

The subject of the dissertation thesis presented is the Dayak Benuaq and their funeral rituals in relation to their individual and collective identity. The aim of the thesis is to try to find an answer to the question „what role does a ritual play in creating, maintaining or changing objectivized reality and social relations and how can a ritual help in the case of group crisis inflicted by internal or external causes“. And the last question studied is the role of a ritual in defining and presenting collective identity of a social group.

This work first focuses on brief history of the Dayak in relation to their ethnic identity and burial rituals serving as an introduction to the socio-cultural context of the Benuaq. Subsequently, a description of secondary burial rituals of the Benuaq Idatn is presented. The task of the third part of this thesis is to try to find out how a ritual serves as an element of construction of social reality and individual and collective identity using Berger's and Luckmann's approach as a tool.