

# Democracy in the Malay Traditional Pre-Wedding Procession in Batam, Riau Islands

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**ABSTRACT:** Cecah Inai is one of the processions performed in the Batam Malay Traditional Pre-wedding. Before the procession is carried out, usually in reaching a consensus, democracy is carried out, between Mak-Andam and the bride and groom's family. With the development of the democratic era that occurred in this marriage experienced a shift, where in the democratic era it was carried out through an agreement between the family and community leaders in the form of barter, and if the family did not carry out this Cecah Henna event, social sanctions would be received in society. At this time, democracy is undergoing changes that are only agreed upon by the families of the prospective bride and groom and are adjusted to economic factors or strata in society. If the family has the financial capacity, the family will carry out the pre-wedding procession as a whole and if not, then the procession will only carry out the most important parts, namely Curi Inai and Berandam.

**KEYWORD:** Democracy, Pre-wedding, Malay Traditional Procession.

## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia has different ethnic groups as well as marriage customs. This can be influenced by several factors, including geographical conditions, religion, culture, economy, and language (Devianty, 2017). Whatever the various forms of traditional marriage ceremonies, in essence, marriage is a sacred and religious ceremony because marriage cannot be separated from a human biological need and is also a command from God.

The early Malays came to the Malay peninsula to the Lingga kingdom of Riau, they brought together a unique and distinct culture that encompassed all ways and perspectives of life (Takari, 2005). This culture is more familiar to us by the term "adat" which is defined as the procedures and regulations of daily life, both individually and in society which can create harmony, tranquility and full of peace and harmony in social life, there are also encompassing procedures/rituals that are practiced to be lived, at ceremonies or celebrations at official assemblies that do not conflict with faith, piety and religion, both physically and spiritually.

Malay traditional marriage customs are characteristic and cultural values that are upheld by the Malays themselves. Even though Malays have spread throughout the archipelago as a result of the development of life and times, new values have been attached from their contact with Modernization, but Malays are still Malays. This is what the Malays say is not lost on earth. There is a tradition that is timeless by the heat and not overshadowed by the rain. Thus, in the customary life of Malay marriages, they adhere to the dot tradition, but there will be differences from one region to another among Malays. but it is not a matter of adat

that is getting thinner but a plain polish of modern culture that does not affect the traditional values of the Malay people.

In Batam Malay marriage customs cannot be separated from the cultural influences of tribes and nations, plus the influence of Buddhism and Hinduism before the introduction of the Ismaili religion to this country. In other words, the traditional marriage ceremony of the Batam Malay Customs is based on *syara*, the Book of Allah, and Sunatullah. With the amalgamation of these cultures, there was acculturation between the immigrant culture and the Batam Malay culture from various ethnic groups such as Chinese Arabs, Siamese Persians, and other tribes in the Indonesian archipelago. including the procedures for Batam Malay marriage customs which have continued to develop from time to time so that we can enjoy them until now.

Marriages that occur between bachelors and virgins go through a process of traditional ceremonies after an agreement has been made between the male and female parties. In Malay customs, this kind of marriage is the most common. The excitement was felt a few days before D-day, this activity was initiated through a democratic process.

Democracy is the government of the people, power owned by the government (rulers) comes from the people (Suarlin & Fatmawati, 2022). Government by the people is the people who run the life of the country. Government for the people The government implements government to serve the interests of the people, namely to realize people's welfare. Furthermore, Jali (2019) explains, democracy is essentially joint/collective decision-making, joint decisions are decisions that concern the common interests of many people, so that in the decision-making process each member has the same rights, in a democracy there are two principles often referred to as the twin principles include, among other things, the existence of member oversight of the process of making joint decisions and the existence of equal rights in carrying out this oversight, democracy is always related to the process of making joint decisions in all forms of life together.

Democracy in pre-marital marriages is limited or internal deliberation with relatives to send wise and clever people to peep at girls who have their son chosen. After it is considered appropriate, then the deliberations of the two parties are attempted to reach an agreement to carry out the proposed marriage (Maternity, 2018).

