

THE VALUE OF LOCAL WISDOM AS A CHARACTER EDUCATION STUDY (A Case Study: Lembusura Comic)

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ABSTRACT

Background: Along with the development of the world, Indonesian society can easily be influenced by foreign cultures which are likely to destruct their own culture if there is no action to preserve it. Amid this problem, the comic Lembusura by Panji Bagus Prabowo came up with a cultural theme based on the folklore of the Mount Kelud legend.

Materials and Methods: This study used a descriptive qualitative method with Roland Barthes' semiotic approach to representing the object of research. Source of data obtained from interviews and literature. The validity of the data was obtained by triangulating sources and reporting informants. The data analysis technique is interactive analysis. In this comic, some signs refer to the local wisdom values of Javanese culture, so the meaning needs to be explored to build character education.

Results: The research found that the values of local wisdom in the Lembusura comic are hard work, religious, environmental care, tolerance and social care.

Conclusion: The advantages of comics that prioritize visual elements so that cultural issues are more easily accepted since they are attractive and easy to read so that the value of local wisdom in the Lembusura comics can be used to build character education.

KEYWORDS: lokal wisdom, character education, culture, Lembusura comic

1. INTRODUCTION

Indonesia as a developing country naturally will orientate itself towards other more developed countries. Not only about technology and information, but Indonesia has also started to make developed countries as role models, particularly in social and cultural life. Focusing on the existence of cultural progress, it can be seen transparently in the manner that foreign cultures easily penetrate directly into Indonesia. This is not necessarily good and true. Since ancient times, the culture has been created by mankind and has recorded a story about life and their perception of knowledge. Along with the emergence of spiritual and religious beliefs, art and artefacts began to develop. Then art and artefacts are identified as a form of culture that is closely related to beauty or aesthetics. Culture and art are closely related because art is one of the seven elements of culture. Whereas with the arts and culture, people are taught to feel not only thinking but will lead people to feel more and more sensitive to their cultural life.

Culture and art settle as an important position in human life because they have become an important part of human history. Before the complex oral ability of communication was formed as it nowadays,

humans told stories through simple things such as handprinted cave paintings. Then when oral communication skills have developed to take shape perfectly, humans begin to make several things, one of them is oral stories which were referred to as folk tales. Along with the development of culture in an increasingly advanced era, folklore is also developed accordingly. Folklore has been transformed into various other forms such as reliefs, wayang purwa, wayang beber, literary works, dance, painting, song and so on. In the beginning, folklore was identified as a form of Indonesian folklore, which was an Indonesian cultural heritage that has been heritage orally from one generation to the next generation. Oral folklore plays an important role in the life of society, nation and state. Apart from being a characteristic feature of the Indonesian nation that distinguishes it from other nations. It is one of the richness of Indonesia itself which should be preserved. Oral folklore also has many functions, including projection systems, cultural instruments, as a means of upholding and monitoring the norms of society that must be followed, and as an educational tool.

Various ways can be taken to conserve folklore, particularly as an educational tool. One of the folk tales that is raised is the legend of Mount Kelud in East Java. This folklore is one of the local wisdom which is still preserved. One of the creative examples as a developed society, this folklore about Mount Kelud has been adopted in visual work, namely a comic with the main character Lembusura. As a result of creativity, the comic, which takes the title Lembusura, contains values and ideas, dreams and philosophies from the comic artist who created it. It can be reflected both figuratively and literally. Stories in comics can reveal how society at that time thought, acted, behaved, and manifested various mental attitudes, thought patterns, values, and perpetuated what was considered important and developed in a conscious or unconscious visual form. The story of Mount Kelud as local wisdom and expressed in a comic can be used in education not only in learning in schools but also in society at large. Besides, as a renewal of education in Indonesia, particularly in East Java, where currently education in all fields must be following the surrounding culture as a step to preserve and promote Indonesian local wisdom.

