2. BACKGROUND OF KARONESE SOCIETY

2.1 The Geography of Kabupaten Karo

Karo regency or Karo Land lies on the mountain chain, is the original settlement for Karonese. This area 2,127.25 square kilometers. This area like “a big clay pot” because it is surrounded by the mountains, its height is 140 – 1400 meters on the surface of the sea. In this Karo highland, we can find the magnificent scenery with the mountains and its cold weather which is recognized by specific area for fruits and vegetables. They have cool climate about 16° – 17° C and the humidity about 20%.

In this area we can see the beautiful view of Sibayak mountain, a volcano mountain, 2,172 meters on the surface of the sea. The meaning of Sibayak word is king. It means, Sibayak mountain is a king mountain based on the forefather of Karo.

In geographical, Karo regency is lies on 2°50′ north latitudes, 3°19′ south latitudes, 97°55′ – 98°38′ east longitudes, between the famous mountains are; in the north are Barus mountain, Pinto mountain, Sibayak mountain, Simole mountain, and Sinabung mountain and in the south is Sibuaten mountain.

The area of Karo land borders on some areas, they are:

- In the north, borders on the Langkat and Deli Serdang regency.
- In the south, borders on the Dairi and North Tapanuli regency.
- In the east, borders on the Deli Serdang and Simalungun regency.
- In the west, the borders on the Southeast Aceh.
Kabupaten of Karo reside in heights is 140 – 1400 meters on surface of the sea by comparison as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Wide</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>140-200 m</td>
<td>9,550 ha</td>
<td>4,49 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200-500 m</td>
<td>11,373 ha</td>
<td>5,35 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500-1,000 m</td>
<td>79,215 ha</td>
<td>37,24 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If we look at from declivity or slope of the land can distinguishable as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Wide</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horizontally 2 %</td>
<td>23,900 ha</td>
<td>11,24 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slope slightly 2-5 %</td>
<td>74,919 ha</td>
<td>35,22 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declivity 15 – 40 %</td>
<td>41,169 ha</td>
<td>19,35 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steepness 40 %</td>
<td>72,737 ha</td>
<td>32,19 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The capital city of Karo regency is Kabanjahe and the populations are 310.000 of humans. The distance of this area to Medan city is about 77 kilometers.

Kabupaten of Karo have thirteen of subdistrict they are Barusjahe, Berastagi, Dolat Rakyat, Juhar, Kabanjahe, Kuta Buluh, Laubaleng, Mardinding, Merdeka, Merek, Munthe, Naman Teran, Payung, Simpang Empat, Tiga Binanga, Tiga Panah, and Tiganderket. Beside that in Karo land have 15 political district and 269 villages.
The location is like mountainous and surrounded by valley and meadow. The sulphur which is blown by the wind from the both of volcanoes and the rainfall annually makes the ground around there becomes fertile. Therefore, Karo land is very suitable for agriculture activity, especially for farming land.

Most of the Karonese people work as farmer and the crops such as corn, coconut, oranges, Markisah, cotton and some others vegetables. These crops are not for sale but it’s used to fulfill their life needed. Although they do not sell the crops, they also have known the barter economic system. Besides the agriculture aspect in Karo land, there is also livestock aspect, the animals namely cows, buffaloes, goats, horses, ducks and chickens. In there also have the fishery. The fishery in Karo regency is the cultivation for fresh water’s fishes and catches them. This cultivation is done in the pond or paunch with keramba net system.

Bred horse and plant pepper are kind of trading commodities which are always brought the Karonese people of highland to downstream. Then it will be exchanged for some requirements such as salt, clothes, guns, ammunitions, and others basic needed.

The superior commodity accord with potential of Kabupaten Karo to be amendable in karo society is potato, corn, processing of orange, pig farm, nila fish net float, and cow farm (meat or milk of cow).

2.2 The living of Karo People

Karo people live were born mostly as agrarian people, most of them as farmer, especially for the man or husband who hard work in the field to fulfill the
file needed for their family. The society earns their life by farming, but most of them stay at home after doing their field. In agricultural they were planting rice, coffee, corn, coconut, cotton, pepper, fruits, vegetables and others. Beside that Karo people work as rancher, they were maintaining some animals like cows, goats, buffalos, horses, chickens, ducks and then some fishery.

In Karo society sometimes the people who live in a traditional house consist of eight family heads. In every village, it consists of some traditional house. Firstly, the society built a simple house, like a hut, made from some available materials, and because of their eager and effort, so the big house was built. The form made in fours rectangular which consist of some jabu. The pillar made from some big woods. The woods are connected each other so the house looks express a wise and prestige, and caution and self-correction through the attack from outside. Every family is bounded by some regulations which arranging the rights and obligations, from every sides, behaviors, security and others.

Karo people are like to get on together to celebrate their tradition. They never change their original culture where they still heading towards for their tradition. Their tradition which is always their celebrating such as wedding ceremony, entranced a new house (mengket) ceremony, death ceremony, birth ceremony and some other tradition. Usually this tradition is held to in Jambur, a place for Karo people to get on together.