Through the problems and background previously described, the following problems can be formulated: How is democracy in the Batam Malay custom pre-wedding procession, How are the Batam Malay custom pre-wedding process and the research objective is to find out the form of democracy in the process of Batam Malay Malay pre-wedding custom, after the author conducted interviews with community leaders who are also Mak-Andam in every Batam Malay wedding Mrs. Becek Tang (September 1, 2021) until now, there is still less interest from the Batam Malay community.

## **METHODS**

In this study, the authors took a qualitative approach by producing an analytical descriptive method (Sabri et al., 2021; Erianjoni et al., 2020). The object of this research is democracy in Malay traditional pre-marriage in Batam, Riau Islands. The main instrument of this study is the researcher himself and assisted by supporting instruments such as stationery, cameras, and tape recorders. Types of data using primary data and secondary data. Data collection techniques were carried out using literature studies, observations, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis used a triangulation technique that compared observational data with data from interviews and documentation.

## **RESULTS**

### **3.1 Democracy in Malay Pre-Marriage**

Accordance with the definition of democracy is closely related to the form of government. Democracy comes in several forms. All of them feature competitive elections, freedom of expression, and protection of

<b>22</b>	ISSN 2690-9626 (online), Published by "Global Research Network LLC" under Volume: 4 Issue: 1 in Jan-2023 <a href="https://globalresearchnetwork.us/index.php/ajshr">https://globalresearchnetwork.us/index.php/ajshr</a>
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individual civil liberties and human rights. There are several definitions of democracy (Ichsan, 2014; Irawan, 2016) in general and according to experts, they include:

- *Aristotle*: Democracy is the freedom of every citizen to share power. According to Aristotle, democracy is freedom or the principle of democracy is freedom. This is because only through freedom can every citizen share power within his country.
- *Bonger*: The definition of democracy is divided into two aspects, namely formal and material understanding. Formal democracy is democracy in theory, while material democracy is democracy which in practice is influenced by two factors, namely independence, and equality as well as social and economic.
- *Koentjoro Poerbopranoto*: Democracy is a system that encourages people to participate actively in the government of the country.

From the three opinions above, it can be concluded that democracy is independence or freedom in making decisions both morally and materially in government, decisions that concern the common interests of many people, so that in the decision-making process each member has the same rights, democracy is always related to the process of making joint decisions in all forms of shared life and democracy itself is not only in making decisions but the freedom to do positive things in any field, especially art, art in democracy has various functions depending on the needs.

Art is democratic in that it has the freedom to create, the limitations of art lie in the auxiliary medium used, art can be used as a means of democratic communication, freedom in the art can enter into various ideas, become a unified goal to achieve life together. Art democracy gives freedom to artists to develop creativity by the supporting community. Democracy is a system of regulating life together to achieve the ideals of a just, prosperous and prosperous society with a security and welfare approach. Democratic art is something that pleases me because it is full of complexity, subtlety, and fun. In a democratic party, there is a special art that can be enjoyed by all supporters. In a democracy, there is the freedom to be creative, that is, to express ideas, and the ideology adopted is expected to prosper all members of society. While cultural democracy itself we take from KBBI the words mind (reason) power and ability which means the ability of the human mind, Culture of democracy is the ability of humans to behave and activities that value equality, freedom, and rules.

One of the cultures of the Malay community is a traditional marriage before marriage which is carried out through joint deliberations between the two sides, men and women. In the past, agreements were made by the nuclear family and relatives with burners by the development of modern times, now agreements are only on the nuclear family according to needs. And finances from both parties (Yohana & Husmiwati, 2015).

