



## The Symbolic Meaning In Minangkabau Bukittinggi Traditional Wedding : Semiotics Studies

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**Abstract** : *Minang or Minangkabau is an ethnic cultural group that adheres to a distinctive customary system, namely the family system according to female lineage which is called the matrilineal system. In Minangkabau culture, marriage is one of the important events in the life cycle and is a very significant transitional period in forming a new small family group for offspring. The purpose of this research is to find out the symbolic meaning in Minangkabau traditional marriage. This research uses a qualitative method and uses the Peirce's theory. The informants of this study are people who understand Minangkabau culture, such as the coconut of the Minangkabau tribe. Data collection techniques through observation and direct interviews to the field and obtain information from several books and websites. the results obtained were: maminang (applying), rapek sumando (consultation of traditional leaders), malam bainai (attaching henna to the bride), Manjapuik marapulai (picking up the groom), basandiang (side by side). Then the researcher compiles, describes, and writes the symbolic meanings that exist in the traditional Minangkabau wedding steps.*

**Key words** : *semiotic , symbolic meaning, traditional wedding, minangkabau .*

### INTRODUCTION

The Minangkabau tribe has the most people and the oldest cultural values. The West Sumatran Minangkabau ethnic group takes great pride in its traditions. The Minangkabau tribe maintains a distinct matrilineal or women-centered family structure, but Islamic teachings also have a significant cultural influence. The Minangkabau tribe currently has one of the greatest matrilineal systems in the world among ethnic groupings. Since the pre-Hindu era, this tribe has also used a proto-democratic system with customary density to decide on significant concerns and issues.

In everyday speech, Minang people are frequently referred to as Padang people because the provincial capital of Sumatra West is the city of Padang. However, in society, the group is typically referred to as *urang awak* (meaning the same as the Minang people themselves). AA Navis, Minangkabau more closely resembles the ethnic culture of a clan of Malays who developed due to the monarchy system and adhere to the customary system that is typical, which is distinguished by the system of kinship through the female line or matrilineal, despite the fact that the culture is also profoundly influenced by Islamic teachings. The Minang society currently has the highest percentage of matrilineal adherents anywhere in the world.

Marriage is regarded as one of the most significant life events and a particularly transitional moment in Minangkabau culture since it results in the formation of small groupings of new families of descendants. For Minang men, getting married is also a way to transition into his wives family's social circles. In the meantime, the wife who is one of the procedures in addition to family members, is living in their tower. There are various phases in the Minangkabau, also known as *baralek*, traditional wedding procession. widely used. Beginning with *maminang* (propose hand), it continues with *rapek sumando*, *malam bainai*, *manjapuik marapulai*, and ends with *basandiang* (bit aisle).

Marriage is a noun form of the word marriage, said it comes from the Arabic word *nikkah* which means marriage agreement. The legal validation of a marriage usually occurs at the time of the document written record of marriage signed. In definition he etymology of marriage means *wath'u* (having intercourse) and *aqad* at the same time. Kindly terminology, marriage is *aqad* which consists of a man in the permissibility of a man having fun and having sexual relations with women, kissing, hugs and so on. (Almanar, 2006). There are many meanings of symbols contained in the stages of traditional Minangkabau weddings.

Semiotics (or better known as semiology in Europe) comes from the Greek word *Semion* which means sign. Semiotics is the general study of signs as an important part of cultural life and communication. According to semiotics, we can only know cultural life and communication. (Saussure, 2005) semiotics, we can only know culture and reality through signs, through the marking process. Based on the background that the researcher provided, the researcher made *The Symbolic Meaning in Minangkabau Traditional Wedding: Semiotic Studies* as the title of the thesis because it refers to the two stages in Minangkabau traditional marriage and has symbolic value. The researcher uses Pierce's theory. The researcher wants the community, especially the people of Sumatra, to be able to know the symbolic meaning in Minangkabau traditional marriages and that the younger generation can learn the symbolic meanings in Minangkabau traditional marriages, as well as to maintain and protect Indonesian customs. Therefore, the researcher decided to do this research.

## **Method**

The research was conducted using a qualitative approach as a result of data analysis in descriptive phenomena such as narrative text and dialog in conversation. In this research is to investigate the kinds of steps that must be done before carrying out a traditional Minangkabau Bukit Tinggi wedding. Qualitative research is defined as research that focuses on developing explanations for these phenomena. This method is used because the data is examined in detail. Sources of data and derived from interviews with sources.

