Development in Kranggan as Chinese District in Yogyakarta, Indonesia

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Abstract

Yogyakarta is one of the well-known multicultural city in Indonesia. One of the prominent districts is Chinese district, often called Pecinan district, has had arisen in Yogyakarta as economic activity center, especially during Dutch Colonial period. This paper aiming to identify the Pecinan districts development and their history in Yogyakarta from historical analysis using synchronic and diachronic methods, looking from some aspects such as geographic, economic, and politic. Kranggan district and Kranggan market as economic activity center become case study of this research. The methods used in this research are observation, interview, and literature methods, then analyze it with descriptive and visual mapping methods. Analysis divided into macro analysis and micro analysis. Conclusion from macro analysis area Kranggan is acted as secondary economic center to spread out the Chinese people from downtown by Dutch Colony and located in one axis with the Chinese districts in downtown area. From micro analysis, Kranggan district have the basic Chinese district elements, such as temple, market, residential and shop houses with Dutch Colony touch in building mass and facade.

Keywords: Chinese District, Kranggan, History, Urban Development, Historical Analysis

1. Introduction

The development of Chinese society in Indonesia perhaps had been going since The Kingdom/Sultanate of Yogyakarta established around the 1700s. It shown by the existence of the Chinese captain worked for The Dutch East Indies Government named To In, who led the Mataram territory area. The pattern of the Chinese districts in Yogyakarta is considered different than any other Chinese district in Java with centered pattern in one area, but spreading around Malioboro's downtown area. There were 9 Chinese districts called wijken and onderwijken led by a district's captain (wijkmeester). Due to the excessive irregular growth area of Chinese settlements, in 1901 the East Indies government under J.A. Ament decided to make new regulation regaring the expansion and prohibition of Chinese settlement area in Yogyakarta. The new districts consist of 6 wijken (districts) and 10 onderwijken (subdistricts). The list of the districts and the subdistrictlist are:

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(The publisher will insert here: received, accepted)
Table 1. Chinese Districts Division in Yogyakarta in 1901

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District (Wijken)</th>
<th>Subdistrict (Onderwijken)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wijken A</td>
<td>Ketandan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lor Pasar</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Klingan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Menduran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wijken B</td>
<td>Gandekan</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Malioboro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wijken C</td>
<td>Tugu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wijken D</td>
<td>Kranggan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wijken E</td>
<td>Ngabean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wijken F</td>
<td>Gondomanan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kranggan itself is located in the southwest of Tugu Monument (one of the famous landmark in Yogyakarta). The boundaries of Kranggan area at that time were Magelang street on the west side, Blunyah street (now A.M. Sangaji street) on the east, Diponegoro street on the south side, and the north side of Kranggan street (now Pakuningratan street).

This research tried to identify the development of Chinese districts in Yogyakarta until the establishment of Kranggan area as one of the newest Chinese district in the city. The research purpose is to understand the context of Kranggan area for its spatial plan and design development consideration. Some previous research about the development Chinese district and society in Java Island has been done, especially the development of Chinese district in north coast cities of Java such as Semarang, Cirebon, Jepara, Tegal, etc by Widodo (1996) and Zahnd (2008), identification of Chinese architecture and its urban development by Pratiwo (2010), and the development of Chinese society in Yogyakarta analyzed from social and historical aspect by Prasetyo (2015). Those previous research were used as supporting data for this paper.

The methods for this research were using historical analysis by synchronic and diachronic methods, looking from some aspects such as geographic, economic, and politic. Kranggan district and Kranggan market as economic activity center become case study of this research. The methods used in this research are observation and interview as primary source and literature studies as secondary source, then analyzed it with descriptive and visual mapping methods. Analysis divided into macro analysis with Chinese districts in Yogyakarta city as its scope area and micro analysis with Kranggan area.

2. Urban Development in Kranggan Area

In general, Chinese district’s character can be explained by looking at two aspects, such as geographic and economic aspect. In geographic aspect, Most of the Chinese community lives in South East Asia and especially in Java, were coming from two province in South China, Fujian and Guangdong. The long coastline in both province is quite similar with north coast cities of Java. Chinese community are likely to move the basic spatial plan they had in South China’s port area to the north coast cities of Java. The early Chinese area pattern in South East Asia are found have some similarities with several lower town areas close to the coastlines and river of coastal cities in Fujian (Widodo, 1996).

![Fig.1. Comparison between Fujian, Guangdong, and Java coastline](commons.wikimedia.org, 2009)
The main elements of Chinese district are the presence of temple, market, harbor, and main road axis perpendicular to its coastline. The shifting coastline jutting increasingly into the sea from time to time makes the location of the temple is now increasingly away from the shoreline.

