

ABSTRAK

Fokus kajian ini ialah mengenai buluh iaitu sejenis rumput-rumpai yang boleh didapati tumbuh di merata dunia kecuali di tempat yang terlalu sejuk seperti Artik dan Antartik. Di benua seperti Asia, Afrika, Amerika Selatan, Amerika Utara dan Australia buluh didapati ada yang tumbuh liar dan ada juga yang ditanam. Buluh juga ada didapati di benua Eropah tetapi ia dipercayai bukan tumbuhan asli di situ. Adalah dipercayai ia dibawa dari negara-negara Asia seperti China, Jepun dan sebagainya.

Buluh mempunyai pelbagai spesies. Antara spesies buluh yang besar ia mempunyai ketinggian kira-kira 25 meter dan ada juga yang kecil iaitu mempunyai ketinggian kira-kira 1.5 meter sahaja. Buluh-buluh yang tumbuh di kawasan yang beriklim sederhana tumbuh secara monopodial dan di kawasan panas seperti kawasan tropika ia tumbuh secara simpodial.

Tumbuhan buluh sangat berguna kepada manusia termasuk masyarakat Iban di Sarawak. Orang Iban menggunakan buluh dalam berbagai-bagai cara hidup mereka misalnya dalam bidang pertanian, seni tampak dan sebagainya. Di sebalik penggunaan buluh orang Iban mempunyai falsafah-falsafah tertentu yang berkaitan dengan tumbuhan tersebut. Falsafah-falsafah itu ada yang berkaitan dengan kepercayaan tradisi atau animisme, hukum adat, nilai sosial dan lain-lain. Hal ini banyak yang menggambarkan betapa pentingnya buluh dalam kehidupan masyarakat Iban terutamanya pada zaman dahulu. Meskipun sekarang buluh masih memainkan peranan dalam kehidupan masyarakat Iban sama ada yang tinggal di pedalaman ataupun yang di Bandar tetapi

terdapat tanda-tanda yang ia kini kian terpinggir dan jika sesuatu tidak dilakukan kemungkinan dalam masa yang terdekat ini ia akan pupus daripada segi kegunaannya dan juga kehadirannya di alam persekitaran kita.

ABSTRACT

The focus of this research is on the subject of bamboo, which is a type of grass which can be found all over the world except in a very cold climatic condition like in the Arctic and the Antarctic. In continents like Asia, Africa, South America and Australia, bamboos can be found growing in the wild as well as in cultivation. Bamboos are also found in Europe, but it is believed that they are not native to the place. Some theories say that they were brought there from Asian countries like China, Japan and others.

There are varied species of bamboo. The biggest of these species can grow as tall as 25 metres while the smallest can grow to only 1.5 metres. Bamboo species which grow in temperate climate tend to be of the monopodial type while those in warmer climate like the tropics or sub-tropics tend to be of the sympodial type.

Bamboos play an important and useful part in the lives of a large population of mankind including the Iban of Sarawak. The Iban people used bamboos in many aspects of their daily lives, like in the area of agriculture, decorative and cultural arts, and many others. Regarding bamboos and their usages, the Iban have developed certain philosophies connected with their traditional belief or animism, cultural rites and superstitions, social requirements or expectations, and many others. Seen from these perspectives, we can see the great importance bamboos have played in the past and continue to play today in the daily lives of the Iban people. Even though bamboos still play some important parts in the lives of the Iban people nowadays, regardless of whether

they are in the rural or urban areas, the signs are there to show that their usages and importance are getting less and less and thus if certain critical steps are not taken to preserve bamboos and encourage their cultivation and promote their usages, then their usages and usefulness will rapidly decline and in the near future their growth in our environment will face extinction.