

# Review of: "Hanging on a Rope: The Current Triangular to Pentagonal Kinship Transformation in Simalungunese"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The article is well constructed and result of meticulous observation on kinship structure of Simalungunese. The introduction part provides insight into the concepts of triangular and pentagonal kinship and the factors that necessitated the transformation of kinship structure in Simalungunese. This study on the transformation from triangular to pentagonal kinship has great relevance in the field of social anthropology on the ground that the transformation is “rooted in the social reality, new issues, and pressing interests of contemporary society”. The study focuses on kinship as a universal phenomenon, but at the same time particularizes the kinship structure of Simalungunese by careful investigations of the distinctive features of it. It also analyses how the formation of kinship is based on cultural variations and how contemporary concerns can transform the kinship structure.

The theoretical framework aptly describes the correlation between micro dimension and macro dimension. Incorporation of theoretical postulations of “new kinship” and “after kinship” substantiates the research statement. It also investigates why the transformation is needed amidst the “changes in human being for the global order”.

The adopted methods - participations, observation, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussion not only give authenticity to the field of study but also give insight into the culture of Simalungunese providing scope for further research. Findings and Discussion of this article enrich the already existing concepts and studies on kinship.

The observation and validation of the fact that “the linkage between marriage ceremonies and funerals, at this point, is mechanism to connect, expand, and strengthen social relations” add new dimension to the existing study in the field of social anthropology. The article also leaves space for further research on oratures including proverbs, advice at both marriage and funeral ceremonies and how these are oriented towards the joy of the new relationship being formed.