

Geopolitics, Rural Development and Transformation in Mranak Village, Demak Regency

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ABSTRACT

Kenneth Lynch (2005) wrote that the rural area is an area which has particular characteristics such as agriculture activity is a basic sector in the economy, has natural resources either renewable or unrenovable and most of the people take farmer as their livelihood. The changes of rural element's condition are usually called as rural transformation or regional transformation. Usually, the rural transformation came from the effect of rural development, however not at all. As long is known that development can't be separated with the political preference of people and political condition.

The research of "geopolitics, rural development and rural transformation" wants to identify the influence of geopolitics aspects to rural development and transformation. This research conduct with qualitative method particularly deductive qualitative positivism. The output of the study is the models regarding the influences of geopolitics aspects to rural development and transformation. Trough mathematic logical system "if a is b and if b is c, when if the input is a so the result is c", the researcher can find not only the influence of the geopolitics (aspects) to rural development and transformation but also the reliability of relationship between them although using qualitative methods.

Keywords : Rural, Development, Transformation, Political, Geopolitics

ABSTRAK

Kenneth Lynch (2005) menuliskan bahwa perdesaan merupakan yang memiliki karakteristik khusus berupa kegiatan pertanian menjadi sektor basis, memiliki sumber daya alam yang terbarukan maupun tidak terbarukan, dan mayoritas penduduk bekerja sebagai petani. Perubahan elemen perdesaan disebut transformasi perdesaan. Biasanya transformasi perdesaan merupakan efek dari pembangunan perdesaan meskipun tidak keseluruhan. Disisi lain selama ini diketahui bahwa pembangunan perdesaan tidak bias lepas dari preferensi politik dan kondisi politik. Penelitian mengenai geopolitik, pembangunan dan transformasi perdesaan memiliki tujuan untuk mengidentifikasi pengaruh aspek geopolitik terhadap pembangunan dan transformasi perdesaan. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deduktif kualitatif positifistik. Keluaran dari penelitian ini Adalah model pengaruh aspek geopolitik terhadap pembangunan dan transformasi perdesaan. Melalui logika matematika "jika a maka b, jika b maka c, ketika input adalah a maka hasil adalah c", penelitian ini tidak hanya mampu menemukan pengaruh antara aspek geopolitik terhadap pembangunan dan transformasi perdesaan namun juga kenyataan atas hubungan antara hal tersebut meskipun menggunakan metode kualitatif.

Kata Kunci : Perdesaan, Pembangunan, Transformasi, Politik, Geopolitik

INTRODUCTION

Rural is an area where the agriculture role as base activity and economic sector. That's why the agriculture dominates the land uses. Kenneth Lynch (2005) wrote that the rural is some area where agriculture activity is a base sector in the economy, has natural resources (either renewable or unrenovable) and most of the people take a farmer as their livelihood. The rural condition in Indonesia begins to change from primary agriculture to secondary agriculture

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activities. This phenomenon has a significant impact on the economic structure, livelihoods changes and land conversion.

Giyarsih (2009) explained that regional transformation illustrates the rural or the regional characteristic's changes in certain time and it has a causative relationship. Thus, the rural transformation begins when one of rural characteristic influence the others. Rural transformation gives a positive and negative impact to the rural area. It was improving the rural development, but in the other side devastating the local wisdom, environment, and culture conditions

Demak Regency is known as the hinterland area of Semarang city which supplies agriculture commodities to the main area. In that condition, the development of Demak Regency is so much dominated by agriculture activities although the industrial activity emerges in several places. The rural development occurs in several villages such as Mlatiharjo, Mranggen, Mranak and others. However, the disparity of development can be clearly seen. For example, in Mranggen, the industrial activity is equal to agriculture sector in terms of the driving economy performance. Meanwhile, in Mranak, the economy is still driven by agriculture activity, even with many industries development there. The development in specific sector produces various transformation. In this case, the non-agriculture development causes more benefit and change the condition rapidly.

