



The Creative Process Of Musafir Isfanhari In The Creation Of A Musical Work "Keroncong Keluarga Berencana"

Elva Rizki Anggraeni^{✉1}

elva.21009@mhs.unesa.ac.id

Warih Handayani

warihhandayani@unesa.ac.id

Anik Juwariyah

anikjuwariyah@unesa.ac.id

1.Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia

2.Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia

3.Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia

Abstract

Article Info

Submitted: April, 2022

Revised: June, 2022

Accepted: June, 2022

Keywords:

Creative Process,
Psychology, Keroncong
KB

Musafir Isfanhari is one of the senior music artists in East Java. The man known as the arranger and composer has created many works of music. One of Isfanhari's phenomenal musical works is the song Keroncong Keluarga Berencana. The purpose of this research is to examine the creative process of creating keroncong KB song works by Musafir Isfanhari. Research uses descriptive qualitative methods using phenomenological approaches. The data collection techniques in this study use interview, observation and documentation techniques. The results and highlights in this article outline Isfanhari's biography, the work and creative process of the creation of the song Keroncong Keluarga Berencana. Discussion of the creative process based on the John Livingston category among others; (1) the process of filling a well, or filling the mind with materials and experiences related to the phenomenon of promoting Keluarga Berencana programs. (2) Sudden vision through suggestion based on distraction or interference from the outside that affects the suggestions of Isfanhari's mind in making lyrics and melodies. (3) Completion of the work, which contains the process of meeting with O.K Getah Jaya, the training process to introduce the song Keroncong KB to the general public. The conclusion in this study is that the process of creating art, apart from containing elements of art or musicals, can also be associated with several other elements such as psychological theory and the concept of creativity.

INTRODUCTION

A work of art is inseparable from an artist. A fundamental element in the process of creating a work of art is creativity. The words creative and creativity are often said to be imagination, authenticity, intuition, aesthetick and so on, Tabrani (2006: 15). Creative also has the definition of "to create" which is to create something that has not existed before. This means that creative or creativity is synonymous with new and original things that arise from within the thoughts, imagination and intuition of a creator.

The process of creation in the field of art contains an understanding between creativity, invention, and innovation that is more influenced by the taste of emotions and feelings, Bandem (2017: 458). In the process of creating art as said by Bandem in Merriam & Webster (2001: 271), creativity is a process of activity that occurs with copyright-rasakarsa. Works of art and artists can be associated with creativity, because through a work of art there is something new, unique and has never been thought of by others before.

The artist is considered a unique person and more intelligent than the average human being. This statement is supported by an invention that any creative individual can think in a different and unusual way than other individuals, Damajanti (2013: 56). In creating a work of art there is a term creative process. According to Christiani in (Wijayanti & Puspito, 2021), the creative process is a series of several actions that use creative steps in creating or changing works of art. The creative process of art includes several elements of art, including form, dance, drama, and music. Musical works are a medium for artists to express their musical ideas according to the wishes of the heart. One of the musical artists who has many works and arrangements of songs is Musafir Isfanhari.

Musafir Isfanhari is one of the artists who took part in the East Java music scene. This man who was born in Malang is known as *anaranger* as well as a *composser* who has a high taste in music. This is because he is more concerned with the quality of the results of the creation / arrangement of works, and not solely for commercial purposes. Based on the results of the preliminary interview, Isfanhari said that:

"... In creating a piece of music or making arrangements (not a request), I have never had

a niat for commerciality, everything I made purely based on what my heart says".
(Interviewed: Isfanhari, November 25, 2021)

The statement is reinforced by the study of the field of emotions and music that everyone who is involved in the world of music recognizes that music making is inseparable from the turbulence of the feelings of the soul of its creator, Djohan (2009: 49). Isfanhari's role in the East Java music scene is beyond doubt. Not only in East Java, Isfanhari has also shown his work in the capital city of Jakarta to become a youth choir coach to participate in a competition at the inter-national level, namely *"The International Chorus Festival"* in 1994 in Osaka Japan. It is a very proud thing because at that time there were still not as many competition activities abroad as they are today.

