

# Jurnal Ilmu-ilmu Humaniora



- Urbanisation and Modernisation  
Promise or Danger for the Autonomy of Majority Women in Southeast Asia?  
*Nawiyanto*
- Kesalahan Logis dan Ketaksaan dalam Koran Berinisial "S"  
Sebuah Kajian Semantik  
*Bambang Wibisono*
- Literary and Linguistic Approach  
A Combined Strategy for the Analysis of Verbal Arts  
*Samudji*
- The Different Ways of Two Different Social Status in Expressing Their Aims  
Discourse in Drama  
*Dewi Rizkah Rindang*
- Fungsi Bittowa pada Masyarakat Madura  
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FAKULTAS SASTRA UNIVERSITAS JEMBER

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Cover: Karapan Kambing Madura

# URBANISATION AND MODERNISATION

## Promise or Danger for the Autonomy of Majority Women in Southeast Asia?

Nawiyanto

### *Abstrak*

*Tulisan ini membahas posisi wanita dalam konteks proses urbanisasi dan modernisasi yang berlangsung di Asia Tenggara. Tanpa menafikan serangkaian kisah sedih yang menimpa kaum wanita, diargumentasikan bahwa kedua proses ini membuka lebih banyak peluang positif bagi otonomi kaum wanita dibandingkan dengan kehidupan dalam alam tradisionalisme yang identik dengan dunia laki-laki. Sebagian kaum wanita di Asia Tenggara masih mengalami perlakuan diskriminatif dan sebagian lain telah lebih mandiri dibanding masa lalu. Tetapi proses urbanisasi dan modernisasi juga berdampak negatif terhadap proses kemandiriannya.*

**Kata-kata kunci:** *urbanisation, modernisation, pseudo urbanisation, discrimination, autonomy.*

### 1. Introduction

For several decades, the processes of urbanisation and modernisation have been taking place rapidly in Southeast Asia (Ginsburg, 1976: 2; Jones, 1997: 248 Skeldon, 1998: 8). Although the processes of urbanisation and modernisation are basically different, an interrelation between the two processes is easily recognisable. As Friedman pointed out, the process of modernisation is closely linked with the process of urbanisation (Leinbach, 1976:208). The process of modernisation, which can be defined as a process of application of modern science and technology in a society (Chen, 1972:53; Alatas, 1973:154), can facilitate the process of urbanisation, meaning the transformation of community from a rural life style, which is closely associated with agricultural employment, to industrial ways of living, characterised by non-agricultural employment (Yu Zhu quoted in Jones, 1997: 241; Firman, 1997:101).

There are two conflicting views on the impacts of modernisation and urbanisation processes in Southeast Asia. For optimistic scholars, the result of the two processes is always associated with an increase in material standards of living (Wellisz, 1971: 39). There is an assumption here that the rise in prosperity is also automatically enjoyed by women. In line with this improvement, there are better possibilities for women to build their autonomy. In contrast to this, the pessimistic view argues that the processes of urbanisation and modernisation in Southeast Asia endanger the autonomy of women. The arguments, which are often used to support this notion, are closely associated with discriminative treatment experienced by women who become involved in these processes (Heyzer, 1987:1).

Such a criticism finds a ground from the statements made by the political elite in Southeast Asian countries using a cheap labour policy as a promotional package to attract the inflow of foreign investments (Jones, 1984:6). And, because women constitute a significant proportion of the industrial workforce, the