


# Traces of trading space: Bungeng port and the horse trading system in Jeneponto 1984-2023

Selfa 

Universitas Negeri Makassar  
[selfaselfa721@gmail.com](mailto:selfaselfa721@gmail.com)

Ahmadin 

Universitas Negeri Makassar  
[ahmadin@unm.ac.id](mailto:ahmadin@unm.ac.id)

Rifal 

Universitas Negeri Makassar  
[rifalmattirodeceng@unm.ac.id](mailto:rifalmattirodeceng@unm.ac.id)

La Malihu 

Universitas Negeri Makassar  
[lamalihu@unm.ac.id](mailto:lamalihu@unm.ac.id)

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## Abstract

Bungeng Port is a center of horse trading activities, which plays a vital role in connecting Jeneponto with other regions. This study aims to determine the background of horse trading in Bungeng Port, the spatial traces of horse trading development, and the impact of horse trading on the regional economy. This study uses a qualitative approach with historical methods involving heuristics, criticism, interpretation, and historiography. Data collection was conducted through observation, interviews, and documentation. The results show that the background of horse trading is influenced by natural environmental factors, food needs, transportation, land cultivation, employment opportunities, and export-import relations between regions. Jeneponto Regency, as a center of horse trading, has become a major supplier of horses because Bungeng Port functions as a connecting space for inter-island trade. The development of horse trading is also driven by the needs of the local community, and this trade has a positive impact on the economy, increasing the trade and livestock sectors, and strengthening economic relations between Jeneponto Regency and other regions.

## Abstrak

*Pelabuhan Bungeng merupakan pusat kegiatan perdagangan kuda, yang memiliki peran penting dalam menghubungkan Jeneponto dengan daerah lain. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui latar belakang perdagangan kuda di Pelabuhan Bungeng, jejak ruang perkembangan perdagangan kuda, dan dampak perdagangan kuda terhadap perekonomian daerah. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode historis yang melibatkan tahapan heuristik, kritik, interpretasi, dan historiografi. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui observasi, wawancara, dan dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa latar belakang perdagangan kuda dipengaruhi oleh faktor lingkungan alam, kebutuhan pangan, alat transportasi, pengolahan lahan, kesempatan kerja, dan hubungan ekspor-impor antar daerah. Kabupaten Jeneponto, sebagai pusat perdagangan kuda, telah menjadi pemasok utama kuda karena Pelabuhan Bungeng yang berfungsi sebagai ruang penghubung perdagangan antar pulau. Perkembangan perdagangan kuda juga didorong oleh kebutuhan masyarakat setempat, dan perdagangan ini memberikan dampak positif pada perekonomian, meningkatkan sektor perdagangan, peternakan, dan memperkuat hubungan ekonomi antara Kabupaten Jeneponto dengan daerah lain..*

## Keywords

trading space; Bungeng port; horse; trading system; Jeneponto

# 1. Introduction

Food security in Indonesia is an important issue that affects economic, social and political stability. As an archipelago (Nurhemi, 2014), Indonesia faces great challenges in meeting food needs, especially in isolated areas. One way to overcome this challenge is through inter-island trade, which helps fulfill food needs in various regions. One commodity that plays an important role in this is horse livestock, especially in Jeneponto District, which has become the largest horse trading center in South Sulawesi.

The demand for horse livestock in Jeneponto District is very high, as horses have a significant role in the lives of local people. Horses are used as a means of transportation, plowing agricultural land, as well as a source of meat consumption. The people of Jeneponto are very fond of consuming horse meat, especially in celebration events, such as weddings and circumcisions (Astati, 2024). One of the most popular horse meat preparations is *Gantala* (Lestari, 2022), which is cooked in a simple way using salt and turmeric. The society belief that horse meat can cure diseases also drives the demand for horses.

Data from the Livestock Service Office of South Sulawesi Province shows that in 2018, Jeneponto District had the highest horse population compared to other districts in South Sulawesi. This high horse population reflects the high demand for this commodity, both for consumption, transportation, and as a land plow. According to Port statistics in 2012, 10,290 horses were unloaded at Bungeng Port, which is one of the main centers of horse trade in the area. Although the number of horses available in Jeneponto fluctuates, the inter-island trade remains a solution to meet the demand for horses in the area.

