



The Iban Textiles

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ABSTRACT

The Iban traditional textiles are very well decorated with beautiful motifs. Some motifs are small and simple but some are complex (Durin, 2011). Both the simple and complex motifs are embedded meaning and symbols which depict the Iban traditional culture especially their traditional beliefs. This research aims to relate the motif of the Iban Textile and their traditional belief. Secondly, this research is also to analyse the usage of Pua Kumbu traditionally and currently. The data collection are carried out through observation and interviewing the experts in Iban textiles weaving in Kuching, Betong and Bintulu. The analysis method is used for the data collection is content analysis. In the research finding it is proven that the usage Pua Kumbu currently is not only confined to ritual purposes but also for the daily used as decorative accessories. It's also proven, not only the Iban community weave the Pua Kumbu but few communities also weave the Iban's textile motif. For example, Azmeer Sharkawi in Betong.

Keywords: *Iban traditional belief, meaning and symbols, traditional culture, Iban textiles, motifs.*

INTRODUCTION

The Iban traditional textiles are very beautifully decorated with motifs and those motifs were created through the environment where the Iban lives. Some motifs were made through the inspirations of animals, reptiles and plants. Some motifs are even inspired by the traditional belief and so those motifs have ethics such as taboos. The textiles which really has motifs with taboos is the one that is made for ritual purposes such as "Pua Kumbu". As culture change, not only the Iban community weave the Pua Kumbu but few communities also weave the Iban's textile motif. The usage of the Pua Kumbu also for ritual but also for daily used such as table cloths, curtain and bag.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Iban's Traditional Textile were decorated with beautiful motif. All this motif reflects the environment and the traditional belief of the Iban community. One of the Iban traditional textile called Pua Kumbu. Pua Kumbu traditional where was used for ritual purposes. Issues of this research is about the symbols and motif of the textile. Secondly, it's also about the usage of the Pua Kumbu both traditionally and currently.

OBJECTIVE OF THE RESEARCH

1. To relate the motif of the Iban Textile and their traditional belief.
2. To analyse the usage of Pua Kumbu traditionally and currently.