# 'Warring Words': Students and the state in New Order Indonesia, 1966-1998

A thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of the Australian National University.

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# **CERTIFICATION**

I, Elisabeth Jackson, declare that this thesis, submitted in fulfillment of the requirements
for the award of Doctor of Philosophy at the Australian National University, is wholly
my own work unless otherwise referenced or acknowledged. It has not been submitted
for qualifications at any other academic institution.

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Elisabeth Jackson

3 June 2005

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## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis is a study of the politics of identity of Indonesian university students (*mahasiswa*) under Suharto's New Order. It focuses on the period between 1973 and 1988 and on the period between 1989, when Indonesia entered a limited period of openness (*keterbukaan*), and the fall of Suharto in 1998.

The study is grounded in theories about the relationship between language and power and in a method of textual analysis based on critical discourse analysis. Through the application of critical discourse analysis to a number of key state and student texts, the study provides an insight into the linguistic techniques the New Order employed in producing particular ways of thinking and speaking (discourses) about students' roles and identities. These discourses aimed to regulate how students were able to act in their capacity as students. It is also concerned with the ways in which students challenged the discourses of the New Order state by producing their own, alternative ways of thinking and speaking about their roles and identities.

Two state texts form the basis for the analysis in chapters three and five. These are the New Order's 'official' national history, the *Sejarah Nasional Indonesia*, and a magazine published by the Department of Education and Culture from the late 1970s to the 1980s. The student texts analysed in chapters four and six comprise influential student newspapers and magazines published on campuses in Yogyakarta, Jakarta and Bandung during the mid to late 1970s and the 1990s.

As this study shows, the state employed strategies and techniques which aimed to incorporate students into the state itself by modifying their behaviour in ways which were consistent with its needs and interests. And while students' resistance was to some extent constrained by the limits set by the state, they also retained a significant capacity to exercise power on their own account. Indeed, students were only able to resist the state and its practices *because* they did so from within the parameters the state had defined for dissent.

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# **PRELIMINARY NOTES**

## Spelling and referencing of Indonesian names

Personal names in this thesis have been spelled using the pre-1972 spelling system where this is the individual's preference. The standard Indonesian spelling system (EYD) is used for all other names, including that of former president Suharto. Standard spelling is also used for the names of all organisations, including those which originally used the pre-1972 spelling system. For ease and consistency, Indonesian names appear in the reference list under the final element of the author's name. For example, Bonar Tigor Naipospos is located under Naipospos, Bonar Tigor.

#### **Translations**

All translations of Indonesian language material which appear in this thesis are my own. Readers are reminded that this thesis is not an exercise in translation. For the benefit of readers of Indonesian, the original Indonesian text appears in a footnote.

## Primary sources

Material used in this thesis was sourced from collections held at the offices of *Balairung* and *Himmah*, the private collection of Dave McRae, and the collections of the National Library of Australia and the Menzies Library at the Australian National University. Additional material in microform format was purchased by the author from the Cornell University Library.

## ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

ABRI Angkatan Bersenjata Republik Indonesia, the Armed

Forces of the Republic of Indonesia, now TNI (Tentara

Nasional Indonesia).

angkatan generation.asrama dormitories.

baik dan benar correct and proper, the slogan of the New Order's

language standardisation program.

bapak father.

BKK Badan Koordinasi Kampus, Campus Coordination Body,

the policy introduced in 1979 to reorganise student representative bodies after the closure of the student

councils in 1978.

Budi Utomo Noble Endeavour, Indonesia's first 'modern'

organisation, founded on 20 May 1908 by students at

Stovia.

CDA critical discourse analysis, a theoretical and

methodological approach to the analysis of language and its relationship to social and political power; combines linguistic methods of analysis with social and political

theory.

CGMI Consentrasi Gerakan Mahasiswa Indonesia,

Concentration of Indonesian Student Movements, the communist party affiliated student organisation of the

1960s.

*cukong* Chinese conglomerates.

demokratisasi democratisation.

dewan mahasiswa student council, the main student representative body

prior to introduction of BKK policy.

discourse an abstract system of 'rules' which determine what can be

said about a particular topic and how, when, by whom and

to whom it can be said; a way of speaking and thinking

about a particular domain of social experience; derived from the social structure and often, though not

exclusively, realised in text.

