

**CULTURAL CONVERGENCE IN THE MUSIC AND
ORAL TRADITIONS OF THE KADAZAN DUSUN
OF MEMBAKUT, SABAH**

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DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

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**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES, ARTS AND HERITAGE
UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA SABAH
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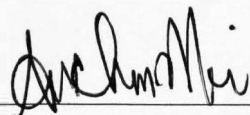
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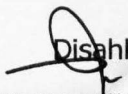
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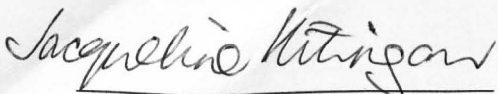
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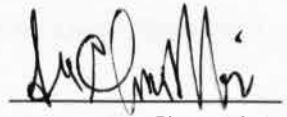


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ABSTRACT

This thesis explores the oral traditions and music of the Kadazan Dusun from Membakut Sub-District of Beaufort District in southwest Sabah. The Membakut Kadazan Dusun are ethnically heterogeneous, being descended from Kadazan Dusun and other indigenous peoples who worked on plantations and a district seaport under the pre-War North Borneo Company administration. They live near other communities, such as the Brunei and the Chinese. It appears that little cultural research has been undertaken among the Kadazan Dusun in Membakut. Thus, the purpose of this study was to document and analyse the main genres of Kadazan Dusun oral traditions and music from Membakut, to examine the influence of oral traditions and music of neighbouring peoples among these Kadazan Dusun, and to evaluate the vitality of Membakut Kadazan Dusun oral traditions and music. This research is based on fieldwork in six Kadazan Dusun villages in Membakut that used in-depth interviews with expert informants and video recording of performances of music and ritual ceremonies. Genres and events recorded included lullabies, secular *rumibag* songs, oral narratives, *mangkadilu* mortuary practices, community *mamanta* cleansing ceremonies, and *barasik* healing rituals. The recorded oral literature and music were transcribed and analysed. The study shows that extensive cultural convergence has occurred between the Membakut Kadazan Dusun and neighbouring peoples. With the advent of new entertainment media, most of the commonly heard secular vocal music of the past is nowadays largely unknown among younger generations. Gong ensemble music and ritual ceremonies, however, are still widely performed. This research will thus be an important record for the younger generation to understand and to appreciate their culture.

Keywords : Music, Oral Traditions, Kadazan Dusun



ABSTRAK

CULTURAL CONVERGENCE DALAM MUZIK DAN TRADISI LISAN MASYARAKAT KADAZAN DUSUN DI MEMBAKUT, SABAH

Tesis ini meneroka tradisi lisan dan muzik Kadazan Dusun dari Daerah Kecil Membakut, Daerah Beaufort di barat daya Sabah. Komuniti Kadazan Dusun Membakut merupakan komuniti heterogen, yang berasal dari orang Kadazan Dusun dan orang asal lain yang bekerja di ladang dan pelabuhan daerah di bawah pentadbiran pra-Perang Syarikat Utara Borneo. Mereka tinggal berhampiran dengan komuniti lain, seperti etnik Brunei dan Cina. Nampaknya terdapat sedikit sahaja penyelidikan budaya telah dilakukan dalam kalangan Kadazan Dusun di Membakut. Oleh itu, tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk mendokumentasikan dan menganalisis genre utama tradisi lisan dan muzik Kadazan Dusun dari Membakut, untuk mengkaji pengaruh tradisi lisan dan muzik penduduk jiran sebelah komuniti Kadazan Dusun Membakut, dan untuk menilai daya hidup tradisi lisan dan muzik Kadazan Dusun Membakut. Kajian ini berdasarkan kerja lapangan di enam kampung Kadazan Dusun di Membakut, dengan temubual mendalam bersama informan pakar rujuk dan rakaman video muzik dan upacara ritual. Genre dan peristiwa yang direkodkan termasuk lagu untuk bayi, lagu sekular rumibag, narasi lisan, adat kematian mangkadilu, upacara ritual mamanta untuk pembersihan komuniti, dan ritual penyebuhan barasik. Sastera lisan dan muzik yang dirakam telah ditranskripsi dan dianalisis. Kajian ini menunjukkan bahawa konvergensi budaya yang luas telah berlaku di antara komuniti Kadazan Dusun Membakut dan komuniti jiran. Dengan munculnya media hiburan baru, kebanyakan muzik vokal sekular yang sering didengari pada masa dahlulu adalah jarang diketahui oleh generasi muda pada masa kini. Walau bagaimanapun, muzik ensembel gong dan upacara ritual masih banyak dilakukan. Oleh itu, penyelidikan ini menjadi rekod penting untuk generasi muda untuk memahami dan menghargai budaya mereka.

Kata Kunci : Muzik, Tradisi Lisan, Kadazan Dusun

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