Changes in the regional and global environment, the transformation not only produces progress but also threats. One of the biggest obstacles in this local wisdom-based education is the spread of "westernization" in all aspects, in economic, social, political and cultural. Recent information spread more easily with the lack of progress of telecommunication and communication, then the progress of the threat should be wary. One of them is the current condition of society, the gap is visible that local wisdom has begun to be forgotten so that it is reflected in deviant behaviour and does not recognize noble culture. Based on data that is obtained from research Tjoe and Kim (2016: 65) of Kangwon National University, conclusions and findings provide information that in Indonesia, merchants who sell products that about Korean would be more advantageous than about Indonesian image. In other words, images containing Korean cultural elements will be more selling rather than images with Indonesian cultural elements will be less attractive to the market. If there is no following up, this is a big threat and can lead to the loss of local wisdom itself.

One way to overcome this threat is to take advantage of the study above by combining culture, art, education and comics. Lembusura comic as a complete package, which contains the folklore of Mount Kelud which is a form of local wisdom. Information that contains dominant visual elements such as comics will be easier for the public to gain when compared to text or lengthy reading. Comics, which are usually only served as a distraction after readers have enjoyed a more serious rubric or article in news in magazines and newspapers, have been put to good use because they raise local wisdom. With containing cartoon images comics, the reader is taken into a more relaxed situation. Although the messages in cartoons are just as serious as those conveyed through news and articles, picture messages are often easier to digest or understand due to their entertaining nature. Readers are tended to think, reflect and understand the messages that are expressed and implied in the comic. From the background, studying the values of local wisdom contained in the Lembusura comic is important and interesting for further investigation

II. MATERIAL & METHODS

The research method is a scientific method used to obtain data with a specific purpose (Lasa, 2009: 207). The research method is descriptive qualitative because it has the aim of obtaining answers related to a person's opinion and perception so that the discussion must be comprehensive and detail. The methods used to collect data are interviews and literature study. An interview is a conversation with a specific purpose and is carried out between two parties, namely the interviewer as a questioner and the interviewee as the answerer to the question (Moleong, 2007: 186). Interviews were conducted to several informants comic Lembusura, teacher and the students of cultural arts subjects in the seventh grade of SMP Negeri 1 Sampung, were selected at random and one observer of Indonesian comics. A literature study is used to find data and information through documents. These documents are in the form of writing, photographs, images or electronic documents that can support the writing process. The results of the research will be more creative if they are supported by photographs or existing academic and artistic papers (Sugiyono, 2005: 83). Based on the opinion, it can be concluded that literature study can affect the credibility of the study results carried out. Descriptions of theories, findings, and other research materials obtained from literature study reference materials are used as the basis for research activities to develop clear frameworks and problems to study. This study looks at the phenomena and potential in the area that creative ideas for development and utilization. The literature study was from books, articles written by folklore and education experts. The validity of the data was obtained by triangulating sources and reviewing informants. The data analysis technique was interactive analysis technique by Miles & Huberman (in Sutopo, 2002: 94), namely by reducing data, presenting data and drawing conclusions.

III. RESULT

Education in Indonesia must grow and develop in line with the culture where the educational institution itself exists, the Ministry of Education and Culture (Kemendikbud). Knowledge of local culture, in particular, is the main thing to emphasize. The value of local wisdom begins to fade and be abandoned, thus reducing students' understanding of local cultural values. Even though the value of local wisdom

contains many positive things. Learning in schools that are still held conventionally such as focusing on textbooks, the teacher as the main learning source and students only listening and memorizing so that the attitude aspect is not too concerned. This should be getting out of the way. As the world progresses, education also needs to be harmonized. Education-based on local wisdom is considered better than conventional education. Education according to the culture closest to the environment makes learning more meaningful because students have experienced it directly. This is reinforced by the notion of contextual learning, which is building meaning based on experience and also critical thinking (Sung, Hwang, & Chang, 2015: 299). One will easily remember when the learning material is related to what they have experienced and know (Oliver & Bowler, 1996: 101). Local wisdom is a cultural product which includes philosophy, values, norms, ethics, rituals, beliefs, habits, customs, and so on (Rohmadi & Hartono, 2011: 284). Local wisdom can be used as a source of material and values that form the basis of direction to act and behave in daily life. The function of local wisdom is to anticipate, filter and even change various forms of foreign influence so that it continues to characterize local communities. Learning local wisdom is assumed to be the same as learning about the culture around it. Learning culture can strengthen moral values in society (Ratana-Ubol & Henschke, 2015: 41). Local wisdom can be the basis for character education in schools (Sugiyono & Purwastuti, 2017: 300). A person's character can be created because of environmental conditions that are influenced by a culture so that character education must be in line with local wisdom values which contain values of goodness.

