

# 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**

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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.*