1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of Study

Indonesia has heterogeneous society. It means that Indonesia consists of various languages, costumes, religious, and ethnics. Besides that, Indonesia has been famous for its different cultures and ethnics since long time ago. Each ethnic has its own characteristic and uniqueness. Mandailing is one of the Indonesian ethnics with its own uniqueness. Mandailing ethnic is the people who came from Mandailing by generations wherever they live. This ethnic is based on father lineage (Patrilineal) which consists of family names (marga-marga). There are some family names in Mandailing such as Nasution, Lubis, Pulungan, Rangkuti, Daolay, and the like.

Family name in Mandailing is something very important because it will determine someone position in the structure of Mandailing custom society, whether he/she is as a Mora, Kahanggi or Anak boru. Besides that, family name also has another function such as identity of heredity that means the man and woman who has the same family name is assumed one descendant, so they are forbidden to get married. If it is broken, so they will get custom sanction. That is why I am interested to choose and write down about “family name (marga) in Mandailing”. Besides that, I also want to broaden my knowledge about it.
1.2. The Objectives of Study

The purposes of writing this paper:

1) To develop the knowledge about Mandailing especially family names.

2) To know the role and the function of family names in Mandailing custom society.

3) To know the reasons of giving family names in Mandailing custom society.

4) To enrich the knowledge about the ways of giving family names in Mandailing.

5) To introduce family names in Mandailing to the readers or the public

1.3. The Scope of Writing

Actually there are many things that can be discussed in Mandailing culture such as mangupa, manortor, and mandailing wedding ceremony. But in this case the writer realize that he is far from being perfect and his knowledge is still little to get down those cases, so he limits this paper just to describe family names in Mandailing. Thus “A Brief Description of Family Names in Mandailing“ is the title of this paper.
1.4. The Method of Writing

In writing this paper, the writer collected some references from some books that he borrowed from USU library and some were bought from the bookstore. Besides that, the writer also browsed the internet. Now there are many website of Mandailing which can be explored.

1.5. The Significance of Writing

This paper is written:

1. To provide the information for readers about family names in Mandailing.

2. In order that readers or people of different culture know how important family names in Mandailing society.

3. In order to enrich Indonesian culture.