2. THE HISTORICAL AND BACKGROUND OF MANDAILING

2.1. The History of Mandailing

The name of Mandailing has already known for a long time. Until now, some information about the name of Mandailing still appears and becomes a hot debate. There are many arguments about the name and pedigree of Mandailing.

According to Dr. Van Dijk (1926:40) said that the Lubu people placed Mandailing for the very first time. Then followed by the Hindu of Himalaya to stay. After not for a long time, the Hindu had to go after being urged by the Lubu who claimed the land as theirs.

After that, Namora Pande Bosi came and then passed down a kings line of upper Mandailing (Mandailing Julu) who have family name Lubis and Si Baroar who passed down the kings of lower Mandailing (Mandailing Godang) who have family name Nasution.

Before becoming a king of Mandailing Godang, there had been a Kingdom of Sutan Pulungan in Hutabargot, which then Si Baroar is subjected by the war “Porang Marugup-ugup” (a very big war and takes a lot of victims). Besides that, there is a kingdom in Padang Garugur that is Sutan Parampuan Kingdom. This Kingdom also subjected by descendent of Si Baroar, Baginda Mangaraja Enda, and the society of the kingdom escaped to Daludalu.

And the other opinion said that Mandailing came from Mandalay, taking from the name of city in Burma (now Myanmar); and then changed to become Mandailing.
Mandailing is a region which is very fertile and suitable for farming and horticulture. It is caused Mandailing becomes very famous and always be a target of kingdoms to get it.

In the beginning of the story, the Chines, Arabic and European people landed in Mandailing region through the west coast: Singkuang Port and Natal. The comer, Hasibuan came via Barumun, while Daolay and Dalimunte entred via Angkola of the Northern side, meanwhile, the Minang entered via Southern side. And aslo called, Rangkuti entered from western and stayed in Runding.

Mandailing tribe which is in the next called Mandailing people are the people who come from Mandailing homeland or hereditarily come from Mandailing, either the people who stay in Mandailing region or in other regions.

2.2. The Geography, Topography, Geology, Demography, Hydrology of Mandailing

Geography

Mandailing society is originally in the regency of Mandailing Natal. In the past, the regency is still joined with the regency of South Tapanuli that is also lived by the Angkola and Sipirok tribe. Since 1998, Mandailing Natal has been separated to be single regency, based on the government’s role: UU No. 12. 1998 date on 23 November 1998 signed by President B.J. Habibie.

The regency of Mandailing Natal covers an area of approximately about 6.620,7 square kilometers or about 9,24 % wide of North Sumatera Province and the capital is Panyabungan.
Geographically Mandailing Natal is located between 00° 13’30” – 01° 20’42” North Latitude 98° 50’30” - 99° 67’19” East Longitudinal. The land is confined with some areas of regency in North Sumatera:

1. In the Northern side, confines with South Tapanuli
2. In the western side, confines with Ocean of Indonesia
3. In the Southern side, confines with West Sumatera Province
4. In the Eastern side, confines with West Sumatera Provinces.

**Topography**

*Mandailing Natal* has a great potential land resource. The height of land is varieties between 0 – 2,146 meters above the sea surface, it can be classified into:

a. Lowland plain, the width is about 160,500 Ha or 24, 24 % of all areas of Mandailing Natal.

b. Upland plain, the width is about 26,385 Ha or 5,49 % of all areas of Mandailing Natal.

c. Hilly plain, the width is about 112,000 Ha or 16,91 % of all areas of Mandailing Natal.

d. Mountainous plain, the width is about 353,185 Ha or 53,34 % of all areas of Mandailing Natal.
Geology

The Mandailing Natal areas are supported by the land condition which are fertile and wide, and are suitable for the farming area. By the condition of the land, such as:

a. *Dark Regosal*, the width about 84.000 Ha, is suitable for coconut commodity.
b. *Brown Aluvial*, the width about 16.000 Ha, is suitable for the rice planting, rubber and also coconut.
c. *Dark Hydromofile*, the width about 12.800 Ha, is suitable for rice planting.
d. *Brown Limed Land*, the width about 18.500 Ha
e. *Brown Latosal*, the width about 29.100 Ha, is suitable for rice planting, shepherding.
f. *Reddish Brown Latosal*, the width about 23.800 Ha, is suitable for rice planting, rubber and second crop.
g. *Yellowish Red Padsolik* and *Yellowish Brown Padsolik*, the width about 76.900 Ha, is suitable for rice planting, oil palm, *salak*, shepherding.
h. *Gle Orgonosal Topsoil*, the width about 80.900 Ha, is suitable for coconut and rubber.
i. *Yellowish Red Padsolik* and *Litosol*, the width about 113.710 Ha, is suitable for rice planting, oil palm, second crop, and shepherding.
j. *Yellowish Red Padsolik Latosal* and *Litosol*, the width about 281.470 Ha, is suitable for rice planting, oil palm, and shepherding.
k. *Brown Padsolik* and *Yellowish Brown Padsolik*, the width about 16.200 Ha, is suitable for rice planting, second crop and wood.
Besides that, the land conditions in Mandailing Natal are commonly used for:

a. Village/Regency is about 2.602 Ha or 0.39 % of the Mandailing Natal area.
b. Farming is about 28.151 Ha or 4.25 % of the Mandailing Natal area.
c. Horticulture is about 228.638 Ha or 34.53 % of the Mandailing Natal area.
d. Woods is about 292.502 Ha or 44.18 % of the Mandailing Natal area.
e. Grass land is about 28.485 Ha or 11.80 % of the Mandailing Natal area.
f. Lake and swamp is about 2.900 Ha or 0.44 % of the Mandailing Natal area.
g. Quartz mine field is about 78.138 Ha or 11.80% of the Mandailing Natal area.
h. Transmigration area is about 10.250 Ha or 1.55% of the Mandailing Natal area.

