

**Gender Labor Division in the Production of Sumbanese *Ikat*  
Textiles: Past and Present**

**A Thesis Presented as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain the  
Bachelor Degree in the English Literature Study Program**



**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND ARTS  
SOEGIJAPRANATA CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY  
SEMARANG  
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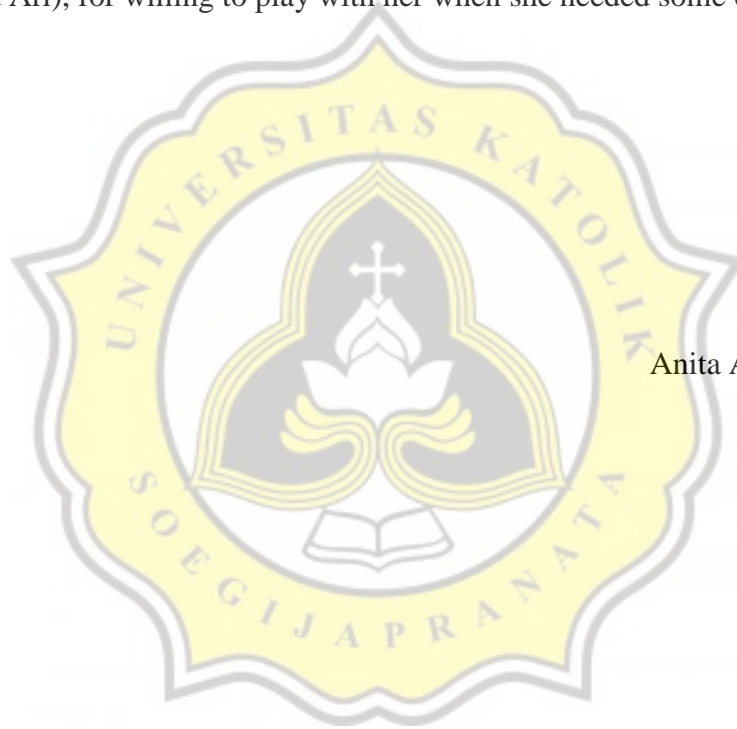
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The researcher

Anita Angelina Wibawa

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## ABSTRACT

The world of textiles is subjectively associated with women's work. In Sumba, producing *Ikat* textiles is one of the skills that women must have. Even though it has been labeled as women's domain, it does not mean that men do not contribute to the production process. Men also play roles in to certain processes. Comparing past and present, the gender labor division might potentially change. The purpose of this study is to discover the changes in the gender labor division and what the underlying reasons for changes. This study uses a qualitative method involving figures considered influential in terms of the production of *Ikat* weaving in Sumba, such as weavers, dyers, entrepreneurs, and also artisans from *Ikat* weaving as the informants of interviews conducted. Researcher conducted a preliminary study in 2018 in Waingapu, East Sumba, where *Ikat* is a trade center for woven textiles. Through the use of gender role theory, the researcher have found that there have been changes between the past and present division of gender work. The changes include the processes which only women can perform traditionally now can be performed by men. Both men and women share roles. These changes must be based on several reasons, and globalization is the main basic reason of all. One one hand, rapid globalization has changed the textile production to commercial production. Sumbanese woven *Ikat* textile production, which was traditionally only a side work for women, now becomes a promising industry to gain profits and help the economy. However, women still consider this work as side work, while men see this as an opportunity generating primary source of income. On the other hand, equal opportunities in education have also aided the locals to see the equality of gender in terms of labor division in textile production.

**Keywords:** Sumba, Sumbanese *Ikat* textiles, weaving, textile production, gender labor division, gender role.

## ABSTRAK

Dunia tekstil sering kali dikaitkan dengan pekerjaan wanita. Di Sumba sendiri, memproduksi tenun Ikat adalah salah satu keterampilan yang wajib wanita punya. Walaupun sudah dicap sebagai pekerjaan wanita, bukan berarti pria tidak berkontribusi dalam proses produksi. Pria diyakini juga memberikan kontribusinya pada proses-proses tertentu. Membandingkan dulu dan sekarang, kontribusi yang dilibatkan berpotensi mengalami perubahan. Tujuan penelitian ini yaitu untuk mengetahui perubahan apa saja yang ada pada pembagian kerja berdasarkan gender dan alasan apa yang mendasar atas perubahan-perubahan tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif yang melibatkan figur-figur yang berpengaruh pada produksi tenun Ikat yang ada di Sumba layaknya penenun, pencelup, produsen, dan serta seniman dari tenun Ikat sebagai sumber yang diwawancarai. Peneliti melakukan studi pendahuluan pada tahun 2018 di Waingapu, Sumba Timur, tempat dimana menjadi central perdagangan kain tenun Ikat. Hasil dari penelitian ini menggunakan teori gender role yang menunjukkan bahwa ada perubahan pada pembagian kerja secara gender yang dulu dan sekarang. Perubahan tersebut terletak pada proses-proses yang umumnya hanya dilakukan wanita saat ini bisa dilakukan dan dibantu oleh tenaga laki-laki dan begitu pula sebaliknya. Laki-laki dan perempuan berbagi peran dalam produksi. Perubahan-perubahan ini tentunya didasari atas beberapa alasan, dan alasan mendasar utamanya yaitu pengaruh globalisasi yang berkembang secara cepat. Globalisasi telah mendorong produksi tekstil ke arah komersil. Produksi kain tenun Ikat yang awalnya hanya dijadikan pekerjaan sampingan saat ini menjadi industri yang sangat menjanjikan dan sangat menguntungkan. Walaupun begitu, wanita masih menganggap pekerjaan ini sebagai pekerjaan sampingan, sedangkan pria melihat ini sebagai peluang yang dijadikan sumber penghasilan utama. Alasan berikutnya adalah masuknya pendidikan yang mulai membuka pikiran masyarakat setempat atas penyeteraan gender pada konteks produksi tekstil.

**Kata kunci:** Sumba, kain *Ikat* Sumba, tenun, produksi tekstil, pembagian kerja berdasarkan gender, peran gender.