### 3.2 Malay Traditional Pre-wedding

Deliberation in the pre-marriage democracy of Batam Malay traditional culture is one of the agreements that begins with the male family. After a single child conveys his intention to his father and mother that he is very pleased and wants to attract the girl who is his dream, this agreement is taken from a decision between relatives and a wise person who is clever between the two parties in carrying out the betrothed marriage, the implementation of the customary marriage ceremony of the betrothed (Nasution, 2020; Yanti, 2021) consists of the following stages which will be described as stages including:

- *Berisik*: *Berisik* is the first step that aims to investigate the whereabouts of a prospective bride, Someone carrying out a *Berisik* task is also called *telangkaki*, Understandably Kai provides complete information, *Berisik* is carried out based on the wishes of parents at the request of their son, for women *Berisik* is based on the request of their parents.

- *Meminang*: *Meminang* is carried out after obtaining an agreement that the virgin does not yet have a bond with another man. *Meminang* implies asking a woman to be his wife or it can also be called applying for someone. *Meminang* is not carried out by the parents of the woman or the man but is conveyed by representatives or envoys from both parties. There is a *Meminang* ceremony, the equipment for *Meminang* is a betel leaf, which contains areca nut, lime, gambier, and tobacco.
- *Mengantar Tanda*: *Mengantar Tanda* a sign is a promising bond between the two families, the man brings a sign in the form of a rattan split gold ring or jewelry, the current term is called *Menggantung* rings which means that the pair has been bound by engagement, the engagement period is determined by deliberation or agreement.
- *Mengantar Belanja*: *Mengantar Belanja* is essentially handing over spending money from men to women, this is a symbol of cooperation and togetherness to help women carry out.
- *Menjemput*: *Menjemput* means getting the invitee in terms of inviting but the method is different, *Menjemput* is directly carried out by people who get the mandate from parties who have needs, before *Menjemput* activities are carried out first, the party who has needs calculates how big the needs are to be made, then only determines the amount and who will be *dijemput*.
- *Menegakkan Bangsal*: *Menegakkan Bangsal* is an additional building to accommodate guests which are usually located in the courtyard of the house, *Menegakkan Bangsal* where you are received is called the Pick-up Ward, *Menegakkan Bangsal* is equipped with a table made of long planks lined up, this is where guests eat together.
- *Menggantung*: *Menggantung* is a way of decorating the house and making and installing *peterakne* and aisle in the bride's house. The *Menggantung* event is led by Mak Andam who is assisted by young men and young women it is held five days or seven days before the wedding contract
- *Bertangas*: *Bertangas* the term steam bath for today, is useful for removing and eliminating the smell of sweat on the body and can make the body fragrant and refreshing for the bride and groom.
- *Berina Curi*: *Berina Curi* is henna that will be placed on the groom by *Mak Andam*, henna is given or put henna on the toes and hands as well as the palms and around the soles of the feet, red henna is a sign that he is a newlywed.
- *Berandam*: *Berandam* is only carried out by the bride which is carried out at the bride's house and attended by the closest family, *Berandam* is led by Mak Andam who is an expert in his field, the bride in the booth is decorated wearing Malay *Kebaya Laboh* clothes

Of the ten pre-wedding processes, the most important are holding hands, *berina curi* (*cecah inai*) and porches whose function is to repel reinforcements, mark the bride and groom, give prayers to the bride and groom, strengthen friendly relations between parties from the families of the prospective bride and groom and add light to the bride and groom woman.

## CONCLUSION

Democracy is independence or freedom in making decisions both morally and materially in government, decisions that concern the common interests of many people, so that in the decision-making process each member has the same rights, democracy is always related to the process of making decisions together in all forms life together and democracy itself is not only in making decisions but the freedom to do positive things in any field, especially art, art in democracy has various functions depending on the needs. One of the cultures of the Malay community is a traditional marriage before marriage which is carried out through joint deliberations between the two sides, men and women. In the past, agreements were made by the nuclear

family and relatives with burners by the development of modern times, now agreements are only on the nuclear family according to needs. and finances of both parties. Malay Traditional Pre-Marriage Deliberation in the pre-wedding democracy of Batam Malay traditional culture is one of the agreements that begins with the male family. After the single child conveys his intention to his mother's father that he is very pleased and wants to attract the girl who is his dream, this agreement is taken from the decision between relatives and wise people who are clever between the two sides.

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