

Acknowledgments

Alhamdulillah, all praises due to Allah, I can finally complete this study and my study. I would like to acknowledge several people in Australia and Indonesia for the contribution they made to this study. I would also like to apologise to anyone whom I forget to mention here.

First of all, my thanks go to the Australian government who offered me sponsorship through Australian Development Scholarship (ADS) for conducting my study. I am grateful to Australian government for this funding. Without this funding, it would not have been financially possible for me to come to study at The Australian National University. I am also grateful for the kind assistance I received from the AusAid liaison officers at ANU: Carol Laslett, Louise Jackson, Debra Reed, Anthony Bowden, and Stephanie Black, thank you all very much.

I owe great debt to Professor James J. Fox who has been my principal supervisor since I began my studies in the Department of Anthropology, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University. I would like to thank him for his considerable assistance at important moments of my study. Before studying in Australia, I met him first time at the Anthropology Conference at the University of Udayana, Bali. I remember that at that time, even though I never met him before, he seemed to me like a *guru* who is always interested in his *murid's* study. I cannot forget that he was the first professor in Australia who gave me a strong recommendation before formally applying for an ADS Scholarship and studying at the Australian National University. As my principal supervisor he even visited me during my fieldwork in Kediri. His guidance has continued even while he was on leave at Harvard University. He is like a father who always cares for his children.

My Co-Supervisor on this work, Prof. Kathryn Robinson, has also been very helpful to me in many respects. She initiated several informal meeting and discussion before I presented my paper at the International Conference at The National University of Singapore (NUS). During this informal discussion, I received invaluable feed back from her and from other participants. The discussion with her before and after midterm seminar has shaped my idea about *Majlis Dhikr* groups in Indonesia. She also helped me with information regarding literature and seminars which are closely related to my field. I would like to express my thanks to *Ibu Kathy*.

In addition to Professor Fox and Professor Robinson, my advisor on this work, Prof. Virginia Hooker (*Mbak Nia*), has been very helpful to me. I would like

to express my thanks for her patience and attention. Her deep understanding of Indonesian Islam and Indonesian Islamic texts has enriched my perspective of the subject. She not only provided me with references which are related to my subject but also sent them to my mail box. I also thank my advisor Dr Greg Fealy for his assistance especially in dealing with Indonesian terms and providing me with literature on Islam.

There are too many people in Kediri to whom I am indebted. Without their willingness to spare their time and to share their perceptions with me, it would not have been possible for me to complete my study. I express my thanks to the family of *Pak* Mahmud and *Ibu* Mahmud, especially *Mbak* Ati and *Mas* Mughni, who have introduced me to *Pesantren* Jampes, Kediri. My deep thanks go to friendly people such as *Gus* Latif Muhammad (the leader of *Ihsāniyyat* group), *Kyai* Misbah (the senior *kyai* in Jampes), *Kyai* Zainuddin (the vice leader of the *Wāhidiyat* group), *Kyai* Saiful (from the *Dhikr al-Ghāfilīn* group), and *Gus* Fahri Fauzi (the leader of the *Dhikr al-Ghāfilīn* group) for their deep understanding of Islamic ritual. These persons are busy persons with their students, family and *ummat*; however they generously shared their time and ideas with me and enthusiastically answered my questions.

My thanks also go to those who have always been kind and willing to help me in the department of Anthropology: Prof. Mark Mosko, as the head of department; Ben Cauchi, the late Leon Nolan and Chris Thomson who were always willing to help with IT problems; Fritha Jones, Penelope Judd and Ann Buller who were really kind and helpful and shared their warm friendship; and the administrator of the department, Fay Castles who was always been lovely and kind.

I also thank to Drs. Syu'aib Mallombasi, the Director of the State of Islamic Studies (STAIN) Kendari, Southeast Sulawesi who has given permission me to leave my duties as a lecturer. He and his family gave me a warm place when I firstly came to Kendari and supported me to study abroad.

To my friends in the Anthropology department, Lintje Pelu, Joice, Murni Mahmud, Jayne Curnow, Angie Baxley, Shu Ling, Joy Bai, Traci Smith, Gilly, Monika Doxey, Ann Thararat, Ana Dragojlovic, Adelyn Lim, Jayne Munro, Nanlai Cao, Warren Mayes, Yasir Alimi and many others, thanks for your warm friendship. I specially thank to Garry Kildea for his patience in teaching me how to make a good film shot.

To my friends in Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) in Canberra, *Mbak* Wahidah, *Pak* Kacung Marijan, *Mas* Zahrul and *Mbak* Mellani, *Mas* Taufik and *Mbak* Rosa, *Mas* Eko and Ida, *Kang* Lili and Ana, Nia and Hilmi, *Pak* Umar and Ijah, Farid and Eva, *Pak* and *Bu* Marfuddin, Sita and Mega, Ulfa and Rahman, *Pak* Imam Rafi'i, thanks for being together in *khataman* and *ratiban*. Also for my friends

in NU in Melbourne, Tony Indranada, Su'aidi, Masdar Hilmi, Aliformen, in Brisbane, *Pak* Suseno Hadi, in Perth *Mas* Gaffar Abdulkarim, in Wollongong, *Shaikh* Nadirsyah Hosen thanks for being together in introducing moderate Islam of Nahdlatul Ulama in Australia.

Thanks also to my brothers and sisters: Abid, Enik Amiroh, Qibtiyah thanks for all your support. My deepest gratitude goes to Bapak Hasyim Muzadi and Ibu Mutammimah for their prayers during my difficult times.

My beloved wife, Yuni Arovah, has supported me during my studies in Canberra. She has given me enormous power to complete my studies. I realise how difficult her life in Australia has been with two kids and a new baby born in Canberra during my final period of study. My three little sweeties: Balya Muhammad Izzat, Taliah Aqilah Farnaz, and Muhammad Haikal Makarim have been a great inspiration for me during my study in Canberra. I dedicated my work to them.

Finally, my parents, *Abah* and *Umi*, and *Mbah* have given their love and support to me when I have faced difficulties in my study. I dedicate this work to them. Thank you all for praying for me.