**DPR** Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat, People's Representative

Council.

dwifungsi dual function, the military and political role of the

Indonesian armed forces.

ekstrim kanan extreme right, extremist Islam.

extreme left, communism. ekstrim kiri

Democracy Forum. Forum Demokrasi an organisation of dissident

intellectuals formed in 1990 and headed by Abdurrahman

Wahid.

Front Pancasila Pancasila Front, the 1966 coalition of anti-PKI parties and

mass organisations, including the action units.

G30S/PKI Gerakan 30 September/PKI, the Thirtieth of September

> Movement/PKI, the term used under the New Order to refer to the abortive coup of 30 September -1 October

1965.

**GBHN** Garis Besar Haluan Negara, Broad Outlines of State

Policy.

generasi muda young generation.

a specific form of power in which those in authority seek government

to modify the behaviour of the governed and to promote

'self-policing'.

Mahasiswa Menggugat Gerakan Aksi Mahasiswa Menggugat, Action Movement

> for Student Demands, formed in 1970 to coordinate student protests against state corruption and economic

mismanagement.

gerakan movement.

Gerakan Penghematan Austerity Movement, formed in December 1971 to protest

against the building of Taman Mini Indonesia Indah.

**GMKI** Gerakan Mahasiswa Kristen Indonesia, Indonesian

Christian Student Movement, a member of the Kelompok

Cipayung.

GMNI Gerakan Mahasiswa Nasional Indonesia, Indonesian

National Student Movement, the 'nationalist' student organisation and one of the five member organisations of

the Kelompok Cipayung.

Golkar Golongan Karya, Functional Groups, the New Order's

electoral vehicle.

Golput Golongan Putih, White Group, a student movement

formed in 1970 which encouraged voters to cast ineligible votes by marking the white section of the ballot paper in protest against the restrictions placed on the 1971

elections.

gotong royong mutual assistance.

Guided Democracy the period of Indonesian politics between 1959 and 1965

when President Sukarno presided over a government based on the 1945 Constitution, which he reintroduced by

presidential decree in 1959.

HMI Himpunan Mahasiswa Islam, Muslim Students

Association, the modernist Islamic student movement associated with Masyumi before that party was banned in

1960, a dominant member of KAMI and one of the five

member organisations of the Kelompok Cipayung.

IAIN Institut Agama Islam Negeri, State Islamic Institute.

identity the sense of self and the feelings and ideas that

individuals or social groups have about themselves and

their group; the multiple identities which individuals (and

groups) possess reflect the various social domains they

occupy.

IKIP Institut Keguruan dan Ilmu Pengetahuan, Institute for

Teaching and Education, teachers college.

Indonesia Muda Young Indonesia, the first 'national' youth organisation,

formed in 1930.

intelektual intellectual.

intertextuality the 'networked' nature of texts; the idea that texts interact

with other contemporary texts, refer to past texts and

anticipate future texts.

Jong Islamieten Bond Young Muslims League, the organisation for Muslim

youth founded in 1925.

Jong Sumatranen Bond Young Sumatrans League, the Sumatran student

association founded in 1917.

KAMI Kesatuan Aksi Mahasiswa Indonesia, Indonesian Student

Action Front, the anti-Communist student organisation formed on 25 October 1965 which was the main

organisational vehicle of the 1966 student demonstrations.

KAPPI Kesatuan Aksi Pemuda Pelajar Indonesia, Indonesian

Youth and Student Action Front, one of the action fronts formed in 1965. After KAMI was banned, KAPPI

continued the work of its 'older brothers and sisters'.

kekuatan moral moral force.

Kelompok Cipayung Cipayung Group, an association of five extra-university

student organisations (GMNI, GMKI, HMI, PMII and

PMKRI) formed in 1972.

kekeluargaan the family spirit, one of the key values of the New Order

organic state.

keyword a word or phrase which articulates a significant area of

meaning in a text; one of the key means by which

experiential meaning is conveyed.

KKN Kuliah Kerja Nyata, compulsory community service

program for university students first trialed in 1971 and

introduced on a wider basis in 1974.

KKN Korupsi, Kolusi, Nepotisme, Corruption, Collusion,

Nepotism.

