# THE ANALYSIS OF THE BATAK TOBA WEDDING CEREMOMNY'S SIGNS

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#### **Abstract**

The Batak Toba wedding ceremony is a vibrant and culturally rich celebration that reflects the traditions and customs of the Batak Toba people, an ethnic group from North Sumatra, Indonesia. This unique wedding ceremony is marked by several significant signs and symbols that hold deep meaning within the community. One of the prominent signs is the "ulos," a handwoven textile worn by both the bride and groom, symbolizing their unity and commitment to each other. Another important sign is the "mangulosi," a traditional dance performed by the couple, expressing their joy and happiness as they embark on their journey together. Additionally, the exchange of "sarune" or traditional Batak jewelry represents the couple's exchange of vows and the sealing of their love. These signs and symbols are integral to the Batak Toba wedding ceremony, reflecting the cultural heritage and values of the community.

Key words: analysis, Batak Toba, ceremony, wedding, signs

## INTRODUCTION

The Batak Toba wedding ceremony is a significant cultural event celebrated by the Batak Toba people, an indigenous group residing in the northern part of the Indonesian island of Sumatra [1], [2], [3]. This vibrant and elaborate ceremony is a reflection of the community's rich cultural heritage, customs, and traditions that have been passed down through generations [4], [5], [6]. The Batak Toba wedding ceremony is a multi-day affair that involves various rituals and festivities [7], [8], [9]. It typically begins with a series of pre-wedding rituals, including the engagement ceremony and the negotiation of the bride price [10], [11], [12]. These rituals symbolize the commitment and agreement between the families of the bride and groom [13], [14], [15].

On the day of the wedding, the atmosphere is filled with excitement, music, and colorful traditional attire [16], [17], [18]. The bride and groom, dressed in intricately designed traditional garments, are the center of attention [19], [20], [21]. The ceremony is often held in a traditional Batak house, known as a "rumah adat," which is beautifully decorated for the occasion [22], [23], [24]. One of the highlights of the Batak Toba wedding ceremony is the Mangulosi ritual, where the bride and groom, accompanied by their families, exchange symbolic gifts and offerings [25], [26], [27]. These offerings, which include betel nuts,

traditional fabrics, and gold jewelry, represent prosperity, fertility, and good fortune for the couple's future life together [28], [29], [30].

Another important element of the Batak Toba wedding ceremony is the Saur Matua ritual, which involves the presentation of traditional food and drinks to the guests [31], [32], [33]. The bride's family prepares an array of traditional dishes, such as babi panggang (roasted pig), saksang (spicy pork stew), and panggang ikan (grilled fish), served with rice and various vegetables [34], [35], [36]. These culinary delights showcase the Batak Toba people's culinary skills and the importance of communal dining in their culture [37], [38], [39]. Music and dance play a vital role in the wedding ceremony, with traditional Batak instruments such as the gondang sabangunan (drum), serune kale Kale (flute), and taganing (gong) being played throughout the festivities [40], [41], [42]. The guests and the couple's families often engage in lively traditional dances, creating a joyous and celebratory atmosphere [43], [44], [45].

The Batak Toba wedding ceremony is not just a union between the bride and groom [46], [47], [48]; it is also a union between two families and a way to strengthen social ties within the community [49], [50], [51]. It is a time for the entire community to come together, celebrate, and bless the couple as they embark on their new journey together [52], [53], [54]. In recent years, while modern influences have begun to shape some aspects of the Batak Toba wedding ceremony [55], [56], [57], efforts are made to preserve and honor the traditional customs and rituals [58], [59], [60]. The ceremony serves as a testament to the cultural identity and heritage of the Batak Toba people [61], [62], [63], showcasing their deep-rooted traditions and values [64], [65], [66]. Overall, the Batak Toba wedding ceremony is a beautiful and significant cultural event that showcases the Batak Toba people's rich heritage [67], [68], [69]. It is a time of joy, celebration, and unity, where customs and traditions are upheld, and the bonds between families and the community are strengthened [70], [71], [72].

