



## UPAH-UPAH CULTURE IN THE TANJUNG BALAI COMMUNITY, NORTH SUMATRA

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### Abstract

This study aims to describe the culture of wages in the people of Tanjung Balai, North Sumatra Province. This type of research is library research, namely research conducted by collecting data or scientific writing that aims to be the research object or library data collection. The results of this study describe the culture, geographic location, culture of wages and the halls used in the culture of wages.

**Keywords :** Culture, Upah-Upah, Balai

### Introduction

Culture is a way of life that develops and is owned by a group of people and is passed down from generation to generation. This culture is formed from several complicated elements. Among them are customs, language, works of art, religious and political systems. Culture can be said to be the legacy of the past which is carried out repeatedly, passed down from generation to generation by a group of people or humans. Culture also regulates how humans relate to other humans, as well as how humans act towards their environment. Many aspects are experiencing the impact of the development and use of technology, one of which is culture or culture. Many areas are starting to leave culture and traditions. The emergence of the notion that culture and traditions are considered not current, this assumption is attached to areas that still maintain the culture and traditions that exist in the area. One area that is categorized as full of culture and tradition is the City of Tanjungbalai. Tanjungbalai is one of the second-level regions in the province of North Sumatra. Tanjung Balai is at the confluence of two major rivers, namely the Asahan river which is the longest river in North Sumatra and the Silau river which empties into the Malacca Strait (Panjaitan, 2020). Tanjung Balai is a city located on the coast North Sumatra province, started from a village around \_ end cape estuary river Dazzled and Asahan River flow, tanjung balai is Multi Ethnic city, there are various ethnic group nation mixture in this city such as Batak, Chinese, Javanese and Malay is part local tribe \_ Live and inhabit the city Tanjungbalai. However, the original tribe of this city is the Malay tribe which can be seen from the various Malay ornaments that are in every corner of the city (Di et al., 2021).

Similar to other regions in Indonesia, Tanjungbalai City also has various cultures or cultures which are still being carried on from generation to generation from generation to generation or from generation to generation that have not faded with time. Malays, who are native to the city of Tanjungbalai, are of course in line with Malay culture which continues to grow and spread rapidly because the majority of the people of Tanjung Balai are Muslims. Siregar & Yamamah (2018) stated that as we \_ know culture Malay very identical with Islam, which is ethnic Malay is the main engine mover wheel culture in Tanjungbalai. By because that is, behavior culture in a manner common displayed in the area this always present and in the name of Islam, because has Becomes adage in the area this that Malay same with Islam. Although Islam has long been embraced by City residents or residents Tanjungbalai, however many originating rituals \_ from teachings continued animism \_ grow. The traditions of the typical Islamic people this is what it's called by Robert Redfield as "little traditions", what differentiates Islamic Public Tanjung Balai with the Muslim community in the area other. one in between \_ tradition typical that is "rewards" in marriage or marriage, which is done as form giver spirit in life home ladder or giver motivation for his children will carry out life new.

The culture of wages in general can and often we find and encounter in the implementation of weddings which are important life processes that contain traditions in their implementation and in wedding traditions also have an important meaning for the bride and groom and family members of the bride and groom. Some claim that manyonggot is the same as wages. According to Hajar (2016) The wages that we often see at weddings are different from the meaning of manyonggot in the Tanjungbalai community . kindly visible eye implementation almost same . However there is a number of different things . \_ This wages culture is a unique culture that still exists and is preserved in Tanjungabalai City with its own uniqueness and characteristics of this wages culture. Based on the background of the problems above, the researcher is interested in researching the culture of wages in the Tanjungbalai community , North Sumatra.

## Research Methodology

This type of research is library *research research* ), i.e. research conducted by collecting data or scientific papers aimed at research objects or collecting data of a literary nature, or studies carried out to solve a problem which is basically based on critical and in-depth analysis of relevant library materials . According to Sugiyono in (Sari & Asmendri, 2018) library research is a theoretical study , references and other scientific literature related to culture, values and norms that develop in the social situations studied.