Many studies have been conducted to approach education with the local culture. In this study, it is devoted to studying and connecting several aspects between culture, art, education and comics. Comics are an alternative as an educational tool (Roussou et al., 2019: 1). The use of comics in education began in 1940 in the United States, but only lasted a while and then disappeared again and this effort continues today. But in fact, the use of comics is not the main lesson. Comics are only considered the work of a person where comics are considered good when presenting easy and entertaining content. Then the supporting theory which says that comics can be used as part of the core learning experience is still lacking so that related research needs to be followed up to produce relevant findings. This study on Lembusura comics is the first step to prove that comics can be used as an educational tool. The Lembusura comic contains all aspects that will be discussed, how the value of local wisdom is used as a reference for character education because the content of the comic story itself contains a form of local wisdom from the story of Mount Kelud in East Java.

The meaning of Comics must be understood because many meanings can be extracted. One way to interpret comics is by using semiotic theory. This is supported by the study on the meaning of comics by utilizing semiotics which is used to represent the meaning of emotions in visual images (Feng & Kay, 2012: 2067). The status of the semiotic visual meanings of behaviour in comic stories is represented as iconic which represents real life, whether implied or explicit. The semiotic theory to be used is by Roland Barthes (1982), in his book he shows two visual and verbal functions concerning messages. Since any visual is capable of multiple meanings, verbal is necessary to improve the sense

of the image. Messages are usually conveyed through captions which will later guide the interpretation. In this case, the comic is a complete package because it contains both of these things. In comics, the relationship between images and words is a function of conveying and representing the essence of the narrative in comics, because here images and words are in a complementary relationship (Barthes, 1982 in Zanettin, 2015: 43). The system used in semiotics is to analyze the representation of messages in comics, it shows that semiotics is useful for describing and understanding how meaning is made in visual arts (Feng & Kay, 2012: 2083). Roland Barthes with his myth theory can provide denotative and connotative meanings to reveal local wisdom values in the Lembusura comic, then used as one of the choice studies for character education. The following is a semiotic analysis of the Lembusura comic:

1. *Lembusura* comic depicting the value of hard work



Figure 1. Panel section where participants take part in the competition
(source: *Lembusura* comic page 22)

| Description | Denotation | Connotation |
|--|---|--|
| The picture above is one of the panels which told that many people (men) | All of the characters in the panel depict characters who have | With the hard work done by all the participants even though no one was |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>want to try to take part in the competition to marry the Princess. all the participants in the competition tried to lift the Bow of Kyai Garudayeksa and Gong Kyai Sekar Delima, but no one managed to stretch and lift it.</p> | <p>muscular bodies, broad chests and tight muscles. Their facial expressions look so serious in bearing the weight of Kyai Garudayeksa and Gong Kyai Sekar Delima's Bow.</p> | <p>able to lift the Bow of Kyai Garudayeksa and Gong Kyai Sekar Delima, they did not give up and kept trying. To get something we need hard work.</p> |
|--|--|---|

