1.1 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Corruption is one of the most complicated issues that have reached plague proportions in past as well as present societies. From various aspects, it proves to be a multifaceted and complex phenomenon with far reaching negative implications for human life. It is generally admitted that corruption has been wrought by the hands of mankind and involves human suffering in both developed and developing countries with varying degrees. Almost all human societies and World religions condemn corruption. The Messengers of God, the religious leaders and reformers have all given the issue much attention, and tried their best to eradicate it, promote honesty and transparency, and foster good attitudes.

It is common in social scientists works on corruption that throughout almost all periods of human history from the days of Ancient Egypt to contemporary China and all over the globe from Athens to Rome to Arabia, countries with different social, religious, political, and economic systems have witnessed situations where public interest, work ethics, and power have been deliberately violated and abused for enrichment and prestige through the acquisition and retention of power. Such a deliberate violation has caused disintegration, instability, conflict, and social injustice in almost all societies where corruption has prevailed. Moreover, the people have suffered untold injuries including their right to live in a transparent society, good government, and honest social relations.

In the modern age, the issue of corruption has increasingly been receiving momentous attention from social scientists, particularly economists, sociologists, political scientists, and legislators. World institutions and organizations, such as the
World Bank (WB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and specialized agencies and anti-corruption bodies at the international and country levels such as Transparency International (TI) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) pay special and regular attention to corruption in both its theoretical-empirical and technical aspects, particularly in recent years.

Despite the difficulties in disclosing corrupt acts and carrying out research on corruption, numerous verbal as well as written religious teachings, sayings of learned personalities and wise people, theoretical and empirical works have all covered certain aspects of corruption with varying degrees of emphasis. A review of the available literature, associated with a follow-up of the ways and means of addressing the subject would suggest that corruption has gone through cycles in its forms, prevalence, control, and the attention being paid to it. The literature on corruption has been inconsistent in both focus and intensity. Furthermore, it became obvious that most of these contributions have been influenced by many factors notably the background of the author, the special historical, socio-cultural, and political contexts, and the purposes of the research.

These circumstances, among others, have made the phenomenon more complex and the attempt to approach it more challenging. Besides the sensitive nature of the study of corruption, one of its inherent characteristics is the fact that it is a complex phenomenon in terms of its causes and consequences, and in its exposure to be mostly studied as a multidisciplinary issue. The great amount of material on corruption could be
considered as challenging, for one might think that the issue has been addressed probably from all academic angles. Theoretical-conceptual and empirical arguments have been advanced, and much material on the subject is available. Besides, many prominent scholars have already tackled the question of corruption. Many well-established international, regional, and local institutions, organizations, and agencies, and even governments, have been committed to the process of analyzing and controlling corruption. Despite these concerted efforts, corruption has not disappeared from human societies. Therefore, a new study on corruption might be seen as merely a repetition of what has been said or written about corruption without adding nothing new. It might also be considered as a worthless effort that would contribute nothing towards the systematic understanding of corruption and/or enhancing the means for comprehensive and proper checking of it.

However, an adequate review of the literature on corruption, together with a careful observation and follow up of the activities on corruption and corrupt practices and attitudes, would suggest that a great deal is yet to be explored at the substantive, theoretical-conceptual, methodological, and applied levels.

Taking into account that the majority of the theoretical and empirical studies on corruption are economic and bureaucratic in nature on the one hand, and the sociopolitical studies of corruption are very limited in scope and most often very distanced in time on the other hand, an adequate sociological study that provides a scientific analysis of the nature and development of corruption as a social behavior is deemed necessary. The interpretative facet of such a study would explain the complex
aspects of corruption that are not readily comprehensible. It would also highlight the intended meanings of corrupt behaviors at the macro level focusing on the high rank corrupt practices involving governments, politicians, policymakers, and influential bureaucrats.

Scholars’ theoretical views on corruption reflect great differences and diversity. This variance could be attributed to their different academic backgrounds, religious and ideological affiliation, experience and interest, and also to the historical, political, and economic contexts. It is probably also due to the differences in the theoretical and conceptual approaches adopted in each discipline, the methodology espoused, and the vantage point from which the issue is addressed.

