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# Javanese Script Writing Training as a Form of Local Cultural Conservation for Tanjung Community, Special Region of Yogyakarta

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### Abstract

Javanese script is a cultural heritage from our ancestors that needs to be preserved. Javanese script is often introduced to the education system in the form of local educational content such as in Javanese language subjects. Even so, there are still many people who are not interested in learning it, because writing Javanese script has a fairly high level of complexity. The rules in writing starting from the shape of the letters, giving pairs, and *sandhangan* are factors that make people less interested in learning Javanese script. This certainly affects the existence of Javanese script today. Therefore, such a situation should not be allowed to continue because it can eliminate the identity and locality of the community which has an impact on the fading of cultural entities. In response to this situation, reinforcement is needed in the form of Javanese script writing training. This activity is an important part of efforts to conserve local culture. Like this service which was carried out in Padukuhan Wukirsari, Cangkringan, Sleman, Yogyakarta. The implementation methods used in this community service program are socialization, *Focus Group Discussion* (FGD), and training/simulation. With this program, the community can be fostered, empowered, and begin to be independent in learning to use Javanese script as their cultural identity.

**Keywords :** Javanese script, local culture, cultural conservation

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### INTRODUCTION

Javanese culture is one of the most famous cultures in Indonesia. This culture is almost identical to the people who live on the island of Java, Indonesia. This culture has its own uniqueness in terms of language and writing (Mardikantoro, 2016). In addition, Javanese culture has also been known as the noble culture since long ago. The noble culture is a culture that holds various noble values. Starting from rules of ethics to manners both at home and in public (Sartini, 2009). With its various uniqueness, Javanese culture is the root of the practice of symbolism in society (Awalin, 2017).

Javanese culture has many varieties, one of which is language (Nadhiroh, 2021). Javanese is one of the languages used by the people of the Java region. Central Java, Special Region of Yogyakarta, and some of the people of East Java (Supriyono, 2016). In practice, Javanese culture still needs a touch to preserve it. A small part of the Javanese language is manifested through the Javanese script (Aribowo, 2018). Preserving the Javanese language can be done by studying the Javanese script (Nisa, 2027).

script is a script that represents identity (Mardikantoro, 2013) and historical experience of Javanese culture, so it is often still taught in local content through Javanese language subjects (Khazanah, 2012). However, in their daily lives, not all Javanese people are interested in learning Javanese script because this script is quite complex with its spelling rules and letter shapes (Ekowati, 2007). Javanese script is not widely used in people's daily lives, but it is still used in certain places and spaces as a tourist attraction, such as naming locations and street names on several signs (Wardani, 2015; Aribowo, 2018). Javanese script has its own charm that must be preserved and revived in people's lives, so that Javanese script does not become

extinct starting from the center of Javanese wealth such as in Yogyakarta (Hambali, 2013; Yusuf, 2018; Arief, 2016).

Yogyakarta is one of the centers of Javanese culture known to the Indonesian people. With high mobility in Yogyakarta, it has caused a mixture of Javanese languages and cultures. Ironically, Javanese script has begun to lose its identity. Nowadays, we often hear the term "wong Jawa ilang Jawane". This term is attached to Javanese people who no longer know or use Javanese culture, including the use of Javanese script (Wahyuningsih, 2018). To support Yogyakarta as a cultural city, it is necessary to strengthen the use of Javanese script in the cultural center area. Therefore, there needs to be a Javanese script writing training program as an effort to revive the use of Javanese script.

Based on the reasons above and considering the current condition of the partners, a Javanese Script Writing Training was held as a Form of Local Cultural Conservation for the Community in Dusun Tanjung, Cangkringan, Special Region of Yogyakarta. Conservation itself is an effort to maintain conditions so that they remain sustainable both in traditional and modern ways (Fatori, 2019). Through this activity, Javanese script can be preserved from one generation to the next and the community is increasingly interested in local culture so that it does not lose its identity amidst the flow of cultural disruption. This service is in line with the vision of Semarang State University (UNNES) as a university of conservation and brilliance in education.

