



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Summary of Findings

From the different perspectives described and discussed, we can grasp a certain understanding – that whatever background or cultural influence the different groups or generations might inherit, the Malays have their own culture traits which can be interpreted as their cultural and social values. These values have meanings and gives purpose to the society on how they live their lives and how they express it vibrantly in socio-cultural events particularly in celebrating their wedding ceremonies.

B. Conclusion

After completion of both empirical and literature research with the application of methods and techniques of analysis as mentioned before, the researcher comes to conclude that:

1. The Malay culture and traditions found in a typical Malay wedding can be seen as a complex combination of cultural attributes, which is inter-related with the perceptions of local Malays. The existence of this newly found culture is due to historical and external influences by way of diffusion, elaboration and evolution, which is ultimately identified as being Malay culture and traditions. Shaped by the various context that they live in, the Malays uphold these cultures and traditions due to common formalities and trend adaptation. By doing so they can assume the role of being a prominent part of an integral and multi-racial society in Singapore, and at the same time preserve their cultural practices albeit modified features which is inevitable due to influx of foreign culture and the constantly changing environment.
2. The majority Malays who are Muslims (generally of the Syafi'i mazhab), realise that the social structure in the Malay society is a combination of different cultural background and attributes. They also realise that Muslims should embrace both cultural and technological advancement since Islam encourages progress. Henceforth, the consensus from the practising Muslims is that whatever manner the society practises its culture or traditions, it should comply to Islamic principles and ethics.

C. Suggestions

In this final section, the researcher makes a contribution by giving his suggestions and recommendations on the subject matter. Realising the hard core fact that whether being in naturalistic or positivistic sciences, normally the theory and practical aspects don't really synchronise. And the fundamental truth is because there is always the human factor in between them. Suggestions are as follows:

1. Efforts should be made to preserve the cultural and traditional heritage of the Singapore Malay society in particular with regards to a wedding ceremony. It should be recognised and protected because it is more than just a mere cultural artifact and thus it is a beneficial feature which adds pride to the Malay cultural aspirations.
2. To educate and disseminate the correct information regarding Malay cultures and traditions. This means to revert to whichever route possible – that is through individuals, groups, the society, both private or government institutions and even the general public, so as to avoid further misconceptions and misinterpretations of Malay culture and traditions.
3. To encourage and facilitate more cross-border studies and research, as it promotes international understanding and relations. It is academically and scientifically beneficial because from the University's standpoint – it fuels up its pursuit for excellence while from the general public's standpoint – it captures the imagination because culture is something unpredictable and yet intriguing.