Due to these circumstances, an analytical, comparative, and critical approach to the main trends of theories, concepts, and methods used by different scholars is necessary in a sociological interpretative study on corruption.

Corruption studies generally lack theoretical support, and suffer from the vagueness and/or inaccuracy of their concepts. Another equally important drawback is their shortage of comprehensive frameworks that would embrace the often-left out dimensions. A review of the literature suggests that some scholars have treated the issue of corruption as the sideline for their main academic interest, whereas others have dealt with it merely as case studies. These studies are most likely centered around some practices in the past and not on the current situation. Traditional Muslim scholars, with the exception of Ibn Khaldun and Ibn Taimiyah, have been concerned with corruption mainly from a moral perspective and to a limited extent in relation with transactions.
Other scholars have devoted their time and effort to the study and checking of corruption like Prof. Syed Hussein Alatas, Prof. Arnold J. Heidenheimer, and Prof. James C. Scott. Although their works and views are perhaps the most authoritative in the field, they need continuous revision, updating, and support from others' findings to broaden their scope and develop some of their pertinent insights and concepts.

Through an overall assessment of the available material on corruption, one may realize that some works are influenced by Weber's views and writings particularly on rational bureaucracy. Meanwhile, others are inclined to functionalism. Reading these theoretical works, it is also very hard to find a clear view on the application of such sociological perspectives as Functionalism, Symbolic-Interactionism, or Conflict Theory on the issue of corruption. Moreover, the Islamic view on corruption is so far absent and the texts and teachings on corruption are not systematically elaborated. Thus, in this sociological interpretive study on corruption, explaining the different potentials that the formal sociological perspectives mentioned above provide to understand and analyze corruption is vital. In addition, a tentative Islamic approach to corruption drawn from the main Islamic sources, i.e., the Holy Qur'an and the Traditions of the Prophet Muhammad -p.b.u.h- is indispensable for Muslims and for future theoretical studies.

The great variety of views concerning the issue of definitions, types, forms, causes, consequences, and checking of corruption emanated from the different backgrounds of the researchers, different methods they applied, and different contexts and purposes of their studies. This leads inevitably to different conclusions and variance in the degree of accuracy and validity. Therefore, the critical problem that has emerged is
that some views and findings are coherent, while some others are in disharmony. For instance, some viewpoints consider corruption as harmful and dysfunctional, and others see corruption as functional in certain areas and circumstances. Furthermore, some scholars would restrict the above-mentioned theoretical and conceptual issues to certain aspects, forms, areas or factors, such as the moralistic, economic, political, and legalistic. Generally the reader and the researcher face difficulties in understanding the meaning of corruption, its categories, direct and indirect causes and consequences. Ultimately, there might have the disheartening feeling that corruption is too complicated and deeply rooted in human behavior and in the social fabric to eradicate. Such a feeling may have adverse effects when people become reluctant to even learn or know how corruption can be controlled.

The conflicting, inaccurate, vague, partial views on the theoretical and conceptual issues of corruption deserve an intensive investigation that uses the sociological theoretical approaches and methods to provide a systematic sociological interpretation with a view to embracing all possible dimensions and benefiting from views and sources. The irrefutable shortage of theories and conceptual backgrounds together with the complexity of the phenomenon and its challenging theoretical and applied nature, as well as the need for a sociological view point, have been the focal concerns of the first part of the present study. Given their vital importance for the flow of the discussion, these aspects deserve the space of three chapters allocated to them.

The applied part of this study addresses the issue of high-level corruption in the region of Southeast Asia in general and in Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, the
Philippines, and Indonesia in particular. Corruption is one of the most serious social problems that exist in almost all Southeast Asian societies in the past and present. It has inflicted heavy damage on almost all Southeast Asian nations particularly since the second half of the 20th century. The increase in the rate of unemployment, political and social instability, economic turmoil and government budget deficits, reluctance of foreign donors and investors, and bureaucratic inefficiency could, to some extent, be attributed to corruption. The struggle against corruption in the post-colonial era in Southeast Asia has been fluctuating and varying in intensity and resolution from one country to the other. However, in the late 1990’s and the beginning of the 21st century, the public, the media, the NGO’s in the region have seemingly become more sensitive to corruption and less tolerant of corrupt politicians and bureaucrats in power.