From economic aspect, it could be seen from perspective such as the Chinese usually act as intermediary trader, between the indigenous agricultural producers to the European wholesalers, and as retailers. It determines one of the Chinese district's character, which is often located between the indigenous and European area (Europeesche Wijk). In addition, the Chinese district is usually located close to the traditional market as trade place and exchange the daily lives retail goods. It was until the 1940s Chinese district took a significant role in the cities spatial plan in Java.

Morphologically, the development and growth of Chinese district in Yogyakarta were centered in government center and main transportation access. The development before kranggan area established were centered around Yogyakarta palace named Kraton. It’s happened because of the dependence to Kraton Yogyakarta area as both Moslem Mataram Kingdom and East Indies government center and downtown area. The Kingdom then provide a new place for the Chinese community, known as Kranggan. The name of Kranggan comes from word “rangga”, one of the Kraton official in Dutch Colonial Era with the full name Tumenggung Rangga Pawirasantika. There were special policy and privileged for some of the well behaved Chinese community to occupy Kranggan area. The morphological pattern and chronological timeline of Chinatown development are shown with the following drawings and diagrams:

![Chinese District Development Timeline in Yogyakarta](image-url)
3. Kranggan as Chinese District

The Main Elements and Typical Characteristics of Chinese districts are:

1. Temple: In ancient terms is called “bio” or “miao”. Temple is a sign of the community’s presence and the prosperity of Chinese society. In addition to serving as a place of worship, Temple also plays a role in the interests of society, such as social work and organization.

2. Market: Related to the Chinese profession as traders in economic sector, the Chinese district is generally close to traditional markets, as a place of buying and selling the daily retail goods.

3. Shop houses (ruko): Shop houses is one of chine district distinct character and become an ingenious solution to solve the density problem by mixed use function. Shop house combines business areas downstairs and residential areas upstairs.

4. Residential (landed house): Generally it is a single-storey closed unit, could be large or small, with all open spaces facing the direction on the main or secondary yard. The window/opening is minimized for security purpose at that time.

Construction of shop houses and landed houses related to the Chinese geomancy called Fengshui. The streets of Chinese district in the past were residential streets that were just enough to pass carts from 2 directions only. The temple's placement is generally at the end of the street, with the aim of being easily seen by anyone who passes the road. Kranggan area applies geometric principles, where green space is virtually non-existent. Geometric principle is applied for area structure through an orthogonal grid pattern in a residential area that exhibits highly efficient thoughts, due to the high population density.

The establishment of Kranggan area as Chinese district is marked by the construction of Poncowinatan Temple in 1887. Another important element in Chinatown area is market. Kranggan market has long been
established since Tumenggung Rangga Prawirasantika who pioneered the development of the region. The market was originally the center of the economy and commerce of indigenous society in selling agricultural cultivation and plantation. Once established as a Chinese district, the market becomes one of the important elements of Chinatown, with its position facing the temple of Poncowinatan as a religious ritual place for Chinese community of Confucius and Buddhism.

Kranggan area placed near Tugu landmark and consists of Diponegoro street, Poncowinatan street, and Kranggan street with straight road form three rows back. The area length limited between Magelang street and A.M Sangaji street. Kranggan Chinese district consists of:

1. the economic area of shophouses and the Kranggan market on Jl Diponegoro and Poncowinatan streets,
2. Chinese temple on Poncowinatan Street, and
3. Some residential areas on Poncowinatan street and Kranggan street.

The economy activities in Kranggan mostly in Diponegoro and Poncowinatan streets and is centered on the Kranggan market. The building mass shaped as shophouses along the street. While the temple is on the Poncowinatan street facing south and back to the north, in accordance to Chinese cosmology with facing water (river or sea) and back to the mountain. Poncowinatan temple turned its back to Mount Merapi in the north and facing north in the form of the South Sea (Indian Ocean). It was made so because the mountain is able to block the wind that can drive away luck or blessing and the flow of water (sea) can bring good luck. The residential area’s house typology is a blend of Chinese and Indisch style. It can be seen from the the roof shape that is mostly still shaped roof of China but with rigid Indisch geometries.

![Fig. 4. The Elements and Streetscapes of Kranggan Area](image-url)
4. Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, it can be conclude that the geography, economic, and politic aspect influenced the development of Chinese districts in Yogyakarta. From macro analysis, it’s shown that area Kranggan is acted as secondary economic center to spread out the Chinese population from downtown by both Kraton Kingdom and Dutch Colony, located in one axis with the Chinese districts in downtown area. From micro analysis, Kranggan district built based on Chinese geomancy, and have the basic Chinese district elements, such as temple, market, residential and shop houses with Dutch Colony touch in building mass and facade.

From this research, it can be concluded that the establishment of Kranggan area were still influenced by Dutch Colony political policies and Kraton grants. Kranggan area still have all the basic elements of Chinese district. The spatial planning and design for the development Kranggan area should consider its concept, the particular elements, and the existing streetscape and land uses within the area.

References