The song works that are often created by Isfanhari are mars songs, children's songs, pendidikan songs and arrangements of national anthems. Isfanhari is known as one of the outstanding lecturers in the Unesa Ballet Department, who teaches courses in solfegio, harmony and the science of musical analysis. In the process of teaching he used more examples of children songs, national anthems and keroncong songs. The songs exemplified when teaching aim to introduce students that composing songs is an easy thing. Therefore, an example is given with an easy song pattern with the aim that students can understand more quickly. Definitely have to know the basic things or theories first. As in keroncong music which has a repetitive pattern in every song played.

Keroncong music is a branch of music *genres* such as classical music, *jazz*, dangdut and gamelan. According to Budiman in (Harjono & Rachman, 2018), keroncong only develops or moves in the aesthetics of the keroncong art sphere. Keroncong music is one of the branches of art that has experienced the growth and development of the archipelago, as a form of artistic wealth belonging to the Indonesian people. The very long history of keroncong music, has provided various assumptions and elements that exist and have been in keroncong music.

One of the most phenomenal works of keroncong music created by M. Isfanhari is Keroncong Keluarga Berencana. The song Keroncong KB is the proudest song for Isfanhari, because with this song he can shake hands directly with President Soeharto. A

pride in itself for an artist who is recognized for his work. On the other hand, Isfanhari has an extraordinary ability to utilize intuitions and strategic events to create songs. As in the song Keroncong KB which is a form of drama from the promotion of Keluarga Berencana in 1972 in the Genteng area, Banyuwangi.

But behind the pride there is an unpleasant event that happened to the song Keroncong KB. Cases of piracy of musical works were not only rife in the 2000s, since 1995 there have been cases of piracy of musical works as happened to Isfanhari's Keroncong KB work. The piece of music was hijacked by irresponsible individuals.

Based on the background of the phenomenon that has been described, the purpose of this study is to examine the creative process of creating keroncong KB song works created by Musafir Isfanhari. Musafir Isfanhari has many achievements and experience in the field of music. Researchers realized that in the song Keroncong KB involves many psychological elements from within the creator. And there has been no discussion about the Keroncong KB song in writing articles or scientific journals. So the researcher intends to further examine the creative process behind the creation of the Keroncong KB song.

In writing this article, the researcher used the theory of psychology and the concept of creativity. The discussion in this article will briefly describe the biography of Musafir Isfanhari, some of the works that have been created until entering this discussion are the creative process on the song Keroncong Keluarga Berencana. The creative process of artists according to John Livingston Lowes in Damajanti (2013: 24), is categorized into three stages, including; (1) the process of filling the well, or filling the mind with materials and experiences, (2) Sudden vision through suggestion, (3) completion of the work. Through these stages, it is used to study and describe the process of Musafir Isfanhari's work in the creation of the Keroncong KB song.

METHOD

This research is a qualitative research using a phenomenological approach. These approaches and methods are used to describes phenomena of the creative process of creating works of art in the past historically. The location of this study was at the residence of Musafir Isfanhari, Jl. Banyu Urip Lor IIIB

/ 10, East Surabaya. There are two types of data sources in this study, namely primary data sources and secondary data sources. Primary data are obtained through data collection techniques, namely by interview, observation and documentation techniques.

The interview was conducted in a structured and unstructured manner with the main speakers, namely Musafir Isfanhari and several students who had been taught by Musafir Isfanhari, namely Jwalita and Defry. Observations are made to make observations of his works and document the results of observations. Documentation obtained from private sources owned by Musafir Isfanhari in the form of documents, images, and photos of song scores that have been created, as well as documentation obtained from Youtube about the keroncong KB song.

Secondary data sources were obtained from papers discussing the work of Musafir Isfanhari and the book by Isfanhari. The data validity technique in this study uses source triangulation and techniques. Researchers get data from the results of interviews, observations and documentation, then combine the data and *crosscheck* the data that has been obtained to describe the results in the discussion to be more accurate.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Biography and Work of Musafir Isfanhari.

Before discussing the creative process in the creation of keroncong KB's work, it will be explained about the biography of Musafir Isfanhari. The name Isfanhari originated from the word *Hay Isfan*, when it was ignored it had the meaning of *Nafsiyah*, which was felt to be unsuitable and then changed to Isfanhari. Musafir Isfanhari is an East Javanese artist who was born in Malang, on December 22, 1945. With the same age as the Republic of Indonesia, which is 75 years old. He began studying music around 1959. At that time, Isfanhari was still a junior high school student. The first musical instrument studied was the "*cuk*" a kind of small guitar in the musical game of keroncong. Since then he felt in love with music and participated in music activities and joined the band communities in Surabaya. Then he continued his studies at the Music High School in Yogyakarta.

