

# The Study of Christian Education Related to “*Isen Mulang*” Motto as One of the Local Wisdom of the Dayak Ngaju Community

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**Abstract.** Christians understand Christian Education as a conscious, systematic, and continuous effort based on the Bible as the main source centered on Christ and fully dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit. The power of the Holy Spirit is a guarantee of victory for the people. Victory or success is an inseparable part of the life of the Dayak tribe where the motto *Isen Mulang* is interpreted as moving forward undaunted, never give up before returning home to bring victory or success. The term "*mamut-menteng, smart-harati, mameh-ureh, andal dia batimpal*" means valiant-brave, intelligent-virtuous, sloppy-persistent, peerless great. The motto "*Isen Mulang*" contains Christian values, namely heroism, struggle, sacrifice, and never giving up. This study aims to raise the values of Christian Education from the Dayak *Isen Mulang* motto for the lives of God's people in living and facing life's challenges with the principle of moving forward undaunted. The research method used is descriptive qualitative with a literature study approach.

**Keywords:** Christian Education Value; Dayak Tribe; *Isen Mulang* Motto.

## 1 Introduction

Christian education is founded on the Bible as God's Word and on Jesus Christ as a person who embodies that Word. It is intended that students would be enlightened and possibly come to know Christ as a result of Christian education [1]. Christian education is a humble combination of divine and human endeavor that continues to impart information, values, attitudes, skills, sensitivity, and behavior according with the Christian faith [2].

The term *theology* means words from God, thoughts from God, reason about God and wisdom from God, words or reflections about God, from God and by God and for God (Romans 11:36). [3] Theology is a part of Christian education that cannot be separated from human life. Elevating values from beliefs, customs, and cultures such as the motto of the people or ethnic groups that exist in this world is the responsibility and privilege of Christian education; because Christian education is an effective learning platform in instilling Christian values for every church member to become the basis for their presence in society.

Ngaju Dayak tribe, Central Kalimantan who live along major rivers, such as Kapuas, Katingan, Barito, and Kahayan. has several local wisdom and one of them is the motto *Isen Mulang*. The motto *Isen Mulang* means moving forward undaunted and won't go home if you don't win. As church members living in the Ngaju Dayak community, it is necessary to understand local wisdom. With the lifting of the meaning or values of Christian Education

contained in the motto *Isen Mulang*, it becomes beneficial for Christian educators and Christians in general, and the Dayak community in particular.

## 2 Literature Review

The motto of *Isen Mulang* is the life motto of the Ngaju Dayak people of Central Kalimantan. The original inhabitants of Central Kalimantan are the Ngaju Dayak tribe, most of whom are Kaharingan (Hindu Kaharingan). [4] For the Ngaju Dayak people, the motto of *Isen Mulang* with the principle of "*mamut* [5]-*menteng*, *smart-harati*, *mameh-ureh*, *andal dia batimpal* (bold-brave, smart-virtuous, sloppy-diligent, great beyond measure), becomes the guide of life they. The philosophy of life is to never give up, not to go home if you don't win, and not to come back until you win; taught and applied from generation to generation. The motto of *Isen Mulang* has now become the motto of the city of Palangkaraya, which is synonymous with the phrase "Moving Forward Undaunted". [6] The motto of *Isen Mulang* has been ingrained in the body and soul of the Ngaju Dayak tribe, as the philosophy that drives the entire daily life of the Ngaju Dayak tribe.

*Isen Mulang's* slogan is dense in theological substance, as the Bible is the primary basis of Christian education teachings. As the primary source for Christian education, the Bible offers Christian ideals that enable His people to love God and one another. As R. Boehlke noted, Christian Religious Education is the process of instilling the word of God into the minds of believers and their children under the guidance of the Holy Spirit via a variety of learning experiences in the church, so that they exhibit a growing level of spiritual growth. Profoundly through devotion to God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, manifested through actions of love for others. [7] Christian education regards the Bible and Jesus Christ as the foundation for all human life and behavior, guided by the Holy Spirit and enduring a continual learning process in order to develop persons who serve God and love others. It is believed that the ideal application of Christian Religious Education is not only to shape knowledgeable human beings via mastery of many disciplines and technologies, but also to develop persons who believe in Christ and think and act according to Christian ideals. [8] Christian education is a collaborative divine-human endeavor to impart information, values, attitudes, skills, sensitivity, and conduct consistent with the Christian faith. By the power of the Holy Spirit, education attempts to transform and reform individuals, communities, and systems so that they conform to God's will as revealed in the Bible, most notably in Christ Jesus. [9] Local wisdom is the accumulation of knowledge and policies over time in a community, taking religious, cosmological, and sociological viewpoints into account.

Local wisdom relies on philosophies, values, ethics, and behaviors that are traditionally institutionalized to manage natural and human resources, formulated as a formulation of a community's worldview regarding natural and social phenomena in society. [10] Local wisdom is a source of regional wealth that has ethical values, behavior, and philosophy of life for the local community that must be explored, maintained, and preserved for the betterment of the local community.