In the last two decades, particularly in recent years, many Southeast Asian capitals and main provinces, like Jakarta, Manila, and Bangkok, have witnessed massive demonstrations and riots in protest against corruption. In the last three years, three Southeast Asian statesmen; Suharto, Estrada, and Wahid, were brought to justice for corruption charges and finally being replaced. The anti-corruption wave has not spared the Thai Premier Thaksin Shinawatra. He also faced corruption charges, however, the Court of Thailand decided he is not guilty.

To the researcher’s understanding, no study on corruption has thus far focused on the issue of corruption in contemporary Southeast Asia as a whole region. Studies on some issues of corruption in some Southeast Asian countries were usually included in studying corruption either in Asia in general or in South Asia. Furthermore, those who
study corruption in Asia in general would usually take the case of Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines and overlook other countries. In addition, the studies on these countries suffer from certain theoretical and methodological weaknesses, and thus need revision and updating. The researchers' findings also need to be reevaluated and analyzed within a purely Southeast Asian context.

The issue of corruption in Southeast Asia has recently received remarkable response from the media, NGO's, anti-corruption bodies, and legislatures. Some governments have even committed themselves to the subject. Their response, however, lacks determination. However, corruption in the region is yet to be systematically addressed from a comprehensive sociological viewpoint. Therefore, this study aspires to give a sociological interpretative perspective to corrupt practices in the region in general and to some very important issues of corruption in the five countries mentioned earlier. This study takes into account the various historical, social, cultural, religious, political and economic factors in scrutinizing the complicated corrupt behavior and revealing its intended meanings.

The ongoing study, through both its theoretical and applied dimensions, tries to address many genuine questions that would be supported by new arguments and illustrative examples. It also provides a systematic analysis of some issues of macro level corruption in the countries under investigation. These genuine questions include: Is it possible to gather as many definitions of corruption as possible and draw a total view on the issue and establish relations between them? How can the formal sociological perspectives and the Islamic approach help analyze and understand corruption? How can
corrupt practices be best classified and categorized? Can corruption be attributed to a single cause whatsoever? What factors contribute most to the emergence, development and prevalence of corruption? How can the consequences of corruption be identified and measured? What are the most grave consequences of corruption? Can corruption be checked and repelled and how? What is the background of the problem of corruption in Southeast Asia? What is the Southeast Asian experience in checking corruption like? What are the most striking issues of corruption in the five case studies?

In this manner, the study aspires to address these questions and contribute to the sociopolitical studies on corruption. It also hopes that the findings may be of immediate benefit for reformers, policymakers, and anti-corruption bodies.

1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aims at achieving the following major objectives:

1. To provide a systematic sociological analysis of corruption at the macro level with special reference to the Southeast Asian experience.

2. To review the theories, concepts and methods applied in corruption studies and address issues that other studies have overlooked.

3. To work out a framework for understanding large-scale corruption in the Southeast Asian countries in general, and in Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia in particular.

4. To contribute to scholarly sociopolitical studies on corruption and to inspire sociologists to accord additional importance to the issue of corruption.
1.3 METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The present study has adopted a two-level analysis of the issue of corruption: one is theoretical while the other is applied. The applied part of this study involves a systematic analysis of corruption in Southeast Asia with special focus on a number of selected cases. In accordance with this multi-level approach, the researcher has adopted a multidimensional research methodology. The intent behind the adoption of such a multidimensional approach is twofold. On the one hand it aspires to accommodate the often-left out aspects of the problem. On the other hand, it contributes to the socio-political research on the issue.

