



Hermeneutic Study: The Meaning of Lyric From Kebalai Singing In Rote Ndao Society

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Abstract

Traditional art through music, dance and even traditional rituals becomes a symbol and identity of the community because it is a reflection of collective thoughts and also regional solidarity. Kebalai is a dance danced by the people of Rote and is very famous. The kebalai does not only contain dances but also songs in the form of rhymes which are performed together in every event, from big events such as when. The poetry uses the Rote regional language and the meaning of each song is different. This makes researchers interested in looking at oral literature through the songs from the balai and efforts to document the meaning of the poem from the kebalai entitled "Susue Lain" which means brotherly love. This study uses a hermeneutic study according to Ricoeur. The research method uses qualitative methods and literature studies, data collection techniques. Data collection in this study is by observing and unstructured interviews. The results of the Kebalai research are a dance that is often danced together by the people of Rote, in every event or activity that exists. The conclusion in this study is that Kebalai is a performing art, which in the way of interpreting it uses poetry to convey messages.

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INTRODUCING

Traditional arts have developed and lived in a society. Traditional arts are arts that apply traditionally in the socio-cultural life of the community in a place. Usually, traditional art is a medium for the community for various interests that are also traditional (Wimbrayardi, 2019). Traditional art through music, dance and even traditional rituals becomes a symbol and identity of the community because it is a reflection of collective thoughts and also regional solidarity. Areas with culture also include historical sites, various languages, performing arts, historical and religious sites (Sunaryo & Sejati, 2022).

East Nusa Tenggara is one of the many areas that have arts. Whether it's dance, music or even traditional rituals, each has its own characteristics. Kecalai is a dance danced by the people of Rote and is very famous. Kecalai does not only contain dances but also songs in the form of rhymes that are performed together in every event, from big events such as Rote Regency celebrating birthdays, welcoming guests, church activities and even usually being performed at events such as weddings, funerals.

Kecalai is danced with many people who form a circle then create a dynamic pattern in the dance by embracing each other's shoulders. Kecalai has lyric that adapted to the context of the event taking place. If to entertain the grieving family, Manahelo (a poet usually played by traditional elders) will compose a poem according to the circumstances and then be greeted by Manasimba (a dancer and singer who welcomes and follows Manahelo's poetry). How to sing in the hall by using *responsori* singing or singing reciprocally.

Kecalai lyric usually uses the Rote language. The process of communication can be done through language. According to Chaer, language is a symbol system that connects the world of meaning and the world of sound and is closely related to the world of pragmatics (Rahmawati & Rahima, 2020). Regarding this concept, it means that the language of art has a symbol that functions as a medium and a tool for how local people can communicate. So this gives an understanding that without language and all things related to language, communication cannot work properly. Through music, it's like that music can make it easier for people to be able to communicate with one another, relate to each other and have social interaction. The most basic function of language is as a communication tool (Rofii & Hasibuan, 2019).

The Kecalai is able to unite every class of society regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, religion and even social status through the dances and songs that are performed. Maybe the dance itself is still alive today, but it's different from the lyrics made for the kecalai dance. The community prefers to use regional music that has been recorded, so that the meaning of lyric and the development of lyric is no longer found. Local wisdom is personality, community cultural identity in the form of values, norms, ethics, beliefs, customs and special rules that have been tested for their abilities so that they can continue. The meaning of this lyric also needs to be developed so that it does not die but can be passed on to future generations.

This made the researcher interested in looking at oral literature through songs from the Kecalai in Rote Ndao Regency, East Nusa Tenggara in an effort to document the meaning of

lyric from the Keralai entitled "Susue lain" which means brotherly love. Lyric in keralai has many contexts with different meanings so that this can be intended to raise awareness in loving local culture. The meaning of lyric uses contextual meaning which is an interesting thing to use because keralai lyric has lexical and textual meanings in it. So from that contextual meaning requires a deep understanding. According to Suwandi (2011), Contextual meaning is the meaning that arises as a result of the relationship between the utterance and the situation when the utterance is used. So in this context according to the situation, including place, time and even the environment in the use of that language. Keralai songs have different meanings because the language of each village is different. So that sometimes it is difficult to understand the meaning and intent of the song. The Lyric describes the circumstances or conditions that occur so that the meaning also varies.

