



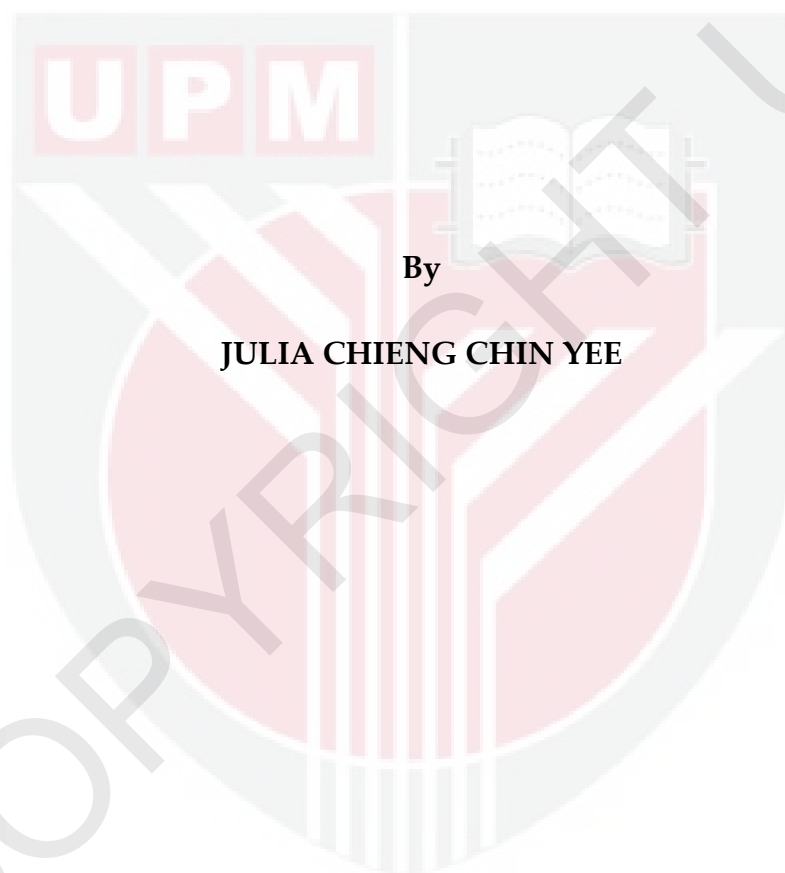
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**TRADITIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN PRESENT MUSICAL
LIFE OF LEBU' KULIT IN SUNGAI ASAP, SARAWAK**

JULIA CHIENG CHIN YEE

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**TRADITIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN PRESENT MUSICAL
LIFE OF LEBU' KULIT IN SUNGAI ASAP, SARAWAK**



By

JULIA CHIENG CHIN YEE

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in
fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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Chair: Professor phil. habil. Gisa Jähnichen, PhD

Faculty: Human Ecology

The Lebu' Kulit people refer to themselves as belonging to one of the different subgroups of Kenyah. In the past, they migrated from Usun Apau and settled in few places on Borneo Island. The community is now separated and dispersed in different locations in Sarawak, Malaysia and East Kalimantan, Indonesia. At present, there is only one Lebu' Kulit village in Sarawak. Since the year 1999, they have been staying in Sungai Asap in the Belaga District of Kapit Division. Along the stream of migrations and historical happenings which can be traced back to the early twentieth century, the Lebu' Kulit people in Sungai Asap experienced a series of events such as headhunting, Dutch governance in Kalimantan, conversion to Christianity, the formation of Malaysia, the Confrontation War in the year

1963, and resettlement to Sungai Asap by the Sarawak government due to the construction of Bakun dam.

As there is a lack of information on the musical culture of the Lebu' Kulit in Sungai Asap, this is the first study that intends to document and analyse their present musical life and the culture of the community particularly on their traditional musical instruments. Several fieldtrips were made to the village from December 2009 to July 2011, and data on music practices as well as their cultural background were collected through audiovisual recordings, interviews, interactions, and participant-observations in their activities. Analyses and reflections were derived via study of audiovisual recordings, music transcriptions, and information obtained from interviews and observations.

