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## The Urgency of Applying Enculturation to the Existence of Batak and Christianity in Indonesia

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### Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memahami pentingnya menjaga dan menghargai budaya Batak dan kekristenan di era globalisasi yang berdampak pada homogenisasi budaya. Dalam konteks globalisasi, budaya Batak dan Kristen dihadapkan pada tantangan yang cukup signifikan. Pengaruh globalisasi seperti arus informasi, perubahan sosial ekonomi, dan masuknya budaya asing dapat mengancam eksistensi budaya dan agama lokal. Oleh karena itu, enkulturasi menjadi penting untuk diterapkan sebagai strategi dalam menjaga keutuhan budaya Batak dan kekristenan. Enkulturasi adalah upaya mengintegrasikan nilai-nilai budaya Batak dan Kristiani ke dalam kehidupan masyarakat sehari-hari, termasuk pendidikan, religi, seni, dan kehidupan sosial. Hal ini tidak hanya berfungsi untuk mempertahankan identitas budaya dan agama, tetapi juga mempromosikan pemahaman yang lebih baik antara generasi muda Batak dan masyarakat global yang semakin terhubung. Dalam publikasi ini, kami menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dengan melakukan wawancara mendalam dan observasi partisipatif untuk mendapatkan data yang akurat dan holistik. Analisis data dilakukan melalui pendekatan interpretatif untuk menggali pemahaman mendalam tentang urgensi implementasi enkulturasi. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahwa penerapan enkulturasi sangat penting untuk mempertahankan eksistensi budaya Batak dan kekristenan di tengah arus globalisasi. Melalui enkulturasi, masyarakat Batak dapat memperkuat identitas budaya dan agamanya, serta membangun jembatan kesepahaman dengan masyarakat global. Selain itu, enkulturasi juga dapat meningkatkan toleransi, rasa hormat, dan kerjasama antar budaya. Kesimpulannya, publikasi ini menekankan urgensi penerapan enkulturasi sebagai jawaban atas tantangan globalisasi terhadap budaya Batak dan Kristen. Di era yang semakin terkoneksi ini, penerapan enkulturasi bukan hanya sekedar pilihan, melainkan sebuah keharusan dalam menjaga keragaman budaya dan agama di Indonesia. Diharapkan hasil penelitian ini dapat berkontribusi pada upaya pelestarian budaya Batak dan kekristenan, serta menginspirasi upaya serupa di komunitas lain yang menghadapi tantangan serupa.

Kata Kunci: *Enkulturasi; Batak; Kekristenan; Kajian Budaya*

## Abstract

This scientific publication discusses the urgency of applying enculturation to the existence of Batak and Christianity in Indonesia in the context of globalization. This study aims to understand the importance of maintaining and appreciating Batak culture and Christianity in the era of globalization which has an impact on cultural homogenization. In the context of globalization, Batak culture and Christianity are faced with significant challenges. The effects of globalization, such as the flow of information, socio-economic changes, and the penetration of foreign cultures, can threaten the existence of local culture and religion. Therefore, it is important to apply enculturation as a strategy in maintaining the integrity of Batak culture and Christianity. Enculturation is an effort to integrate Batak cultural values and Christianity into people's daily lives, including education, religion, art, and social life. This not only serves to maintain cultural and religious identity, but also promotes better understanding between young Batak generations and an increasingly connected global society. In this publication, we use qualitative research methods by conducting in-depth interviews and participant observation to obtain accurate and holistic data. Data analysis was carried out through an interpretive approach to explore a deep understanding of the urgency of implementing enculturation. The results of the study show that the application of enculturation is very important to maintain the existence of Batak culture and Christianity in the midst of globalization. Through enculturation, the Batak people can strengthen their cultural and religious identity, and build bridges of understanding with global society. In addition, enculturation can also increase tolerance, respect, and intercultural cooperation. In conclusion, this publication emphasizes the urgency of applying enculturation as a response to the challenges of globalization towards Batak culture and Christianity. In this increasingly connected era, implementing enculturation is not just an option, but a necessity in maintaining cultural and religious diversity in Indonesia. It is hoped that the results of this research can contribute to efforts to preserve Batak culture and Christianity, as well as inspire similar efforts in other communities facing similar challenges.

