2. THE BACKGROUND OF KARO PEOPLE

2.1 Life of Karo Society

Batak can be divided into many groups, Batak Karo is one of them. Karo is the native tribe inhabiting Karo plateau, Deli Serdang, Binjai, Dairi, Medan, and Southeast Aceh. The name of this tribe has decided into one district’s name as their area that is Karo region. Berastagi and Kabanjahe is the famous district of Karonese. Berastagi is one of tourist city in North Sumatra which is famous for superior agricultural product and cool area. One of them is markisa and drink which are well known as producer’s orange juice until the whole archipelago. The majority of Karo residing in this mountainous region, exact in “Sinabung and Sibayak” that be called as “Taneh Karo Simalem”. The tribes has its own language is Karo Language.

The disseminating Taneh Karo outside are:

- Dairi Regency sub district of Taneh Pinem, Tigalingga, Gunung Sitember.
- Deli Serdang Regency sub district of Selesai, Kuala, Selapian, Bahorok, Padang Tulang, Sungai Bingai, Stabat.
- Southeast Aceh Regency sub district of Lawe sigala-gala, Simpang Simadam
- Simalungun Regency sub district of Dolok Sanggul and Sali Matua

In North Sumatra, Karo is well known as batak people. Although such recognition is not entirely true, the opinion was not wrong. We know batak tribe consist: Toba, Karo, Pak-pak, Simalungun and Mandailing. There are many versions say that Karo come from Batak, but many also say that is not. For example, a story of Karo come from an empire of Indian group who annexed the
area in charge of new areas and story about Sembiring clan constitute who native outsider from India and finally unite and become one clan into Karo tribe. It is because of its location near to Batak tribes eventually many mixed and categorizes himself as a one clan.

There are two main potentials of Karonese. Firstly the agriculture which has exports to foreign country. Secondly, the tourism because the land of Karo is wonderful and interesting of culture which well known until foreign countrie.

Karo also has:

A. Traditional dances, such as:
   - Piso Surit Dance
   - Lima Serangkai Dance
   - Terang Bulan Dance

B. Cultural Activities:
   - *Merdang-merdem*, it is a party of *Kerja Tahun* (party of year) that accompanied “music of Guro-Guro Aron”.
   - *Mahpah* is like too Merdang-merdem.
   - *Mesur-mesuri* is the party for mother who impregnating seven months.
   - *Ndilo Wari Udan* is the party of about request rain to world.
   - *Mengket Rumah Mbaru*, it is the party opening of new home.
   - *Rebu-rebu* is like of Kerja Tahun.
   - *Ngumbung* is a party meeting of workers in the a village.
   - *Er pangir Ku Lau* is aparty like throw away of unlucky to river.
• **Raleng Tendi** is a party for giving a ring from *Bibi* (aunt) to *Permain* (daughter in law) or from *Mama* (uncle) to *Bere-bere* (nephew)

C. **Aksara Karo** (Script of Karo)

![Aksara Karo Script]

D. Karo has special foods, such as:

- Trites is food with combined meat and grass of flank cow or goat.

- Cimpa is food with ingredients sugar palm and wheat flour then packed with leaf of banana.

- Tasak Telu is like too with chicken curry.

- Cipera, its make with ingredients corn and chicken.

### 2.2 The Construction Dial With Families Name

Starting from firmness gift brought back from a trip our ancestor with the result that is rule inside Maeve a relationship between other people until composed “Interrelationship” (*perkade-kaden*).