## METHOD

The method in implementing community service activities is carried out through three stages, namely the planning stage, the implementation stage, and the activity evaluation stage. The place where the service was carried out was the Tanjung community, Cangkringan, Sleman, Special Region of Yogyakarta. This activity was attended by 25 participants from Tanjung Hamlet, three facilitators, and the service team. After formulating the problems experienced by the partners, we prepared a plan and active steps through several stages of activities, namely as follows:

1. Socialization to the Tanjung Community regarding the importance of conserving local Javanese script culture.
2. Introduction to Javanese script writing training program.
3. Providing material about Javanese script using the *HaPaYa method*.
4. Training and assistance in writing Javanese script.

In the implementation of the community service program, the Tanjung community is not an object, but a subject in empowerment. This aims to foster a sense of concern and ownership of Javanese script as a culture of its community, so that the empowerment goals can be achieved. The implementation methods used in this community service program are socialization, *Focus Group Discussion* (FGD), and training/simulation. With this program, the community can be fostered, empowered, and independent so that they can implement this program sustainably.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Urgency of Javanese Script Writing Training

Javanese script writing training for recipients has urgency. The urgency includes; *first*, to preserve culture and/or cultural conservation. By doing community service by writing Javanese script, it can help the community to identify problems and make efforts to maintain and preserve their cultural heritage. This also helps to maintain the diverse Javanese cultural traditions. *Second*, as a [strengthening] cultural identity. With the socialization and training of Javanese script writing, the community can be re-stimulated to their identity as Javanese people by starting to use Javanese script again. *Third*, a [Traditional] communication tool. Javanese script is a communication tool and its use is decreasing. However, by doing training and community service, participants can understand, comprehend, and practice Javanese script in everyday life. At least, like what has been found in the street names along the streets in the city of Yogyakarta. *Fourth*, an educational tool. By practicing and habituating the use of Javanese script in everyday life, the community has actually carried out ethnopedagogy in

introducing and strengthening local identity as part of its cultural entity. *Fifth*, introduction to literary and artistic works. In carrying out this community service, the participants gained important benefits from implementing Javanese script writing training from numbers one to four, while number five has not yet been felt.

### Introduction to Javanese Script Writing Training Program

Community service activities are carried out by means of socialization and training in writing Javanese script to the local community. The problems faced by the Dukuh Tanjung community, Cangkringan District, Sleman Yogyakarta need to be gradually improved. One of the efforts made to overcome these problems is to carry out activities aimed at conserving local culture. Conservation efforts are carried out by means of introducing and training in writing Javanese script for the Dukuh Tanjung community. These activities are carried out as a solution to problems that are sustainable. Therefore, the series of activities carried out are integrated steps that have combined physical and non-physical activities.

As a conservation effort, this community service activity has a series of activities carried out starting from introduction to training in writing Javanese script. The first thing to do before carrying out community service activities is a survey and analysis. This stage is the initial step to identify the needs and problems of the community so that the activities carried out can be on target. The main thing that needs to be considered in the next stage after analyzing the needs and problems of partners is a joint discussion on the theme and approval of partners in the activities carried out.

The next stage is the introduction of Javanese script to the Dukuh Tanjung community. The introduction of Javanese script is done by using flyers or posters containing Javanese script starting from *nglegena*, *sandhangan*, and *pasangan script*. The initial stage before introducing Javanese script directly is the socialization of the program being implemented. In addition, socialization can also be in the form of explaining material regarding the importance of conserving local culture. On this occasion, community encouragement is needed to build awareness of the importance of conservation behavior.

### Javanese Script Writing Training

#### Training Phase 1

*nglegena* script. In this activity, the teaching used is the "HaPaYa" method. The reason for using the "Hapaya" method is that the method is considered easier to memorize and understand compared to the "Hanacaraka" method. The "HaPaYa" method is a method that is easy to memorize and understand through the chanting of songs. The song reads "*hapaya hapaya hapaya, sarana madhangi Jawa*". In addition, the "Hapaya" method has also been compiled based on the characteristics of writing scripts such as the script "HaTa La, Sa Ca Da, Pa Wa Dha, Nga Ba Nya" which has the same writing characteristics.