KNPI Komite Nasional Pemuda Indonesia, Indonesian National

Youth Committee, the Golkar-sponsored corporatist

organisation for youth formed in 1973.

kontrol sosial social control.

Komando Operasi Pemulihan Keamanan dan Ketertiban,

Operational Command for the Restoration of Security and Order; founded in 1965 and dissolved in September 1988.

koran dinding wall newspapers.

koreksi correction.

keterbukaan openness, the period of limited political liberalisation

which began in 1989 and lasted until 1994.

leerlingen pupil, the Dutch term used to describe secondary students

in the Indies during the early 1900s.

lexical sets sets of words which distinguish socially and

institutionally significant areas of meaning.

LMND Liga Mahasiswa Nasional untuk Demokrasi, National

Students League for Democracy

mahasiswa university student.

Malari Malapetaka Limabelas Januari, the Fifteenth of January

Disaster, the unrest of 1974 which began as a student protest against Japanese investment and ended in several

days of mass rioting.

manusia penganalisa people of analysis.

marhaen Sukarno's term for Indonesia's rural masses, coined in the

1930s and associated with the PNI.

massa mengambang floating mass, the policy under which the political parties

(except Golkar) were prohibited from campaigning or

establishing party branches below the district level.

masyarakat society.

media aksi action media, the student news bulletins which emerged

on several university campuses at the height of the

demonstrations of 1998.

murid pupil, the Malay term used in the 1920s to describe

secondary and vocational school students.

MPR Majelis Permusyawaratan Rakyat, People's Consultative

Assembly.

musyawarah dan mufakat deliberation and consensus, promoted during the New

Order as the authentically Indonesian mode of decision-

making.

New Order the period of Indonesian politics between 1966 and 1998

under the leadership of President Suharto.

NKK Normalisasi Kehidupan Kampus, Normalisation of

Campus Life, the depoliticisation policy introduced after

the student demonstrations of 1977 and 1978.

Old Order the term coined in the late 1960s to describe the Sukarno

regime.

oposisi opposition.

order of discourse the total set of discourses in a particular society or

institution; describes the relationships between discourses,

including specifying which discourses are privileged in

which particular fields and how these discourses relate to

less privileged alternatives.

overlexicalisation the use of a large number of synonymous terms to

describe a particular area of meaning; indicates a preoccupation with a particular topic (overwording or

dense wording).

P4 Pedoman Penhayatan dan Pengamalan Pancasila,

Guidelines for the Understanding and Application of the Pancasila, the Pancasila indoctrination courses for civil

servants introduced in 1978.

Pancasila the five principles which form the basis of the Indonesian

state: belief in the one true God, a just and civilized humanity, the unity of Indonesia, democracy guided by the inner wisdom in the unanimity arising out of deliberations among representatives, social justice for all

Indonesians.

parliamentary democracy the period of Indonesian politics between 1950 and 1959

during which Indonesia was governed by a parliamentary

based on a multi-party democracy.

PDI Partai Demokrasi Indonesia, Indonesian Democracy

Party.

pelajar student, the term used in the 1920s to describe students

studying in institutions of higher education both within

the Indies and outside it.

pembangunan development.

pembinaan improvement and development.

pemilu pemilihan umum, general elections.

pemuda youth.pengabdian service.

Perhimpunan Indonesia Indonesia Association, founded in 1908 by students from

the Indies studying in universities in the Netherlands.

perlawanan resistance.

persatuan unity.
perubahan change.

Peta Pembela Tanah Air, Homeland Defence Force, the

volunteer army created by the Japanese in 1943.

Petisi Limapuluh Petition of Fifty, formed in 1980 by a group of prominent

public figures, including retired military officers and

former politicians.

PKI Partai Komunis Indonesia, Indonesian Communist Party.

PMII Pergerakan Mahasiswa Islam Indonesia, Indonesian

Muslim Students Movement, a member of the Kelompok

Cipayung representing traditionalist Muslim students.

PMKRI Persatuan Mahasiswa Katolik Republik Indonesia,

Catholic Students Association of the Republic of

Indonesia, a member of the Kelompok Cipayung.

PMP Pendidikan Moral Pancasila, Pancasila Moral Education,

compulsory courses in the state ideology introduced in

primary and secondary schools in 1975.

