

The Changing Role of *Uang Panai* in Bugis Marriages: A Study on the Influence of Education and Social Status

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Abstract. *Uang panai* is a tradition in Bugis marriages where the groom gives a sum of money or property to the bride's family to show appreciation and respect. A woman's education and social status impact the amount of *uang panai* she receives. However, the practice and concept of *uang panai* has been influenced by modernization and the development of society, often placing a burden on the groom. The purpose of this study is to analyze the meaning, function, and influence of *uang panai* in Bugis traditional marriage. The research method used was a qualitative study with an ethnographic approach, involving in-depth interviews with married couples and families. The results show that *uang panai* used to act as a symbol of appreciation and honor, as well as confirming the seriousness and financial capability of the groom. However, now the *uang panai* often becomes an economic burden for the groom. In analyzing the meaning and function of *uang panai*, the study found that a woman's social status and education affect the amount of *uang panai*. This research shows the need for adjustments in the tradition to reduce the economic burden, while maintaining positive cultural values during social change. With that, it is necessary to understand and manage its impact so that it does not become an obstacle in the marriage process.

Keywords: Appreciation, Bugis marriages, Education, Social status, *Uang panai*