Figure 1. Javanese script HaPaYa

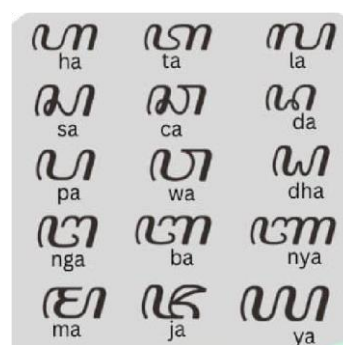


Figure 2. Javanese script HaPaYa

After studying the Javanese script *nglegena*, it is continued with the introduction and training of Javanese *paired scripts*. There are several types of writing Javanese paired scripts, namely *jejere*, *ngisore*, *disambung*, *tetep*, and *berubah total*.

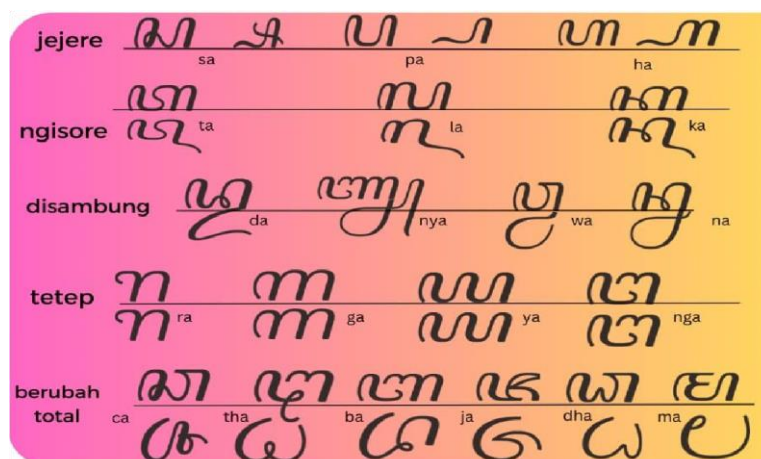


Figure 3. Javanese script for the pair “HaPaYa”

Continued with the introduction and training of Javanese script *sandhangan* which has several types of writing, namely hi, hu, he, ho, har, hang, hra, hre, hya, hwa, hla, hai, and hah. This *sandhangan* has a function to change the vowel sound of Javanese script such as the script "Ha" and getting a pair of "suku" then it will sound "Hu". After the introduction and training of the Javanese script section, the next stage is writing a love letter and future hopes for the family or hopes for the future.

### Training Phase 2

The training in the second stage continued with the introduction and training of Javanese numbers, aksara *rekan* and aksara *swara* (vowel letters). The implementation of the second stage was not much different from the first stage.



Figure 4. Javanese numbers

Javanese numerals are one of the writing systems in the Javanese script, so that dates, years and amounts are not written using numbers but using numbers written in the Javanese script.



Figure 5. Peer script

The introduction and training of the peer script aims to write names and words containing special letters such as kha, tsa, za, dza, qa, fa, and gha. In addition to the *peer script*, community service participants also began practicing the Javanese swara script.



Figure 6. Javanese *swara* script

Javanese script *swara* is a vowel letter in Javanese script, this script is used when encountering a vowel letter in a word, usually in the name of a person and also a place. After the introduction and training, the community service participants were asked to try to rewrite the love letter and hope that had been written in the first stage using Javanese script. At this stage, the community service team's love letter had been written in Javanese script so that the participants only copied it. In the writing process, the community service team became a facilitator to accompany. After writing, the participants were asked to stick the love letter on the board.