**Demography**

The population of Mandailing Natal is about 352.973 (census of 1999) with density 53 person/km². Most of them lived in rural area, around the state street and province or regency street.

**Hydrology**

The hydrology condition of Mandailing Natal is marked by big rivers stream like Batang Gadis River and Batang Natal River, swamps and lakes in generally are used by people to fill their requirement.
2.3. The Religion and Beliefs

Mandailing people almost 100% are Moslems, because of that Islam has a big influence in custom ceremonies. Even in death ceremony and hereditary law most of them only use Islamic regulations.

In Mandailing there is one philosophy which said “Hombar do Adat Dohot Ibadat”, it means Adat and Ibadat (worship) can not be separated, and Adat or costum is never opposite with the rules of the religion. And if there is a thing in the traditional ceremonies againts the worship, it has to be ignored.

Before the era of Islam, Mandailing’s custom is influenced by Animism which worship ghost. Islam came to Mandailing and it will influence costum and Mandailing etnich such worship to ghost existing Animism era. It is assumed to be contradicted with Islam, and gradually it is eliminated. Mandailing people are very fanatic with Islam, the custom that before was an animism now has changed to Islamic regulation.

How Islam came to Mandailing region. The are some versions according to history, that is:

a. Islam which came from West Sumatera through Rao go to Mandailing. According to Nasution (1920:76) “arrival of Islam to South Tapanuli is from West Sumatera (Minangkabau) by the army of Padri, on Ramadhan 1231 H or 1816 M”. Islam which brought by Padri is a extreme Islam. They did not compromise with the kingdom of Mandailing. Because of Padri at the time is very powerful, so some of the kingdoms of Mandailing joined with Belanda to dissipating Paderi from Mandailing area. And the kings of Mandailing
Islam which came from Natal that was brought by Syekh Abd. Malik who was famous with Baleo Natal. One time a courier of Yang Dipertuan Huta Siantar Panyabungan comes to Syekh Abdul Fatah to ask him to became a religion teacher in Huta Siantar. But because of every thing he can not granting the asking, and he ask his belief pupil, that is Syekh Abdul Malik. After Syekh Abdul Malik there in Huta Siantar, he teached and developed Islam with his students that came from around of Huta Siantar of Panyabungan. The thing which he gave gets a plus from Kingdom and society, so he did not only teach in Huta Siantar and Panyabungan, but also until to Padangsidimpuan and Sipirok.

2.4. The Culture of Mandailing

2.4.1) The Language

The Mandailing Language is still used by Mandailing people until now either in Mandailing region or in other regions wherever they live in application of communication among ethnic humanities Mandailing.
The Mandailing language has patois and accent (rhythm) which is very gentle and brought by smooth voice, as according to the usage of Mandailing language consist five levels, that is:

- Language of custom (Bahasa adat), the language which is used when custom ceremonies.
- Language of Andung, the language which is used in sorrowed time.
- Language of Parkapur, the language which is used when in forest.
- Language of Na Biaso, the language which is used in daily live.
- Language of Bura, the language which is used in wroth time.

According to Van Der Tuuk (a linguistic expert), he said that the Mandailing language is divided into five kinds:

a. *Hata Somal i ma na niparkasajahon ari-ari*

   The language is used by Mandailing people in daily conversation.

b. *Hata andoeng di hatiha siloeloeton*

   The language which is used by Mandailing people when mourned the mortal in death ceremony, and also used by the girl when she mourned in front of her parents when she will leave them to go to her prospective husband’s house.

c. *Hata teas dohot djampolak di hatiha parbadaan*

   The language is used especially on the happening of bad things (fight or quarrel)
d. *Hata si baso hatiha ni hadatoean*

The language is used by figure Si Baso (shaman) when he is in trance situation when treat his patient.

e. *Hata parkapoer hatiha di harangan*

The language is used when a person in the forest. In the past, it is used by the Mandailing people who go to forest to search champor. That’s why this language is named *Hata Parkapur.*

### 2.4.2) The Script

Mandailing tribe has script which is named *Huruf Tulak-tulak.* In the past, the script is particularly used to write down medical science, magic formula (*mantera-mantera*), astronomy and *Andung-andung* (lament) in the book which is made from bark or some joint bambooes. The book is named *Pustaha.*

Called *Huruf Tulak-Tulak,* because the way of writing is almost everything with jib motion and onward and also once with backward movement. This *Huruf Tulak-Tulak* has 21 based letter so-called with *Induk ni Surat.* This *Huruf Tulak-Tulak* now has started to lose and not developed again by the next generation.
2.4.3) The Literature

Mandailing tribe has a traditional literature which consist of poetry and prose. Most of that in the form of oral literature, but there is also written, like Andung-Andung (lament) or grief story which is written down at joint bambooes. In Mandailing literature there are two kinds of most popular prose, they are Turi-turian and Hobarna. Most of Turi-turian in the form of myth and legend. Poetry in Mandailing literature is called Ende-Ende. Most of it in form of poem (pantun) and rhyme (syair).

The literature of Mandailing tribe is not only limited in form of traditional literature, but there is also in form of non-tradisional (modern) literature, that is novel which was written and published until 1930s.

2.4.4) The Mandailing Custom

The Mandailing people still applied their Mandailing custom either in their daily life or in their custom ceremonies until now. The Mandailing custom is based on Dalihan Na Tolu.

2.4.5) The character of Mandailing people

The caracter of Mandailing people are very pleasure going abroad (merantau), religious, critical, easy to adapt, and have big shyness (Parsulaha).