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## Result and Discussion

Based on the results of this study, it was found that 5 steps were taken before the Minangkabau traditional marriage began, namely: *maminang* (applying), *rapek sumando* (consultation of traditional leaders), *malam bainai* (attaching henna to the bride), *manjapuik marapulai* (picking up the groom), *basandiang* (side by side).

### 1. *Maminang* (applying for a hand).



Representment	
Qualisign	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The gold color on the ring symbolizes joy, cheerfulness, and zest for life.</li> <li>2. Because gold does not rust or fade, the color gold can also represent immortality, incorruption, and endurance.</li> </ol>
Sinsign	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finger embedded in ring indicate that the woman will marry.</li> <li>2. the ring acquires additional meaning as a concrete sign of the promise and commitment of the two of them to marry.</li> </ol>
Legisign	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a commitment or rule indicating that the act of giving an engagement ring is a symbol of commitment and promise of marriage.</li> <li>2. Engagement brings rules or laws that the couple has agreed to become a bride and groom and are ready to proceed to the wedding stage.</li> <li>3. Engagement can also be thought of as indicating love between two individuals. In this case, love is the object represented by the betrothal sign.</li> </ol>

Object	
Icon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The picture of the hand is described as a hand in general with 5 fingers and pinned by a ring.</li> <li>2. The picture of the fiance above is like the picture of a fiance in general.</li> </ol>
Index	When someone sees an engagement ring on someone's hand, they can assume that person is engaged and planning to get married.
Symbol	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The image is a symbol of fiancee women in general.</li> <li>2. The engagement ring is a symbol of commitment and wedding vows.</li> </ol>

Interpretant	
Rheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the picture that person has made a commitment to marry.</li> <li>2. They may also feel that the person has committed to a long-term, monogamous relationship.</li> </ol>
Design	Someone put on an engagement ring and announces they are engaged and want to get married.
Argument	When engagement occurs, it means that the couple is ready to build a household and is ready to build a family and a serious relationship that has long-term goals.

## 2 *Rapek sumando* (deliberation of traditional leaders)



Representment	
Qualisign	<p>1. The friendly and warm voice of the deliberation people can show an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect.</p> <p>2. Eye contact between deliberation participants can be a sign that they pay attention to each other and respect each other's opinions.</p>
Sinsign	The context of deliberation as an element that represents and shows various aspects of deliberation, starting from the topic of discussion to the results.
Legisign	Deliberations usually have certain rules or procedures that must be followed. There are also certain symbols and gestures that might be used in deliberations, such as raising your hand to ask to speak, or tapping on the table to call for attention.

Object	
Icon	Sign in the form of a picture of a group of people who are deliberating
Index	Face expressions, gestures, or tone of voice of participants as a marker of their opinion.
Symbol	Several people sitting together in a circle or around.

Interpretant	
Rheme	Decisions taken in deliberations.
Design	Picture of a group of people sitting together is a picture of people who are deliberating.
Argument	The gathering of a group of people indicates that deliberations have taken place for Minangkabau traditional marriages.

**3 Bainai Night (attaching henna to the bride)**



Representment	
Qualisign	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The red color has a visual quality that represents luck, happiness and love in many cultures, including Minangkabau culture.</li> <li>2. Gold color symbolizes prosperity, wealth and luxury.</li> </ol>
Sinsign	Bainai night is a concrete action that is an integral part of the bainai night and indicates that the event is taking place.
Legisign	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bainai night is a sign of commitment and preparation for marriage not because of the physical characteristics of the event, but because of Minangkabau cultural conventions and traditions.</li> <li>2. The bainai night becomes a sign of ritual and symbolization of marriage not because of the physical characteristics of henna, but because of its role in Minangkabau customary law and tradition.</li> </ol>

Object	
Icon	The context of the bainai night is in the form of henna decorations on the hands and feet of the bride. Henna which shows Minangkabau wedding traditions and customs.
Index	The presence of family and friends, indicating that this is the most important Minangkabau tradition.
Symbol	Henna is used to decorate the hands and feet of the bride, which means good luck and protection in marriage.