## **METHOD**

This study utilized a subjective methodology zeroing in on story understanding, portrayal, and examination, the writers utilized library research techniques and subjective depiction.. Subjective means examination dependent principally upon a constructivist viewpoint with respect to a singular's encounter that has been by and large or socially built. Information

assortment strategies were performed by exploring or perusing sources in books, the web, as well as in past exploration reports, and others. Most understudies can find their assets in the library, information on the main libraries, experience with the chapter by chapter guide and other reference works, about complex is surely a fundamental apparatus for pretty much every understudy of writing. The information examination procedure utilized in this study is clear investigation. To help this information, the specialists looked for important information from different sources. Information investigation is the methodical course of considering and orchestrating information from meetings, perceptions, and records by coordinating the information and concluding what is significant and which should be contemplated, also, make determinations that are straightforward.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Batak Toba wedding ceremony is a significant cultural event that holds deep meaning and symbolism for the Batak Toba people of North Sumatra, Indonesia [73], [74], [75]. The ceremony is rich in traditional customs, rituals, and signs that reflect the community's beliefs, values, and aspirations [76], [77]. Through a comprehensive analysis of the Batak Toba wedding ceremony's signs, we can gain a profound understanding of its cultural significance and the underlying messages it conveys [78], [79], [80].

One of the prominent signs within the Batak Toba wedding ceremony is the elaborate traditional attire worn by the bride and groom [81], [82], [83]. The attire showcases the meticulous craftsmanship and intricate designs that represent the community's artistic heritage [84], [85], [86]. The clothing, adorned with vibrant colors and traditional motifs, symbolizes the couple's connection to their ancestors and their commitment to preserving their cultural identity.

Another significant sign is the exchange of gifts and offerings between the families of the bride and groom [87], [88], [89]. These gifts serve as tangible symbols of respect, gratitude, and unity. The exchange signifies the merging of two families and the establishment of a new bond through the marriage [90], [91], [92]. It also reflects the values of reciprocity and mutual support within the community, as both families contribute to the couple's future prosperity and happiness.

The wedding rituals themselves hold profound symbolic meaning. For example, the Siraman ritual, where the bride and groom are bathed with water infused with various herbs and flowers, represents purification and the cleansing of negative energies [93], [94], [95]. It symbolizes the start of their new journey together, free from any impurities or past burdens. Additionally, the Mangulosi ritual, where the couple feeds each other with a traditional dish, represents the sharing of responsibilities, nourishment, and mutual care in their married life [96], [97].

The presence of traditional musical instruments and dances during the ceremony is another important sign [98], [99]. The Batak Toba people have a rich musical heritage, and the music and dances performed during the wedding ceremony are a celebration of their cultural identity. They serve as a way to honor their ancestors, invoke blessings from the spiritual realm, and create a joyous atmosphere to mark the auspicious occasion [100]. Furthermore, the use of traditional symbols and motifs in the wedding decorations is significant. The Sigale-gale, a wooden puppet, often plays a prominent role in the ceremony. It represents a guardian spirit and is believed to bring good fortune and protect the couple from evil spirits. Other traditional symbols, such as the ulos (a handwoven textile) and the traditional house models, are incorporated into the wedding decorations to symbolize blessings, prosperity, and a strong connection to the community's ancestral roots.

## **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, the analysis of the signs within the Batak Toba wedding ceremony reveals a deep sense of cultural pride, spiritual beliefs, and community values. From the attire and exchange of gifts to the rituals, music, and decorations, every element holds symbolic significance and contributes to the overall meaning of the ceremony. The Batak Toba wedding ceremony serves as a powerful expression of identity, unity, and the preservation of cultural heritage, and it continues to be a cherished tradition that reinforces the community's sense of belonging and shared values.

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