Keyword: *Enculturation; Bataks; Christianity; Culture Studies*

## INTRODUCTION

Batak culture, Christianity and globalization are three aspects that are interrelated and have a significant influence on the development of education and culture in Indonesia. Batak culture, especially Toba Batak culture, has rich and varied characteristics, while Christianity and the teachings of Christ have become an integral part of the life of the Batak people. However, in the midst of the rapidly increasing dynamics of globalization, new challenges arise in maintaining and developing these cultures and religions. Therefore, a deep understanding of the relationship between Batak Culture, Christianity and globalization in the context of education and culture in Indonesia is very important (Scholte, 2017). Batak culture, especially the Toba Batak culture, is one of the most valuable cultural assets in Indonesia. The Toba Batak people have a rich cultural heritage, including in terms of language, art, customs, and belief systems.

The existence of Christianity among the Toba Batak people has formed a strong

identity and outlook on life. Since the colonial period, Christianity entered the life of the Toba Batak people and became the majority religion in the region (Razvi Padela, 2018). However, in the current era of globalization, the development of education and culture in Indonesia faces complex challenges. Globalization brought about significant social, economic and technological changes, which directly or indirectly impacted Batak culture and Christianity. The process of globalization, with the rapid flow of information and the penetration of foreign cultures, has presented a challenge for the existence and preservation of local culture and religion in Indonesia. The development of education and culture in Indonesia is also influenced by globalization. Education is an important factor in dealing with rapid global changes and preparing young people to compete in a global context (Ashley, 2011). However, in the midst of efforts to improve the quality of education, it is also important to consider cultural and religious diversity in the education curriculum. In the context of Batak Culture and Christianity, the role of education is very important in encouraging good understanding between the younger generation and the inherited cultural traditions and religious teachings.

Research on the relationship between Batak Culture (especially Toba Batak Culture), Christianity, and globalization in the development of education and culture in Indonesia is very relevant. A deep understanding of the interactions and dynamics between these three factors will provide valuable insights in maintaining the existence and development of Batak culture and Christianity in the era of globalization.

## RESEARCH METHOD

In research on the urgency of applying enculturation to the existence of Batak culture and Christianity in Indonesia, literature review is a relevant method in qualitative research (Darlington & Scott, 2020). Literature review involves collecting and analyzing literature, articles, books, journals, and other sources related to the research topic. In this context, literature review is used to gain a deep understanding of the urgency of implementing enculturation in maintaining and developing Batak culture and the teachings of Christianity in Indonesia in the context of globalization (Gule & Surbakti, 2021). By using the literature review method in this qualitative research, it is hoped that the writer will be able to gain a comprehensive understanding of the urgency of applying enculturation to the existence of Batak culture and Christianity in Indonesia (Sihombing, 2018). Literature review also provides a strong theoretical basis to support the arguments and findings expressed in these scientific publications.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In an era of increasingly rapid globalization, the challenges in maintaining and developing culture and religion are becoming increasingly complex. Globalization brings about significant social, economic and technological changes, which directly or indirectly affect the existence of culture and religion in various communities around the world. In this context, Batak culture and Christianity in Indonesia also face similar challenges.

1. The Context of Globalization and Its Impact on Culture and Religion Globalization has accelerated the exchange of information, the spread of technology, and the interaction between various cultures around the world. This has an impact on cultural homogenization, where local cultures can be eroded by the dominant culture imported from outside. This phenomenon raises concerns about the preservation of cultural identity and religious traditions that have become an important part of people's lives.

In the context of Batak culture, especially Toba Batak culture, the challenge faced is the increasingly strong influence of foreign culture. Global popular culture, such as Western culture as represented by modern media, music, films and lifestyles, can displace traditional cultural values and practices. The same holds true for Christianity, where social change and thought developments can challenge existing religious understandings and practices.