It is common knowledge in social research that the nature of any study and of its subjects shapes the methodology researchers adopt and the techniques they use to obtain information. The present study is no exception, as its sensitive character has immediately ruled out data collection techniques such as direct participant observation, face to face and email interviews and questionnaires. The study has, thus, been carried out basically through library research, informal interviews and discussions with experts in corruption from Anti-Corruption Agency Malaysia and Transparency International, and newspapers cutting. Its database has been compiled from a variety of primary as well as secondary sources. Primary sources comprise reports, surveys, statistical data, indexes, and official publications either by governments or by specialized agencies like Transparency International (TI) and Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACA). Secondary sources principally include books, articles, periodicals, papers, and some Internet materials that are directly relevant to the subject under study.
As the first part of this study (Chapters 2 through 4) has a rather conceptual orientation, it has been built quite heavily on theoretical works by Western, Asian, African, and Islamic scholars on the subject or on its related issues in both English and Arabic. The second part of the research (Chapters 5 through 7) is an application about corruption in Southeast Asia. In this regard, the researcher has tried to undertake an adequate literature review and content analysis by identifying the related works on the subject under investigation, and by showing why and how the issue has been treated from various disciplines notably, sociology, political science, economics, history, philosophy, administrative and strategic studies, and Islamic scripture and legacy.

To examine such rich data scattered in various -sometimes conflicting- sources, the researcher has adopted many methods comprising the analytical-descriptive, comparative, discussions with ACA-Malaysia, TI, OECD experts in corruption, and critical approach. He has also tried to develop the deductive and inductive methods of analysis in both parts of the study. These methods helped elaborate, understand, and explain the phenomenon of corruption. They have also been useful in evaluating the different views on the issue, and reviewing some theories and concepts with a view to establishing what was deemed to be systematically, objectively, and scientifically correct in order to work out an objective sociological assessment of the problem of corruption.

Although the data involves ideas and views that are sometimes different from those of the researcher, he has abstained from subscribing to any specific ideological perspective in order to avoid any form of bias in general. He has instead attempted to
take an objective look at the reality of corruption, establish a correlation between all views, and draw appropriate conclusions there from. The researcher has also tried to grasp knowledge and wisdom from various sources in justifying the utility of the issue and the validity of the argument.

The applied part of the study is, in a way, a cross-sectional and longitudinal study of corrupt behaviors and attitudes whether in Southeast Asia in general, or in the five selected cases of Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia. This part has been broken into meaningful subsections where the content has been organized in chronological order such as corruption in the pre-colonial, colonial and post-colonial eras, or thematic arrangement such as the abuse of presidential office. The study of the background of corruption in Southeast Asia is considered as longitudinal since corruption in this region has been examined continuously from pre-colonial times to the present day. Within this type of study, corruption has also been examined at three specific intervals: pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial.

The case studies have been selected as reliable representatives of the Region's socio-cultural, political, historical and physical respects. Geographically, the cases cover countries from both mainland and insular Southeast Asia. They also represent the various religious background of the region; Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity. Countries with and without colonialism background are also represented. The selection of these cases has also taken into account the aspects of corruption that have been overlooked and tried to bring out forgotten cases whereby the world knows little or nothing about it.
In conducting this research the author encountered some unavoidable problems. These problems basically included lack of references and primary materials or rather inaccessibility to some sources. For in addition to the sensitive nature of the issue that poses some difficulties in data collection, some references are not available either in the local Universities’ libraries or in the local market such as Political Corruption: A Handbook, and Political Corruption: Explorations in Comparative Perspective by Prof. Heidenheimer. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of the study, the researcher found it extremely difficult to keep abreast of the data on corruption across the academic disciplines mentioned earlier. Besides, most of the references did not deal extensively with the topic.

Moreover, financial constraints have limited the researcher’s chances of accessing some publications particularly from the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore (ISEAS), and also from visiting the countries under study to closely observe and analyze corrupt practices, disclose some of its tacit aspects, get an accurate and above picture of the corruption reality and also probably come across other reliable materials.

