

THE EXISTENCE OF *WAYANG WONG* AS A TRADITIONAL VALUE OF THE KARANG REJO COMMUNITY IN SIMALUNGUN REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to explore and find the values of Wayang Wong. The art of Wayang Wong is one of the parts of dance-drama that uses humans as a representation of figures based on the values of traditional puppets. This story is described and acted out by humans as a story or story that can provide a show that entertains the community as traditional values in community life. This can be done and held at night or during the day. Because in general, the people of Karang Rejo in Simalungun Regency are still thick with Wayang Wong culture as a show that can unite the social relations of the community in the area. On the other hand, Wong's puppet can tell the story and human background as an indicator of the parable of human behavior that can be used as an example of a dignified social life.

Keywords: *Existence, Traditional value, Wayang Wong.*

INTRODUCTION

The cultural tradition of *Wayang Wong* is a traditional art that is highly favored by the people of Karang Rejo in Simalungun Regency. *Wayang Wong* does not have its equivalent in English, its meaning should be transferred into English. Sembiring, (2016, 2015) describes that a specific cultural term in a mother tongue should be explained in a target language. *Wayang Wong* which is an Indonesian culture should be preserved. This is a form of appreciation from the local government which provides an opportunity to increase cultural values for the existence of the *Wayang Wong* tradition as the noble values of ancestors who have a history and background that has meaning and integration with local culture. The Karang Rejo community in Simalungun Regency still maintains the culture and traditions of *Wayang Wong* as a unit which is considered to reflect the pattern of human life that exists in certain groups.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The art of *Wayang Wong* is one of the cultures attached to previous ancestors who taught art as a unity against the joints of social life that has a social soul and sense that can be used as a basis for living that can improve and promote *Wayang Wong* as an art in performing and popularizing it to the general public. which is local wisdom that can make culture a civilized art, and can provide examples of human nature and behavior in social life that prioritizes local cultural values and traditions. which must be maintained and preserved. *Wayang Wong* is an art created by the community that can invite people to increase cultural values as a rule that can bring change in the progress of the modernization era which is collectivistic which refers to national insight.

The Beginning of *Wayang Wong*.

The beginning of *Wayang Wong* is in 1731 one of the Javanese kings, namely Mangkunegaran, created wayang in another form. *Wayang Wong* is a puppet in which all the characters are played by humans wearing jewelry and clothing made to resemble the clothes worn by shadow puppet characters.

One of the understandings and knowledge of the community in implementing local culture as a guarantee in presenting cultural values as a barometer in social life which originates from the importance of art in the local community which can be exemplified in works of cultural art that can adapt in social life that synergizes in the life of the people in Karang Rejo towards technological advances that have understanding in society to improve art and culture.

Wayang Wong in Karang Rejo Village

Wayang Wong has a deep meaning to the values of other community orders and rules and can be applied in the social life of the community which refers to the habits of the local community in attractive values and auras as community compliance in maintaining and preserving the wayang golek culture. Because the *Wayang Wong* culture influences the existence of that culture. Which has procedural values as an illustration and example of improving the culture of the Karang Rejo community in the Simalungun district.

METHODOLOGY

This research uses qualitative descriptive research, This research was held on Saturday 22 April 2021 in the Karang Rejo. Then, it was followed by the interview method which was carried out on May 1, 2021, in Karang Rejo village, which is the venue of the *Wayang Wong* event.

ANALYSIS

There are two values of *Wayang Wong* for Javanese people's life namely; 1.) When opening the performance, it should be begun with praying. It shows gratitude to God. This activity reminds people that they should not forget God in every situation. The religious value that can take from this art. 2.) The story of *Wayang Wong's* art represents the human's real life. It contains the dream and hope of the people. It tells about happiness and sadness and the good and the bad attitude. Watching *Wayang Wong's* art can gain a life lesson. *Wayang Wong* can motivate the audience to change their habit by leaving the bad ones and doing the good ones. Watching *Wayang Wong's* art is a learning activity, advising oneself, and solving problems in social life. It calls a sociocultural value. At the end of the story, it will present the victory of the right and the wrong will lose. It can motivate the audience that they should not be worried about doing right because rightness always wins.

RESULTS

The results of the interviews that we found that the existence of *Wayang Wong* in Karang Rejo village was not well known by the local community because the publication of Wayang was relatively minimal. Although the results of the study stated that *Wayang Wong* had appeared at an event, his appearance was classified as an early appearance which was the only appearance that was the most historic in his journey. Besides that, *Wayang Wong*, who has become a part of Karang Rejo village, has not yet found a place in the hearts of those who enjoy it. The problem is that *Wayang wong* is only limited to channeling preferences by making art as art in developing *Wayang Wong*. And in increasing cultural values, it takes a concept of a view that has the soul of art in life in need,

With *Wayang Wong* entertainment, this tradition can develop which can provide benefits in increasing the sense of kinship between them. So that in society you will feel more intimate in fostering and getting appreciation for other people so that the desired achievements can be accepted as a dynamic relationship in maintaining creativity and creation that has art concerning each other and making social relations even closer in maintaining the culture that has existed. exists in preserving values which are moral strengths in gaining an understanding of a culture that has integration in a meaning that is natural

in a cultural perspective that is characterized and valuable in upholding the morality of positive thinking in prioritizing creative and innovative artistic values based on the nature of togetherness in building an art and culture that is encouraged in the beauty of the art refers to the sources.

DISCUSSION

The cultural diversity of *Wayang Wong* is a cultural product resulting from human thought, so it is said that because *Wayang wong* was formed from innovation towards the concept, the shape of this *wayang wong* is also very unique because it is made of two materials that are not difficult to find in people's daily lives. is being evacuated in the Bandar Khalifah area. This is due to the lack of community resources to manage it. More can also include in our daily lives, namely from what we do where we do something that contains more value. This study will provide an understanding of how the effort to find out how the social relations that make this culture the basis for introducing *Wayang Wong* as a tradition owned by the local community to provide a performance result. Wayang is a medium that describes the message that will be conveyed to the public. And this fact has been able to answer the weakness of cultural regeneration. The story conveyed life-related noble values about everyday human nature which is a form of understanding that can add to the norms of society, which essentially goes according to the rules that have been set.

CONCLUSIONS

The existence of *Wayang Wong* in Karang Rejo village has received less attention from the general public. Therefore, after conducting this research, it is hoped that the community and government will be able to participate in maintaining and developing local culture, especially *Wayang Wong* in Karang Rejo village so that this culture can be recognized by others. And as a society that has many cultures, it should be able to advance and develop the cultural heritage of its ancestors.

By developing *Wayang Wong* culture it can be used as a barometer in maintaining the importance of art in society which can unite local wisdom in upholding the values and dignity of the Karang Rejo community in achieving a sense of togetherness which is carried out continuously in increasing the creative efforts of the community. With an understanding of implementing the values of *Wayang Wong*, there is a need for preservation which is very meaningful in carrying out understanding concerning social relations among people which is the main goal in expressing a sense of desire to always do and make this culture a very important example in social life. And this is not easy in maintaining and preserving culture in social relations.

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