The traditional musical instruments in the present musical life of the Lebu' Kulit in Sungai Asap includes *udang kadung* (xylophone), *sampé' daru'* (zither), *sampé' bup* (lute), *sampé' ja'au* (lute), *selingut* (transverse flute), *kediré' alo'* (mouth organ), and *wing* or *iceh* (vessel rattle). These instruments are played mostly in heterogeneous ensemble to accompany dance, songs or as instrumental music entertainment. The tuning of these musical instruments is similar to the western diatonic major scale. The musicians' common repertoire consists of the traditional Kenyah tune *Det Diet*, the local folksong

Lenggang Kangkung, various Christian hymns and Gurkha songs. The performing style of a tune is usually repetitive with variations in rhythmic structures, registers, embellishments and dynamic accents.

The playing of traditional musical instruments of the Lebu' Kulit is significantly influenced by their beliefs especially through changes in their religion, historical events, present social and economic context, and individual self-expression. It seems that the traditional instrumental music of the Lebu' Kulit has been "restarted" in a new form and meaning around sixty years ago and has become "singularised". Besides, the frequency of traditional musical instruments playing has reduced to functions and festive seasons. The repertoire in the traditional musical sphere consists mostly of imported materials, and of which are adopted and internalised, and are expressed in their own creativity and skills.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**TRADITIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN PRESENT MUSICAL
LIFE OF LEBU' KULIT IN SUNGAI ASAP, SARAWAK**

Oleh

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Penduduk Lebu' Kulit merupakan salah satu sub-kumpulan kaum Kenyah. Pada masa lalu, mereka berpindah dari Usun Apau dan menetap di beberapa tempat di Borneo. Kini, komuniti ini telah terpisah dan tersebar di beberapa lokasi yang berbeza di Sarawak, Malaysia dan Kalimantan Timur, Indonesia. Pada masa ini, hanya terdapat satu kampung Lebu' Kulit di Sarawak. Mereka tinggal di Sungai Asap di Daerah Belaga, Bahagian Kapit sejak tahun 1999. Sepanjang tempoh migrasi, Lebu' Kulit di Sungai Asap mengalami beberapa peristiwa bersejarah yang boleh disusur kembali pada awal abad kedua-puluh, seperti zaman pemburuan kepala, pentadbiran kerajaan Belanda di Kalimantan, pemelukan agama Kristian, pembentukan Malaysia, Perang Konfrontasi pada tahun 1963, dan penempatan semula ke

Sungai Asap oleh kerajaan negeri Sarawak disebabkan pembinaan Empangan Bakun.

Oleh sebab terdapat kekurangan maklumat mengenai budaya muzik Lebu' Kulit di Sungai Asap, ini adalah kajian pertama yang dibuat bagi tujuan untuk membuat dokumentasi serta menganalisis muzik dan budaya masyarakat ini terutamanya alat muzik tradisional mereka. Beberapa kerja lapangan telah dilakukan di kampung Lebu' Kulit dari Disember 2009 sehingga Julai 2011, dan data mengenai amalan muzik serta latar belakang Lebu' Kulit telah dikumpulkan melalui rakaman audiovisual, temubual, interaksi, dan peserta-pemerhatian dalam aktiviti. Analisis dan refleksi telah diperolehi melalui kajian rakaman audiovisual, transkripsi muzik, dan maklumat daripada temubual dan pemerhatian.