2. Challenges in Maintaining Cultural Identity One of the main challenges in maintaining culture in the context of globalization is the pressure to adopt or adapt to the dominant culture. People tend to feel attracted to global popular culture which is considered more modern or more prestigious. As a result, traditional cultural values and practices can be neglected or marginalized.

In terms of Batak culture, it is important to maintain and develop important aspects of this culture, such as language, traditional arts, customs and belief systems. Efforts required include supporting traditional cultural activities, introducing young people to their cultural heritage, and creating spaces for cultural expression in everyday life.

3. Challenges in Facing Foreign Cultural Influences In the era of globalization, increasingly strong foreign cultural influences can change perceptions, attitudes, and religious practices. Batak culture, which is predominantly Christian, faces challenges in maintaining the authenticity of religious teachings and maintaining close ties with cultural traditions. Foreign cultural influences can stimulate the development of new ideas, which can then challenge traditional views and values that have been held for centuries.

In facing this challenge, it is important to develop a balanced approach between adaptation to local cultural and religious values and acceptance of positive elements from foreign cultures. This can be achieved through intercultural dialogue, deep understanding of religious teachings, and wise application of enculturation.

4. Challenges in Creating Youth Sustainability Young people are often at the forefront of accepting global influences and interacting with different cultures. In facing globalization,

an important challenge is to arouse the interest and involvement of the younger generation in maintaining and developing their culture and religion. Many younger generations may feel more attracted to global popular culture or trying to adapt to global trends.

In this context, education plays a very important role in building a good understanding of cultural heritage and religious teachings. Schools and educational institutions must play an active role in promoting Batak culture and Christian religious teachings, as well as creating space for the younger generation to develop pride and a sense of belonging to their cultural identity (Qingfen, 2022). In an era of rapidly increasing globalization, the challenges in maintaining and developing culture and religion in Indonesia, including Batak culture and Christianity, are very real. These challenges include foreign cultural influences, cultural homogenization, and shifts in traditional values (Young, 2015). However, with the right approach, such as efforts to maintain cultural identity, implement enculturation, intercultural dialogue, and education that focuses on cultural heritage and religious teachings, it is still possible to achieve cultural and religious continuity in the midst of the dynamics of globalization.

In the midst of the rapidly increasing dynamics of globalization, the challenges faced by Batak culture and Christianity in Indonesia are increasingly complex. The Batak people began to adapt and were influenced by other cultures and customs that entered their environment. This brings the worst potential, namely cultural extinction. Therefore, it is important to implement cultural and religious enculturation as an effort to maintain and develop the Batak cultural heritage and Christianity. In the era of globalization, developments in technology, mass media, and human migration have accelerated information exchange, communication, and intercultural interaction. The Batak people, like other communities in Indonesia, are exposed to other cultures and customs that can influence their mindset, behavior and traditions (Angerler, 2016). Economic progress, urbanization, and shifts in social values have also had an impact on the Batak people's adaptation to different cultures.

Adaptation to other cultures is not always bad, however, if it is not done wisely, it can threaten the existence of the original culture. Batak cultural identity, which includes language, art, customs, and belief systems, is vulnerable to weakening or extinction due to the adoption of a more dominant culture. Enculturation is the process of transferring and learning cultural and religious values, norms, and practices from one generation to the next (Fabry, 2017). The application of enculturation aims to strengthen cultural and religious identity in the midst of adaptation and foreign cultural influences. Enculturation involves education, community participation, and efforts to maintain culture in everyday life.

In the context of Batak culture, enculturation involves teaching and understanding of the Batak language, traditional arts such as the gondang sadinding and tortor dance, customs at weddings and traditional gatherings, as well as a deep understanding of the traditional Batak belief system. The application of religious enculturation involves teaching

and a strong understanding of the teachings of Christ, Christian worship practices, and moral values that are upheld in Batak society.

