

***NUKEN*¹: HOW THINGS BEING MEASURED²?**

NUKEN: BAGAIMANA BENDA DIUKUR?

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Abstract

Orang Ulu settlements in upper river and its tributaries of Belaga were once so remote and hardly accessed by outsiders. Inaccessibility for traders to penetrated the area has caused absence of economic activities thus hindered the standard measurement system to be used in quantification, transaction, product valuation and labour exchange in the region during that time. Thus, this paper discusses how Orang Ulu measured things using objects they have made purposely and unpurposely as gauges in the past and how figures obtained from the measurement imply to productivity, value and exchange in their daily transactions and routines. The discussion also includes the traditional measuring methods used in some of their utilitarian objects production in quantifying raw materials to estimate resources and to determine size of finished objects. The main reason for doing so is to draw attention and share this knowledge with others on Orang Ulu's technology of arithmetic and scientific thinking applied in their traditional measuring system in objects production, trade and exchange among these Central Borneo natives.

Keywords: *Orang Ulu, material culture, measuring systems, traditional gauges, exchange*

¹ A Kayan term for measure.

² This paper discusses results based on my study of Orang Ulu material culture and highlights findings on related subject from other researchers done elsewhere previously.