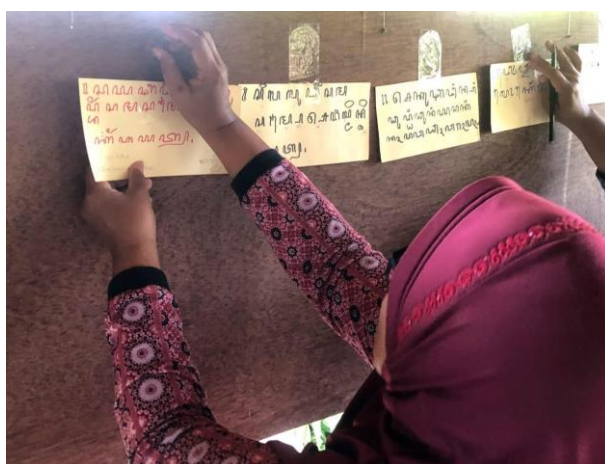


Figure 7. Attaching the results of Javanese script writing

### **Training Phase 3**

The implementation of the third stage of training begins with *sandhangan script training*. The training is carried out using movements, so that participants will practice the Javanese *sandhangan* script by practicing using hand and mouth movements.



Figure 8. *Sandhangan* script training

The purpose of the training with the movement method is to encourage more efficient memory and understanding, because by practicing using movements, the process of remembering becomes easier. The activity carried out after the training with movements,

participants are asked to write the names of each participant on the metaplan that has been provided. Not only that, participants are also invited to write the names of loved ones to be written in Javanese script.

### **Training Participant Response**

The existence of a community service program on Javanese script writing training has shown a positive response from the participants. This can be seen from the enthusiasm of the community service participants in practicing reading and writing Javanese script. The community service team as facilitators was well received by the participants as a driver of cultural conservation related to Javanese script in Dukuh Tanjung. The community service team is a Javanese script *trainer facilitator* directly from Geber Jawa Semesta Mahardika, so they understand the rules in writing Javanese script. The importance of cultural conservation is what makes the community urgent to continue learning Javanese script. This is an encouragement for participants to want to learn more about Javanese script both in the reading and writing process. Overall, the implementation of the community service has gone smoothly according to plan, starting from the introduction of Javanese script to the writing of Javanese script by participants. The enthusiasm and active activities of the participants are marked as a positive response from the participants of the Javanese script writing training for the Dukuh Tanjung community, Sleman, Yogyakarta.

### **Obstacles Faced**

Javanese script writing training is one of the efforts to encourage cultural conservation attitudes in the community. The community service process regarding Javanese script training certainly has several obstacles faced. The first obstacle is the tendency of participants to only memorize Javanese script rather than understanding. The second obstacle is adjusting free time with participants because not many community service participants have a lot of free time to participate in this community service activity. This is one of the obstacles for the community service team because there are several participants who want to participate in the activity but do not get the time according to their schedule. The hope of this community service activity is to become a sustainable activity in the Dukuh Tanjung community and even expand. With the continuation of this community service activity, cultural conservation will continue to increase so that local culture is still sustainable.

### **Evaluation of Community Service**

After the Javanese script writing and dedication activities carried out in Tanjung Village, the next stage is the Evaluation stage. This stage is carried out by the Satukata Research School team, Supervisors, and Sociology and Anthropology Students of Semarang State University. The evaluation of the activity is carried out by reflecting from the planning stage until the activity is completed. During the evaluation process, it went well using discussions held at each event that had been completed. The process of writing and dedication of the Javanese script was said to be good from the first meeting to the third meeting. The planning in this writing and dedication activity has been in accordance with the stages that have been formulated.

The assessment for the evaluation of the activity can be seen from two things, namely community participation in participating in the activity and the presence of the Tanjung village community itself. In the three meetings, the community was considered to have very high enthusiasm. Some of them were willing to leave their jobs to learn Javanese script again. There was even a statement from one of the participants to hold similar activities continuously. Of course, this was considered very positive by the Donation Team.

### **CONCLUSION**

The conclusion that can be obtained from the Javanese script writing training service is that the Javanese script writing training service is a very important step in preserving local culture, especially Javanese script. Although Javanese script has high complexity, this training aims to increase public interest in understanding and writing Javanese script for use in daily activities. This effort is expected to help preserve local cultural identity and prevent the loss of Javanese script from people's daily lives.

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