**Title**: Security, development and ausaid : a critical examination of the securitisation of the Australian government's overseas aid program

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**Abstract**:
The focus of this thesis is the merging of security and development in the Australian development discourse over the past ten years. In order to shed light on this process I have analysed the key policy documents of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and thus seek to establish whether and to what extent development and security have merged in the official discourse of AusAID? In other words, can we talk about the securitisation of development? Furthermore, the process nature of this securitisation process is of interest, and as such it is justified to ask how has the possible securitisation of development preceded and changed during the Howard government era, 1997 to 2007? And especially, if there has been a change in the securitisation of development after the start of the ‘war on terror’?

The theoretical basis of this study anchors to both the widening and deepening of the security agenda and human security concept as the ultimate form of this process. Part of the discussion about the widening and deepening been the talk of merging the fields of development and security. The academic discussion on the merging of the fields of security and development was started by Mark Duffield (2001) in his work Global Governance and the New Wars: The Merging of Development and Security. The aim of this thesis is thus to contribute to the academic conversation on the linking of development and security and, in particular, to the nearly non-existent study on the securitisation of development on the discursive level.

The method of this study is Critical discourse analysis and Norman Fairclough three dimensional model for analysing and elaborating discourses. Fairclough’s three dimensional conception of discourse implies that any discursive event has three aspects; discourses are at the same time seen as being a piece of text, an instance of discursive practice and an instance of social practice. (Blommaert & Bulcaen 2000, 448-450; Fairclough 1992a, 4 and 63-99.) The model is an attempt to draw together more linguistically oriented language analysis and social-theoretical ideas of discourse (Fairclough 1992a, 4).

The located discourses that participate to the securitisation process of AusAID are: state fragility discourse, terrorism discourse, interconnectedness discourse and the mediating discourse of stability. Furthermore, by concentrating on the referent objects of the securitising discourses I have located the following four discourses: regional security, security of the individual and poor, Australian security and national security. Based on the results of the executed discourses analysis the two most important findings of this study, in the light of the theoretical framework, are firstly, there is a clear link between development and security in the AusAID ministerial statements. And as such we can talk about the securitisation of development in the case of AusAID; and secondly, that the Australian development discourse has undergone significant changes over the period under investigation.

**Keywords**: turvallisuus - laaja turvallisuuskäsite, kehityspolitiikka, kehitysyhteistyö, kansainvälinen apu, Australia – Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).