Based on the research focus above, a question can be raised, namely the contextual meaning contained in the keralai song in the Rote Ndao community.

METHOD

The research method is basically a way of getting data with a specific purpose and use. The research method used in this study to look at the meaning of the song lyrics from the keralai song in the Rote Ndao community uses a qualitative approach. According to Sugiyono (2020), explaining that qualitative research is research which is carried out under natural conditions, and is research that goes directly to data sources and researchers are the key instruments. And because this research is related to

the meaning of song lyrics, the researcher uses an additional research method, namely library research to look at the keralai song lyrics. Literature study is not just a matter of reading or recording literacy related to poetry or texts, but what is meant is through library research. Library research or study is an activity related to the method of collecting library data, reading, recording, and managing research materials (Zed Mezstika, 2018).

In this research data is the most important thing, according to Sugiyono (2020), the main activity in any research is data collection. In this case, data collection was carried out by analyzing the lyrics of the keralai song with the title "Susue lain", and the lyric of Keralai is the primary data in this study. As for additional data or secondary data, it can be seen from documentaries and even previous research, and because the composer for the song "Susuelain" is not known, the additional data sources who assisted this research were traditional elders, in finding out about the society and culture of the Rote people. The research location is in Tesabela village, Pantai Baru district, Rote Ndao district.

The data sources come from informants who understand the song and understand the lyrics of the Keralai song. In this study, researchers took accurate data sources from reliable sources who were considered to represent the people of Rote Ndao. Collecting data in this study is by observing and unstructured interviews.

Data analysis techniques according to (Sugiyono, 2020), explain that data analysis is a process for systematically searching for and compiling data that has been obtained from interviews, field notes (observations) and documentation by

organizing the data into categories. After that there is an elaboration of each unit, synthesizing, compiling into patterns, then choosing which ones are important and which will be studied, and the last is making conclusions so that they are easily understood by oneself and others.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Kebalai is a dance that is often danced together by the people of Rote, in every event or activity that exists. In the past, the Kebalai did not use musical accompaniment and was only accompanied by songs sung directly by dancers. The lyrics of the kebalai song are adapted to the existing conditions and atmosphere (Emalisa, 2021). According to an interview with Elia Kolianan, one of the traditional elders in Tesabela Village, explained that along with the times, Kebalai is no longer based solely on a tradition or ritual, but at this time Kebalai is used as a performing art that we can find anywhere and with music that has been recorded by local singers.

The values and meanings of each Kebalai song are one of the

interesting things because the lyrics will be made specifically for each event. For example, when someone is grieving, the lyric also be adapted to the atmosphere of grief, where the lyric strengthen and comfort the grieving family. The value of togetherness and unity is felt in this dance. Because the dance is danced by making a circle with each other, then the dance accompaniment and stomping feet create a harmonious atmosphere and are able to strengthen social relations between one another.

Jazuli explains not only does lyric contain meaning, but dance as a work of art is a medium for expressing human feelings and everything originates from the development of imagination and then is channeled through movement (Mboka & Syah, 2020). So through this it can be understood that dance is a product of humans to reflect what is in the human mind or what is around it as an expression of the beauty within that human being. The Kebalai song entitled "Susue Lain" means "brotherly love". The Susue Lain have five verses and one chorus.

♩ = 85 (Andante)

sa - len- dang sa-len-dang tam-ba -rai - na, tam-ba-rai-na o - o le - le

le e - sa su - e e - sa do e - sa la - i e - sa tam-ba-rai-na o i - na ma - lo - le sa -
su - e ka' - a fa - di do la - i ta - la no -
du - a du - a de - a dua do - te - lu ko - la
e - sa tu - lu e - sa do e - sa fa - li e - sa
fa - i nga - ti fa - i ma - lo - le nga - ti le - lo

len dang sa-len-dang tam-ba -rai - na, tam-ba-rai-na o - o le - le - le e - sa ti - a
bu - e bu - sa
da - di a - la
ba - sa ne - u
bu - e te - u

e - sa do e - sa la - da e - sa tam-ba-rai-na o i - na me - lo - le mu - ndo - lu
bu - e do ma - o ma - nu ma - o mu - da - le
da - di do mo - li a - la mo - li da - di me - ne
tung ga do ba - sa ne - u sang - ga sang - ga so - da
e - sa do nggi - a te - u e - sa na - i fa - ik

si - o do mu - lu le - la fa - lu tam-ba-rai-na o i - na me - lo - le
ma - ta do mu tei so - lo - ka - e
he - nak do mo - li na - ka - ba - nik
mo lek do tung - ga ne - te da - le
i - a do ndu - ku do ne - u