However, the researcher has not resigned himself from the fate of conducting scientific research in such a condition. He has done his best to provide the most reliable updated information possible. He has made a concerted effort to fully access and utilize the available sources including Internet materials to support the argument. Furthermore, the researcher requested materials on the subject under study from Prof. Heidenheimer from the Political Science Department at Washington University, Prof. Karl Heinz Nassmacher from the Institute of Comparative Politics in Oldenburg, Germany, and
Prof. Ulrich von Alemann from Dusseldorf University in Germany. Unfortunately none of them replied positively.

1.4 THEORETICAL APPROACH

The formal theoretical perspectives, namely Functionalism, Conflict Theory and Symbolic-Interactionism together with the Islamic Approach furnish us with somewhat important ideas, concepts and methods to analyze corruption. However, in practice sociologists tend to rely on a single perspective rather than adopt a multidimensional approach. Taking into account the shortcomings of each theoretical approach, on the one hand, and the complexity of the corruption issue, on the other, the present study is an attempt to analyze the major facets of corruption at the macro level and in a selection of Southeast Asian countries through a careful consideration of all the aforementioned sociological perspectives. However, due to the nature and specification of the various issues that have been addressed throughout the chapters, Functionalism and Symbolic Interactionism are most often applied.

1.5 LITERATURE REVIEW

The database of this study has been compiled from a variety of primary as well as secondary sources. This compilation was restricted to publications in English and Arabic. The literature relevant to this study on corruption has been conveniently classified into four groups: (1) specialized literature on corruption, (2) theoretical
literature, (3) Islamic literature, and (4) specialized and general literature on corruption in Southeast Asia.

Despite the lack of specialized literature on corruption, the available references are relevant and could be classified into two categories that include specialized books and specialized papers. Specialized books on corruption, in turn, involve two types: first the general books that address corruption in general terms or focus on one or more of its dimensions. Second, the compiled books which include chapters written by different authors. The general books on corruption are mostly socio-political in nature. They have been published over an extended period of time between 1966 and 2000. The first includes many scholarly works such as “Corruption in Developing Countries” by Ronald Wraith and Edgard Simpkins, “Comparative Political Corruption” by James C. Scott, “The Sociology of Corruption”, “The Problem of Corruption”, and “Corruption and the Destiny of Asia” by Syed Hussein Alatas, “Corruption Capitalism and Democracy” by John Girling. Dato' Sri Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamad's book “The Challenge”, is also relevant. It has devoted a whole chapter (12) to deal with corruption and provides significant insights into its meanings, forms, causes, and effects.

Among such a number of references the works by Scott and Alatas stand out as the most relevant to the current study in both its theoretical and applied dimensions. In his book “Comparative Political Corruption”, Scott tried to examine patterns of corruption that can be related to the different features of the political system and the nature of the sociopolitical alterations in past and contemporary Western as well as in non-Western nations and regimes. He treated corruption as a regular recurring integral
part of the operation of the political machine. Scott also discussed the issue of corruption in Thailand and described the distinctive characters of Thai politics since 1932, focusing on the patron-client structure, which usually promotes corruption. The book provides views on political corruption only and treats corruption from a political science perspective solely. His approach to political corruption in Thailand, though somehow relevant to the case of Thailand undertaken in this study needs reevaluation and updating especially in light of the dramatic political changes Thailand has witnessed since the 1973 revolution.

The works of Alatas namely, "The Sociology of Corruption", "The Problem of Corruption", and "Corruption and the Destiny of Asia", though small in size, are among the most important sociological interpretations of the nature, roots, functions, and preventive strategies of corruption. These references emphasize the historical and cultural factors of corruption in the Asian context for the last three decades. In the last two chapters of his book "Corruption and the Destiny of Asia", Alatas tends to focus more on the impacts of corruption particularly on future Asian generations. Although the theoretical analysis of corruption is almost consistent through the three works, Alatas’s views remain valid but not comprehensive enough. For instance, Alatas’s work is wanting of a comprehensive review of the different views on the concept of corruption, elucidation of the various sociological perspectives to approach corruption. Most important of all, Alatas could have contributed to the development of an Islamic view to corruption not only from the Muslim experience or heritage but also from the main sources; the Qur’an and Sunnah.