The horse trade in Jeneponto Regency also plays an important role in opening up economic opportunities for local communities. Bungeng Port, as the entry and exit point of the trade, not only supports horse trading activities, but also creates job opportunities for many people, such as stevedores and transportation entrepreneurs (Rahman, 2019). The port facilitated the flow of horse trade between islands, which in turn helped connect Jeneponto with the rest of Indonesia, expanding markets and boosting the local economy.

In addition, the horse trade in Jeneponto District has also created an extensive trade network between horse-producing islands, such as East Nusa Tenggara and West Nusa Tenggara. Horses originating from these areas are traded through Bungeng Port and fulfill the high demand for horses in Jeneponto District. This shows the importance of inter-island trade in maintaining the availability and stability of equine livestock supply, which has a significant impact on the regional economy (Loizou, 2019).

The phenomenon of horse trade in Jeneponto District shows that it has great potential as a center for horse trade. With the increasing demand for this commodity, it is important to understand more about the factors that drive horse trade, its distribution patterns, and its impact on the local economy. This research is important to further explore how the horse trade in Jeneponto has developed and contributed to the welfare of the community and the local economy.

## 2. Literature Review

Historically, horses have played an important role in various aspects of people's lives, such as transportation, agriculture, and warfare. In South Sulawesi, especially in Jeneponto District, the horse trade has developed into one of the main economic sectors that sustain people's lives (Anwar, 2007). This trade not only includes buying and selling transactions in local markets, but also involves a wider trade network, including interprovincial distribution and exports to other regions in

Indonesia (A. Ahmadin, 2006). In recent decades, technological developments, changes in trade policy and global market dynamics have affected the way the horse trade is conducted, both technically and administratively (Syahrir et al., 2022). This study will explore how the horse trade in Jeneponto Regency has evolved, and the factors that have influenced it, such as the role of government, trade policy, and innovations in livestock technology.

Bungeng Port, located in Bungeng Village, Batang Sub-district, Jeneponto District, is one of the small but strategic ports in South Sulawesi that serves as a distribution center for the horse trade. In maritime studies, ports are often regarded as economic gateways that connect inland areas with wider markets, both regionally and nationally. Bungeng Port has long been an important node in the horse trade network in the region, given its strategic location and proximity to horse farming centers in Jeneponto. Port infrastructure, including docks, storage facilities and transportation access, plays a key role in the efficiency and smoothness of trade (Anggeranika, 2023). At Bungeng Port, horse loading and unloading activities are carried out with special procedures to ensure animal health and safety, as well as maintaining the quality of horses to be traded. In addition, the port is also equipped with facilities for animal quarantine, which is an important requirement in the horse trade.

Tolo Animal Market, located in Tolo Village, Kelara Sub-district, Jeneponto District, South Sulawesi, is a specialized animal market that focuses on the sale of horses. Established by the Jeneponto district government in the 1980s, the market has an area of about 10,000 square meters (125 x 80 meters) and can accommodate up to 1,000 horses. However, this capacity is often insufficient as many traders bring livestock that must still be housed outside the market area. Based on the 2015 Jeneponto District Government Regulation, the market location is in accordance with the local General Spatial Plan (RUTR) and is equipped with a management office that is supervised daily by officers from the Livestock Service Office and the Regional Revenue Office. The market facilities also include a parking area for public vehicles as well as a special area for loading and unloading horse livestock. In addition, the physical building of the market and animal market infrastructure (quarantine pens, pens based on age/sex and measuring instruments/weighing scales) in the market are not adequate, with only an open field for horses to be sold (Indah, 2024).

### 3. Method

The research method used by researchers in writing this history is the research method according to Kuntowijoyo. The stages of historical research according to Kuntowijoyo have four stages, namely heuristics (source collection), verification (source criticism / source validity), source criticism, interpretation (interpretation) and historiography (historical writing) (Kuntowijoyo, 2005).

