

Department of Anthropology, FIB Universitas Gadjah Mada

“Ethnographic methods and restitutions for sustainable social development”

International workshop presented by

by Heddy Shri Ahimsa Putra (UGM) and Jean-Marc de Grave (IRASEC)

Place: Ruang multimedia, Lt 2 gedung Margono, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Time: Monday 30 May 2016, 8.30-17.00.

Background

The orientation of any ethnographic research is influenced by different elements. One is the main pre-conceptual approach it refers to (holism, functionalism, structuralism, culturalism, interactionism, post-modernism...) which can be also relied to the proper cultural value system of the researcher's social background. Another one is the nature of the subject under study (easy, hard, restricted or impossible access to fieldwork, one or multi-sited; isolated, rural or urban places...). Then, comes the influence of the local socio-cultural characteristics in which the ethnographer finds him/herself in, and of the kind of relationship he/she has with his/her interlocutors. But at the moment of restitution, the fieldwork methodology must be questioned again and sometimes reoriented according to new facts, to lacking elements or to the objective and to the audience targeted by the project. On this occasion, we would like to reflect at the same time on the fieldwork method itself and to the link which is occurring with the explicit objective of an applied social science.

Problematic

Social sciences often lack to valorize their findings by establishing valuable tracks that could be used by competent authorities, local institutions and populations to fight against anomie in the sense of Emile Durkheim (*The division of social labour in society*): a lack of social cohesion and regularity caused by default of “solidarity” and “rules”, and absence of “solidarity organs” representative of the community to regulate unequal relationships, confrontations between classes, and to avoid a too painful individual isolation (*De la division du travail social*, 1893 : 10-11, 18).

In such a perspective, this workshop aims to provide a few case studies dealing with ethnographic research methodologies while proposing a complementary analysis on the expected results it can offer concerning social improvement in the way did Michael M. Cernea concerning forcible population displacement. Thus, beyond the description of the object itself along with the *modus operandi*, the participants are expected to go further by showing how the

ethnographical restitution and analysis induce keys or solutions for a sustainable social development we define as an effort to avoid anomie. To do so, the contextualization of the ethnographic data - including the local social memory or history - seems central to present the different viewpoints held by the different parties presented in each case study, therefore to precise their respective interests. In this aim, we want to develop a reflection on what kind of ethnographic method and what kind of complementary elements are revealed by the simple will to find solutions for a social problem recognized as such by those who are confronted to it.

Therefore, the main idea of this workshop is to show how anthropology may give keys for a better governance – in a broad sense, i.e. including local and participative governance as well as more institutional governance – of social welfare through well-chosen case studies dealing with situations in which problems occur between common citizens and government or different kinds of institutions and organizations (NGOs, think tank, development organizations).

Objectives

In connection with the above description, a number of questions arise like what kind of methodology and ethnographic approach is being produced by the study of a particular subject? Or: what type of socio-cultural background contributes to determine the selection of the methodological approach and the ethnographic pattern displayed?

Such questions drive us to elaborate a further reflection on the kind of methodology and contextualization that can convince the different parties concerned (on one hand: the government, official or other kinds of institutions; on the other hand: the local people) that the restitution of our study contains keys or seeds of a solution to the situation they are facing. For instance, would the ethnographic method itself gain to induce the participation of the people ethnographed in the project, or would such a participation would false the result of the inquiry?

Through the main problematic – how anthropology may give keys for a better governance for social welfare and help to avoid anomie dealing with socio-cultural problems occurring between local interests and those of different institutions –, we expect to generate an intensive and reflexive dialogue between researchers from different cultural and academic backgrounds. We think that this multiplicity is able to provide a deeper understanding of the issues of research on the use of ethnography, and a new view in regard to these issues. For instance, since the influence of Pr. Koentjaraningrat, Indonesian researchers have developed great experience in the field of applied anthropology, while French researchers have developed intergenerational reflection in the domain of fieldwork methodology, notably since the work of Georges Condominas.

As a result, we expect that these views on research methods and strategies converge to give a clearer idea of what anthropology is able to propose – beyond reflexivity – in the aim of treating phenomenon of anomie. We also believe that this approach is rendering possible results better fitting with previous goals of the research, thus a further step would consist to propose preventive ways to avoid anomie.

Schedule

08.30 – 08.45 : Participants inscription

08.45 – 08.55 : Opening by the head of the department of anthropology, Mr Bambang Hidayana

08.55 – 9.15 Introduction: Heddy Shri Ahimsa-Putra and Jean-Marc de Grave

9.15 – 10.45 : Panel perbandingan metodologi I

Laksmi Savitri (LAURA, UGM))

Gender and agrarian transformation

Bambang Hidayana (LAURA, UGM)

Research method and perspective for local politics during Reformasi era

Setiadi (LAURA, UGM)

The challenge of methodology in sponsored research

10.45 – 11.00 : Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00 : Panel perbandingan metodologi II

Heddy Shri Ahimsa-Putra (LAURA, UGM)

Between “pure” and “commissioned”: anthropological research in Indonesia

Antonio Guerreiro (IrAsia, Aix-Marseille Université)

Contextualizing ethnographical fieldwork : language, reflexivity and participative approaches through different Southeast Asian examples.

12.00 – 13.00 : Lunch break

13.00 – 14.00 : Panel on war and conflicts

Christopher M. Joll (Thammasat University, Bangkok) *Substandard methodologies and subnational conflicts - Maximizing anthropology's contribution to peace-building*

Andy Jocuns (Thammasat University, Bangkok) *Ethnographic and ethnographic methodological comparisons: reflections on Afghanistan and Kalimantan Barat, Indonesia*

14.00 – 14.15: Coffee break

14.15 – 15.15 : Panel on Education

P.M. Laksono (LAURA, UGM)

Education and participation of local communities – A study case in Alor, Indonesia

Jean-Marc de Grave (IRASEC)

How high school students learn to socialize and construct their values? School examples in DIY (Indonesia) and perspective for the construction of sustainable education.

15.15 – 16.15 : Fifteen minutes break and final discussion