

ABSTRAK

Sesungguhnya keunggulan dan kegemilangan tamadun bangsa Iban sedikit sebanyak dapat dilihat melalui warisan budayanya yang unik dan tersendiri. Kajian ini cuba membincangkan tembikar, khasnya tembikar perdagangan dalam budaya orang Iban dan menganalisis tembikar yang pada mulanya hanya merupakan benda biasa digunakan dalam kehidupan seharian, kemudian ia telah diiktirafkan dengan satu martabat yang amat tinggi dalam masyarakat itu. Bagi tujuan itu, pengkaji akan cuba menghuraikan tembikar sebagai peralatan seharian dan juga dari sudut ritual. Oleh itu, fokus utama kajian ini ingin melihat tembikar dari sudut ritual dan dari perspektif hukum adat. Tembikar merupakan satu benda sakral telah digunakan dalam pelbagai upacara berkaitan dengan ritual 'Petara' seperti di dalam ritual 'Gawai'. Tembikar telah diperturunkan oleh kuasa luar biasa melalui mimpi dan ia telah banyak membantu kehidupan orang Iban, khasnya dalam kegiatan pertanian. Orang Iban menggunakan tembikar dalam perspektif hukum adat dan ia merupakan satu objek yang mempunyai kuasa luar biasa yang dapat mengekalkan keharmonian hubungan manusia sesama manusia dan hubungan manusia dengan tuhan mereka. Bagi menghasilkan Disertasi yang sempurna, kajian ini cuba bergerak di dalam rangkuman tiga teori. Pertamanya, tembikar telah wujud di Sarawak sejak abad ke-9 Maschi dan orang Iban telah dikatakan menggunakan tembikar sebagai alatan kegunaan seharian. Keduanya, pengkaji ingin melihat makna dan hubungan tembikar dengan kuasa luar biasa yang dijelmakan melalui mimpi serta kesannya kepada pemilik tembikar itu dan yang ketiga kehadiran tembikar telah memantapkan budaya orang Iban menerusi peranannya dalam hukum adat. Setiap huraian yang diutarakan diharap dapat memberi manfaat untuk difikirkan bersama.

ABSTRACT

In actual fact the richness and excellence in the civilization of the Iban people can to some extent be seen through their cultural heritage which is unique to them. This research seeks to examine the place of ceramic in the trade and culture of the Iban people and to analyze the change and elevation of ceramic from being used in everyday life to that of great value and importance in the said culture. Towards this end, the researcher will attempt to elaborate on the usages of ceramic both in its everyday as well as ritual contexts. Thus, the prime focus of this research is to discover the importance of ceramic from both ritualistic as well cultural perspectives. Ceramic is an essential and sacred component in any ritual or ceremony connected with 'Petara' as in the 'Gawai ritual'. Ceramic were given by supernatural powers through dreams and thus became an important aid in the life of the Iban people, especially in the area of agriculture. The Iban people used ceramic in their cultural rites and ceremonies and valued them for their supernatural powers which can contribute to the harmony between humans and between humans and the gods. To complete this Dissertation, this research attempts to look at this subject from three theories. First, ceramic had been in used in Sarawak since the 9th Century A.D. and that the Iban people used ceramic in their everyday life. Second, the researcher will try to see the meaning and connection between ceramic and supernatural powers as conferred through dreams and confirmed in their positive effects on the owner. Third, the coming of ceramic had helped to enrich the culture of the Iban people especially through their usages in rituals and ceremonies. It is hoped that this research will inform as well as encourage further exploration or discussion on this subject.