The interrelationship will formed kinship which has ladder each and one another of supporting. By means of that any one must know his position inside groups as structural where? When? And how?. So that he can take his character in activities of custom.
Family names of Karo are patrilineal. That is contrived of generation from father as owner of generation, backer of culture, and tradition. Because of that, a son is like candidate of generation. The person who have clan (Merga or Beru) same, so they are be related. The meaning, they have one ancestor. The ego descended by marriage between a male who called Bapa (father) with a female who called Nande (mother). If a son with son brother, so they are called “ersenina”. If son with daughter, so they are called “erturang”. With the result that it one clan can not married. Because of the part of Karo has social system that is well known Merga Si Lima, Tutur Si Waluh, Rakut Si Telu.
Explaination:

O (♂) → Father
P (♀) → Mother
♂ → Male
♀ → Female

A → Anak Sintua (The First Child)
B → Anak Sintengah (The Second Child)
C → Anak Sintengah (The Third Child)
D → Anak Singuda (The Last Child)

A and C → Ersenina
B and D → Ersenina
A with C and B → Erturang
A with C and D → Erturang
B with D and A → Erturang
B with D and C → Erturang

2.3 **Merga Si Lima**

*Merga* is family name which is used in last name a person. *Merga* (clan) in Karo consist five groups that be mentioned *Merga Si Lima*, that are: Sembiring, Ginting, Tarigan, Karo-karo, Perangin-angin. The five big clan have small many branches, namely:

2.3.1 Sembiring clan consists of 18 branches, they are:
1) Sembiring Kembaren, according of Kembaren exist from Kuala and Batu than spread to Liang Melas, Silalahi, Paropo, Kuala Mbelin, Sampe Raya, Pola Tebu, Ujujing Deleng, Negri Jahe, Langkat, Gunung Meriah, Tanjung Merahe and Liang Tengah

2) Sembiring Keloko, According to Keloko story, they are related with Sembiring Kembaren. This clan now is majority live in Pergendangen, Buah raya, and Limang.

3) Sembiring Meliala, According to story is generation of Indian who now live in Sarinembah, Jaberneh and Kidupen.

4) Sembiring Muham, These clan come from India that spread to Seberaya.

5) Sembiring Colia, Colia is Generation of Indian namely Calo the kingdom of India. They build quarte in Kubu Colia.

6) Sembiring Sinulaki, Sinulaki come from silalahi.

7) Sembiring Brahmana, according to story, Sembiring Brahmana is generation of Indian too who live in Talu Kaba. And than scattered in Kabanjahe.

8) Sembiring Pandia, they come from empire of Pandia in India. They usually live in Payung.

9) Sembiring Sinupayunng, They live in Jumaraja and Nageri.

10) Sembiring Maha, They come from Martelu, Pandan, and Pasir Tengah

11) Sembiring Tekang, it is scattered in Partumbukan, Sidikalang, and Sarintou.

12) Sembiring Depari, they spread in Seberaya, Perbesi as far as Bekancan.
13) Sembiring Pelawi, even if from India (Pelawa) live in Bekancan and spread to Ajijahe, kandibata, perbesi, Perbaji.

14) Sembiring Sinukapor, the story about this clan not yet to know until at moment.

15) Sembiring Bunuaji, even if from India. They come to Sumatra pass through east coast in near Teluk Haru, they usually live in Sari Nembah, Raja Berneh, kidupen, Munthe, Naman.

16) Sembiring Keling, now live in Raja berneh and Juhar.

17) Sembiring Pande Bayang, they come from Sari Nembah, kidupen and Naman.

18) Sembiring Gurukinayan, happen in Gurukinayan.

2.3.2 Ginting clan consists of 9 branches, they are:

1) Ginting Munte, the story of Munte come from Tongging then spread to Becih, Kuta Sanggar, Ajinembah and Munthe.

2) Ginting Saragih, according to J.H. Neumen (Neumen 1972;10), Ginting Saragih included one of old Ginting clanned spread to Simalungun become Saragih in Toba become Saragi.

3) Ginting Pase, according to story, Ginting Pase has kingdom in Pase near Sari Nembah and spread to Kuta Bangun.

4) Ginting Manik, be related with Munte. The clan comes from Tongging to Ajinembah, Munthe, and Kuta Bangun.

5) Ginting Sinisuka, come from Kalasan (Pak-pak) and then move to Samosir, next to Tinjou and Guru benua. There are formed nine Ginting clan, they are: Ginting Babo, Ginting Sugihen, Ginting Guru Patih,
Ginting Suka, Ginting Beras, Ginting Bukit, Ginting Garamata, Ginting Ajar Tambun, gisting Jadibata.