1. Heuristics or source collection is the initial stage in the historical method which is directed at exploring, searching and collecting historical facts related to the problem under study (Sanur et al., 2024). Heuristic activities are focused on literature review research and field research. Such as searching and collecting historical sources such as books and interviews related to the development of Bungeng Port and the development of loading and unloading of goods.
2. Source Criticism, in which researchers assess or criticize the sources that have been obtained, both in the form of external criticism and internal criticism (M. Ahmadin, 2022). External criticism aims to obtain authentic data, while internal criticism is used to print whether the content obtained or contained from the data source is valid or not, the purpose of which is to determine the validity and truth of the source. External criticism is the step of examining or testing whether the documents or historical sources obtained are authentic or original, intact, or have undergone many changes, maybe even fake. External criticism is a way of verifying or examining the “outside” aspects of historical sources. Before all successful testimonies by historians can be used to reconstruct the past, strict checks must first be made. The

function and external criticism examines historical sources on the basis of upholding as far as possible the authenticity and integrity of the source (Nilamsari, 2014). While internal criticism is an emphasis on the content of the source, this internal criticism also tests the credibility of a source. Verification in historical research using philological materials, especially external criticism can be taken as in the historical method, while internal criticism in philology is often called text criticism, namely by comparing texts that can be reached (Hidayat, 2020).

3. Interpretation, namely the interpretation of historical facts obtained in the form of an explanation of these facts as objectively as possible. This can be done by knowing the characteristics of civilization, or in other words, the actual general conditions using critical reasoning, so that a scientific conclusion or historical picture is found (Herlina, 2020).
4. Historiography, namely the final stage in historical research, namely historiography or historical writing. Writing history is reconstructing what has happened in the form of a historical story as a whole according to the sequence of events. According to Hexter, the process of collecting historical evidence, editing historical sources, using historical thinking and imagination, and so on is a process that cannot be separated from historiography (Agustian, 2021).

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 The Beginning of the Horse Trade at Bungeng Harbor

Horse trade in Jeneponto Regency, especially through Bungeng Port, was influenced by natural environmental, socio-cultural, and economic factors. Naturally, the fertile grasslands in Binamu, Tamalatea, and Arungkeke Districts provide ideal fodder for horses, with a stable climate supporting their breeding. From a socio-cultural perspective, the high demand for horses, both for transportation and meat consumption, drives significant demand, especially in traditional events (Setiawan, 2023). Economically, horse trade in Jeneponto also plays a role in the local economy, with this area functioning as a hub for livestock imports and exports through Bungeng Port (Purwaka, 1993).

In 1864, the Dutch East Indies Government began to develop a shipping network connecting various ports in Indonesia, providing financial support and assigning W. Cores de Fries to open shipping routes between the islands of Java, Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Nusa Tenggara, and Maluku (Purwaka, 1993). This voyage was then contracted to the Dutch shipping company, *Nederlandsch-Indie Stoomvaart Maattscapij*, which accelerated the distribution of goods between islands, including horses. In Jeneponto Regency, horses became one of the main commodities traded, with supplies coming from East Nusa Tenggara, West Nusa Tenggara, and Maluku. The high demand for horse meat encouraged local people to trade between islands, especially to the East Nusa Tenggara and West Nusa Tenggara regions.

Horse traders in Jeneponto used various shipping routes, such as Jeneponto-Kupang, Jeneponto-Flores, and Jeneponto-Sumba, which took varying travel times, ranging from one day to more than three days of sea travel. Traders also used traditional terms to measure travel time, such as "1 day 1 night" which is equivalent to 24 hours of travel. Bungeng Harbor in Jeneponto became the center of horse trading, with ships coming from various regions carrying goods such as livestock, wood, and other basic necessities. The large number of ships transporting horses to Bungeng Harbor reflects the importance of this harbor as a major transit point for inter-island trade. The shipping activities carried out by these horse traders were greatly influenced by weather conditions, especially strong westerly winds, which sometimes forced ships to take shelter on small islands such as Kayuadi Island and Bonerate before continuing their journey.

The pattern of horse procurement in Jeneponto Regency involves two main strategies, namely direct purchase and through intermediaries. Direct purchase takes longer because traders have to go down to the community in the mountainous areas of East Nusa Tenggara and West Nusa Tenggara, but the price is cheaper. Meanwhile, purchasing through intermediaries,

namely collectors, is more time efficient, although the price of the horse is higher. Horse purchases are limited to stallions, because female horses are used for breeding. The administrative process of purchasing and shipping horses involves taking care of recommendation letters from farms to sailing approval letters for shipment. After arriving at Bungeng Port, horses are distributed to owners or quarantine places using trucks or herded. Tolo Animal Market in Kelara District is the largest marketing center for horses, with transactions involving taking care of Livestock Release Certificates. Horse trade in Jeneponto also extends outside the district, such as Bantaeng and Bulukumba, with most horses being processed into food.

