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Adat, Ritual, and Institutionalized Sharia: The Negotiation of Peusijuek in Aceh, Indonesia
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ABSTRACT

This thesis examines Peusijuek, an Acehnese ritual practice in Aceh, Indonesia, to understand how a local ritual is evaluated when religious norms become part of formal governance. This study focuses on Aceh because sharia is embedded in provincial institutions, shaping how adat practices are discussed, defended, or questioned in public religious discourse. Previous studies have explained Peusijuek through theological, historical, cultural, and legal perspectives, while the process through which different actors negotiate its acceptability within a shared Islamic discursive field remains open to further analysis. This study asks how Peusijuek is evaluated under institutionalized sharia and how social and religious actors reinterpret it in this context. Using a qualitative interpretive approach in religious studies, this study analyzes sermons, news reports, institutional statements, photographs, transcribed videos, and social media materials collected purposively from public Aceh-related sources. These materials were analyzed through repeated reading and viewing, coding of evaluative terms, grouping of codes into analytical categories, and interpretation through ritualization and cultural negotiation. The study shows that Peusijuek persists through negotiated reinterpretation, shaped by religious authority, public contestation, institutional accommodation, and situational-spatial readjustment. Future ethnographic research may examine how these negotiations are experienced in everyday ritual practice.

Keywords: Peusijuek, Adat, Institutionalized Sharia, Religious Authority, Cultural Negotiation, Aceh