

ARTS AND AESTHETIC VALUES TOWARDS *PARANG ILANG* IN THE CULTURE OF THE IBAN

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ABSTRACT

This research focus on *parang ilang*, namely one of the tangible heritages in Iban's culture. The uniqueness of *parang ilang* are showed through strength features, greatness, dignity, horror and mystification explained through physical aspect and non-physical. Once, *parang ilang* is a weapon used in tradition of head-hunting by warrior group of Iban in battle field. To warrior by group of Iban, *parang ilang* ownership is a symbolic of courage and their excellence when fighting with their enemies. After the end of tradition head-hunting, mostly *parang ilang* are widely used for daily activity by Iban people. When the Iban people beginning to think about arts and aesthetic values that wish to be absorbed towards *parang ilang*, the need to be refined from manufacturing aspect and motive decoration resignation that underlie to their culture. Apart from that, application of arts and aesthetic values also translate into one of the therapies for soul and mind a society. Furthermore, application of arts and aesthetic values towards *parang ilang* are need to be planned meticulously so that in the art and form appearance will portray soul which could be seen communicating to Iban's culture. Through the application of arts and aesthetic values towards *parang ilang*, it aims to show the philosophy of Iban society to different community. Individual involved in generating *parang ilang* beside those who have the knowledge on the object were interviewed in order to obtain this research data. Apart from that, application of arts and aesthetic values on object like *parang ilang* are very important to fulfil society's aspiration and to increase appreciation of this values. So, it can be concluded that art and society cannot be divided because it is one of the therapies for soul, taste and mind thinking of society towards undergoing life that follow premier mainstream.

Keywords: *Aesthetic, Arts Product, Parang Ilang, Culture, Iban community.*

1. INTRODUCTION

This research carried out to unveil one of the tangible heritages which had found in societies of Iban culture. Iban society is a majority group that occupy all over in state of Sarawak. The existence of Iban is start in Rajang Lembangan area. According to Fong Hon Kah (1996), community of Iban were said originated from Sungai Kapuas. Once, community of Iban undergoing their life by nomad. In early historical record on society Iban, their arrival was recorded since the past 200 years before and after James Brooke's arrival in Sarawak. If viewed on this day, society Iban occupy a few main parts in Sarawak which covered urban and rural (Asmah: 1981, Sandin: 1980). Apart from that, part of Iban society is also practitioner and strong holder to animism as one of the traditions in their culture. When other religions arrival like Islam religion and Christian, mostly Iban society followed these religions (Zainal Abidin Zulcifly:1988). Meanwhile, a small part who those still not follows these religions, they remain practice of their inherited belief.

In the community of Iban life, there are many heritage objects like *parang ilang* hereditary by generation due to role in their culture which were very clear and giving deep sense to be appreciated with. If viewed once, *ilang* created to have function according to specific purpose.