MUSICAL AND TEXTUAL ANALYSES OF LULLABIES AND FOLKTALES OF DUSUN LABUK AT EASTERN SABAH, MALAYSIA

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UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

2011
Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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December 2011

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This thesis describes the musical culture of the Dusun Labuk community in the Telupid District, Sandakan Division, Sabah State of Malaysia with special reference to the lullabies mongindong and the folktales tangon. Built upon existing literature of Dusun Labuk’s culture, this study contributes by giving a detailed musical description of the vocal traditions. The description of the Dusun Labuk’s culture includes the belief, worldview, lifestyle and musical practice in the most recent past and at present. Meanwhile, the Dusun Labuk’s folksongs, especially mongindong and tangon, are described in terms of song texts, musical structures and performance styles.
From the fieldwork conducted, eight mongindong and 16 tangon are examined in this study. The textual analysis of mongindong focuses on the aspects of messages, expressions and placement of keywords while the textual analysis of tangon is carried out under the aspects of story characters, cultural elements and expressions. The textual materials of the folksongs reveal the Dusun Labuk’s belief, ideas, thoughts, values and views. Meanwhile, the tonal aspects of folksongs display the Dusun Labuk’s interpretation of their performance style of each genre and the concept of tonal arrangement in singing.

The tonal structure of both genres can be understood as combination of melodic versions and their implied patterns of common melodic movements, which at the same time follow the traits of several melodic axes. The commonly observed melodic versions reveal the effect of exchange and sharing of musical ideas among the villagers while the unique versions indicate individual creativity. Based on the findings of analysis, a few issues are discussed which include genre identity, tonal arrangement and cultural expression. Through this, the creativity and cultural identity in music of the Dusun Labuk is informed. Further studies can focus on vocal traditions in other areas in Sabah State and may test the applicability of the analysis method used in this study.
MUSICAL AND TEXTUAL ANALYSES OF LULLABIES AND FOLKTALES OF DUSUN LABUK AT EASTERN SABAH, MALAYSIA

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Struktur tonal bagi kedua-dua genre boleh difahamkan sebagai kombinasi versi melodi dan corak pergerakan melodi umum yang diimplikasikan, dan pada masa yang sama mengikut jejak beberapa axis melodi. Versi melodik yang diperhatikan secara umum menggambarkan kesan penukaran dan perkongsian ide muzik sesama penduduk kampung manakala versi yang unik menunjukkan kreativiti individu. Berdasarkan hasil analisis, beberapa isu juga turut dibincangkan termasuklah identiti genre, gubahan tonal dan ekspresi budaya. Melalui kajian ini, kreativiti dan identiti budaya kaum Dusun Labuk adalah termaklum. Kajian lanjutan boleh memokus kepada tradisi vokal di kawasan lain di Negeri Sabah dan boleh menguji keaplikasian kaedah analisis yang telah digunakan dalam kajian ini.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Praise be to God who created the world with diverse cultures and music. My gratitude to Him for His blessings poured in this study, including the opportunity to study the Dusun Labuk’s culture and music, the Dusun Labuk community members, supervisors, friends and family members who are involved in this study.

I thank the Dusun Labuk community members in Murok Village, Baba Village and Ansuan Village for receiving me into their community and sharing their ideas with me. Special acknowledgements to the folksongs informants, they are Dian Tingkal, Diris Sa’at, Gustimin Benjamin, Rismah Kinti, Parantis Salupan, Pariama Linggis, Sutei Toro and Apas Sulaiman, for sharing their experiences and folksongs with me. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Gustimin Benjamin and his wife, Rismah Kinti, for assisting me in fieldtrips arrangement as well as song texts transcription and translation.

I am deeply grateful to my supervisors, Dr. Chan Cheong Jan, Prof. Dr. Gisa Jähnichen and Dr Zahid Emby, for their advices, encouragement, guidance, inspiration and support all the way through this study. I also thank my colleagues, Annie, Chia Ying, Eva, Julia and Phyllis, for encouraging and supporting me throughout this study. With love, I thank my family members, especially my parents, parents-in-law and husband, for their unconditional support and tolerance shown through this study.
I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 21 December 2011 to conduct the final examination of Susan Ang Ngar Jiu on her thesis entitled “Musical and Textual Analyses of Lullabies and Folktales of Dusun Labuk at Eastern Sabah, Malaysia” in accordance with the Universities and University College Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

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Date: 21 December 2011
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