In the other hand, actually, the Mranakers has a different political preference with other community in Demak. In Reformation Order, most of the people in votes Golkar as their political preference. While, in that time, no one of government (executives) come from Golkar. The different political side of government and people may become a causative factor of the different level in development. It is because every individual has subjectivity including government and it is caused by the direct condition of politics such as political preference (Manuel and Pelling, 2015).

Political preference of people is influenced by several internal and external factors called geopolitics aspects. Based on American geographer Preston E James (1991), the political aspect is closely related and influenced by geographical aspect and both of them can merge in geopolitics terminology. Thus, to get the answer comprehensively regarding the geopolitics background and its relation to rural development and transformation, the appropriate research question is "what are the influences of geopolitics to rural development and transformation and how far are these influences?"

RESEARCH METHOD

The research regarding Geopolitics, rural development and transformation has goals examining the influences of geopolitics aspects to rural development and transformation, as well as identifying how significant they are in Mranak Village. Rural transformation closely related to rural development. In the rural development, the important object is how indicating the form of rural changes such as economy improvement, the availability of facilities and accessibility and analysing these phenomena in a political framework. Furthermore, the rural transformation illustrates the rural development that shifts the rural into urban characteristics.

The research uses the qualitative analysis technique to explain the influence of geopolitics to rural transformation. The qualitative analysis occurs the original data into the understandable form. Furthermore, the analysis stage consists of (Creswell, 2010):

- 1) Organise the information
- 2) Read all the information and given code
- 3) Make detail explanation related to the case
- 4) Determine the pattern and find the causal relation
- 5) Interpret and develop generalisation from the case
- 6) Presenting through narrative description

THE OVERVIEW OF STUDY AREA

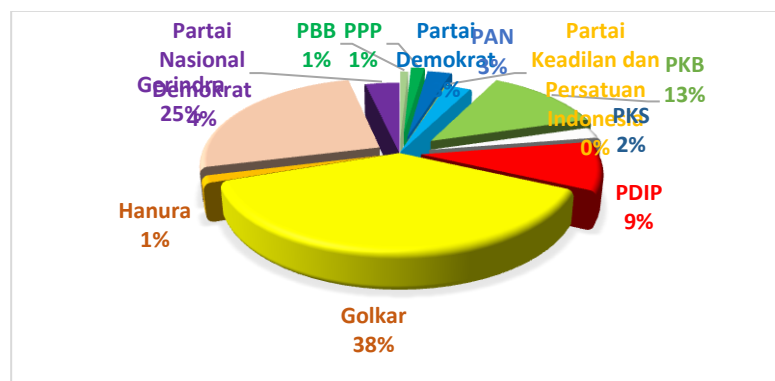
1. Location

Mranak Village is located in the northern part of Wonosalam Sub-District. Geographically, it positions between 110.66497 E and 6.88617 E and 5 meters above sea level. Administratively, the boundaries of Mranak Village are:

- East: Mrisen Village and Demak sub-District
- West: Botorejo Village and Demak Sub District
- North: Demak Sub District
- South: Botorejo, Mrisen, and Sidomulyo Village.

2. Political Condition

Mranak village is dynamic place in the political preference and election, especially the political party. In 2014 legislative election, the vote of citizen was spreading out into several parties and almost all of them got it. Among all of the party, the five biggest in Mranak Village are Golkar with 38 % votes, Gerindra with 25 % votes, PKB with 13 % votes, PDIP with 9 % votes and Demokrat with 3 % votes. The proportion of 2014 legislative election can be seen in the figure bellow.