The process of learning music was increasingly pursued by Isfanhari until he became a profession, namely as a musician. Based on the results of the fig cup, Isfanhari said that:

"... I made the song suddenly come to my heart, and then I was tempted to make the melody. Instead of me making songs that are commercial, but not in accordance with what I feel in my heart". (Interviewed: Isfanhari, November 25, 2021)

Based on this statement, it shows evidence that Isfanhari is a person who is more interested in creating a song. The songs created by Isfanhari also have a distinctive unique character. Based on the results of an interview with Defry, it says that:

"... Just from hearing the arrangement or creation of a song, we already know that the song is the work of Mr. Isfanhari". (Interviewed: Defry, November 17, 2021)

In a song creation, you can see the figure or image of a human being in it. Such as the songs created by Melly Goeslaw, Kunto Aji, Ari Lasso and other singers. Between one song and the other has one thing in common, in artian the creation of a song can be the self-confectionery of its creator. Some psychology gives jawaban i.e. based on their personality. Freud in (Nofindra, 2017), said that creative artists have tremendous strength and drive, along with their extraordinary ability to create artistic works.

The songs created by Isfanhari include Mars Petrokimia Gresik, Hymn SMPN 4 Gresik, For You Teacher, Memories of the Night, Keroncong Keluarga Berencana and several other songs. The first song created by Isfanhari was the song Memories of the Night. The song was created in 1963. This song describes a silent, sad and upbeat atmosphere. The song describes what is in Isfanhari's heart. Tonight's memory song originally appeared melodic little by little. When Isfanhari was doing activities, suddenly a piece of melody appeared which then over time was arranged into a song.

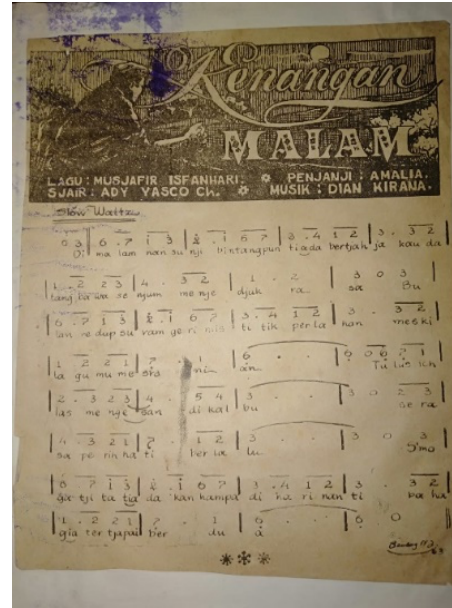


Figure 1. Kenangan Malam Scores 1963
Source: Isfanhari

Isfanhari is known as a tenacious artist and has high creativity. The characteristics of creativity according to Munandar in (Aprisca, 2017) are categorized into three, namely (1) Fluency of thinking, Isfanhari is able to make melodies and find many ideas to create songs. (2) The flexibility of thinking, by finding the melody that Isfanhari felt at that time can express what is felt through a melody. (3) Elaboration, The melody that has been written was then developed by making verses by his best friend who is good at resting, so as to create the first song entitled Memories of the Night.



Figure 2. M. Isfanhari Award Charter commemorates Heroes' Day in 2016
(Source : Elva, 25 November 2021)

In ancient times around the 1960s to 2000s there was no application of any kind of *sibelius* even computers were still rare, so he wrote the works in handwriting. Likewise in other song works and arrangements. Penghargaan for the award was obtained by Isfanhari as a senior musician in East Java. Musical works, particularly arrangements in choirs are often used as choral guidelines in schools. Hail the most phenomenal arrangement is the Hill of Victory and Your Merits Master. The song of the victory hill has been widely used even to the point of participating in choir competitions at the junior high and high school levels. This event was supported by Jwalita's statement, the victory hill song in 2015 and 2016 is often used for district-level choir competitions.

Creative Process Keroncong Keluarga Berencana.

