

**A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF SABUNESE
TRADITIONAL KISSING AS AN IDENTITY OF THE SABU
PEOPLE**

A THESIS



DAMARIS UDJU NADJI

**ENGLISH EDUCATION STUDY PROGRAM
TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION FACULTY
ARTHA WACANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

KUPANG

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A THESIS

**This Thesis is Presented as Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Degree of *Sarjana Pendidikan* in English Education Study Program**



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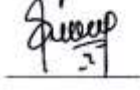
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This is to certify that this thesis entitled *A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Sabonese Traditional Kissing as an Identity of the Sabu People*, written by Damaris Udju Nadji, has been defended in a thesis examination and has been approved by the following Board of Examiners as the final requirement to graduate *Sarjana Pendidikan (S. Pd.)* majoring in English Language Education.

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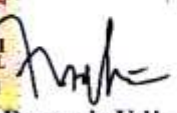
I hereby declare that the thesis I am submitting to fulfil the requirements for a Bachelor of Education degree at Arta Wacana Christian University is original and free from plagiarism. If any discrepancies with this statement are found in the future, I am willing to be prosecuted in accordance with the provisions of the Minister of National Education Regulation Number 17 of 2010

Thus, this statement is made truthfully to be used properly.

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That state




Damaris Udju Nadji

MOTTO

**"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I
will give you rest".**

Matthew 11:28

DEDICATION

This paper is dedicated to the author's loved ones:

1. Almighty God, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Who has given the author His endless grace, guidance, strength and health to overcome every obstacle in completing this Thesis, all glory and honor are Yours.
2. Beloved parents, My late father Lodiwik Udju Nadji and Yuliana Radja Bunga, Thank you very much for your unconditional love, endless prayers, and sacrifices, throughout the author's life and studies.
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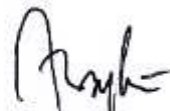
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Kupang, 10 July 2026

The writer



Damaris Udju Nadji

A SOCIOLINGUISTIC ANALYSIS OF SABUNESE TRADITIONAL KISSING AS AN IDENTITY OF THE SABU PEOPLE

ABSTRACT

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This study entitled *A Sociolinguistic Analysis of Sabunese Traditional Kissing as an Identity of the Sabu People* aims to describe the form, function, and meaning of traditional kissing (hengadho), and to examine how this practice serves as a nonverbal sociolinguistic marker of Sabunese cultural identity. This research applies a qualitative descriptive design. The analysis is grounded in three main theories: the theory of language and social interaction, the theory of nonverbal communication, and the theory of social and cultural identity, together with the concept of sociolinguistic markers. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with community leaders, direct observation. Data analysis was carried out using the model proposed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña. The findings reveal that Hengadho consists of one tradition form: gently pressing the tips of the nose together, practiced in various situations including weddings, funerals, family gatherings, traditional rituals, and daily greetings. The practice reflects function and social values: kinship, mutual respect, unity, harmony, equality, and sincerity. It also carries deep meanings of respect, affection, solidarity, and hospitality. Furthermore, Hengadho functions as a distinct nonverbal sociolinguistic marker that symbolizes ethnic belonging, preserves ancestral traditions, and represents the unique cultural identity of the Sabu people. In conclusion, traditional kissing is not merely a greeting but a meaningful cultural practice that maintains social relations and sustains Sabunese identity among the modernization

Keywords: *Sociolinguistics, Traditional Kissing, Hengadho, Cultural Identity, Sabu People*

"Analisis Sociolinguistik terhadap Tradisi Cium Hidung sebagai Identitas Masyarakat Sabu"

ABSTRAK

Damaris Udju Nadji¹ Ifoni Ludji, S.Pd., M.Hum²Eltina Agustina Maromon, S.Pd., M.Pd³

Penelitian ini berjudul "*Analisis Sociolinguistik terhadap Tradisi Cium Hidung sebagai Identitas Orang Sabu*" bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan bentuk, fungsi, dan makna Hengadho (tradisi cium hidung), serta mengkaji bagaimana praktik ini berperan sebagai penanda sociolinguistik nonverbal identitas budaya orang Sabu. Penelitian ini menggunakan deskriptif kualitatif. Analisis didasarkan pada tiga teori utama: teori bahasa dan interaksi sosial, teori komunikasi nonverbal, serta teori identitas sosial dan budaya, yang dilengkapi dengan konsep penanda sociolinguistik. Data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara semi-terstruktur dengan tokoh masyarakat, dan pengamatan langsung. Analisis data menggunakan model Miles, Huberman, dan Saldaña. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Hengadho memiliki satu bentuk tradisi, yaitu saling menyentuh ujung hidung, yang dilaksanakan dalam berbagai konteks seperti pernikahan, upacara kematian, pertemuan keluarga, ritual adat, dan sapaan sehari-hari. Praktik ini merefleksikan fungsi dan nilai-nilai sosial: kekerabatan, penghormatan timbal balik, persatuan, keharmonisan, kesetaraan, dan ketulusan, serta mengandung makna penghormatan, kasih sayang, solidaritas, dan keramahan. Lebih jauh lagi, Hengadho berfungsi sebagai penanda sociolinguistik nonverbal yang khas, yang melambangkan rasa memiliki etnis, melestarikan tradisi leluhur, dan mewakili identitas budaya unik masyarakat Sabu. Kesimpulannya, cium hidung bukan sekadar sapaan, melainkan praktik budaya bermakna yang menjaga hubungan sosial dan mempertahankan identitas masyarakat Sabu di tengah arus modernisasi.

Kata Kunci: Sociolinguistik, Tradisi Cium Hidung, Hengadho, Identitas Budaya, Masyarakat Sabu,.

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