THE MALAYSIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF SINGAPORE’S LAND RECLAMATION ISSUE: UNDERSTANDING AGENDA SETTING & SECURITISATION

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the work in this project paper is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged.

21 April 2003

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the correlation between media agenda, government agenda and public agenda; hence the existence of Agenda Setting theory in practice. When Singapore announced its land reclamation plans, immediate concerns regarding the national interests of both Singapore and Malaysia sparked off another set of heated debate in the media specifically in securitising the issue, thereby proving the existence of securitisation proposed in the Constructivist paradigm of International Relations. The role of the Malaysian media was in scrutiny as reports inevitably raised the level of tension and suspicion of the public in both countries. This study features analysis of articles pertaining to the issue which received heightened attention during March-April 2002. This study stresses the importance of examining the coverage made by the Malaysian media, as it is the source of interpretation, expression and information on behalf of the state which will endure the consequences of the land reclamation plans. This study concludes with findings that indicate the vital presence of both Agenda Setting and Securitisisation in the discussion of the land reclamation issue through the Malaysian media as an impetus to further theoretical research of the convergence of both International Relations and Communications in epistemological discussions.
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