6) Ginting Jawak comes from Simalungun. They are only little in Tanah Karo.

7) Ginting Sinusing, the story about its clan not yet to know until now.

8) Ginting Tumannger, There are in Pak-pak namely Tumanggor.

9) Ginting Capah, Ginting Capah comes from Bukit, kalang

2.3.3 Tarigan clan consists of 14 branches, they are:

1) Tarigan Tua comes from Purba Tua near Cingkes, and Pergendangen.

2) Tarigan Jampang from Pergendangen too.

3) Tarigan Cingkes from Cingkes.

4) Tarigan Gana-Gana from Batu Karang.

5) Tarigan Bundung comes from Lingga.

6) Tarigan Pakan from Sukanalu.

7) Tarigan Tambak from Kebayaken and Sukanalu.

8) Tarigan Purba from Purba Tua Tanjung Parbu.

9) Tarigan Sibero from Juhar, Kuta Raja, Mbetung, Keriahen, Slakkar

10) Tarigan Girsang from Naga Seribu and Berastepu.

11) Tarigan Kerandam from Kuala, Pulo Berayan.

12) Tarigan Tegur from Suka, Seribu Jandi.

13) Tarigan Tambun from Rakut Besi, Binangara, Sinaman.

14) Tarigan Sabing from Sinaman.
2.3.4 Karo-Karo clan consists of 18 branches, they are:

1) Karo-Karo Sitepu, they come from Sihotang (Toba) then move to Si Ogung-Ogung next to Berastepu, Naman, Beganding, and Suka Naman.

2) Karo-Karo Barus, according of story come from Barus, in Karo region they live in Ajinembah.

3) Karo-Karo Sinulingga, they come from Lingga Raja in Pak-Pak. Now they live in Lingga and Bintang Meriah.

4) Karo-Karo Surbakti, they come from Kuta Buluh and spread Gayo/Alas and Pak-Pak.

5) Karo-Karo Kaban, be related with Sinulinnga clan. They come from Lingga Raja in Pak-Pak and settle at Bintang Meriah and Pernantin.

6) Karo-Karo Bukit, come from Bukit and Buluh Awar.

7) Karo-Karo Sinuraya, they build a village in Aji Jahe, Aji Mbelang, and Ujung Aji.

8) Karo-Karo kacaribu, they build village in Kacaribu.

9) Karo Sekali, build village in Seberaya and Lau Gendek.

10) Karo-Karo Ketaren, from Ketaren Raya, Sibolangit, Pertampilan, Kuta Mbelin.

11) Karo-Karo Sinukaban, they come from in Kaban village.

12) Karo-Karo Purba, according of story, they come from Simalungun then spread to Kabanjahe, Berastagi, Kuta Lepar, and Lau Cih.

13) Karo-Karo Samura, They come from Samura.

14) Karo-Karo Gurusinga, they come from Raja Berneh and Rumah Sampul.
15) Karo-Karo Jung, they come from Kuta Nangka, Perbesi, Sidikalang, and Batukarang.

16) Karo-Karo Sinukaban from Bulan Jahe and Bulan Julu.

17) Karo-Karo Kemit from Kuta Male and Batukarang.

18) Karo-Karo Sinuhaji from Ajijulu, Ajijahe, Ajibuhara, Ajimbelang.

2.3.5 Perangin-angin clan consists of 19 branches, they are:

1) Perangin-angin Pinem from Juhar, Pernantin, Sidikalang, Taneh Pinem, and Kuta Cane.

2) Perangin-angin Sebayang from Kuala, Perbesi, Gunung, Pertumbuken, Kuta Great.

3) Perangin-angin Sinurat, according to story this clan comes from Kuta Buluh. Because his mother Sinulinnga clan from Lingga separate with his father and she married with Pincawan clan. Later Sinurat is chased by Pincawan clan. Then he go out and build a village in near Limang and gave name Kuta Buluh.