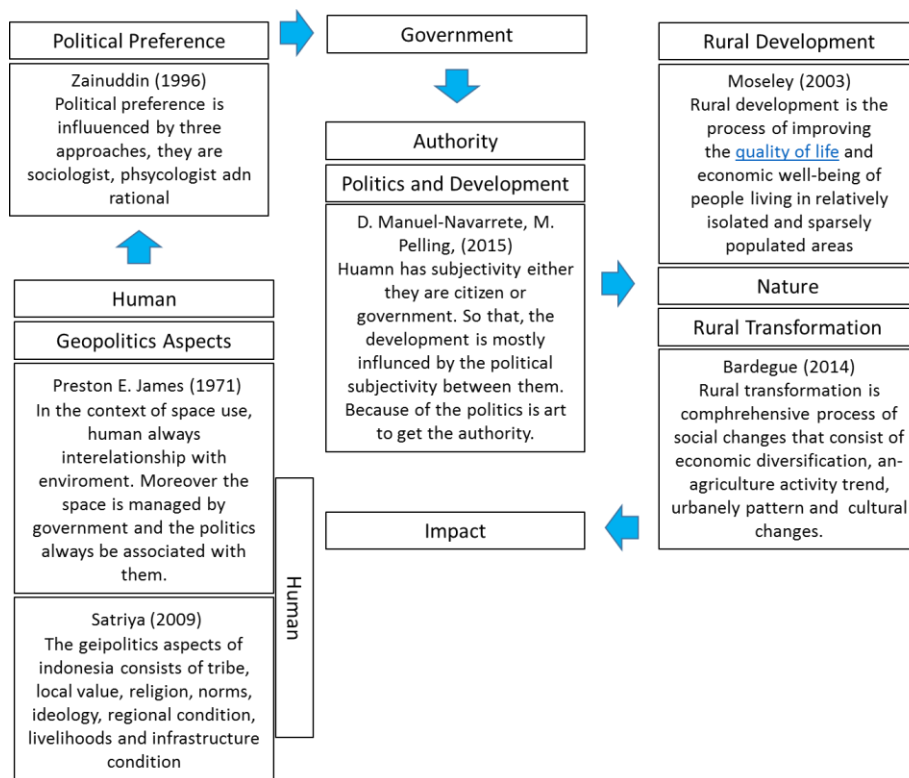
Source: www.kpu.go.id, 2015

FIGURE 1
POLITICAL PROPORTION OF MRANAK VILLAGE
(LEGISLATIVE ELECTION 2014)

The interesting conditions when Jokowi – JK, the president and vice president which was promoted by KIH beat Prabowo-Hatta which was supported by KMP. Although the KMP coalition was bigger than KIH. In Mranak, KMP got 73 % votes. On the other side, KIH that consist of PDIP, Nasdem, PKB and Hanura only got 27 % votes in Mranak.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

In the simple word, geopolitics can be revealed as the way of thinking regarding politic and development in the certain country. Preston E James (1971), an American Geographer explain that the geographic condition has a strong relationship with the politics and government. Because of when we talk about geography such as land use management, we have to mention government which has authority to establish them, Moreover, the government can be separated with a political dimension. In Indonesia, the geopolitics is called Wawasan Nusantara. Actually, wawasan Nusantara is referred to Pancasila and UUD 1945. In the empirical place, it consists of many aspects such as Race, religion, norms, value, ideology, regional condition, livelihoods and infrastructure condition (Satriya, 2009). The relation among all of the theory which is used in this research can be illustrated with figure bellow.



Source: author, 2016

FIGURE 2
THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The geopolitics condition will create political preferences. By using their preference, citizen decides the leader or government holder. In that situation, the selected leader has their own subjectivity to use the authority. The government uses it to develop or develop somewhere based on the political issue in the certain area. (Manuel Navarrete and Pelling, 2015). Through this fact, there is clear explanation how rural development and geopolitics are connected.

ANALYSIS

1. Geopolitical Condition

Geopolitics aspect in political preference is a causative and common phenomenon in the region where the local value still preserve. Because every culture, religion or race has their own rule and requirement of leadership. Therefore, in the modern era, many people begin to open their mind and think other consideration beyond their local value. These

phenomena might be the effect of modernization. The other reason is our national ideology. For people who understand about Pancasila, they consider unitary and pluralism value in term of leadership requirements.

