

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Indonesia is a country that is famous for its diversity. The diversity that is owned by Indonesia is in the form of ethnicity, religion, language, and natural feature. Based on the number of regional languages, Jaspian predicted that there are around 366 ethnic groups in Indonesia. Surely that each tribe has its own customs and culture. The customs and culture can be used as a media to attract tourists to visit Indonesia.

One of the customs and culture that interests the tourists is a marriage customs. Each tribe will proudly show its traditional marriage customs as complete as possible. Not only for the wedding party processions, but also from the pre-wedding procession customs.

Some experts give their opinion on the definition of marriage. Duvall and Miller (1985) defines marriage as a socially recognized relationship between a man and a woman that provides for sexual relation, legitimized childbearing, and establishing a division of labor between spouses. Dariyo (2003) also defines marriage as a sacred bond between a man and a woman who has been quite mature. Marriage is considered as a sacred bond (holy relationship) because the relationship has been legally recognized in religious law. From their opinion we can draw the conclusion that marriage is a bond between man and woman that legally provides activities to extend their own variety and between spouses which is legally recognized in either in public or in religious law.

Batak is one of the tribes that known with the customs that are very complicated and unique. For Batak tribe, custom is the most important one beside religion. Bruner (1994) claims that only those who have participated in the wedding

ceremonies of Batak, who may also speak in family affairs and have a right to be full membership in the organization of society. From the statement above, we can know that in daily life customs have a very vital role in Batak society. The custom also used as the integral tool for one individual to other individuals, between one family to the other families, or even a clan to the other clans.

Geographically, 'Batak' tribe is divided into five. There are: Batak Toba, Simalungun, Karo, Mandailing/Angkola, and Pakpak. All of them are hold fast to the tradition (Koentjaraningrat, 2007). The existence of the tradition is highly valued by Batak people, because it is used as a tool that can organize the kinship of Batak tribes. By knowing the customs, Batak people will be able to know their position when they meet other Bataknese just by asking the Bataknese's family name (*Marga*).

One thing that is quite complex and considered unique in Batak customs is the wedding. For Batak, wedding is an event that is extremely valuable (Siahaan, 1982, p. 53). Marriage for Batak society, especially for the Batak Toba shall be performed by executing a number of rituals either before or after receiving the blessing of the Church. In the uniqueness and the diversity, Batak Toba wedding is quite troublesome if we compared with other tribes marriage in Indonesia. This event can run from morning till night because of the length of the tradition. So for those who followed this ceremony for the first time will be surprised by the length and complexity of the event.

Batak wedding will be seen as legitimate in the society if they follow the custom procedure that applicable (Friston, 2000). The actual blessing in the church is the most important thing, but it must be followed with the customs too. If they do not do pre-wedding customs and custom events in full (*Adat Na Gok*), they are considered not legitimate in Batak tradition.

Therefore on this occasion, the writer chooses 'The study of pre-wedding customs of Batak Toba Tribe' as the title for this final report. Pre-wedding procession

of Batak Toba is chosen because it is considered sacred and unique in its execution, although this event is considered complicated by the fact that the family had to involve a lot of clans related to both of parties.

1.2 Problem Formulation

1. What are the stages of customs that must be followed by 'Batak' tribe in pre-wedding procession?
2. Who are involved in pre-wedding procession?

1.3 Purpose

- 1) to find out what are the stages of rituals that must be followed by 'Batak' tribe in pre-wedding procession
- 2) to know who are involved in pre-wedding procession

1.4 Benefit

1. For writer

This report is used to know the role of customs for Batak Toba tribe. Beside that, this report is also used as the final task in getting diploma degree.

2. For Reader

This report provide the detail information about Batak Toba customs especially in pre-wedding procession.