4) Perangin-angin Bangun, the story about Bangun come from Pematang Siantar come to Bangun Mulia and then move to Tapak Kuda and Pernampen.

5) Perangin-angin Suka Tendel, the story about it has control over Binje and Pematang Siantar, however they move to mountain rage and Suke Tendel

6) Perangin-angin Benjerang from Batu Karang.

7) Perangin-angin Perbesi from Kuta Buluh and Jinabun.
8) Perangin-angin Pincawan come from Tawan in Perbesi
9) Perangin-angin Pengarun from Susuk.
10) Perangin-angin Namohaji from Kuta Buloh.
11) Perangin-angin Singarimbun, they come from Tambuiren, Mardinding, Kuta Mbaru and Tanjong.
12) Perangin-angin Ulun Jandi from Juhar.
13) Perangin-angin Keliat from Mardinding.
14) Perangin-angin Mano from Namo Mulia, but move to Gunung.
15) Perangin-angin Uwir from Singgamanik.
16) Perangin-angin Laksa, according to story Laksa come from Tanah Pinem and settle in Juhar.
17) Perangin-angin Kuta Buloh reside at Kuta Buloh, Buah Raja, Kuta Talah, Kuta Buloh Gugung, Langkat.
18) Perangin-angin Kacinambun, according to story Kacinambun from Si Kodon-kodon to Kacinambun.

2.4 Rakut Si Telu

*Rakut Si Telu* are formed from associations of clans that become a kinship of relationship. The meanings of *Rakut Si Telu* (tri Tunggal) are three of society is one in order to be completeness for Karo peoples. The completeness is mean of social institute in karo society that consists of three groups, they are:

1. *Kalimbubu*
2. *Anak Beru*
3. *Senina*
All of people have opportunity to be Kalimbubu, Anak Beru, Senina in their life. These make life of Karo become more interesting to be knowledge. Each kind of Rakut Si Telu have its own meaning that will be explained as follows:

1) Kalimbubu

Kalimbubu is group who get position to be respect in the middle of family like the daughter married with a man of certain family or clan.

The assignments of Kalimbubu to observe and give instructions in conference of custom Anak Beru families, and as giver petuah (guidance), as taker of conclusion in problem toward Anak Beru, because Kalimbubu is an actor that is position of highest, so the people of Karo often said:


The meaning, if the old peoples in Karo go to meddle of forest with Kalimbubu, so Anak Beru must walk way in front. The reason if in front be found the enemy as wild animal or thorn, the itch foliage, so Anak Beru is the first be attacked. In other that the Kalimbubu is safe from danger. If take a stroll with Kalimbubu in the morning, so Anak Beru must be in front , in other to Kalimbubu
is not exposed of wet foliage. If Kalimbubu speaks in the conference, so Kalimbubu can’t say is disagreement. It’s like that of variable Anak Beru to Kalimbubu. Kalimbubu has many kinds, they are: Kalimbubu Bena-Bena, Kalimbubu Simupus, Kalimbubu Dareh, Kalimbubu Kepah, Kalimbubu Simantek Daliken, Kalimbubu Simperdemui, Kalimbubu Sembuyak, Kalimbubu Taneh, Kalimbubu Si Majek Lulang, Puang Kalimbubu (Kalimbubu from Kalimbubu), Puang Ni Puang (Kalimbubu from Puang Kalimbubu).

2) Anak Beru

Anak Beru is Executor all of custom activities concerning his families Kalimbubu, and to take care, so those not happen displacement of tradition price at realization of parties that link to each other tradition and culture. They must responsible too about arrangement when take place misunderstanding in Kalimbubu families. This assignment and responsibility in Karo language is Anak Beru as “Bagi benang Penjarumi” that have the quality to tie in ethnic group. If it is ignored, so be seen weakness in relationship.

