

A Kewa religious argot : New Guinea / Karl J. Franklin

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Deskripsi Lengkap: <https://lib.ui.ac.id/detail?id=20378586&lokasi=lokal>

Abstrak

In this article the nature of the religious argot associated in particular with the spirits called Andaalu Rimbu and Rundu Rimbu discussed. An attempt has been made to supply the semantic derivations for the argot terms and for alternative names of spirits, even though most of the other spirits do not have as elaborate ceremonies as the AR or RR and few others, apparently, had an argot associated with them.

There are a variety of semantic processes whereby new argot terms are coined.

But most of the coined names are also simply mnemonic expressions. The practical point is that without some such mnemonic device cult adherents would not be able to adapt the argot quickly.

The variation in the names of the spirits suggests that the system has been in operation for a considerable time. There has also been a pragmatic approach to all cults and members are willing to borrow new rituals to supplement the old. In a similar vein, it is no wonder that the Kewa of today find no problem if God is referred to by four different names by different missions in the area.