

Culture Change in a Local Cultures of Papua New Guinea

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Abstract

The subject of this dissertation is the study of the local Nungon community living in Papua New Guinea. It focuses mainly on those sociocultural changes, which occurred as a result of the environmental protection in this area, and on their impacts on the cultural identity of the local inhabitants. Special attention is devoted to the study of visualization and representation of culture, nature, biodiversity protection, social and cultural changes and the future of the community. A partial objective is also to present ethnographic data and facts about the local Nungon community. A range of methods has been employed in the effort to fulfil the set objectives; the work is based on field research in the observed local community and on the techniques associated with it. The specific technique used to study cultural identity is a native drawing which was used to analyze cultural representations and visualizations of culture. Analyses of native drawings enable uncover a native understanding of the phenomenon of biodiversity conservation and related cultural changes. The thesis represents a unique visual material, which served as the basis for the analysis and interpretation of the sociocultural changes that are taking place in the area currently. The assets of this work consist in the introduction of a local community which has not yet been duly researched from an anthropological perspective and the attainment of ethnographic data which are of applicable nature.