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Research paper



Children customary clothe in Malay head shaving – cukur jambul ceremony for the communal

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Abstract

The Malay Archipelago, Malay community have a unique tradition and custom that are align to their belief and lifestyle. Head Shaving ceremony is a kind of a ceremony in Malay tradition and custom. This is one of a kind to welcoming the birth of a new baby into the family. Each custom is regarded as unique and special, that has been celebrated for specific purpose that lies in the same Islamic taught and belief. This study aims to discover the children customary clothe in Malay head shaving ceremony or Cukur Jambul that focuses on the Malay tradition. Other than that, it is to document the knowledge with regards to the Malay children starts from baby. This study emphasizes Meyer Schapiro's on theory of style in the context of artefact or material culture object. The research paper applies the qualitative method due to its flexibility views from the informants, observation is made due to the photos collection during the head shaving ceremony. The Malay was maintaining to use Malay traditional clothe in most of their custom ceremonies until today. All in all, this study will provide invaluable source of references to the Malay custom and culture that benefited the royalty's family, researchers, academicians, scholars, students, cultural activist, and museum curators in archiving about the customary clothe during Head Shaving ceremony.

Keywords: *Customary clothe, Malay tradition, Head Shaving – Cukur Jambul.*

1. Introduction

This research discuss one part of children customary ceremony specific for the children in Malay culture and tradition in Malaysia. This is a part of researcher dissertation topic that still in ongoing research progress. This research is focus on the children ages starting from newborn until eighteen years old, this is due to the traditional Malay understanding of the fact that they are the heirs of the family.

2. Aim

To discover the children customary clothe in Malay head shaving ceremony or Cukur Jambul that focuses on the Malay tradition.

3. Objective

To explore the style of children customary clothe in Malay Head Shaving for the communal and to document this knowledge with regards to the Malay children starts from baby.

4. Significance

This study will provide invaluable source of references to the Malay custom and culture that benefited the royalty's family, researchers, academicians, scholars, students, cultural activist, and museum curators in archiving about the customary clothe during Head Shaving ceremony.

5. Research question

What is the specific style for Malay children during the head shaving ceremony or Cukur Jambul?

6. Literature review

The Malay folks have taught and condition their kids from an early age, in Malay proverb mentions "melentur buluh biarla dari rebungnya". The meaning shows that, the new generations (kids) will follow the lessons regarding custom and traditions especially on head shaving adat or customs. The United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child (1989) in it portal have define Child as 'a human being below the age of 18 Years, unless under the law applicable to the child'. Referring to (Undang Undang Malaysia (cetakan semula) Akta 611 Kanak-kanak 2001 [1]; *mengandungi segala pindaan hingga 1 Januari 2006, 2006) kanak-kanak ialah anak yang masih kecil (biasanya belum berumur tujuh tahun) sebagai remaja yang mula dewasa, sudah akil baligh, sudah cukup umur untuk berkahwin.*

6.1. Children

Children are human beings between the stages of birth and puberty. Malaysia Child Act 2001 define children as a person who age is under eighteen years old. Kanak-kanak bukan sahaja merupakan suatu bahagian penting masyarakat sedemikian tetapi juga merupakan kunci kehidupan, pembangunan dan kemakmuran masyarakat itu (Undang Undang Malaysia (cetakan semula) Akta 611

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Kanak-kanak 2001 [1]; mengandungi segala pindaan hingga 1 Januari 2006, 2006) Kanak-kanak Ertinya seseorang yang di bawah umur lapan belas 18 tahun; dan Berhubung dengan prosiding jenayah, ertinya seseorang yang sudah mencapai umur bagi tanggunjawab jenayah sebagaimana yang ditetapkan dalam seksyen 82 Kanun Keseksaan [Akta 574]. While the Convention on The Rights of the Child (1997) claimed that children means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless [2]. Children is important for every socio-culture because they are the culture precious heir who bring and portray each of their ancestor's practices and traditions.

6.2. Clothes

'Baju' is a kind of Pakaian Cara Melayu. Baju is made from the weaving of fabric (textile) in the Malay. The traditional Malay fashion style also known after the emergence of Arab–Persian. This is the reasons why the term 'baju' is originated from the word bazu or badhu in Arabic while in English called as forearm. Siti Zainon [3] define clothing as the cover up of the whole body such as coat, baju kamis (qamissun), known as shirt kemeja, baju kurung, jubah (jubattun) and also utaifun (baju). Before the rise of Islamic concept in The Malay civilisation, the Malay tradition of body cover with a sarung wrap around the body as berkemban. The tradition uses the sarong or a long piece of cloth till chest line and cover up berkelubung up to the chest part for women [3].

6.3. Head-shaving ceremony

Head shaving ceremony is one of the ceremony for the newborn baby. The practices is different depend on the parents availability and financial factor. A week after the delivery of the baby, according to Malay tradition a ceremonial kenduri of nasi kunyit (yellow cooked sticky rice) is held after the customary performance of shaving head of the baby and naming him/her [4]. Somehow this ceremony can be happening after the 44 day of the childbirth equally with the end of mother berpantang; confinement. In this adat, the normal committee cover the baby in a piece of white cloth / napkin wrap around the baby or bedung. The little one neatly cover up in this with cloth symbolise the purity as a newborn. Baby live nine months in a small mummy womb, and they will feel jolt starting from the moment they are born into this big world.

