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The Social Realities of Tausug Women in Tausug Contemporary Kalangan

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Abstract

Tausugs, one of the Muslim tribes in the Philippines, express themselves through their *kalangan* (songs). To explore the rich and vibrant colors of the Tausug culture, this qualitative research study employed a descriptive-analytic²⁰ approach in the analysis and interpretation of thirty-one (31) Tausug Contemporary *Kalangan*. Through Norman Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), this study revealed and discussed the literary devices evident as a textual practice in the select *kalangan*; the social realities about Tausug women that were being communicated by these literary devices; and the perceptions of Tausug women about their social realities. The findings revealed that there was a total of five (5) literary devices evident as a textual practice in the select *kalangan*. These literary devices paved way to unveiling and explaining the social realities of Tausug women evident in the select *kalangan*. Despite the rich and colorful cultures of the Tausugs, the social realities of Tausug women prove that a social problem exists in the Tausug society hence must be addressed and resolved. This study proved to be an original contribution to feminist studies aimed at gaining liberation and empowerment for Tausug women.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis; Women Empowerment; Tausug Kalangan; Culture; Realities

INTRODUCTION

Philippines is blessed with rich, color¹⁷, and diverse cultures and languages. As defined by Ember and Ember (1995), culture is a set of shared beliefs, attitudes, and⁸ behaviors, which are learned and passed on from one generation to the next which is why it is called "the way of life for an entire society". This includes codes of manners, dress, language, religion, rituals, art, norms of behavior, such as law and morality, and systems of belief (LaMorte, 2016).

One of the¹⁸ Filipino cultures that is well celebrated is that of the Tausug's. Tausug refers to the majority Islamized group in the Sulu archipelago, their language, and culture (Velasco, 2015). Tausug music, a creative medium to exhibit and express their language and culture, has greatly influenced their lives because it either tells their story or exposes certain truths. From time immemorial, *kalangan* (songs), have been featured or showcased in seasonal festivities and have dealt with various themes, such as love in all aspects. Despite its vibrant characteristics, there have been no documented studies yet that talk about the status of Tausug women in their society as portrayed in their songs. Hence, this paper is a brave attempt to unveil the truth about how Tausug women are treated and portrayed in the society through analyzing their songs.

METHODOLOGY

¹⁹ This study is qualitative research that employed a descriptive-analytic approach in the interpretation of data. Through Norman Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), thirty-

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