Political preferences influence the decision in choosing the political party or figure significantly. Medium means this factor becomes an alternative factor to choose someone. And recessive mean, this preference has less influence related to political choice. The changes of domination level occurred in religion, ideology, regional condition, infrastructure condition, and political preference. In religion aspect, the obedient Muslim view turns recessive because of many propaganda or slogan regarding pluralism and Pancasila-ism. Therefore, the ideology of Pancasila has changed dynamically since New Order to Reformation era. In new Order, the ideology of Pancasila was dominant because of P4 (The guidance in understanding and implementing the Pancasila) implementation. In reformation era, this ideology shifts into medium because of P4 was abolished. As the religion aspect decreases, the egalitarian increases because of modernization and Pancasila effect. The slogan of Pancasila is “Bhinneka”.

This is the main factor of egalitarian beside the modernization. On the other way, the rational consideration such as regional and infrastructure condition becomes dominant because people begin to take the changes in their daily lives as considerations. Although the political preferences have shifted into more rational, psychologist and sociologist sometimes are still the determinant factors in choosing the new candidates. People would choose candidates who have provided good infrastructure and established the good economy.

2. Historical Condition

Historical condition of Mranak Village is the condition in past and current situation which are illustrated the land use, activities, and development increase from time to time persistently. In the old order, almost all of area was covered by rain-fed paddy field. At that time, the government could not arrange the development program because of they had to eliminate the national obstacle, particularly in national defence issues. In the new order, the rural condition was increasing inherent with the rural development program, particularly in agriculture and industry. In agriculture context, the government establishes irrigation, so it changed rain-fed paddy field into irrigation paddy field. In the other side, the government developed the industry, especially to support the agriculture sector. Both of them made the developed area was growth significantly. In the reformation era, the national government built ring road to declining the load in Pantura Road. This development caused direct impact to the area surrounding the new road. In this area, much new growth poles are emerging and changing the regional condition as well.

3. Rural Development

Rural development in Mranak Village was beginning in the new order. Because of at the previous order, the national government must solve the problem such as military aggression, limited national budget, and national stability. Therefore, the government could not establish the rural development program. In the new order, the development centralised to the national government including rural development agenda. The government formulated REPELITA (the five years period development planning) I – VI. In Mranak, not of all REPELITA have a role in rural development. The significant rural development conducted in REPELITA I and IV only. They are:

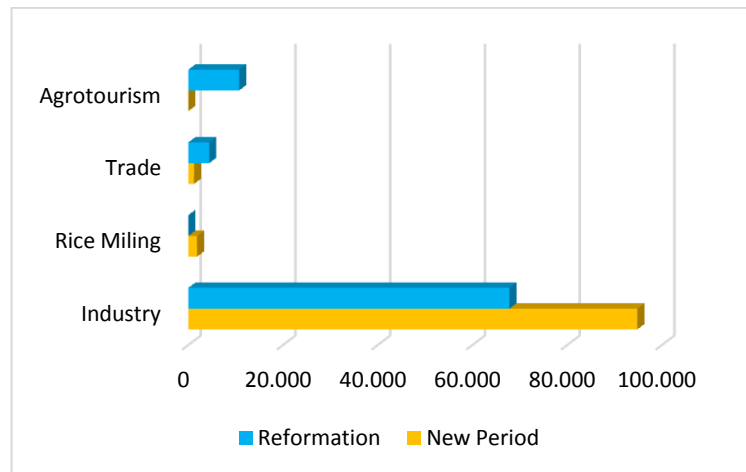
- a. Repelita I (1969 – 1974) has goals to full filling the basic needs and infrastructure, particularly in the agriculture sector. In Mranak Village, the government developed irrigation facilities. This development changed the rainfed paddy field area to irrigation paddy field area. It was increasing the level of farmer income because by that situation they can harvest their paddy field twice a year. Besides that, the government also developed rice milling, the industry which is supported agriculture sector, particularly paddy. According to this fact, the government was developing the agriculture activities from upstream to downstream.
- b. Repelita IV (1984 – 1989) has a purpose of creating employment and industry. In Mranak Village, it was prepared by established education, health, and religion facilities. In an education context, the government developed Mranak I Elementary School in 1979 and Mranak II Elementary School in 1987. The main purpose of developing these facilities is to enhancing accessibility in education and level of people education. In the other hand, the government also prepared a good manpower by developed the health and religion facilities. Health facilities are to maintenance physical power and religion facility is to maintain spirit power. Therefore, the government want to achieve human development fully appropriate with the national goal which is mentioned in the preamble of the constitution.

