

**THE ELEMENTS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF FOLKLORE AMONG THE
BATEK TRIBE
IN TAMAN NEGARA PAHANG DARUL MAKMUR, MALAYSIA**



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TAJUK PROJEK FRGS TAMAN NEGARA : THE ELEMENT AND CHARACTERISTICS OF FOLKLORE AMONG THE BATEK TRIBE IN TAMAN NEGARA

Dengan hormatnya perkara di atas adalah dirujuk.

Dimaklumkan dalam Mesyuarat Penilaian Projek Penyelidikan FRGS yang telah diadakan pada 8 Mac 2007, telah meluluskan projek penyelidikan seperti tersebut diatas dengan syarat-syarat berikut:-

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- vi. Laporan Akhir mesti dihantar dalam tempoh 3 bulan selepas projek penyelidikan disiapkan dengan menggunakan format yang ditetapkan dan hantar ke IRDC sebanyak 2 naskah dan 1 'softcopy' dalam bentuk CD.
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- viii. Tuan/puan perlu menandatangani Borang Perjanjian Penyelidikan dengan kadar segera kerana penggunaan geran hanya dibenarkan setelah perjanjian ditandatangani.
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TABLE OF CONTENT

Offer Letter	i
Letter of Submission	ii
Project Team Members	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Table of Content	v
List of Figures	vii
List of Tables	vii
Abstract	viii
Chapter 1 : Introduction	1
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background of Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	5
1.3 Purpose of Study	6
1.4 Research Questions	6
1.5 Significance of the Study	7
Chapter 2 : Review of Literature	8
2.0 Introduction	8
2.1 Origins of Folklore	8
2.2 Theoretical Framework	11
2.3 Studies of Folklore	12
2.3.1 Western Folklore Studies	12
2.3.2 Malaysian Folklore Studies	14
2.3.3 <i>Orang Asli</i> Folklore Studies	16
Chapter 3 : Research Methodology	18
3.0 Introduction	18
3.1 Qualitative Design	18
3.2 Sample	19
3.3 Site	19
3.4 Methods of Data Collection	21
3.5 Research Procedures	22
3.5.1 Preparation	22
3.5.2 Orientation	22
3.5.3 Recording Apparatus	23
3.5.4 The Fieldwork	23
3.6 Data Analysis	30
3.7 Data Processing Procedures	30
3.8 Data Coding	32
3.9 Maintaining Data Reliability	32
Chapter 4 : Findings and Discussions	36
4.1 Introduction	36
4.2 Analysis of Findings	36
4.1.1 Synopsis of Stories	36
4.1.2 Characters, Common Elements and Characteristics found in the Batek Folklore/Stories	44
4.3 Discussion	58

ABSTRACT

This research aims to document the folklore of the Batek Tribe in Taman Negara, Pahang Darul Makmur, Malaysia as part of the initiative to preserve the national heritage of Malaysia. It also seeks to identify the main characters and the common elements and characteristics found in the Batek folklore. The Batek tribe was selected for the study as very little investigation has been carried out on its folklore. The fieldwork was carried out at four Batek settlement areas in Pahang. Semi-structured interviews and observations were used to collect data. Nine Batek folklore/stories were recorded and transcribed during the study. The analysis of the folklore/stories is categorized into the common elements, characters and characteristics found in them. The Cohen Kappa inter-rater agreement indicated almost perfect agreement of the element codes achieved by the rater. Most of the elements and characteristics found in Batek folklore are similar to those identified in Bassett's manual. It was found that the protagonists are the youngest son in a family. *Bongsu* (literally meaning youngest) is depicted as intelligent, brave, dependable and the person who solves the problems usually started by the elder brother. The female characters do not play a very significant role in the stories but they are revered for their beauty. There are a lot of supernatural elements found in the stories. The animal characters on the other hand have the ability to communicate like humans. From the stories, we can get a glimpse of the Batek people's belief and practices in the past. As more and more of the Batek people embrace Islam, their beliefs, culture and practices go through the process of assimilation. The stories, if they are not documented will also undergo changes if they were to remain in its oral form.