ABSTRACT

This thesis is made to analyze the changing meaning of burning barge ceremony at Tionghoan’s community in Bagansiapiapi. In studying the meaning, the writer uses the semiotic theory by Barthes. In analyzing the changing meaning of burning barge ceremony, the writer uses the social and culture changing theory by Karl Marx. The research method which used is the qualitative research method based on field research, interview, observation, participant observer, and take a key person which considered knows well about this tradition. The scientific findings at this research are:

A. This ceremony done by the Tionghoan’s community of Bagansiapiapi is a form of thanksgiving to the Holy God Kie Ong ya and Tai Sun Ong Ya which is believed that the Gods have protected the ancestors until find Bagansiapiapi

B. Nowadays, the changing meaning of this tradition done tend to inheritable tradition and also as the tourism icon of Bagansiapi-api.

Keywords: Meaning, changing meaning, Burning Barge Ceremony Tradition, Tionghoan