

Cultural Objects Ethnic Wedding Traditions Brunei Malay in the Federal Territory of Labuan

ABSTRACT

Sabah is well known as "The Land below The Wind" which is popular with many ethnics. This diversity creates the uniqueness of the culture and customs. Unfortunately, cultural identities are difficult to be identified due to clashes with mixed marriages and religious differences. This study interpreted about the object traditional culture and customs in Brunei Malay ethnic marriage in the Federal Territory of Labuan. There are three main objectives in this study includes studied the shape, style and symbolism of wedding culture objects; analyze the meaning of custom and culture; and to know the concept of wedding ceremony being practiced to preserve the purity and restoration of culture. Cross-cultural method is used to identify similarities and differences in ethnic patterns that cover several stages such as 'merisik', engagement, sending gifts, breaking ceremonies, marriage ceremonies, fundraising and matching. Preparation of bridal gowns, musical instruments and a wide variety of banquets also taboos in the wedding are also practiced. The data collection techniques used in this study are ethnographic interview and observation. The interviewing session involved respondents such as 'mak andam', custom practitioners, fashion and fashion designers, village leaders as well as people involved in religious matters such as the role of priest and cad. Observation technique also used in this study to understand and deepen the purpose of cultural objects. This study found that elements such as upholding a customary tradition, appreciating the natural gifts are very important to the well-being of life. The role of cultural and customary design has influenced life patterns, dignity, grandeur, courtesy and character as an expression of identity in order to foster friendship and strengthen relationships among people. The implications of this research are to preserve and shed light on people's understanding of an aesthetic cultural engagement and also to preserve racial identity such a social values that need to be inherited genetically so that social understanding and acceptance of cultural identity can be identified.