

THE MANGNGARO CEREMONY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE EVOLUTION THEORY

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ABSTRACT

Nosu is a sub-district in the Mamasa Regency and an expansion of Pana sub-district located on a plateau approximately 1,750 to 2,300 above sea level. The people generally adhere to Christianity, although before the introduction of this religion around 1916, the population adhered to *Aluk Tomatua* or *Aluk Todolo*. One of the *Aluk Tomatua* rituals is the *Mangngaro* ceremony where the corpse is removed from the grave and rewrapped. This ritual is performed at *pealloan* or after the rice harvest and before the next planting season. In the initial days of Christianity until the early 1990s, the ceremony was rarely performed because the church citizens were forbidden from attending the ritual. However, in the mid-1990s, there was disagreement among the members and they began to perform the ceremony often. In the end, the people were no longer questioned by the church concerning the ceremony. There are several reasons why it is increasingly being performed, which include softened attitudes of the church leaders and members due to contextualization and respect for older figures. Others are the departure of migrants after the death of parents or family, as well as governmental support, which has converted the practice into a leading tourist attraction. Therefore, this paper intends to understand the *Mangngaro* ceremony with an analysis based on the evolution theory.

Keywords: Ceremony, *Mangngaro*, *Aluk Tomatua*, Christianity, Evolution.