A New Theory of Malaysian Corporatism – A Prologue for a ‘Different’ Methodology

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Abstract

In this paper I outline a rationale for a general methodology that will guide my research on Malaysia Inc and Malaysian Corporatism. The discussion in this paper will serve as a starting point in entering into the specific methodology to come up with a new theory of Malaysian Corporatism – which will be outlined in another paper. For this paper I will deal with the background of my methodology mainly, with a critique of the traditional and conventional way of theory building; and this critique will pave the way for the introduction of the general methodology of this research. This paper therefore serves as a prologue to a detailed description of a methodology that will lead to the New Theory of Malaysian Corporatism.

Keyword: Empirical research, theory building, theory testing

1. Introduction

This paper elaborates the introductory parts of the methodological portion of my intended research proposal concerning the issue/topic of Malaysian Corporatism. Initially I decide that this proposal will be the basis for FRGS (Fundamental Research Grant Scheme) or ERGS (Exploratory Research Grant Scheme) and even the LRGS (Long-Run Research Grant Scheme)¹. I have decided to write this paper because the FRGS application form is rather restrictive when one writes long explanations. Many issues that cannot be discussed at length in the research

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¹ At this stage I am thinking that I will apply in the first instance the FRGS, and then in the second instance the ERGS and other grants.