

Abstract

This thesis aims to engage the Boti indigenous people and Christians of South Timor Tengah, East Nusa Tenggara, for environmental management. Based on collected online data, literature on the Boti, and personal experiences, this thesis examines cultural tensions between the two communities due to their conflicting worldviews. The Boti people uphold an indigenous paradigm (intersubjective relationship by Maarif, 2017) for their worldview where they see their relation to nature as interpersonal (human and nature are interdependent). Meanwhile, the Christian-converted Boti hold a world religion worldview through which their relation to nature as hierarchical: nature is there for human's benefit. The latter was perceived to contribute to or is irresponsible with crisis issues on Timor Island. The former, whose religiosity is exercised through human-nature interdependent relations, work hard to preserve their indigenous religion as their way in dealing with the environmental crisis but face Christianization and modern development that disregard the Boti's indigenous religiosity. Hence, the thesis develops three points. Firstly, it observes the Boti People's response to the environmental crisis, focusing on their indigenous paradigm (Boti religiosity), which protects and respects the environment. Secondly, it shows that the presence of Christianity with western tendencies has reduced indigenous knowledge (Chapter 3). Lastly, it argues for the engagement of Boti-Christian Interreligious-Cultural dialogue by recontextualizing Christianity, ultimately connecting the Boti-Christian communities by establishing environmental management (Chapter 4).

Keyword: Environmental Crisis, Boti's Religiosity, Christian influence, Environmental management.