Interpretant	
Rheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attaching the henna is the most important part of the wedding stages.</li> <li>2. is a symbol of happiness and commitment.</li> </ol>
Design	Bainai night are held as part of a traditional Minangkabau wedding
Argument	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The application of henna on the hands and feet of the bride means that the bride is ready to enter married life.</li> <li>2. The presence and gathering of the extended family from both sides in the bainai night which is approved and supported by both families.</li> </ol>

#### 4 *Manjapuik marapulai* (picking up the Bridegroom)



Representment	
Qualisign	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The color red symbolizes luck and prosperity. In the context of marriage, as in Minangkabau custom, red often symbolizes happiness and affection.</li> <li>2. The color gold symbolizes prosperity, wealth and high status.</li> <li>3. The color brown symbolizes stability, comfort, and warmth.</li> </ol>
Sinsign	Clothing worn by the bride and groom, particularly in traditional colors such as red and gold.
Legisign	The tradition above depicts the mother of a bride delivering the two aisles.

Object	
Icon	A mother accompanies the bride and groom down the aisle.
Index	The presence of the groom and his family who come to the bride's house.
symbol	<p>1. Pictures of women and men who are wearing wedding clothes is a symbol that they are a bride and groom</p> <p>2. The image of a pair of women and men being led to the aisle is a symbol of the manjampuk maraplai tradition of Minangkabau marriage.</p>

Interpretant	
Rheme	The groom who comes to the bride's house brings something that has been agreed beforehand.
Design	Picture of the bride and groom and the mother of the bride leading the bride and groom into the aisle are pictures of people carrying out a traditional Minangkabau wedding.
Argument	A Minangkabau custom or tradition in the picture above is an important aspect of Minangkabau culture, which has a matrilineal descent system. Manjampuk marapulai reflects this structure by emphasizing the role of the bride's family in welcoming and receiving the groom.

**5 Basandiang (side by side)**





Representment	
Qualisign	The bride and groom in the picture are wearing red and gold clothes which have their own meaning to the Minangkabau tribe. Red means courage, passion and strength, red is often associated with life, fertility and vitality. While the color gold means luxury, wealth and dignity.
Sinsign	The picture above shows a pair of brides standing on the aisle and the faces of the two brides look happy.
Legisign	The two surrogates represent a marriage in progress.

Object	
Icon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The picture of a bride and groom show brides in general.</li> <li>2. The concept of decorated the aisle with flowers, cloth and other decorations shows a simple and elegant plamin.</li> </ol>
Index	Side by side in the aisle is a form of marriage.
Symbol	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The picture is a symbol of someone who is married.</li> <li>2. The aisle shows that there is a special ceremony or important event taking place.</li> </ol>

Interpretant	
Rheme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The aisle ceremony is often placed higher than the floor, indicating the status of the bride and groom as "king and queen for a day". It is a way to honor both the bride and groom and emphasize the importance of the wedding moment in their lives.</li> <li>2.The materials used to decorate aisles are frequently flowers, which stand for purity, freshness, and new life.</li> <li>3. Brides choose dresses that reflect the traditions and heritage of their family or culture.</li> </ol>
Design	Wedding dresses are often designed to emphasize the beauty and femininity of the bride.
Argument	The aisle symbolizes the pinnacle of the wedding ceremony, creating an argument about the commitment and seriousness of the bride and groom in their relationship.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the research, researcher concluded from this study as follows:

There are 5 steps used in Minangkabau traditional wedding that is *maminang* (applying for a hand), *rapek sumando* (deliberation of traditional leaders), *bainai* night (attaching henna to the bride), *Manjapuik marapulai* (picking up the bridegroom), *basandiang* (side by side). The meaning is obtained from the sign contained in the Minangkabau traditional wedding in the form of the value of prayer to Allah SWT and advice for the bride and groom and prayer requests containing health, safety, happiness, and glory for bride to live a new life. The colors used in Minangkabau traditional wedding are more dominantly red and gold because Red color means love, brave and strong. Whereas gold color has always been a symbol of luxury and glory.

## **Suggestion**

Through this research, it is important to advise English Department students to carry out additional analysis of the meaning of symbols found in other materials such as books, films, or articles. The researcher hopes that this thesis can be a resource for those who want to write about the meaning of symbols. It is recommended to continue studying and researching matters related to linguistic semiotic meaning, especially symbolic meaning, to develop works that contain literary and moral values and the meaning of each semiotic symbol to improve linguistic research, increase reading motivation for the public so that everyone who reads it can easily to understand. For new students it is recommended to continue to increase interest in reading, especially literary works that contain positive values and are beneficial for the development of science. In this case, readers not only know about the semiotic meaning of marriage ceremonies, but also use them in everyday life to better understand the signs around them so that they respect and respect each other.

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