Keroncong Keluarga Berencana or often called Keroncong KB is the result of Isfanhari's creation when he was a teacher in Banyuwangi. The background of the creation of this song was caused by a phenomenon that moved Isfanhari's heart. Around 1972, at that time it was incessantly promoting Keluarga Berencana programs. Isfanhari saw an incident of expulsion of kb promoter officers in the Genteng area at the time.

"... I feel sad when I see the incident, there are people who are promoted well and even expelled. In fact, Keluarga Berencana will have a positive impact on the lives of Indonesians". (Interviewed: Isfanhari, November 25, 2021)

Isfanhari's statement can be attributed to *the discovery of problems*. In the process of creating a work of art, an artist will be faced with a problem that must be solved, Damajanti (2013: 61). An artist must be able to find small elements in the work. As in a musical work, the composer must be able to find the right melody, verse and rhythm in order to convey the message contained in the song.

The process of creasi in music requires fresh ideas and expressing them in sound concretely, (Hidayatullah, 2020). The creation of a musical work requires several long and complex stages. There are several stages in the artist's creative process, as stated in the previous chapter. The creative process based on

John Livingston Lowes in the musical work Keroncong KB will be outlined in the following points;

1. Well Digging Process

This process is a stage to fill the mind with material and experience. In this Keroncong KB song, Isfanhari believes that the Keluarga Berencana program is a good thing. a mother who gives birth every year will cause failures in the health of her child. In fact, there are also many cases of child deaths due to mothers giving birth in the near future.

"... At that time, I didn't know much about the Keluarga Berencana program, which I knew this program was a good thing, and could be implemented by residents in Indonesia" (Interviewed: Isfanhari, November 25, 2021)

Another case that convinced Isfanhari that birth control was a good program was none other than the experience of his own family. Isfanhari's grandmother had thirteen children, of which the child born did not live as a whole, due to factors caused by the mother giving birth too often. Reporting from Halodoc.com, the Keluarga Berencana program has five benefits, including; (1) Prevent unwanted pregnancies, (2) Reduce the risk of abortion, (3) Reduce the risk of maternal and infant death. (4) Prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS. (5) Maintain the mental health of the whole family.

At the time, there was not much information about what Keluarga Berencana was. In the 1970s the media was not as sophisticated as it is today. Isfanhari sought information about Keluarga Berencana through readings in newspapers and word of mouth. But what Isfanhari thought was true. According to Agarwal in Zuhriyah (2017), the Keluarga Berencana program has been recognized as the most effective program in maternal and child health issues in global.

In this stage, the process of excavating the Isfanhari well has been fulfilled. The material contained was not much, but was sufficient when used to create songs at that time. Limited information in the 70s did not hinder Isfanhari's move to create art. You can't step into the next stage, which is the sudden vision stage through suggestion.

2. Contents Suddenly Through Suggestion

Based on the previous stage regarding the excavation of the well, a further stage appeared, namely sudden vision through suggestion. There was a high impetus from within Isfanhari to create a song about Keluarga Berencana. The feeling of sadness and emotion came when Isfanhari saw the incident of the expulsion of kb officers who were promoting at the time. Feelings of resentment mixed with emotions gave a strong impetus for Isfanhari to create a song about Keluarga Berencana. Emotions are one of the most pervasive aspects of behavior in human existence and are related to aspects of behavior, action, perception to making decisions, Djohan (2009: 91).

The decision based on *emotional suggestions* has led Isfanhari to start creating. One example in an event when there was a sentence of rejection from one of the residents, who said that the Keluarga Berencana program was a sinful act. From this, Isfanhari gave a sudden suggestion to make one of the lyric pieces, namely;

"Dibawah lindungan allah let us move forward together, Keluarga Berencana towards a prosperous and prosperous country"
(Interviewed: Isfanhari, November 25, 2021)

Through communication, suggestions occur frequently and almost at every opportunity of communication that occurs there is always a suggestion that is conveyed both consciously and tak consciously , Rohmi, et al. (2017). The result of the suggestion is responded to by a change in the behavior of the recipient of the suggestion. The sentence of rejection by residents of the Keluarga Berencana program that has been delivered, has indirectly influenced Isfanhari to create a sudden vision through suggestion. From this stage, there are also other suggestions that encourage Isfanhari to create songs from the phenomenon of promoting Keluarga Berencana programs.