To create the comfy spacy alike mommy's womb, the folklore wraps the baby neatly bedung inside this white cloth. A part from that, bedung helps the baby in preventing the baby from coldness and keep baby's body temperature. The newly parents are advice to give their baby name with a good and beautiful meaning to the baby afterward and they have to register their baby name to the national registration office [5]. Head shaving is vital 'sunat' for the newborn. This ceremony held on the seven days of the childbirth. After the ceremony ended, it is advised disunatkan to donate silver or gold to the poverty if they could afford it. Or else, other option is to contra the weight to the baby hairs with money or valuable items [5].

7. Research methodology

This study focused on Malay children attire during Head Shaving ceremony. A qualitative method used in gaining the valuable and resourceful datas. The data collection for this study gathered from Malay informants during the Head Shaving ceremony. This study applied the theory of style by Mayer Schapiro. This study will analyse on the artifact as subject.

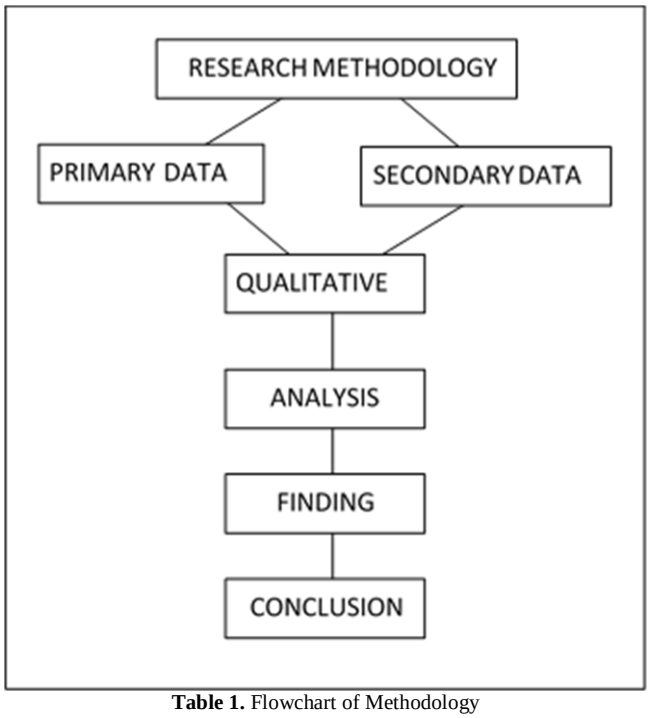


Table 1. Flowchart of Methodology

This method emphasize in order to answer the research question; What is the specific style for Malay children during the head shaving ceremony or Cukur Jambul?.
Does it involve any specific design that only or been custom for this ceremony or else.

8. Analysis and findings



Fig. 1. A figure of a grandfather shaving his grandchildren head that being wrapped; *bedung* in a piece of white clotche, while the other grandchildren wathing them (1989)



Fig. 2. A new father shaving his daughter's head using an electronic razor, while the baby was wrap; *bedung* in a piece of white clothe (2008)



Fig. 3. A mother shave her head using a scissor, while the baby was wrap; *bedung* with a piece of batik *sarung* (2017)



Fig. 4. A mother shave her head using a razor, while the baby was wrap; *bedung* in a piece of white clothe (2017)

In this selected four illustration starting from 1989 until 2017, the Malay in Malaysia practices its tradition and custom really well. They maintain the uses of white cotton clothe and batik sarung to wrap around; *bedung* the infant during the head shaving ceremony. This symbolize the unity among the Malay are united. they practice the tradition ceremony of head shaving in a clean way that symbolizes the purity of each newborn that need a proper and need care and values.



Fig. 5. A new father wearing baju melayu holding his baby wrap; *bedung* in a batik sarung, during head shaving ceremony; photo taken during field work on 25.10.17; *Adat Cukur Jambul*, at Sultan Alam Shah Museum Shah Alam exhibition area.

This study found that during the head shaving ceremony, the formal style for this ceremony is still maintained the uses of white cotton clothe and batik sarung during the Head Shaving ceremony. The baby will be fully cover; *bedung* in this white cotton and their hair will be cut or shave phase by phase. Some of them will organise a small function for this ceremony just for their newborn. After that, the baby will be clean up and bath and be cover up using new piece of white cotton clothe or a batik sarung.

9. Conclusion

The children customary clothe for head shaving is just a piece of white cotton clothe and batik; *sarung.* They use a breathable material cotton, that suitable with tropical climate. After the ceremony, the baby hair is collect to preserve the first hair that baby have. Besides, this head shaving ceremony is vital for the baby to clean the baby starting from the head to toes. It also to preserve the baby from bad or dirty environment or mystique creatures that are harmful to the newborn and keep him healthy. This show that in the Malay culture, cleanliness is important for all, and Islam also teach their ummat to clean before worship to the God the Almighty.

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