### 3 Method

This research utilizes a descriptive qualitative research design, which is a technique for examining the current state of a group of people, an item, a situation, a system of thinking, or a collection of occurrences. A descriptive qualitative method with a literature study approach where researchers conduct a literature review such as books, journals related or related to "The Values of Christian Religious Education in the slogan *Isen Mulang* Ngaju Dayak Tribe".

### 4 Result and Discussion

The motto of *Isen Mulang* in the Dayak tribe, Central Kalimantan has a fairly deep theological wealth. In the context of the Ngaju Dayak tribe, this can be linked to the context of Christian theology. Theology in a Christian context is a discipline of study that seeks to understand God, as Millard, J.E, writes "*In a Christian setting, theology is a field of study that aims to comprehend the God revealed in the Bible and to articulate a Christian view of reality. It tries to comprehend God's creation, particularly human beings and their plight, as well as God's restorative action toward humanity* [11].

#### 4.1 Values of Christian Education in Local Wisdom *Isen Mulang*

The essence of Christian theology is to talk about knowing God in Jesus Christ. It is said that Jesus Christ was not only chosen by God to be the savior of mankind but He also must be believed by every believer. Do not ignore what is in Him. Lord Jesus saves, He gives eternal life. [12] Theological values in Christian education are related to all sources of teaching namely the Bible, which pivots on Jesus Christ as God and the final truth. And rely on the power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is a revelation inspired by God to humans to reveal the real truth in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit people become believers. Theological values in Christian education cannot be separated from the Bible as the main source in all learning.

The theological values in the *Isen Mulang* motto indicate the spirit to achieve success in life, and the local wisdom of the Ngaju Dayak community must be preserved as a form of implementing cultural values in the life of the Ngaju Dayak community, which are predominantly Christian. The *Isen Mulang* motto is part of the living culture of the Ngaju Dayak tribe, which is part of the local cultural wealth. Through culture, the philosophy of moving forward undaunted and unyielding in the motto of the Dayak *Isen Mulang* tribe from a Christian perspective containing theological values related to Christian education.

The story of the spirit that animates the *Isen Mulang* motto has been explored in various forms and one of them is the film heroine Nyai Undang, which implies heroism, struggle, sacrifice on the battlefield, and never giving up to defend the truth and ending with success and victory.

#### 4.2 The Impact of the *Isen Mulang* Motto for Dayak Community Today

To maintain and preserve the philosophy of the Ngaju Dayak, *Isen Mulang*, it is necessary to have a theological process in the realm of Christian Education to transfer the theological values contained in the *Isen Mulang* motto. In theology, there must be elements of education and teaching, especially if it is associated with Christian education. C. B. Eavey stated that *to teach in order to bring persons into fellowship with God, and to teach the ways of God to brought into fellowship with God.* [13] This opinion relates to Christian education which is based

on kingdom-building, and Christian character building, with the assurance that Christ with the person of the Holy Spirit will accompany everyone who is obedient to His command to teach. [14]

The *Isen Mulang* motto implies that Dayak warriors are at war with their enemies. The Dayak fighters place a premium on the *Isen Mulang* motto's qualities of camaraderie, fraternity, and a sense of belonging. On *Isen Mulang*, the values of the spirit of never giving up include never giving up regardless of how difficult the adversary is, which is also referred to as "elamikeh" (do not be scared). It is an unflinching mentality and a never-say-die attitude toward several severe difficulties. Never back down or surrender in combat, since the mamut menteng, or gallant knight, is the battle symbol. With the mamut menteng emblem etched into the Dayak people's psyche, the spirit of relentless in overcoming the opponent is always there and will never wane, even when the adversary is extremely heavy and difficult to vanquish.

*Isen Mulang* motto should have had a great impact on the Ngaju Dayak community in general, especially on the Dayak Christian community. The values contained in the motto are very biblical. Moreover, the motto as a philosophy of life means a legacy from the ancestors of the Dayak tribe. Inculcating the values of Christian education in a cultural context is a continuous learning process in the lives of God's people. "Something that is universal in our world and endures unbroken from generation to generation. Efforts to humanize humans are made in accordance with educational aims, life perspectives, and the sociocultural context of each culture, which is produced and constituted of the manner in which education is gained [15]. Jesus Christ is the source of all truth as well as the highest truth because He is God or the truth. His power, authority, and divinity does not depend on human speech and confession because He is still God and the ultimate truth in Himself. Jesus is the main goal in every effort to understand Christian theology. Through every effort made including the values of local wisdom, and the culture of a society.

## 5 Conclusion

The motto *Isen Mulang* is a synonym for the words moving forward undaunted. It means fighting with all you might and efforts regardless of all difficulties and obstacles, even including challenging death, to defend what is right. Such an Undaunted Forward attitude was born from an awareness, emerged as a form of appreciation of the idea by its adherents so that the idea turned into a real material force, called the Undaunted Forward Spirit. The values of Christian education are all things related to the contents of the Bible as God's revelation, Christ as the center of faith, and the power of the Spirit as the basis of strength and victory in implementing and living *Isen Mulang's* motto, namely heroism, struggle, sacrifice and never giving up. May the principles of Christian faith and the values of Christian education in the motto *Isen Mulang* always animate the entire life of the Ngaju Dayak people, and all God's people, where Christ as God in human form has risked, sacrificed his entire life to save mankind.

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