The last compilation contains a few brief chapters relevant to this study, which relate to the issue of the effects and, to lesser extent, to the checking of corruption. Among the chapters in Adenirwale's book are "The Effects of Corruption on Development" by Dieter Frisch, "NGOs and Mobilization Against Corruption" by Sadikou Ayo Alao. This book is very limited in scope and lacks thorough investigation.

The compilation edited by Carino contains many contributions. Only four of them, however, are quite relevant to the present study. They are: "Toxic or Tonic: The Effects of Graft and Corruption" by Ledivina V. Carino, "Incongruence Between Legal and Folk Norms" by Rance P. L. Lee, "Legal and Administrative Measures Against Bureaucratic Corruption in Asia" by A. T. Rafique Rahman, and "The Process of Bureaucratic Corruption: Emerging Patterns" by MA. Conception Alliier. Rafique Rahman's work, in addition to its theoretical relevance to this study, is significant to the applied dimension. This compiled book is focused on bureaucratic corruption in Asia particularly in the early 1980s. As such, it is limited in time and scope and does not provide sociological interpretations of corruption. The contributors are mostly not from sociological backgrounds. Besides, some key analysis such as the one offered by Rafique
Rahman were, at times, solely based on a single source, most often reports furnished by
governments, agencies, or special committees, or newspapers.

Heidenheimer's compilation is one of the most significant references for this study. The book includes some fifty-eight articles covering the period from 1950 until the end of the 1960s. The researcher has found sixteen of them relevant to the current study, fourteen of them have a theoretical orientation while the remaining two, namely "The Sociological Aspects of Corruption In Southeast Asia" by W. J Wertheim, and "Corruption as Hindrance to Modernization in South Asia" by Gunnar Myrdal, lend practical support to the current study. Heidenheimer's compilation is divided into four parts: conceptual framework, administrative corruption in Asia, Europe, US and Africa, electoral and legislative corruption in Western Europe, US and the Developing Nations, and corruption and modernization. The works of Brasz; "The Sociology of Corruption", Brooks'; "Apologies for Political Corruption" and "The Nature of Political Corruption", Bayley's; "The Effects of Corruption in a Developing Nations", Huntington's; "Modernization and Corruption" are among the relevant theoretical works to this study. However, it should be highlighted that the book is mostly an analysis of the issue of political corruption from a political science structural perspective, which was confined to the end of the 1960s. Most of the articles were written in the period of colonialism or immediately in post-colonialism times. The book lacks emphasis on the different countries of Southeast Asia. Moreover, the majority of contributors were Western writers of merely political or economic background.
The second class of the specialized literature on corruption is the specialized papers and articles. The World Bank (WB), The International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Transparency International (TI) staff and fellows have mostly produced the specialized papers either individually or in collaboration with one another. These types of work provide an explicit analysis on corruption most often in the field of bureaucracy and economics in a specific country or region. The socio-political aspects are usually overlooked or not systematically analyzed. It is very hard also to find papers that are directly relevant to the applied part of this study. However, it is worth mentioning the "1997 World Bank Report", and "Political Economy of Corruption: Causes and Consequences" by Susan Rose-Ackerman, and, from the IMF, the works of Vito Tanzi "Corruption Around the World: Causes, Consequences, Scope and Cures", Paolo Mauro "Why Worry About Corruption", "Corruption Causes, Consequences and Agenda for Further Research", and from 'TI the works of Johann Graf Lambsdorff "Corruption in Empirical Research - A review", and Lilia Carasauc "Republic of Moldova: Economic Consequences of Corruption". These works are of academic value, highly specialized, updated, and provide relevant quantitative and empirical data.

The second group of literature consists of those contributions that are relevant to the general theoretical discussion on the sociological perspectives to the study of corruption and the issue of the definitions of corruption. Among the most significant theoretical works that have helped present the formal sociological perspectives are, Functionalism, Conflict Theory, and Symbolic Interactionism. Howard J. Sherman & James L. Wood's "Sociology: Traditional and Radical Perspectives", Ken Morrison's
"Marx, Durkheim, Weber: Formation of Modern Social Thought", Jonathan H. Turner and Leonard Beeghley & Charles H. Powers's "The Emergence of Sociological Theory". These works provide a theoretical background to the sociological perspectives. The researcher has thus attempted to explain the different potentials that they provide to understand corruption basically using the inductive and deductive methods.

