

## Abstract

This study aims to explore how the notion of nation states in Southeast Asia impacts the fluidity or hybridity of regional cultural heritages which was common during pre-modern Kingdoms specifically between Konbaung Kingdom of modern day's central Myanmar and Lanna Kingdom of Northern Thailand. Qualitative research methods were applied. Photos of some Lanna traditional dresses posted by Thai people during 2018 and 2019 from a Facebook group named "ASEAN World- Southeast Asian Network" which mainly caused antagonistic arguments between Thai and Myanmar nationals were collected. Five informants who have much knowledge about cultural, historical and anthropological backgrounds of Konbaung and Lanna Kingdoms were interviewed. Cultural hybridity in National Culture, Anthropological perspectives on clothing, and Theory of Museum in Strengthening Nationalist Idealism are applied in analyzing the existence of these dresses with hybrid identities and how they lead towards conflicts.

Because there were contacts among different Kingdoms in Myanmar and Thailand, cultural heritages with fluid or hybrid identity were common. Because Chiang Mai or Lanna Kingdom of Northern Thailand gave tributes to Konbaung Kingdom of Central Burma, Burmese cultural influences can be spotted out especially in some Lanna traditional dresses that deploy Burmese dress codes such as head dresses, peacock necklaces, shawl wrapping styles, Htai Ma Thein dress, court costumes, and a kind of fabric named Acheik etc. After the formation of nation states as modern day Myanmar and Thailand, this cultural fluidity has been replaced by so-called authentic national culture in strengthening Nation States.

From this study, it was observed that the consciousness of existence of modern day Thailand and Myanmar as sovereign Nation States weaken the hybrid identity of Konbaung Era Burmese dress in the wake of Nationalism. It can be inferred that ASEAN is currently just a discourse as many people of ASEAN still are far away from united ASEAN identity; these people still embrace their own national identity.

**Key words:** *Lanna Traditional Dresses, Pre-modern Southeast Asia, Cultural Hybridity, National Identity, Konbaung Kingdom*