

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background

Indonesia consists of thousands of islands. In Wikipedia (2014) state that Indonesia consists of 17.504 islands. Each island consists of provinces that have different tribe and culture. Each tribe has its own tradition and uniqueness. The uniqueness of the traditions of these tribes can be seen from several customary activities such as birth, marriage, death, and so on. From all customary activities, wedding ceremony is the most favorite activity which still uses the prevailing custom because in the wedding ceremony, each tribe usually will show proudly in order to introduce its uniqueness which will differentiate its customs with wedding procession activity.

Batak is one of the tribes in Indonesia which originally comes from the original Tapanuli, North Sumatra. Batak itself is divided into 5 sub - ethnics, they are, Batak Toba, Angkola, Simalungun, Karo, Mandailing and Pakpak. Based on Central Bureau of Statistics data (2013), population of each sub-ethnic is as follows: Batak Angkola has 623,214 populations, Batak Karo has 1,232,655 populations, Batak Mandailing has 1,742,673 populations, Batak Pakpak Dairi has 180,393 populations, Batak Simalungun has 441,382 populations, Batak Tapanuli has 539,567 populations and Batak Toba has 3,672,443 populations. Nowadays, the Bataknese today's descendants prefer a modern or western wedding because of the simpler era carried by modernization and its cheaper cost. Therefore, there are many Bataknese today's generations who have not been familiar with their own customs. This becomes a problem for the Bataknese, because they will eventually not know anymore Batak Toba culture itself, so family name (*Marga*) that they have just will become a self-identity whereas forms and procedures for marriage are

different for each region which is generally influenced by the public kinship system and local customary law. It is held in a number of series that customarily maintained and preserved by the community. Moreover, Batakese people believe that if they get married without running a customary procession that has been inherited, the marriage will not be legitimate by custom. Sihite (1999, p.47), marriage is patrilineal which aims to preserve the descent of the husband in the line of men, according to family law, because land rights, property, name and position can only be inherited by males.

Therefore, the Batak Toba people descendants should preserve the cultural traditions that have been adopted from antiquity, so traditional wedding of Batak culture is not only done in the modern era, but also will not fade. This is what makes the writer is interested to discuss the Batak Toba tribe traditional wedding ceremony as a discussion in this final report.

## **1.2 Problem formulation**

- 1 What are the steps carried out on Batak Toba traditional wedding ceremony ?
- 2 What are the differences between the theories and the implementations ?

## **1.3 Problem Limitation**

The discussion of final report concerns in Batak Toba wedding. In a traditional wedding, there are some traditional processions is started from the main procession. It is from *Marsibuha-sibuhai* (opening ceremony) until *Ulaon Sadari* which became the main procession in the traditional wedding of Batak Toba. Then, on this final report will be discussed the differences the theories and the implementations of Batak toba wedding traditional wedding ceremony.

#### **1.4 The purpose**

- 1 This final report to give information about the steps on the traditional wedding party of Batak Toba.
- 2 This final report to introduce the Batak Toba culture as the way for preservation.

#### **1.5 Benefit**

1. The young generations knows about the steps on the traditional wedding party of Batak Toba.
2. The young generation knows the differences between the theory and implementation of Batak Toba traditional wedding ceremony
3. The young generations as cultural heirs can preserve the Batak Toba until the next generations.