

## Religious and Cultural Diversity

### Malay Transcript:

**Pewawancara:** Boleh memberitahu sedikit tentang budaya dan um.. ciri-ciri masyarakat di Malaysia?

**Diwawancara:** Hmm.. Komposisi majoriti masyarakat Sarawak, uh.. ialah orang Melayu, orang Cina dan orang Dayak, yang juga dipanggil sebagai orang Iban. Mmm.. terdapat juga segolongan orang Cina yang telah berhijrah ke Asia Tenggara, ah.. beberapa abad dahulu dan telah diasimilasikan ke dalam cara budaya, hidup orang Melayu. Ah.. Selepas itu mereka dinamakan orang Peranakan, Baba ataupun Nyonya. Akibat daripada diversiti masyarakat Malaysia yang banyak dalam aspek kaum dan agama, ah.. Malaysia mempunyai banyak hari percutian yang disambut setiap tahun, um.., dan di masyarakat kita terdapat Hari Wesak yang disambut oleh orang Budhis, Hari Raya Puasa yang disambut oleh orang Melayu, Tahun Baru Cina yang disambut oleh orang Cina dan aga...dan Krismas yang disambut oleh orang Kristian. Walaupun terdapat perbezaan antara kaum-kaum di.. dan etnik, uh.. kumpulan etnik di Sarawak, ah.. dan perbezaan budaya, kami masih dapat, um.. tinggal dalam, secara harmonis dan aman di, ah.. negara kita.

### English Translation:

**Interviewer:** Can you elaborate a bit on the culture and um.. characteristics of the people of Malaysia?

**Interviewee:** Hmm.. The majority of the people of Sarawak, uh.. are ethnic Malays, Chinese and Dayaks<sup>1</sup>, who are also known as the Ibans<sup>2</sup>. Mmm.. there was a group of Chinese who migrated to Southeast Asia, ah.. a few centuries ago and were assimilated into the culture and lifestyle of the ethnic Malays<sup>3</sup>. Ah.. Subsequently, they were named the Peranakans<sup>4</sup>, Baba or Nyonya. As a result of the large amount of diversity in Malaysian society in the aspects of race and religion, ah.. Malaysia has many public holidays which are celebrated every year, um.., and in our community we have Wesak Day, which is celebrated by the Buddhists; Hari Raya Puasa, which is celebrated by the Malays<sup>5</sup>; Chinese Lunar New Year, which is celebrated by the Chinese; and Christmas Day, which is celebrated by the Christians. Although there are differences between the

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<sup>1</sup> The term 'Dayak' collectively refers to the indigenous people of Borneo. There are an estimated 200 different indigenous ethnic subgroups or tribes in Borneo.

<sup>2</sup> The Iban tribe is the predominant indigenous tribe in the state of Sarawak.

<sup>3</sup> Ethnic Malays are the native people of Peninsular Malaysia.

<sup>4</sup> The term 'Peranakan' is a Malay word which is directly translated as 'Descendants'. It is widely used instead of its English form in Manglish, the English based creole spoken in Malaysia. The Manglish vocabulary consists of words originating from English, Malay, Hokkien, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Tamil.

<sup>5</sup> This should be 'Muslims,' not 'Malays.' However, this was a fair assumption on the part of the interviewee because the overwhelming majority of Muslims in Malaysia are ethnic Malays.

races in.. and ethnic, uh.. ethnic groups in Sarawak, ah.. and cultural differences, we are still able, um.. to live in - with harmony and peace in, ah.. our country.

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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