3. *Completion of The Work*

This stage is the stage of pouring the material that has been obtained and suggestions into the form of work. The beginning of this song becoming a keroncong song was when in Kalirejo Village, Isfanhari's relationship was not enough, even there was only one music community in the village, namely the Keroncong Getah Jaya Orchestra. O.K Getah Jaya is a kroncong community owned by rubber plantations in the Genteng area. The existence of the keroncong

orchestra again spurred Isfanhari's enthusiasm to collaborate with the keroncong group. Musafir Isfahanhari is not a figure of keroncong music, he is a musician who has been pursuing classical music since school at SMM Yogyakarta.

At that time, Isfanhari directly studied keroncong music. With the provision of music theory obtained when he was in school, this knowledge can be applied by Isfanhari easily to make keroncong songs. The science of the form of music analysis used by Isfanhari in dissecting keroncong songs. In Damajanti (2013: 55);

"intelligence in psychology is the general mental ability involved in process such as calculating, the uses of language and adjusting new situations"

Isfanhari's greatness and intelligence in music are included in the aspect of *adjusting new situations*, namely adjusting to new conditions. The speed of learning and adaptation can be concluded that Isfanhari is someone with a high level of musical intelligence.

Although in the background, Isfanhari does not have a *track record* with the creation of keroncong songs. The main character of keroncong music is to have the exact same chords in each of its songs. The movement of chords in a keroncong can be learned easily. In Dutch the chord movement on the keroncong is referred to as *Overghang*, which always moves from the C-C7-G-F-D chord and always repeats until the end of the song. For this convenience, Isfanhari began to compose melody after melody and lyrics that matched this keroncong song.

After the song was finished, Isfanhari conveyed the song to the O.K Getah Jaya group. In the rehearsal process, Isfanhari exemplified the song through *guitar strumming*, which can be understood by members of the O.K Getah Jaya group.

"... only gave an example to them through guitar guitar drumming, and only the main melodies were what I conveyed. When it comes to chords, they are all good at it"
(Interviewed: Isfanhari, November 25, 2021)

Since then, Isfanhari started the process with O.K Getah Jaya. The array formations in the

keroncong game are *cak, cuk, cello, bass, violin* and vocals. In the keroncong, the vocal position is filled by Isfanhari himself as the songwriter. Because at that time, he really hadn't found a suitable vocal member to sing it.

The song began to be introduced in a small scope, namely in the village scope. In 1979, the song Keroncong KB was registered to participate in the national song creation competition in Surabaya and was crowned the champion. Since then the song keroncong KB began to be widely known and published in several newspapers.

The discussion above contains Isfanhari's creative process in creating the keroncong Keluarga Berencana song. This keroncong song had experienced a case of piracy in 1995 on a k DVD and some were uploaded on Youtube by irresponsible people. But over time, the sad case actually brought wisdom to the 75-year-old man. The KB keroncong song that was uploaded illegally on Youtube was known by the government until it was designated by BKKBN as a suitable song for the promotion of Keluarga Berencana programs. In 2015, Isfanhari received an invitation from the central government to get an award in a song creation event and was given the opportunity to shake hands with the president of Indonesia. Until now, Keluarga Berencana keroncong songs have been sung by keroncong communities and other music artists.



Figure 3, Ki Bagong Sabdo Sinukarto's performance performed Lagu Keroncong KB Cipt. Isfanhari
Source. Youtube Martina Ari Saraswati

CONCLUSION

The song Keroncong Keluarga Berencana is a song created by Isfanhari that has a deep message impression, and is the most phenomenal until it is used as a KB promotional song by BKKBN. Based on the phenomena and discussions that have been described above, it can be concluded that in a process of creating

art, in addition to containing elements of art or musical, it can also be related to several other elements such as psychological theory and concepts creativeness.

The creative process of Musafir Isfanhari in creating keroncong KB songs can be categorized into the creative process into three stages, including; (1) the process of filling the well, or filling the mind with materials and experiences related to the phenomenon of the promotion of Keluarga Berencana programs. (2) Sudden vision through suggestion based on distractions or interference from the outside that influences Isfanhari's suggestion of the natural realm of mind in making lyrics and melodies. (3) completion of the work, which contains the process of meeting with O.K Getah Jaya, the rehearsal process to introduce the song Keroncong KB to the public.

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