Different with the new order, in the reformation era regime, the development, is decentralisation. It is mean, the local government has more role in developing their area, although it must appropriate with national development agenda. In Mranak Village the government developed many basic infrastructures such as ring road, rural road, and garbage treatment facilities. The significant development in Mranak which has a good role in changing the people live is agro-tourism and creative industry development. The agrotourism is developed in 2013. It related to “Rural Vocation” program of Central Java Government. This program promoted the Ruby Water Apple to the main commodity of Mranak and giving added value to tourism program. Besides that, the creative industry particularly clothing can increase the level of people income without giving negative effect to the environment. It is appropriate for the sustainable development goals.

4. Rural Transformation

Rural transformation changes the condition of rural characteristic into urban characteristic. The difference between rural developments is the pattern of the changes. In term of rural transformation, the important one is changing rural into urban but in rural development might by the characteristic is still rural but the form is changed. Thus, the rural transformation part of rural development but rural development does not exactly mean rural transformation.

- a. The first transformation in Mranak Village occurred in the land use context. Actually, land use changes are a common situation when the activities are growing up. But the special phenomena when the primary agriculture based activity changed into secondary agriculture and non-agriculture sector. In Mranak the biggest change is an industrial area. It is increasing up to 90.000 m².



Sumber: Analisis, 2016

FIGURE 3
LAND USE TRANFORMATION

According to figure 3, although the agrotourism still belongs to the rural pattern, but it is a tendency which is influencing the other factor can be made it as the direct bridge of rural transformation in Mranak Village. From the figure above, it is known that the industrial growth in the new order is bigger than in the reformation era. But the new trend of the industry called creative industry make industrial growth in the reformation regime more valuable than the previous regime.

- b. The second transformation is following the land use changed. Because it creates the new regional pattern either in structure or in regional shape. According to the fact, the regional structure is changed from concentric (Von Thunnen) into multiple nuclei. These phenomena reveal the new growth pole enhancement which is driven by several activities such as trading, industry, and services. In the other side, the regional shape also changes from ribbon to octopus. It explains that in the Mranak Village, the developed area growth rapidly and equally.
- c. Inherent with land use change, the livelihood also changes to the urbanly pattern. Many new livelihoods are emerging because of industrial, road and agro-tourism use. They are a seller, the transportation sector, industry (including labour and creative industry). This transformation is increasing the people income and decreasing the poverty automatically. The increased in people income is illustrated by a village elder in bellow.

“In Soekarno regime, community live in under poverty and in Suharto regime too. In the other hand, although in reformation era the prices are higher than in the previous condition. Therefore, the community can be many things including motorcycle and electronics. (I-ALS-14e)”

- d. The last rural transformation in the study area is social structure change. In the colonial period, the social structure in community consist of three classes, they are *Santri*, *Abangan*, and *Priyayi*. *Santri* is someone who focusing on religion activity, *Abangan* is a common citizen and *Priyayi* is The Noble Family. This pattern also exists in the old order. But in the new order, the pattern change by adding rich people into the class

especially second class. In that time the first class is the nobles and religious leader. And in the reformation era, the nobles declining to the second class but the religious leader still in the first class. The unique phenomena are the rich people that locate in the first and second class. But overall the religious leader is still the community's reference and most respected by them.