2. *Lembusura* comic depicting religious values

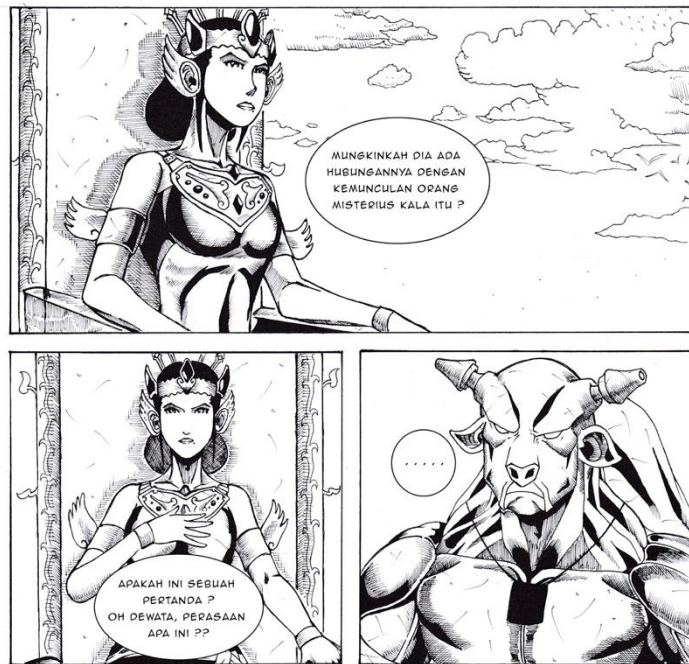


Figure 2. Part of the panel that tells the Princess who saw a mysterious figure

1. (source: *Lembusura* comic page 35)

| Description | Denotation | Connotation |
|---|--|--|
| The panel above depicted Putri seeing the | Putri looked blankly ahead with an anxious | For all the anxiety and anxiety felt by Putri, she did |

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| appearance of a mysterious figure with an ox head. Putri asked herself and called the gods. | and worried face. Then his hands rested on his chest and chanted the gods. | not forget to remember her god in her heart. |
|---|--|--|

3. Lembusura comic that describes the value of caring for the environment



Figure 3. Lembusura is taking an oath
(source: *Lembusura* comic page 50)

| Description | Denotation | Connotation |
|--|--|--|
| The lembusura figure in the mountain puddle who was raising one hand and | Lembusura's face was angry and cursed. | In this panel, it reminds all humans that if they behave badly to nature |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>holding up his index finger. Lembusura was taking an oath.</p> | | <p>(greedy, arrogant and stupid) then Mount Kelud will erupt and destroy the surrounding environment.</p> |
|---|--|---|

4. *Lembusura* comic that describes the values of tolerance and social care



Figure 4. Mysterious figure giving gold coins to the beggar (source: *Lembusura* comic page 11)

| Description | Denotation | Connotation |
|---|---|---|
| <p>There was a mysterious robed figure with a burly body walking around the</p> | <p>Mahasasura was a king, he looked like someone scary, strong and burly.</p> | <p>Wherever you are, you must tolerate and care socially. If you have</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Kediri kingdom. This mysterious figure was Mahesasura. He gave gold coins to beggars he met on the roadside.</p> | <p>Seeing that there was a beggar with a wrinkled and thin face, he didn't forget to share.</p> | <p>excess money you must always remember other people who are in need like the beggar above.</p> |
|---|---|--|



Picture 5. Mahesasura looking at the old Princess and grandmother (source: *Lembusura* comic page 12)

| Description | Denotation | Connotation |
|--|--|---|
| <p>The princess was helping an old and old grandmother at the gate of the kingdom and Mahesasura saw the incident.</p> | <p>The princess was a figure whose caste was high in the kingdom. Besides that, her face and heart were beautiful. The daughter was talking intimately and helping the old grandmother to walk. They looked happy because there was a smile on their face.</p> | <p>Even though as a person with a high position and respect, as a fellow human being must care and help one another, regardless of anyone, anything and anywhere.</p> |