On the other hand, formal education has an important role in implementing cultural and religious enculturation. The educational curriculum must include subjects that study and introduce Batak culture and the teachings of Christianity. Schools can also engage in extracurricular activities that encourage active participation in arts, customs, and religious worship. In addition, the Batak people need to play an active role in promoting, maintaining and practicing their culture and religion. This involves organizing cultural events, writing and documenting culture, as well as community development focused on preserving and developing Batak culture and religion.

In facing the adaptation and threat of Batak culture in Indonesia, the application of cultural and religious enculturation is the key to maintaining and developing Batak cultural and religious identity. Through education, community participation, and the appropriate use of technology, the Batak people can strengthen their cultural heritage and maintain the teachings of Christianity in a context of rapidly increasing globalization (Siahaan, et al, 2017). In an era of accelerating globalization, Batak culture and Christianity in Indonesia face significant challenges. The effects of globalization, such as technological advances, easy communication, and human mobility, have accelerated cultural exchanges among communities around the world (Jukko, 2016). Therefore, the urgency of implementing enculturation in maintaining the existence of Batak culture and the teachings of Christianity is very important.

In the context of globalization, Batak culture and Christianity in Indonesia are facing increasingly strong foreign cultural influences. Through mass media, television, the internet, and economic globalization, values and cultural practices from outside can easily enter into Batak society. These influences can influence cultural identities and traditional religious understandings that have existed for centuries. In addition, the importance of maintaining Batak Cultural Identity The application of enculturation is very important in maintaining Batak cultural identity. Batak culture is rich in unique traditions, languages, arts and customs. Through enculturation, Batak cultural values can be maintained and passed onto future generations. By studying and understanding Batak culture, people can appreciate their own cultural heritage, strengthen a sense of pride in cultural identity, and enrich cultural diversity in Indonesia. It is hoped that there is a need to integrate religious teachings with the local culture of Christianity, which has become the majority religion among the Batak people. Another thing is also the need to face challenges in the context of globalization. The application of religious enculturation is important to integrate religious teachings with local culture (Ferguson et al., 2016). By blending religious values with Batak cultural practices, people can maintain their unique cultural identity while enriching their spiritual experience.

In maintaining a religious culture, preserving local wisdom and dealing with cultural homogenization Cultural homogenization is a negative impact of globalization which can

threaten cultural diversity in Indonesia (Behdad & Thomas, 2011). The application of enculturation is an urgency to fight cultural homogenization and strengthen the existence of Batak culture. By strengthening cultural values, the Batak people can face the pressure of cultural homogenization which can reduce their cultural identity. For an ideal solution to be implemented, namely developing intercultural awareness and respecting diversity, globalization also carries the potential to expand intercultural awareness and respect for diversity. In this context, the application of enculturation can facilitate mutually respectful intercultural dialogue and enrich shared experiences. By promoting a better understanding of Batak culture and the teachings of Christianity, people can bridge the gap between local culture and global culture.

In facing the challenges of globalization, the application of enculturation is very important in maintaining the existence of Batak culture and Christianity in Indonesia. By maintaining cultural identity, integrating religious teachings with local culture, fighting against cultural homogenization, and developing intercultural awareness, people can appreciate, strengthen, and enrich Batak culture and Christian religious teachings amidst the dynamics of rapidly increasing globalization.

## CONCLUSION

In the context of increasingly rapid globalization, the existence of Batak culture and Christianity in Indonesia face significant challenges. To maintain cultural identity and religious teachings, the urgency of implementing enculturation is very important. Through the application of enculturation, the Batak people can strengthen and preserve their cultural heritage, as well as integrate religious teachings with local culture. The application of enculturation is an important urgency in dealing with the influence of globalization on Batak culture and Christianity in Indonesia. Globalization brings foreign cultural influences that can threaten cultural identity and traditional religious understanding. Enculturation is an effort to maintain and develop Batak cultural identity. Through enculturation, Batak cultural values can be passed onto future generations, and society can enrich cultural diversity in Indonesia. Christian enculturation is also important in integrating religious teachings with local culture. By blending religious values with Batak cultural practices, people can maintain their unique cultural identity and enrich their spiritual experience.

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