

P RAMLEE CHAIR GRANT (PRC) PORTRAYING ORANG ULU'S CULTURE IN BELAGA, SARAWAK THROUGH PARTICIPATORY ART (INTERACTIVE – VIDEO MAPPING – SOUND VISUALIZATION)

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Research Objectives

To identify Orang Ulu's culture comprising of customs, ideas, performances, identity and manifestations which seems to be vanished due to modernization and popular culture influence.

To engaging Orang Ulu's especially the elders to showcase their culture that will be recorded both in audio visual form by researchers and also by Orang Ulu themselves.

To produce and present an interactive video mapping projection and sound visualization work that portray Orang Ulu's culture (*tekna* - traditional oral presentation, tattoo, sape, and ngajat dance) to the public.

Expected Research Output

Fieldwork for data collection of the first phase has successfully conducted at Uma Belun Leo Dian, Sungai Asap, Belaga, Sarawak from 8 to 12 March 2023, which included video, photographic, audio and sound recording activities, as well as an interview with Penghulu Saging Bit, a Kayan ethnic group chief. The aim is to get precise information as well as true picture of the Kayan ethnic culture, especially those involving the performance art of *Parap* or *Tekna* (an oral tradition of poetry/verse/pun), the function and role of *Sape* in the performance. In addition, a welcoming dance namely *Do Ledoh* (by men) and *Dak Urau* (by women) was performed by Kayan elderly during the performance. Selected research data and audio-visual recording materials will be analysed which will be transform in the form of interactive video mapping and sound visualization artwork, and academic journal that will be shared with the public.

Researcher

ANUAR BIN AYOB (PI), ASSOC PROF DR HASNIZAM ABDUL WAHID & ASSOC PROF DR WAN JAMARUL IMRAN BIN WAN ABDULLAH THANI (Co-Researcher)

Research Synopsis

This research is designed to invite selected participants from community resided Belaga that is Orang Ulu ethnic; to participate, collaborate and engage interactively both through visual and sound in portraying their vanishing culture (*tekna* - traditional oral presentation, tattoo, sape, and ngajat dance) to be shared with public around Malaysia. It will also be an inclusive platform for them at large to share their unique culture and lifestyle which is hardly to be seen nowadays.

Participatory art nowadays involved participation, interaction, social networks and processes that integrates technology and digital media in transforming and creating creative artworks to be shared with public either in small or large scale. It is a new avenue to develop practices that examine space and locality, community and communication, interaction and intimacy, proximity and distance, creation and co-creation between researcher and research participants.

Presentation of video mapping technology and sound visualization to the public especially in portraying unique culture and identity of certain ethnic that is Orang Ulu in Belaga, Sarawak on public spaces hardly been found and definitely will be a good platform to showcasing it before the audience as this will definitely create an awareness to younger generation on how to preserve their own identity and culture.