5. The Relation Among Geopolitics, Rural Development and Transformation

Archipelago knowledge is the geopolitics of Indonesia which are placed Pancasila as the fundamental value. Toward this geopolitics, the founding fathers of Indonesia want to achieve the national with unitary, fairness, equality, and equity principles. In the sort meaning, the geopolitics aspect must appropriate with Pancasila purely. Actually, the public ideology is influenced by several factors such race, religion, local value, foreign idea and others. Thus, in some case, their way of thinking regarding this country is inappropriate with Pancasila and Archipelago Knowledge.

In the context of national development, a citizen can be a participant by using their political rights to determining whom be legislator and executor. In this side, by knowing their preferences the geopolitics aspect condition will be reflected as well. In the case of Mranak, the dominant geopolitics aspects are a Race, social, and culture. Therefore, the elected opportunity of Javanese and Javanasely* is high. The best phenomenon to explain this case is when Bibit Waluyo come out to be a winner in the 2008 and 2013 The Governor election in Mranak Village. In 2008, Bibit got around 80 % votes and he was supported by PDIPP, while in 2013 he got the same core although PDIP did not support him. Firstly, it proves personal branding more important than political party. The second, the socio-culture and emotional bond determine the electoral result. In addition, Bibit is known has family in Mranak and has ever been staying in there for study (elementary school). In a board classification regarding political preference, it consists of three approaches, they are a sociologist, phycologist and rational. In this side, the sociologist approach has a significant role in influencing the Mranak people political preferences.

Refer to the case of Mranak, the big chance of a "suitable" political person to get a vote from people is inherent with the opportunity of rural development and transformation occurred. It means the rural development and transformation agenda might be done by a candidate which have same sociologist factors with the people as well. However, the chance of another candidate is still openly but not as big as the suitable candidates because of plurality form and pattern of the people thinking.

Among three regimes in Indonesia, the rural development program is occurred in Mranak begin the new order. In that time, the government developed many sectors such as agriculture, education, industry and basic infrastructure. Among them, the government focused strengthening the rural economic by established agriculture supporting infrastructure, industrial area and prepared the industrial employment by enhancing the level of education and skill of community. Similar within the new order, currently in reformation regime the government either central or local still focus on the agriculture, industry, and infrastructure but more innovatively than the previous regime. In this time, the rural development program is conducted by "creative and innovative economy" slogans and stressing on added value of commodities. By this agenda, the government establishes agro-tourism area, creative industry, and more human resources development facilities. Trough those programs, the level of economy and income is increasing and the level of poverty in instead.

The rural development in Mranak Village is affecting several changes of rural characteristic to more urbanly. In this place, the rural transformation occurs in many aspects such as livelihoods, land use, regional structure and shape, the level of education and people prosperity. In the New Orde regime, a rural transformation occurred in land use, regional structure, regional shape, and livelihoods. In that time, the new land use appeared such as industry and trade areas. It was followed by emerging new kind of livelihood in the village such as industrial labour and seller. The land use growth also impacted the shape and structure of the village. The regional shape transformed from ribbon town into a ribbon with octopus town. It illustrated that the developed area spread in around the road and connected each other. This phenomenon related with the existence of the new growth pole (nuclei) such as industrial and trading area. Thereof, the regional structure changed from concentric (von thunnen) to the multiple nuclei form.

Actually, the rural transformation in the reformation regime quite similar within the new order. The differences are in the livelihoods and social structure. In the livelihoods context, the new road and activities are appearing the new occupation in the transportation sector. In the other side, the private sector also emerges as an effect of creative economy development in Mranak Village.

Parallel with the new kind of livelihoods which gives more income, the social structure in the current time changed from feudal into treasure pattern. In this pattern, a personal position in social structure depends on how rich they are. The richest people will get more respect than the other. However, the noble still get respect enough they are in poor or medium income level. Obviously, this form is mal-system of social structure. Because of the people always justify whatever the richest person did. Because of them, the local value in social life destroys as well.

