ABSTRACT

PATTISELANNO AUGUST ERNST. Social Network and Rural Community Conflict (Case of Saparua Island, Maluku Province). Under direction of LALA M. KOLOPAKING, DJUARA P. LUBIS and HENDRIK B. TETELEPTA.

The Ambon conflict in January 1999 lasted for almost six years, added by the spreading of the conflict was analyzed using social network to understand the conflict happen in the community. The research aimed to see the relevance between social network and conflict in various borders and is there any other factor besides economics, politics, religions and culture which cause the conflict.

Through qualitative technique, it is known that there is relevance between social network and conflict spreading which was initially happen in Ambon Island to rural communities in Saparua Island.

The result of this research showed that Saparua conflict is a part of Ambon conflict, and it actually would not have arisen if there was an effort to press or to prevent conflict spreading. The handling of refugees also became the source of new conflict in Saparua, since the refugees coming to Ambon were not handled and they had to come back to Saparua. They were the ones who continue information which gave understandings and directed the behavior on a form of willingness to take revenge to other communities in Saparua that happened to have different religion. Thus the conflict in Saparua exploded.

Therefore, in the case of Saparua conflict, economic, politic, religious and cultural aspect were not the basis of conflict explosion as it was Ambon. Hence, there are basic differences between the cause of conflict in Saparua and Ambon. Behind the religious conflict in Saparua, it turns out that relatives or customary relationship hold an important role. At last custom or tradition still becomes an important boundary on religious conflict in Saparua. Therefore, it is undeniable if custom then becomes the basis of reconciliation among the conflict groups, and therefore the role of local customary elites through Latupati institution becomes important and could be used in the process of conflict resolution.