

ABSTRACT

Kuncoro, SetyoNur, 09210047, 2014. **THE TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE CEREMONY OF KERATON SURAKARTA (A Study on the Ulama's (Muslim Scholars) and Kauman Society's Point of View in Pasar Kliwon, Surakarta)**. Thesis. Department of Al-Ahwal Al-Syakhshiyah, Faculty of Sharia, Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University Malang, Supervisor: Dr. H. Fadil, M. Ag.

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The traditional marriage ceremony of Keraton Surakarta requires a very long ritual and takes time. It is held for the bride and bridegroom from noble families. However, it has started to change over times and as the social life improved. Today, any common people in Surakarta carry out this kind of traditional marriage ceremony which used to be performed only by the noble families of Keraton Surakarta. It is merely executed by the people in Surakarta in order to preserve and uphold the existing local tradition, culture, and wisdom.

This study aims to find out the traditional marriage ceremony procession of Keraton Surakarta. Besides, its objectives are also to understand the meanings contained in the traditional marriage ceremony ritual of Keraton Surakarta as well as to understand the relation between the traditional marriage ceremony rituals and Islamic law of marriage. This study employs a qualitative approach. The data are primary and secondary data which are collected through interviews and documentation. Those are then carefully edited, checked, prepared and arranged in such a way before being analyzed.

This study obtains three conclusions. *First*, the traditional marriage ceremony procession of Keraton Surakarta is performed in a distinctive manner. Traditional families carry out the marriage ceremony based on hereditary tradition consisting of many marriage sub ceremonies. *Second*, there is a difference within every community relates to the response to the traditional marriage ceremony ritual in Surakarta. The traditional marriage ceremony execution in Keraton Surakarta has arisen many pros and cons within the communities. There are not a few people who state that this tradition slows down and complicates the process of marriage. Nevertheless, many people support the implementation of this ritual and suggest not to leave the existing ritual behind. It should be upheld and must be preserved. *Third*, the traditional marriage ceremony of Keraton Surakarta is not contradicted with the values contained in the teachings of Islam. This ritual or custom does not justify the unlawful matters based on Islam (*haram*) or otherwise. This ritual gets better since it does not damage the goals of marriage and contains the meaning of maintaining cultural values. Thus, this tradition can be categorized as 'urf' and may give benefits.