Paradigm Approach</td>
<td>18 - 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Konflik Industrial: Tarik Ulur Antara Kepentingan Negara, Pengusaha dan Buruh</td>
<td>36 - 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Aspek Finansial Pengembangan Pariwisata di Kawasan Taman Nasional</td>
<td>43 - 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Relasi Kekuasaan Suami dan Istri pada Masyarakat Nelayan</td>
<td>50 - 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Eksploitasi Simbol-Simbol Seksualitas Perempuan dalam Iklan Majalah Playboy Indonesia</td>
<td>59 - 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bukan Perempuan Biasa (Not Ordinary Women): The Identity Construction of Female Celebrity in Indonesian Media</td>
<td>66 - 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mengukur Probabilitas Keterlibatan Indonesia dalam Resolusi Konflik di Thailand Selatan</td>
<td>77 - 84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The Progress of Theories on Democracy</td>
<td>85 - 92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relasi Kekuasaan Suami dan Istri pada Masyarakat Nelayan

The Power Relations between Husband and Wife within the Fishermen Society

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Abstract

Many studies described that fishermen’s dependent toward their natural environment is relatively high, although the natural environment is unpredictable. Fishermen face specific natural barrier such as west wind season. This study used a qualitative method in finding out the nature of the fishermen’s income, and gender construction in the society. Unpredictable natural environment has affected the fisherman’s society gender construction. Gender construction has been unchanged throughout generations, which is based on labor division between the husband and the wife. The husband has to go to the sea and the wife has to sell the sea products. The diversification of work between labor women and the property owner’s wives vary as well. This situation influenced the way the power relations between husband and wife within the society that had been constructed. The wife had more power in decision-making as well as in fulfilling the household socio-economic needs. Thus, in emic point of view, there is no gender inequality. On the other hand, in ethic point of view there is gender inequality because the wife has to take responsibility in household socio-economic fulfillment. This study found that fisherman’s income during the eastern wind season actually can be used during the other season as well during economic crisis. Because of the economic crisis, high investment, natural disaster (high tide), and the rise of fuel price, many fishermen cannot go to the sea to get fish (menyang). The variety types of work that the wife involved in, such as seller, beggar, as well as prostitute, shows that economic problems have emerged because of the society’s permisiveness, socially and culturally

Keyword : unpredictable, natural, environment, gender, construction, power, relationship, fisher, labour, division,

Daftar Pustaka :