Point in time our Kalimbubu has a party, for examples tradition of wedding, opening house, profound, sorrow, and etc. Then usually Anak Beru is as ceremony. Success or not the party, of our Kalimbubu is hang the ability and tenacity Anak Beru. Because of that, Kalimbubu must metami man anak beru (kind to Anak Beru). Karo peoples said:

“mangkok reh mangkok lawes” adi anak beru erbahan si mehuli nandangi kalimbubu, maka kalimbubu pe arus erbahan si mehuli man anak beru amin gia lain-lain bentukna.
“If the cup come, so must cup out” the meaning, If Anak Beru care to Kalimbubu, so kalimbubu must care too, although different style.

Anak Beru has many kind, they are: Anak Beru Langkip, Anak Beru Cekuh Baka, Anak Beru Ipupus, Anak Beru Dareh, Anak Beru Tau, Anak Beru Mentri, Anak Beru Singukuri, Anak Beru Singikuti.

3) Senina

Senina is including inside to Sembuyak that has responsible to keep balance between the peer of Senina to Kalimbubu and anak Beru. Knowing the history of Senina and Kalimbubu family in the traditional party, and like a starting point of each consultation activities parties, running honorary, an manner of custom to Kalimbubu. The genetic relationship in Karo, they said “Metenget ersenina” (give attention to Senina). Then they said like:

“Teman meriah enterem nge, tapi teman tangis senina kange ngenca”.

Rugi kel adi rubat ersenina, dalan sirang labo lit, metenget gelah ula sempat rubat, nggit sitewasen, ula subuki amin lape iakap teng-tengsa sebab senina enge teman ngandung ras meriah ukur.

Senina is our brothers or sisters who same clan. The debt of our senina is our debt too, because Senina is my friends in the distressed and happy. The position of senina can not be change by other person.

Senina has many kinds, they are: Sembuyak, Senina Sipemeren, Senina Siparibanen, Senina Sipengalon, and Senina Secimbangen.
2.5 Tutur Si Waluh

Tutur Si Waluh is the concept of kinship in Karo nese that has relationship with acquaintanceship. They are called as Tutur Si Waluh because consists of:

1) Puang Kalimbubu
2) Kalimbubu
3) Senina
4) Sembuyak
5) Senina Sipemeren
6) Senina Sipengalon
7) Anak Beru
8) Anak Beru Menteri

In the ceremony have roles. Explanation about Tutur si waluh:

1. Puang kalimbubu is kalimbubu from kalimbubu.

2. Kalimbubu is a group giver of wife to a particular family. Kalimbubu is arranged in to:

   a. Kalimbubu Bena-Bena or Kambubu Tua, Namely the giver wife groups to specific groups. For example, If A merga Sembiring bere-bere Tarigan clan (Sembiring is his family name and Tarigan is family name of his mother, so Tarigan is Kalimbubu of A. if A has children, so their family name is Tarigan. Than they are Kalimbubu Bena-Bena of A.

   b. Kalimbubu Simada Dareh come from mother. That is the brother from mother. Calling as Kalimbubu Simada Dareh because they (mother’s brother and mother) are from the same womb.
c. Kalimbubu Iperdemui, the calling that because someone to marry the daughter of one family, so he is become Kalimbubu because of marriage.

3. Senina, they are related because they the same clan

4. Sembuyak, means some as womb. They are the peoples who be born from one mother. However in Karo people, the technical term be used for Senina too.

5. Sipemereren, they are persons who he mother are siblings.

6. Senina Sipengalon, they are the persons who are related because they have the children who have someone as wife as same with the clan.

7. Anak Beru, they are the persons who take someone as wife from a family to become his wife. Native Anak Beru can occur causes marry with a girl of certain family, by means of intercessions other of people. This is consists to:

a. Anak Beru Tua, they are native our Anak Beru, without their attendance to our ceremony which made by Kalimbubu, so the ceremony does not started.

b. Anak Beru Cekoh Baka, they are the sisters from someone to family. For example, if A is a man, has sister (B) so B is Anak Beru of A.

8. Anak Beru Menteri, they are Anak Beru come from Anak Beru.