

ABSTRACT

Hutabarat, Horas. Registration Number 8186116004. Semiotic Meanings of Artefacts in Toba Batak Ceremonies Across Toba Batak Regions: A Study on Variations and Changes

This research aimed at studying the semiotic meanings of artefacts employed in Toba Batak ceremonies across Toba Batak regions using a qualitative method in ethnographic study. The data were collected using observation, interview, and documentary techniques. The objects were those used in Baptism, Wedding, and Entering a New House Ceremonies in Sibisa, Limbong Sagala, Sait ni Huta, and Lumban Siagian regions, in the Province of North Sumatera.

The research results revealed: first, there were 36 types of artefacts used in Toba Batak ceremonies. Each of the artefacts was identified having meanings and variations. Second, the data analysis also revealed meaning changes of the artefacts. Third, the variations occurred due to two factors: 1) different contexts (regions); and 2) different interactions with the artefacts (ceremonies); while the meaning changes were caused by the extralinguistic factors, covering: 1) time savings and 2) other custom influences.

It was concluded that Toba Batak people used artefacts to interact and communicate in their ceremonies. The artefacts are used till the present time by a particular Toba Batak community in a certain ceremony and region. In other words, artefacts are potential resources for communication (modes).

Keywords: *Toba Batak artefacts, semiotics meaning variations and changes, causal factors*

ABSTRAK

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Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis makna semiotis artefak yang digunakan pada acara adat suku Batak Toba yang tersebar di wilayah Batak Toba. Penelitian ini menerapkan metode kualitatif-etnografis. Pengumpulan data penelitian ini menggunakan teknik observasi, interviu, dan dokumentasi. Adapun objek penelitian adalah artefak yang digunakan dalam acara Pembaptisan, Pernikahan, dan Memasuki Rumah Barau di wilayah Sibisa, Limbong Sagala, Sait ni Huta, dan Lumban Siagian, Propinsi Sumatera Utara.

Hasil penelitian mengungkapkan: pertama, first, ditemukan 36 jenis artefak yang digunakan pada acara adat Batak Toba. Setiap artefak memiliki makna dan variasi makna. Ke dua, temuan menyingkapkan perubahan makna pada beberapa jenis artefak. Dan, ke tiga, variasi dan makna artefak terjadi disebabkan oleh faktor: 1) perbedaan konteks (wilayah) dan perbedaan interaksi; sementara perubahan makna artefak terjadi disebabkan oleh faktor: 1) penghematan waktu; dan 2) pengaruh budaya luar.

Berdasarkan hasil penelitian disimpulkan bahwa suku Batak Toba menggunakan artefak sebagai media komunikasi dan interaksi pada setiap acara adat. Dengan kata lain, artefak memiliki potensi untuk digunakan sebagai media komunikasi dan interaksi.

Kata kunci: artefak, semiotik, variasi dan perubahan makna, faktor penyebab