

THE JATTI MIRIEK TRADITIONAL CLOTHING

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ABSTRACT

This study discusses the Jatti Miriek traditional clothing for men and women. The main purpose of this study is to analyze the pattern design, materials used, and the process of producing the Jatti Miriek traditional clothing. There are very restricted comprehensive studies and documentations on the traditional clothing that might lead to extinction of these valuable traditional details. The data in this study were collected through fieldwork involving interviews and visual observation. The findings of this study have shown that Jatti Miriek traditional clothing has its own uniqueness that should be documented for its influence on the design of Baju Melayu and Baju Kurung since the assimilation of Jatti Miriek ethnic. Therefore, this paper highlights the design of Jatti Miriek traditional clothing through discussions on visual comparison in order to generate empirical data on the details of the design. Furthermore, through this study it is expected to conserve the Jatti Miriek traditional clothing and serve as a guideline for future researchers.

Keywords: *Jatti Miriek, traditional clothing, pattern design, material use, process*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Jatti Miriek ethnic are known more comfortably as the Malays (Tengku Zainah 1978). They are believed to be the oldest ethnic in Sarawak and had existed since 200 to 300 years ago (Bernama 2018, November 30). Yakup (2018) reported that Jatti Miriek was the oldest community in the Baram district of Miri, where they were believed to inhabit the areas along Miri River such as Likoh Miriek, Padang Liku and Taniku River. Bibi Aminah (1997) also reported that the Jatti Mirieks originally believe in animisms where during that time, they were not yet Muslims and still cling to what their ancestors believe. The Jatti Mirieks, like those of other ethnic groups in Sarawak, have their own traditional clothing.

However, there is no precise estimation of the existence of the beginning of these minorities' traditional fashion. According to the Association of Jatti Miriek Miri (PJMM), no one knew about the original design of the Jatti Miriek traditional clothing since no proper documentation was done at that time. Therefore, this paper will focus on the detailed information of Jatti Miriek traditional clothing. Generally, the Jatti Miriek traditional clothing can be categorized into three different categories where the first category is the traditional clothes that are worn at the dance and music performance during the paddy harvesting ceremony. The second and third category are the traditional clothes worn by the groom and bride during their wedding ceremony and the traditional clothes worn during special occasions respectively. According to PJMM, there are no proper documentations regarding the early generation of Jatti Miriek traditional clothing.

The lack of referencing materials and detailed information had caused issues for the young generations of Jatti Miriek as well as researchers in order to learn more about the traditional clothes. Previous studies focused on the wedding ceremony of Jatti Mirieks along with the