IV. DISCUSSION

The preservation of local culture is essential because modern cultural currents often control that everything traditional is left behind, sometimes even considered irrational. If there is no following up, it will gradually face the extinction of local cultural treasures. Humans are born without a cultural vacuum, namely people who adhere to certain cultures (Juanda, 2010: 1). Based on the assumption,

the idea emerged that comics could be an alternative. The comic is easy-to-read pictorial reading. Comics that carry the theme of folklore such as Lembusura will connect the currents of modern culture and local culture. From the above discussion, it can be said that in comics there are stories that contain meanings, either connotation or denotation. Particularly as an educational tool, comics can be used as a solution. Through an interesting storyline and pictures, messages can be conveyed to readers. Based on this statement, the value of local wisdom in comics can also be conveyed. With stories that are close to students, it will be easier to understand. For example, the Lembusura comic that made the legendary story of Mount Kelud would be suitable for students in areas close to Mount Kelud, East Java. This is supported by Komikus Lembusura's statement (in an interview conducted on November 10, 2019) that:

" The initiation of making comics since the unrest, the true comic was enjoyed by children but a comic that they enjoy were imported comics. Based on our observation, imported comics stories they always put in historical stories. That's why I made a comic whose story comes from local folklore entitled Lembusura. This story is famous in the area where Mount Kelud originated, but not everyone knows. Now people are interested in visiting historical places, taking photos, and uploading them to social media without any desire to find out what the real story is. Based on the background, I tried to illustrate this Lembusura folklore in the comic form so that people are more interested in reading. "

There are great hopes for this comic work to be useful, particularly for comic fans themselves and to society in general. Based on the students' opinions, comics are one of the new things for them. In learning, the books they receive are often long textbooks without any interesting pictures, so they quickly feel bored. It was conveyed by one of the students of SMP Negeri 1 Sampung after the teaching materials were replaced with comic books (in an interview conducted on November 26, 2019):

"Today's learning is different because it uses comic media. My opinion about this comic is good, easy to understand. "

The opinion that comics deserve to be further developed is also supported by the opinion of one of the initiators of the largest comic producers in Indonesia, namely Bumi Langit. According to him, comics with Indonesian folk tales can be aligned with market desires based on age differences (in an interview conducted on 5 November 2019):

" How can Bumi Langit introduce our (old) comics to the present era. First, Bumi Langit did not think that comics that came from outside are a threat, but rather enrich the treasures of comics in Indonesia. Then the second, how we try to stay true to the old standard while still providing something new for readers to enjoy. So the strategy, we prepare to always have products for children, adolescents and adults. Of these three products have a respective figure. That is caused by the segmentation of each and hope we can all embrace. "

Education itself is a process to influence students to be able to adapt to its environment that will cause changes in students that enable them to function as strong in people's lives. Student growth and development depends on the talents and environment that each student has had since birth, however, student growth and development is not solely caused by the talent and environmental factors (Hamalik, 2011: 56). These considerations should be an input to making comics are used as a means of early pension stance should be limited according to students' age. For example, elementary school (SD) students were given Malin Kundang comics while high school (SMA) students were given Rama and Shinta comics. Furthermore, folklore that felt outdated to be ably redesigned with a more modern look so it would be interesting to read. For some of the advantages of comics, comics can be used as an effective and efficient educational tool because they contain lots of pictures so they are interesting and easy to understand.

V. CONCLUSION

The folklore of Mount Kelud is one of the ideas of creating a comic is one of the creative steps to preserve local wisdom. The impact is expected to make changes to the preservation of other local cultures by raising their local wisdom for further development. Apart from increasing the knowledge of their own culture, it can widen the area of spread. Based on the phenomenon that occurs in Indonesia which is being threatened by foreign cultures, the use of local culture can be used as a shield. Similarly, in Lembusura Comic, there are cultural and educational values for students, readers and society in general, namely in the form of good suggestions and advice to build character. Therefore, the internalization of local wisdom values to have a good character for the community needs to be further explored not only with comic book media but in various aspects. Knowledge about nature, social, culture, religion, education, and the latest issues need to be identified by the wider community so that ideally Indonesian local culture is preserved. The advantages of comics which prioritize visual elements so that cultural issues are more easily accepted because of their attractive appearance and easy reading.

Suggestion

Based on the results of this study, there are several things that the authors suggest, as input for teachers to choose the right learning method in teaching cultural arts. One of them is by applying the learning method using comics in learning cultural arts because by using comics students' understanding of learning materials for comic drawing techniques becomes easier, more interesting and fun.

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