

The Existence of *Desa Pakraman* in Preserving Bali's Tradition and Culture

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Abstract

Desa pakraman is the traditional organization of Bali's society, its attendance at the same time with existence of the society. The structure form of organization varies and experience of ebb started from the ancient Bali epoch, monarchic epoch in Bali, colonial epoch, until the reform epoch. The use of the term as a traditional organization identity was first referred to as *Wanua* in the ancient Bali epoch, *kraman* in the empire period, *desa adat* (custom village) in the epoch Dutch colonization. The term *desa adat* (custom village) still used in the independence period and after the reform epoch the term *desa pakraman*, as according to Perda (Government Rule) No.3 Year 2003, has been used. *Desa Pakraman* has become the backbone of continuity for the customary life, cultural and Hinduism in Bali. Its fundamental duty is to execute the *panca yadnya* ritual which is carried out by the *desa/village* based on the *awig-awig* (society's rule). Political issues influence the life of Balinese as well the arrangement of the *desa pakraman*. The influence can be either positive or negative, the negative one stimulates the source of conflicts within members of the *desa pakraman*.

Keywords : Desa Pakraman and culture of Bali