In life Karo society the woman has important and unimportant rules in a family or in society. Commonly, a woman is a wisdom determiner for cleanliness
of household, education, children socialization, and in agriculture aspect (choosing the seeds, determining the time to plant, harvest, etc) and Sibaso teacher. The rule of woman in Karonese is only as a complement, it cannot stand alone, because they have to obey the traditional rules of Rakut Sitehu. Commonly, in village development they are not involved in planning system, although they are active participant in operational system.

For their religious Karo society in Kabupaten Karo in large measure believe Christ, but some of them also to believe Moslem and Hinduism as their religion.

2.3 The characteristic of Karo People

Karonese people have special character of social system. They always appreciate their forefathers. In Karo people’s life, familial relationship is important. This relationship can be seen from the family name or marg a that used by someone. Marga is principal characteristic of Karo people. Related to family name, in Karonese it is divided into five big family names or they call with Marga Silima, namely Karo-Karo, Ginting, Tarigan, Sembiring and Perangin-angin. Every marga has sub-sub marga that obey the head of family name or induk marga and cannot be joining with induk marga which is not his natural induk marga. These marga are banned to marry if they are still in the same induk marga though different in sub-marga.

There is the distribution and dissemination of Marga in Karonese.

1. Marga Karo-Karo and the dissemination
2. Karo-karo Surbakti at Surbakti and Gajah.
4. Karo-karo Sinukaban at Kaban and Sumbul.
5. Karo-karo Barus at Barus Jahe, Pitu Kuta.
15. Karo-karo Bukit at Bukit and Buluh Awar.
17. Karo-karo Samura at Samura.
18. Karo-karo Sitepu at Naman and Sukanalu.

2. Marga Ginting and the dissemination

1. Ginting Munte at Kutabangun, Ajinembah, Kubu, Dokan, Tanggung, Munte, Rajatengah, and Bulan Jahe.
5. Ginting Ajartambun at Rajameraha.
7. Ginting Beras at Laupetundal.
8. Ginting Garamata at (Simarmata) Raja Tengah, Tengging.
10. Ginting Suka Ajartambun at Rajameraha.
12. Ginting Sinusingai at Singa.
15. Ginting Tumangger at Kidupen and Kemkem.
16. Ginting Pase

3. Marga Tarigan and the dissemination

Tarigan Sibero at Juhar, Kutaraja, Keriahen, Munte, Tanjung Beringin, Selakar, and Lingga.

1. Tarigan Tambak at Kebayaken dan Sukanalu.
2. Tarigan Silangit at Gunung Meriah.
3. Tarigan Tua at Pergendangen, Talimbaru.
4. Tarigan Tegur at Suka.
5. Tarigan Gersang at Nagasaribu and Berastepu.

6. Tarigan Gerneng at Cingkes (Simalungun).

7. Tarigan Gana-gana at Batukarang.

8. Tarigan Jampang at Pergendangen.

9. Tarigan Tambun at Rakutbesi, Binangara, Sinaman dll.

10. Tarigan Bondong at Lingga.

11. Tarigan Pekan (branch of Tambak) at Sukanalu

12. Tarigan Purba at Purba (Simalungun)

4. Marga Sembiring and the dissemination

I. Sembiring Siman biang, it’s might not to married with other branch of Marga Sembiring fellow.

1. Sembiring Kembaren at Samperaya and almost at all of urung Liang Melas.

2. Sembiring Sinulaki at Silalahi.


11. Sembiring Sinupayung at Juma Raja and Negeri

II. Sembiring Simantangken biang, it’s have married between the branch of Marga Sembiring.

1. Sembiring Colia at Kubucolia and Seberaya.

2. Sembiring Pandia at Seberaya, Payung, and Beganding.


5. Sembiring Meliala at Sarinembah, Munte Rajaberneh, Kedupen, Kabanjahe, Naman, Berastepu, and Biaknampe.


7. Sembiring Tekang at Kaban.

8. Sembiring Muham at Susuk and Perbesi.


10. Sembiring Pelawi at Ajijahe, Perbaji, Kandibata, and Hamparan Perak (Deli).

11. Sembiring Busuk at Kidupen and Lau Perimbon.


14. Sembiring Bunuh Aji at Sukatepu, Kutatonggal, and Beganding

5. Marga Perangin-angin and the dissemination

1. Perangin-angin Namohaji at Kutabuluh.

2. Perangin-angin Sukatendel at Sukatendel.

3. Perangin-angin Mano at Pergendangen.


5. Perangin-angin Pencawan at Perbesi.


7. Perangin-angin Perbesi at Seberaya.


10. Peranginangin Pinem at Serintono (Sidikalang).

11. Peranginangin Uwir at Singgamanik.

12. Peranginangin Laksa at Juhar.

13. Peranginangin Singarimbun at Mardinding, Kutambaru and Temburun.


15. Peranginangin Kacinambun at Kacinambun.


17. Peranginangin Tanjung at Penampen and Berastepu.

18. Peranginangin Benjerang at Batukarang.

Part of the marga Peranginangin and Sembiring can marry between the Marga.

This family names or marga is superiority in Karo people, beside that from their language, they always using their language when meet others Karo people. This is also one of the characteristic of Karo people.