Pada masa ini, alat-alat muzik tradisional di kalangan Lebu' Kulit di Sungai Asap termasuk *udang kadung*, *sampé' daru'*, *sampé' bup*, *sampé' ja'au*, *selingut*, *kediré' alo'*, dan *wing* atau *iceh*. Kebanyakan alat-alat muzik ini dimainkan dalam pelbagai gabungan untuk mengiringi tarian dan lagu, atau sebagai muzik instrumental untuk hiburan. Penalaan alat-alat muzik ini mirip skala diatonik major muzik barat. Repertoir biasa para pemuzik terdiri daripada lagu tradisional masyarakat Kenyah *Det Diet*, lagu rakyat tempatan *Lenggang Kangkung*, pelbagai lagu pujian Kristian dan lagu Gurkha. Gaya

persembahan sebuah lagu biasanya berulang-ulang dengan variasi dalam struktur irama, tingkat nada, hiasan dan tekanan dinamik.

Permainan alat muzik tradisional Lebu' Kulit dipengaruhi oleh kepercayaan mereka, terutamanya melalui penukaran agama, peristiwa sejarah, konteks sosial dan ekonomi serta cara ekspresi individu. Muzik instrumental Lebu' Kulit seolah-olah telah "diperbaharui" kepada bentuk dan makna yang lain kira-kira enam puluh tahun yang lepas dan menjadi semakin "singular". Selain itu, kekerapan bermain alat muzik tradisional telah berkurang kepada acara dan musim perayaan. Repertoir dalam lingkungan muzik tradisional kebanyakannya terdiri daripada lagu-lagu dari komuniti lain yang telah diterima dan dihayati, dan dimainkan dengan kreativiti dan kemahiran tersendiri.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 10 January 2012 to conduct the final examination of Julia Chieng Chin Yee on her thesis entitled "Traditional Musical Instruments in Present Musical Life of Lebu' Kulit in Sungai Asap, Sarawak" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

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Date: 10th January 2012

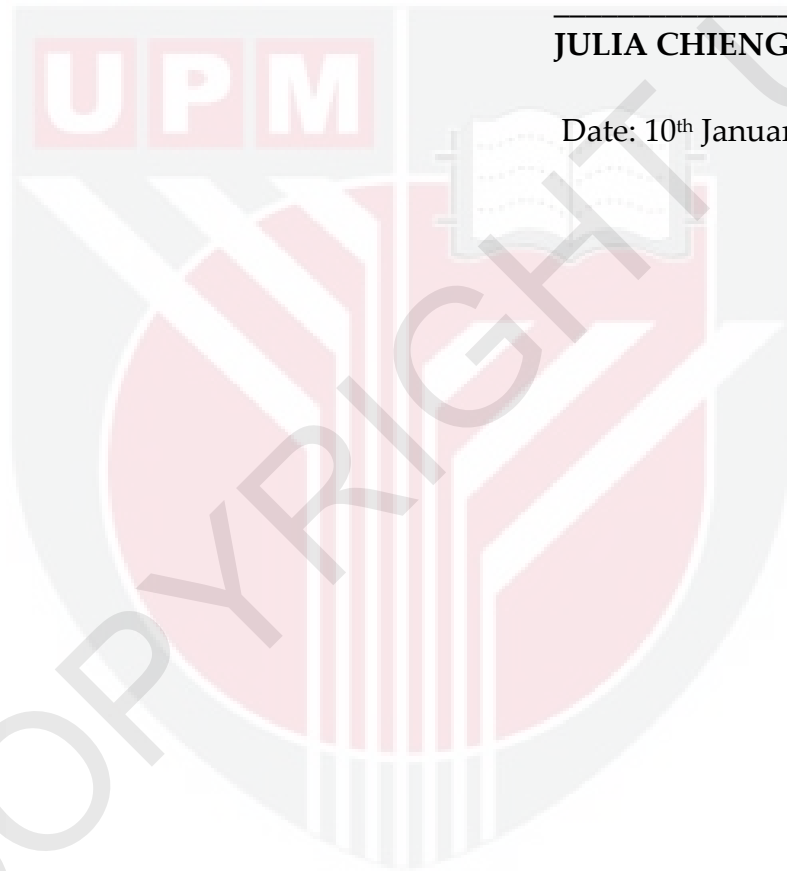


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