The specialized articles are mostly from magazines and newspapers in the region such as the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, * Asiaweek*, and the *New Straits Times*. Few prominent examples are Shawan W. Crispin, Dini Djalal and Deidre Sheehan whose contributions have been prolific and consistent. Despite the journalistic character of their reports, these people among others have drawn a comprehensive portrait of corruption in the region.

Dictionaries and encyclopedias which have also been useful in elaborating the conceptual issue of corruption were the *Oxford Advanced Learner's*, and *Black's Law* dictionaries, *Ibn Mandhur and al-Asfahani* Arabic dictionaries, the *Encyclopedia of Humanities and Social Sciences* and the *Encyclopedia Americana*. It should also be noticed that almost all specialized books and papers on corruption usually provide at least one definition of corruption, all of which have been quoted and reviewed in the first part of Chapter two of the present study.

The third group of literature that helped reading this study is the Islamic references, which include the Qur'an and Sunnah, and some Muslim works related in a way to the field and the issue of corruption. The Qur'an and Sunnah provide wide-ranging pertinent teachings and insights into the problem of corruption. However, these
teachings and insights need compilation, elaboration, and analytical and thematic commentary to fully benefit from them. Among the Muslim works that have clear imprints in the carrying out of this study were Ibn Khaldun’s “The Muqaddimah”, which provided very important perspectives to the deep roots and consequences of corruption. Muhammad Baqir As-Sadr’s “Our Philosophy”, which was very useful in addressing the issue of causes and consequences of corruption, and revision of some theoretical approaches, and Muhammad Umer Chapra’s “Islam and the Economic Challenge”, which, despite its focus on the economic sphere, provides meaningful discussions and views on some theoretical aspects of corruption.

The fourth group comprises specialized as well as non-specialized literature on the applied part of this study. It also includes internet materials on corruption in Southeast Asia in general, and on the five selected case studies in particular. The researcher did not come across any specialized book on corruption in Southeast Asia. Data about corruption in Southeast Asia were available, but were scattered in historical references on the region in varying degrees of length and focus. Among these works it is worth mentioning the following publications: “The Stakes of Democracy in South-East Asia” by H. J. Mook, “Colonial Policy and Practice” by J.S. Furnivall, “Southeast Asia: Illusion and Reality in Politics and Economics” by Linnox A. Mills, “Southeast Asia: A Political History” by Richard Butwell, “Southeast Asia: A History” by Lea F. Williams and “Southeast Asia Past and Present” by D. R. SarDesai.

Besides, there are other references that have helped analyzing certain issues of corruption in the case studies. Among these references are: Ruth McVey’s compilation
"Money and Power in Provincial Thailand" and Belinda A. Aquino’s book "Politics of Plunder: The Philippines Under Marcos". McVey’s compilation deals with the increasing importance of provincial centers and the emergence of powerful leaders whose influence was based on combination of political and economic activities. The book attempts to place provincial leadership in the context of rapidly changing Thai capitalist polity. Aquino’s book is an attempt to explore the dynamics of the "Kleptocratic" state under Marcos and the ways that made it possible for him and his cronies to undertake a methodical plunder of the country.

Internet material on corruption in Southeast Asia has been compiled from a variety of websites. The websites of three magazines namely Far Eastern Economic Review: www.feer.com, Asiaweek: www.asiaweek.com, and Asia Time Online: www.atimes.com, have been extensively visited. Their various reports and information about corruption in the region at large or on one or more countries of Southeast Asia have been highly informative. These materials have also been scrutinized, tested, compared and properly classified and used in the research. Other websites have been relevant to the investigation on some issues in the case studies such as the websites of the Center for Social Development (CSD) in Cambodia: www.bigpond.com, Philippine Daily Inquirer: www.inquirer.net, and The Filipino Global Community: www.philstar.com. The websites of the International and regional organizations that are either specialized or interested in corruption have also been visited. It is worth mentioning the websites of Transparency International: www.transparency.org, from which the Corruption Perceptions Indexes and the Global Corruption Report were

Finally, the researcher acknowledges that there must be other references on corruption not reviewed, which may have lent further support to the present study. Notwithstanding, the details of quotations are highlighted in the footnotes and a detailed bibliography is appended.