PNI Partai Nasionalis Indonesia, Indonesian Nationalist Party.

pojok literally, corner column, a short segment in a newspaper

containing satirical comment on current issues and events.

politik politics.

power a set of relations which 'produces' social subjects by

incorporating them and shaping them to fit its needs.

PPKI Panitia Persiapan Kemerdekaan Indonesia, Committee for

the Preparation of Indonesian Independence.

PPP Partai Persatuan Pembangunan, United Development

Party, the New Order 'Islamic' party formed in 1973.

PPPI Perhimpunan Pelajar-Pelajar Indonesia, Indonesian

Students Association, formed in 1926 by students at Stovia and the colonial-era college of law

(Rechtschoogeschool). It had links to the PNI.

PRD Partai Rakyat Demokratik, Indonesian Democratic Party.

PSPB Pendidikan Sejarah Perjuangan Bangsa, Education in the

History of the National Struggle.

PSI Partai Sosialis Indonesia, Indonesian Socialist Party.

rakyat the common people.

reformasi reform.

relexicalisation the process of creating new vocabulary items for existing

concepts (rewording).

remaja teenager, adolescent.

Repelita Rencana Pembangunan Lima Tahun, Five-Year

Development Plan.

resi the reclusive Javanese sages whose role was to identify

the signs of unrest within the kingdom.

resistant reading an interpretation of a text which is (fully or partially)

contradictory to the interpretation which the text producer

intended.

role the socially determined rights, obligations and duties that

are associated with a particular social position or social status; individuals (and groups) occupy multiple roles in

society.

SARA Suku, Agama, Ras, Antar-Golongan, ethnic, religious,

race and inter-group tensions.

Sarekat Islam Islamic Union, the organisation originally founded in

1909 to support Indonesian Muslim traders and counter Chinese and Dutch dominance. It was one of the first mass-based organisations. In 1929 it became Partai

Sarekat Islam Indonesia (PSII).

senat mahasiswa student senate.

SK028 Surat Keputusan 028/U/1974, the decision issued by

Minister of Education and Culture Sjarif Thajeb in the aftermath of the Malari Affair which aimed to curtail

student political activity.

SKS Sistem Kredit Semester, Semester Credit System.

SMID Solidaritas Mahasiswa Indonesia untuk Demokrasi,

Indonesian Students' Solidarity for Democracy.

SMPT

Senat Mahasiswa Perguruan Tinggi, University Student
Senate, the policy introduced by Minister of Education
and Culture Fuad Hassan in 1990 in response to student
protests against NKK/BKK policy and the name of the
university-level student representative body under this
policy.

state

an 'amalgam of social, political, ideological and
economic elements' which has a concrete form in the
state apparatus (the coercive, judicial and bureaucratic
arms of the state).

Stovia School Tot Opleiding van Inlandesche Artsen, the colonial-era medical college in Batavia.

STT Surat Tanda Terdaftar, Certificate of Registration, the publication license required by all student publications.

student the Dutch term used to describe those studying in

Sumpah Pemuda

Supersemar

text

**TMII** 

Tri Koro Dharmo

universities and institutions of higher education outside of the Indies.

the Youth Pledge made at the Second Youth Congress in 1928: one nation, one homeland, one language.

Surat Perintah Sebelas Maret, the Order of March Eleven, the directive issued by Sukarno in 1966 which gave General Suharto the authority to restore order.

a unit of meaning of varying length, which incorporates written and/or visual elements and which has social significance for those who see, read or hear it; a continuous process of meaning-making, defined by the choices that speakers and writers make from the overall linguistic system and the ways in which readers or listeners interpret these choices.

Taman Mini Indonesia Indah, Beautiful Indonesia in Miniature Park.

Three Noble Ideals, the association for Javanese students formed in Batavia in 1915, later renamed Jong Java.

Tridharma Perguruan Tinggi Trifold Mission of Institutions of Higher Education: education, research and service to society.

Tritura Tri Tuntutan Rakyat, Three People's Demands: dissolve

the PKI, replace the cabinet and reduce prices.

turun ke bawah going down among the masses, the PKI-sponsored

program in which urban artists and activists were placed

in rural areas during the 1950s and 1960s.

and Culture Nugroho Notosusanto in 1983.