

THE CULTURE CHANGE AMONG THE BAJAUS OF CEBU

A Thesis

Presented to the

Faculty of the Graduate School

University of San Carlos

Cebu City, Philippines

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Arts in Anthropology

by

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March 1999

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

"I thank my God each time I think of you, and when I pray for you all, I pray with joy" (Phil. 1:3-4).

The researcher wishes to express his sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the following people and institutions whose invaluable contributions allowed him to successfully complete this masteral thesis:

The Society of the Divine Word (SVD) for its continued encouragement and unfailing support in all his personal and spiritual undertakings;

Dr. Marcelino Maceda, his thesis adviser, for providing the academic and professional guidance in a friendly environment;

Fr. Florencio Lagura, SVD and Dr. Elenita Basilgo, for giving him the inspiration and the much needed technical expertise in painstakingly editing the manuscript;

Dr. Andres Gerong, Dr. Erlinda Albuero and Dr. Florentina Lasaca for their helpful suggestions and guidance in shaping up the general direction of the study;

Fr. Cecilio Jayme, SVD and the Divine Word Formation Center - Cebu for unselfishly sharing with him the spirit and experiences of community life;

The faculty and Staff of the University of San Carlos Graduate School for creating an academic atmosphere truly conducive for undertaking this study;

The personnel in the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, particularly Rev. Martinez Masaglang, Mr. Zosimo Campos, Mr. Saidali Dika and Mrs. Carmencita Gabumpa, for their genuine kindness, trust and fraternal help;

Mr. Mollo Daomani and his wife Basariya for their hospitality and generosity in providing him a true home away from his home;

Danisa and Sanida Daomani for their excellent research assistance and interpretation skills, and Ma. Flordeluna Olita for efficiently typing the manuscript;

To his informants, Bajaus and Cebuanos alike, for their openness, patience and sincerity in giving valuable information for this study;

The Bajau residents in Alaska, Mambaling for their cooperation and friendly attitude during the survey and data gathering period;

And to all those who have been involved in one way or another. Indeed, this thesis would not have been completed without the support and generosity of all these people, to whom the researcher will be grateful always.

ALBERTO B. SACO, SVD

A WORD OF THANKS

In his own little way, the researcher wishes to thank and acknowledge his indebtedness to the sponsoring office of Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE) for the much appreciated scholarship grant which brought the successful completion of this thesis.

Special thanks and recognition are sincerely given to the FAPE personnel, especially to Mr. Adriano A. Arcelo (President) and Madam Corazon M. Nera (Director). Their invaluable support and generosity are graciously acknowledged and heartily treasured

ABSTRACT

The study focused on the culture of Bajaus in Cebu City and the factors for their culture change. Culture change was defined as the process by which the order of a society, that is, its social, spiritual and material civilization, is transformed from one type into another. It explored the three decades of experience of the Bajau subethnic group from Zamboanga, which settled on the coastal area of Mambaling, Cebu City.

The research methodology used was descriptive. It employed interview schedule and participant observation for data gathering. Generalizations and conclusions were drawn from data and the observed actual evidences.

The first subproblem identified the following elements of culture that have undergone changes among the Bajaus. In the economic aspect, the traditional food-gathering and barter economy is transformed into market-oriented capitalist economy. Socially, the Bajaus have changed significantly. There is a shift from the traditional society to modern society. Moreover, the Bajau spiritual life has gradually changed. Their indigenous religion is slowly influenced by christianity.

The second subproblem sought the factors that triggered the culture change. They are the economic factor, social contact, environment, politics, education, christianity and attitude. The dynamics of culture change is triggered mainly by the cultural dominance of the majority culture over the minority group. The by-product of contact between two cultures is the genesis of Bajau subculture.

In conclusion, the Bajau culture has substantially changed. For the basis of all culture change is located in the changes of attitude and behavior of individual members of a society. Indeed, the Bajaus have already learned some of the Cebuano attitude and behavior. They are in the process of slowly, but cautiously incorporating components of the majority culture while maintaining their cultural identity.

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