

The University of Hull

**The *mula tattimpaqna* Sidénréng:
A historical text from Sidénréng**

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Abstract

This dissertation is concerned with a *lontaraq* text (indigenous writings in the Bugis script) from the former Bugis kingdom of Sidénréng in South Sulawesi, Indonesia. This text claims to be almost exclusively concerned with the pre-Islamic period, namely the period prior to the *musuq selleng* (Islamic wars) of 1608 to 1611 in which the Makassar kingdom of Gowa defeated and Islamized the neighbouring Bugis kingdoms. The name given to this *lontaraq* text is the *mula tattimpaqna* Sidénréng (hereafter MTSid).

The main objectives of the dissertation are to present a Romanized transliteration and English translation of the MTSid and to identify and understand the previously independent oral sources used to compile the MTSid. In identifying these previously independent sources, the technique of Form Criticism is applied. The dissertation further assesses and analyses the usefulness of these sources for the history of Sidénréng before 1600.

Linked to these objectives is an inquiry into the structure and arrangement of the MTSid's sources and to show how these sources have been integrated, albeit loosely, within a specific framework that is derived from an oral tradition that tells of the origin of Sidénréng, a tradition with which the MTSid begins and ends. This inquiry further extends to a discussion on the nature of Bugis historiography.

The dissertation is divided into four chapters. The first includes a philological introduction, discusses the MTSid as a work as defined by Macknight (1984), sets out the methods followed in the transliteration and translation of the MTSid and outlines the basic principles of form criticism, which was used to identify and understand the sources used to create the MTSid.

The second chapter presents a Romanized transliteration and English translation of the MTSid. The translation is accompanied by footnotes that provide an explanatory commentary on the text and identify the different pericopes. The third chapter discusses the fourteen previously independent sources that were used to create the MTSid and assesses their historical content and value. The final chapter presents a general discussion on the nature of Bugis historiography. A photocopy of the original manuscript is given in the appendix.

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