Figure 1. The original notes and verses of the song "Another Susue" (translated from the original song using the Sibelius app)

After doing research from looking at some of the meanings contained in "Susue Lain" lyric, namely: 1) the meaning of belief or belief, 2) the meaning in the context of the situation, and 3) the meaning of culture.

1. Meaning of Trust

Esa sue esa do esa lai esa, which means "love one another". The Rote community is a society that lives in a bond of unity, upholding the principle of loving one another. In this song there are many poems which state that in life we must love and sing one another. The meaning of this poem is not only related to tradition, but the poetry of Susue Lain contains theological values in people of East Nusa Tenggara and the people of Rote Ndao Regency are predominantly Christian and there is a high attitude of tolerance so that the embodiment does not only focus on action but is expressed through song lyric.

According to Elia, a source explained that loving in community relations in Rote is not only based on community groups but has broad relations such as "loving" relationships that do not only apply to those in the Rote tribe but anyone, regardless of religion and culture.

2. Meaning of Context or Situation

The context of Susue Lain song is a very wide panoramic, because the meaning of this song does not only refer to a certain group of people but includes all groups. As in the verse:

"Bue busa bue do mao manu mao, mu dale oemata do mu tei solokae

Basa neu tunggu do basa neu sangga, sangga sodak molek do tunggu netedalek.

*Fai ngati fai ma lelo ngati lelo, bue teu esa do nggia teu esa
Nai faik ia nduku do na neu"*

Gathered into one unit, have a heart and feelings

All went in search, went in search of peace and happiness

Whenever there is a chance, we always get together

From today to forever.

This poem gives meaning to the life of the Rote people who leave the area and go abroad. The opportunity to meet is a moment that must be celebrated, and a happy welcome. The longing to meet and gather here makes eating and the context of the situation of the Rote people that maybe there are some people who go abroad and hope to come home and together.

3. Cultural Meaning

The philosophy of life of the Rote people is "mao tua do lefe bafi" which means that life can be sourced and sufficient from the life of slicing palm wine and raising pigs. And the fact is that traditionally the people of Rote started community life in the village, and in every hamlet and even the family through work by slicing palm wine.

"Sue ka'a fadi do lai tolano, bue busa bue do mao manu mao"

*"Love for brothers, sisters and brothers
Gathered into unity"*

The community lives from the results of hard work to fulfill their living needs with their families. The family is considered the smallest social grouping but the source of life comes from there. So that the kebalai poem reflects

brotherly love which is actually unknown and only starts from large organizations but loves from the family environment, so that it can give important meaning to other people in interpreting brotherly love.

For example, when there are children going to school outside the area, there will be a family gathering to collect money together for the expenses of children who will be migrating. Not only that, in marriage it is also like that, usually called "tu'u.

CONCLUSION

Kebalai is a dance in which there is singing as a form of performing art. Kebalai songs are always conditioned by the circumstances and situations that occur. Usually, when singing the kebalai song, it is led by the manahelo who acts as the creator or maker of the main melody, then is greeted by the manasimba as the dancer, the way to sing is done by singing the canon. Kebalai is a performing art by reciting poetry to convey messages.

Susue Lain is one of the songs from Kebalai. After conducting research, the researcher found that there are meanings contained "Susue lain" or brotherly love, including; 1) the meaning of belief which describes the life of the people who are judged not only to love their relationship with the Creator but also to each other, 2) the context of the situation which shows the going in and out of the Rote community to migrate outside the area so that there is a depiction of the joy felt by the family, 3) the meaning of culture because the people live only from slicing palm wine and raising pigs, it turns out that the meaning in Susue Lain lyric builds relationships between each family member where the culture of the Rote people is *tu'u* as a

representation of them supporting each other's families.

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