1.6 ORGANIZATION OF THE CHAPTERS

This study is made up of eight chapters. While the first and last chapters respectively serve introductory and summary purposes, the bulk of the discussion is in the rest of the units.

In accordance with this distribution, Chapter one outlines the general framework of the research project. It identifies the central issue to be addressed, sketches the study's aims and presents the methodology that will be adopted to achieve them. The cursory literature review included in this section is chiefly meant to familiarize the readers with the major themes pertaining to the issue of corruption and draw their attention to the vital importance of undertaking this research. The readers also have a preview of almost all the theoretical, methodological, and technical aspects of the study.

At the other end, Chapter eight (Conclusion) gives an overall summary of the study and lists its major findings. An effective pursuit of further research, new areas of investigation are also highlighted, and more emphasis is given to the analysis of a
number of dimensions deemed by the researcher as either not given enough attention or completely neglected in previous research.

The remainder of the chapters (2 through 7) constitutes the core of the research project. As mentioned earlier, this main body has been broken into two parts: a theoretical part, which comprises Chapter 2, 3 and 4 and an applied section including Chapters 5 and 7.

Chapter two examines two of the most important conceptual aspects of corruption. It provides a critical and adequate review of the defining of corruption from almost all relevant academic disciplines. Besides, it places considerable emphasis on the application of the sociological perspectives on the issue of corruption.

In Chapter three, the forms, types, and causes of corruption have been addressed. The discussion has been organized in a way to provide an accurate classification and typology of corruption. Thus, bribery, extortion, nepotism, cronyism, and graft are categorized as major forms of corruption. Meanwhile, the types of corruption, for instance, include petty, big, black, white, primary, and secondary corruption. The chapter also provides a systematic analysis of almost all factors that have directly or indirectly led to the emergence, development, and prevalence of corruption.

Chapter four is the last chapter in the theoretical part of the study. It has been exclusively devoted to discuss the consequences and checking of corruption. After a critical review of the theoretical arguments of the functional corruption, the grave consequences on society, politics, economy, and bureaucracy were highlighted. In the second part of the chapter, a review of selected anti-corruption strategies and measures
was presented. Finally, the role of the different socio-political institutions such as the government, the public, the media, the religious bodies, has been explained and ultimately strengthened by guidelines that are deemed necessary for a comprehensive checking of corruption.

Chapter five serves as the first chapter in the applied part of this study. It is designed to delve into the history of Southeast Asia and look for the establishment of an overview that could be considered as a framework within which the selected case studies would be addressed. This chapter investigates the major aspects of corrupt practices in Southeast Asian countries since the most recent pre-colonial rule. It concludes by highlighting the Southeast Asian experience in checking corruption.

Chapter six deals with various issues of corruption in two Southeast Asian countries, namely, Myanmar and Cambodia. Corruption practiced by the military juntas, bureaucrats, and outsiders has been discussed in the case of Myanmar. Whereas, in the case of Cambodia, corrupt practices and reform efforts have been analyzed.

Chapter seven is the final chapter in the applied section of this study. It investigates some unexplored aspects of corruption in Thailand, the Philippines, and Indonesia. The case of Thailand comprises analysis on two major forms of political corruption that are the abuse of power for enrichment and the use of money to attain and preserve power. In the case of the Philippines, the abuse of the presidential office by the late President Ferdinand Marcos and the on-trial President Joseph Estrada has been discussed. Finally, the chapter addresses the issue of bribery, extortion, nepotism, cronyism, and several types of graft that have been practiced in post-colonial Indonesia.