## Result & Discussion

### Culture

Culture or culture comes from Sanskrit , namely *buddhayah* , which is the plural form of *buddhi* (mind or reason) is defined as matters relating to the mind and human reason, in English culture is called *culture* which comes from the Latin word *Colere* namely processing or working can also be interpreted as cultivating land or farming, said *culture* also sometimes often translated as "Kultur" in Indonesian (Sumarto, 2019) . Jerald G's culture in (Sumarto, 2019) culture is a pattern of basic assumptions found and determined by a certain group because it learns and masters problems of external adaptation and internal integration , which has worked well enough to be considered properly and therefore taught to its members. new way of being perceived, thought and felt correctly in relation to the problem. Meanwhile according to Michael Zwell in (Sumarto, 2019) defines culture as a way of life of people that is transferred from generation to generation through various learning processes to create a certain way of life that best suits their environment. So it can be concluded that culture is a habit or action that has been carried out from generation to generation in which there is learning and belief by the community.

### Tanjung Balai City

Tanjung Balai City is a city in North Sumatra Province, Indonesia. It has an area of 60.52 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 154,445 people. This city is located on the banks of the Asahan river, the longest river in North Sumatra. Geographically, the people of Tanjung Balai are Malay, but almost half of the people of Tanjung Balai are Batak people who have clans. They are Batak but live with Malay customs. (Hajar, 2016) The dialect of the language is similar to sibolga but not similar to Minang language, only the sentence ending A ends with the sound O: for example: how are you? (How are you). The Malay tradition which is a special characteristic of culture in Tanjung Balai is the socio-cultural background in this area.

### Upah-Upah

Upah-upah is meaningful as advice, prayer, strengthening friendly relations, cultivating gratitude, returning and *elaborating spirit* (enthusiasm). Upah-upah is also said to be a motivational activity that is given to a person or group in certain ways according to Malay customs. Upah-upah is considered as giving *suggestions or* spiritual encouragement to the morals of a person or group of people. Usually the wages are held at weddings, circumcisions, or when picking up the spirit of a sick person, completing the Qur'an , and so on.

The implementation of wages is referred to as wage-changing, namely elected people who are respected and respected. The purpose of wages can be broken down as follows:

1. Returning the "enthusiasm" that flies due to giddiness, surprise, or fear when someone tries and faces conditions that are still new in his life.
2. Providing supplies of self -confidence to people who are rewarded to face life in the future.
3. Welcoming and giving thanks for the journey of someone's life that has gone beyond one fragment of his life.



Fig 1. Implementation of Upah-Upah

#### *Bale or Balai*

In the implementation of wages there is a bale . Bale becomes an object that must be present when making wages. Bale or commonly called Balai is also known as Pulut Balai. This hall has four legs and has 3 to 7 levels (adjusted to the level of life in the community, whether from common descent or sultan descent). Nowadays, the hall is usually used only at 3 levels without looking at the strata of position in the community. Each balai contains cooked pulut and at the highest level the core is placed. Balai in Malay custom has 2 colors, namely the yellow hall and the white hall. According to the color, each hall has differences in its use in society, such as the yellow hall for wedding ceremonies, while the white hall is used for religious ceremonies such as circumcision, khatam Al- Qur'an and wages (Khairunnisa et al., 2022) .Complementary ornaments for the hall, such as flower buds, merawal/flag flowers, egg flowers, sticks/bamboo are made around the hall to beautify the appearance .



Fig 2. Monument bale city of Tanjung Balai

The language used in implementing these wages is Tanjung Balai Malay, which predominantly uses a dialect with the vowel O, which is different from Malay, mostly using e taling e pepet. The following are the stanzas used in carrying out wages to pick up enthusiasm, namely: One two three four limo onam seven balek spirit, these are our rewards yo sis/or kak, get well soon yo sis/dek (can be changed for weddings such as "sakinah mawaddah warrahma" yo)

## Conclusion

Upah-upah is meaningful as advice, prayer, strengthening friendly relations, cultivating gratitude, returning and *elaborating spirit* (enthusiasm). Upah-upah is also said to be a motivational activity that is given to a person or group in certain ways according to Malay customs. In the implementation of wages there is a bale . Bale becomes an object that must be present when making wages. Bale or commonly called Balai is also known as Pulut Balai. The implementation of wage-upah has existed since ancient times, which is believed by the local community to lift the spirits of the people who will be rewarded. This culture has been passed down from ancient times to present descendants in Tanjung Balai.

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