

**AN ETHNOSCIENCE APPROACH ON THE MINANGKABAU WEDDING
CEREMONY *PASAMBAHAN MANJAPUIK MARAPULAI* IN WEST SUMATRA,
INDONESIA**

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Abstract

Speakers from a particular speech community share not only knowledge of the linguistic code, but also socio-cultural context (Hymes, 1964). Such ability enables the speakers to interpret the appropriate social patterns of language use in the community. Minangkabau wedding ceremony, *Pasambahan Manjapuik Marapulai*, has been subjected to various forms of linguistic analysis by Putriani, M, Abdurahman, & Ismail M. (2012). However, to the best of knowledge, few studies have investigated the work from an ethnographic point of view. Guided by Hymes' SPEAKING framework (Hymes, 1964) and interconnected with the anthropological framework by De Jong (1952), this paper explores the ethnoscience representation in the ceremony in terms of language use and social structures. The current study found that the utterances in the ceremony contain moral teachings and ethical values. The ceremony symbolizes the separation of the bride from her origin where the groom collects the bride from her parents' house. The community members are invited to witness and to give support to the couple in starting a new life. During the ceremony, the spokesman of *anak daro* (the bride) called *Sutan Parmato* and the spokesman of *marapulai* (the groom) called *Sutan Sinaro* made polite utterances. In general, therefore, it seems that the research clearly supports the eight components of SPEAKING mnemonic involving speech and dimensions of participants, setting, channel and other entailments in the ceremony. The language use in the ceremony conveyed a sense of tolerance, hospitality, and honor to the guest and the community members. In terms of social structures, the ceremony clearly reflects the nurture kinship and the *Gotong royong* practice in the Minangkabau community. More broadly, the results point to a key role of indigenous knowledge in wedding cultures for sustainable community development.

Keywords: *ethnoscience, ethnolinguistic, Minangkabau culture, traditional ceremony, wedding ceremony.*

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