In the systematic steps, the rural transformation in Mranak Village begins from economic by introducing agriculture infrastructure and industrial development. In this corner, the kind of land use particularly industrial and trade area and also people occupation is increasing especially industrial labour. The second step of transformation is when transportation sector livelihoods have emerged because of road, industry and agro-tourism development. Increasing the level of income because of emerging livelihoods and economic changed social structure into more urban in the pattern. In the urban form, the social stratification is determined by the people prosperity. When all of social life is controlled by treasure, the local value will disappear slowly. When social bond destroyed the level of individualism will increase surely. In Mranak, although the level of individualism is still low, but it is increasing persistently.

CONCLUSION

Geopolitics of Indonesia is the national living guidance based on Pancasila values. Moreover, the geopolitics factors in the community should also base on those values. Geopolitics aspects are closely related to the political issue and citizen participation in development. Political preference can be used to analyse the conformity between geopolitics aspects in community and Pancasila values.

The political preference consists of three approaches, sociologist, phycologist and rational. The sociologist approach is closely related to the race, culture, local value, ideology, norms and social. Meanwhile, the psychologist approach is related to the political condition. Furthermore,

the rational approach is related to livelihoods, economy and regional condition. Among all of them, surely one or two aspects are more dominant than the rest and drive the trend of preference.

In the rural area, the political preference of community is influenced by sociological geopolitics aspects, such as race, local value, and norms. In that situation, people prefer to choose the person who has the same identity as themselves. However, the other geopolitics, like rationalistic and psychological aspects, also have a role in considering the preference, although it is not as significant as sociological aspects. In an extraordinary situation where the candidates have the same characteristic, they can be complementary of the sociological aspects in deciding the political preference. Based on the explanation before, the opportunity for the candidate to get votes from villagers is influenced by the shared identity. In addition, the people preference will be influenced by what has been done by the candidate in the prior period. In a rural area, the personal branding in politic is more important than the political party itself. Often, the central figure is used to gain more vote for their parties in the election, although the loyalty to the political party still exists.

The winner of the election is the person trusted by the citizens to run the government. Although the government should be professional, but it is hard to deny that the government might be bias in implementing development program in certain areas. The government often focuses on implementing development programs to their favorable area. As the result, it creates the disparity between voted area and unvoted area.

The rural development program in the rural area begins from strengthening basic economy (agriculture) by providing supporting facilities and enhancing the performance. The second step is developing the basic infrastructure and industrial area. The basic infrastructure such as education and health facilities are essential to improve the human quality in order to face the industrial challenging and provide more work opportunities to the community of the community. Meanwhile, the industrial area is developed to processing the agriculture product into middle things and finish thins. It means that the government expects the community to produce value-added commodities to improve the income and prosperity. The third step is developing the innovative economy. In the current situation, the innovative economy is needed to improve the commodity values.

Along with the development, the rural characteristics changes, as well, into urban form. The first changes of the rural condition are the land use and these deferential such as regional structure and regional shape. The second one is the livelihoods. By introducing the new land use or activity, the new livelihoods emerge instantly. New job fields mean a new opportunity to improve people income. In a rural area, usually, it is followed by social structure movement. As a kingdom country (historically) the social structure is a feudal pattern. However, materialism age, the social structure surely moves to the wealth-based structure.

In short, the rural transformation is caused by rural development, while the rural development is affected by the government subjectivity. Moreover, it is based on the people favor to the candidates. Even though the people favor in a political election is influenced by their geopolitics aspects. In sociological aspects domination, the correspondence candidate has a big opportunity to implement rural development and transformation in a certain area. At the current time, the rational aspect holds the huge role in influencing rural; transformation. Because of rational aspect considers many dimensions such as the economy, infrastructure,

and livelihoods. It is more materialism comparing to the others. Those geopolitics aspects are reflecting the identity of the community and the result of their think.

In general, the rural development and transformation influenced by the cultural of the community. The cultural actually consist of seven elements, they are religion, social organisation, language, art, knowledge, livelihoods, and accessibility. Furthermore, those are covered by the identity of the community such as a race. Besides that, the external factor such as modernization, better philosophy (comparing tom their own) and the other region condition also drive the geopolitics of the community in influencing the rural development and rural transformation.

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