### **3.2 The Development of Horse Trading in Jeneponto Regency**

Horse trading in Jeneponto Regency has grown rapidly since the 19th century, starting in the 1800s in the Tanging Mallasoro area through a man known as Tuan Pakoko. Horses brought by the Dutch developed rapidly in Jeneponto Regency and its surroundings, used for various needs such as transportation, plowing land, and food processing. Over time, the need for horses has increased, especially in Jeneponto Regency, which has also driven the development of the horse population in the area. Based on data from the Animal Husbandry Division of the Jeneponto Regency Regional Agriculture Service, in 2003 the horse population was recorded at 18,156, but experienced a slight decrease to 18,031 in 2004. However, the horse population began to experience a significant increase the following year, peaking in 2008 with 23,137, although in 2009 it decreased again to 23,038. In the period 2017 to 2022, the horse population in Jeneponto Regency experienced quite significant fluctuations. In 2017, the number of horses reached its highest number of 88,519, but then dropped drastically to 72,847 in 2018 and 70,200 in 2019. This decline was caused by high demand from the community, problems with suboptimal reproductive management, and challenges such as disease outbreaks. However, starting in 2020, the horse population showed signs of recovery with a gradually increasing number, reaching 75,390 in 2022. Although it has not returned to the highest number in 2017, this recovery trend reflects the community's efforts to improve horse maintenance and management, as well as better stability in market demand.

### **3.3 The Impact of Horse Trading on the Economy in Jeneponto Regency**

Horse trading in Jeneponto Regency, which has been going on for a long time, has had a significant impact on both the community and the government. As the center of horse trading in South Sulawesi, Jeneponto encourages people to trade between islands, citing basic needs such as food, transportation, and rice field workers. Horse traders take advantage of this opportunity by buying horses in areas such as Moa, Sumba, Kupang, Flores, and Bima, where horse prices are cheaper than the price of native Jeneponto horses. This provides great profit in a single trade. However, this trade is not without risk. Several traders experienced major losses due to fraud in the Kupang area, which caused them to fail to get horses and were forced to go into debt. In addition, horse trading is also a family business for several traders, such as continuing their father's business by expanding horse trading activities and having ships to support their business.

From the government's perspective, horse trading also makes an important contribution to the regional economy through Regional Original Income (Indonesian, PAD). This trade is regulated by regional regulations that impose taxes and levies on horse trading activities, most of which flow to the Jeneponto Regency Agriculture Service. For example, based on the physical and financial realization report of the Jeneponto Regency APBD in 2014, levies from livestock services and businesses reached Rp. 150,000,000, which played a major role in increasing regional PAD. Taxes and levies imposed on the horse trading sector also support regional development and community welfare, in accordance with the purpose of taxes as a source of financing for state development. In addition, levies on slaughterhouses in Jeneponto Regency, which include animal health checks, also contribute to the local economy by providing facilities that support the livestock trade

and distribution process.

## 4. Conclusion

Horse trade in Jeneponto Regency shows dynamics influenced by various factors, such as season, climate, and the needs of the local community. Season and weather factors have a major influence on merchant shipping using wooden ships to transport horses between islands through Bungeng Port. The community's need for horse livestock is very high, considering that horses are used as a means of transportation, plowing land, and meat consumption which is popular in the area. In addition, the difficulty in getting a job encourages many people to get involved in the horse trade, which offers quite large profits. The development of the horse trade in Jeneponto Regency is also influenced by fluctuations in the number of existing horse populations. In 2017, the horse population reached 88,519, but decreased in 2018 to 72,847, which was influenced by the level of market demand. This shows that the inter-island horse trade is greatly influenced by the community's need for horses. Bungeng Port plays an important role in supporting this horse trade, because it is a connecting point between regions, while also creating job opportunities for the local community. With this port, traders no longer experience difficulties in carrying out their economic activities. Overall, horse trading in Jeneponto Regency has a positive impact on the local economy, improving the livestock and trade sectors, and strengthening economic relations between regions.

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