ABSTRACT

AZIS KHAN. The Mindset behind Indonesian Forest Business Policy: A Discourse Analysis. Under supervision of HARIADI KARTODIHARDJO, SUDARSONO SOEDOMO, and DUDUNG DARUSMAN

By using a discourse analysis, this qualitative research was aimed to better understand the flow of mindset adopted by far in forest utilization policy making processes, especially in the context of natural production forest in the outer island. The discourse drawn from both legal texts available and from the results of indepth interviews as well as internet on-line polling, strongly indicated that the flow of mindset adopted dominantly by far was so called “the forest first”. This was shown by its characteristic, primarily putting the natural forest to be the first and main factor implying that forest are conceived as ecosystems that function on ways depending mainly on their nature and putting such human related aspects as social, politics and economic to be exogenous. As a result, any significant deviation resulted in great and serious damages some of which were irreversible. To avoid such a terrible consequence, some improvement and re-orientation in policy making processes are needed in terms of its quality of both substance and process. In line with this, the “quality” of the discourse needs also to be improved mainly for the purpose to increase people knowledge and experiences, as well as policy space and actor networks. Above all, as all findings are considered to be product and hegemony of power under both Foucault and Gramsci ideas, it is then necessary to collectively realize, break and end the power hegemony first, before executing all reforms identified in this research. To do so, all forest practitioners and foresters have to be out of their usual “box”.

Key words: discourse analysis, mindset frame, sustainability, forestry utilization policy.