

The Social Ethics Values in Dancing Motions of Kejei Dance on Rejang Ethnic Marriage Tradition in Curup Rejang Lebong Bengkulu

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Abstract—The particular study aimed to interpretasi the social ethics values in dancing motions of Kejei dance. The research type was qualitative research with ethnographic approach. The research was conducted in Curup, Rejang Lebong Regency, Bengkulu Province. The informants of the research were Rejang customary authorities, Elders, Dancers, and Education and Culture Board of Rejang Lebong. The material object of this study was the Kejei dance motions; meanwhile the formal object was the social ethics values in Kejei dance. The research instrument was the researcher herself and guided by the observation guidance, interview, and documentation guidance. Data analysis and data filtering were conducted until obtained the adequate data by using Verstehen analysis and interpretation. Then, it continued to data validity through tests of credibility, transferability, dependability, and conformability. The results found out that the social ethics values in Kejei dance were observed in terms of motions; (1) the value of responsibility, (2) the value of courtesy, (3) the value of cooperation, (4) the values of open minded, and (5) the value of peace.

Keywords—*kejei dance, values, social ethics.*

I. INTRODUCTION

The rapid change of times era and technology in Rejang Lebong Regency has an impact on the social system of young generation. The lack of mental attitude in the middle of community, affected to the abuse of technology, then the moral quality also decreased. Lack the attention of government and parents to monitor the change of times era and technology, has bad influence to young generation. For example; unlimited internet access, means, they have easy access to pornographic video sites, etc.

Young people who are affected by pornographic sites will be easier to act an immoral behavior. For example: the hot news in *Harian Rakyat Bengkulu Newspaper* on 11 April 2016, wrote that the Chief Police of Padang Ulak Tanding, Rejang Lebong regency revealed case of murder and rape to female student of junior high school acted by 12 young people when they affected by alcohol. This news proves the moral degradation in the young generation.

The initial step to overcome the incident is by giving special attention to young generation through ethics values in an art. Gita argues that, unconsciously, person who learns art will understand the role of psychology in dancing. It means that they will indirectly gain knowledge on the basic of human nature deeply [1]. In line with Tyas, Karmini also revealed that the work of art basically has an important role in human life, namely; through the words of art, the reader can learn the experiences of the characters, both good and bad experiences [2]. Values are abstract of life guidance and are always closely related to life. Meanwhile, values are an interest to learn the beauty, seen from how the value as one of the manifestations of a unique worldview to the world [3]. Ethics is the science that discusses the morality or discusses on humans' morality. In other words, ethics is the science that investigates the moral behavior [4]. Kejei dance contains the ethics values because the dance highly respects to the value of politeness and courtesy and is one of the symbols of social interaction among people in finding a mate, which consists of men and women who have not

married yet. Female dancers must be virgin, holy and an odd number of pairs (three pairs, five pairs, and so on). The assessing of ethics values is conducted by interpreting the meaning of motions and costumes, so the Kejei dance can be a benchmark to control the social interaction and avoid the social deviation in the modern era.

The rest of this paper is organized as follow: Section II presents the proposed method. Section III presents the obtained results ad following by discussion. Finally, Section IV concludes this work.

II. PROPOSED METHOD

The research type was qualitative research with ethnographic approach. Ethnography tries to documenting as alternative reality and describes the reality in terms of natural reality itself [5]. In data collection of the particular study, understanding the community in Curup Rejang Lebong can be applied through the way of sharing the social feeling such as walking, eating together, and discussing on *Kejei* dance, through the stages of ethnographic analysis methods, i.e. domain analysis, taxonomy, compound and cultural themes The research was conducted in Curup, Rejang Lebong Regency, Bengkulu Province. The informants of the research were *Rejang* customary authorities, Elders, Dancers, and Education and Culture Board of Rejang Lebong. The material object of this study was the *Kejei* dance motions; meanwhile the formal object was the social ethics values in *Kejei* dance. The research instrument was the researcher herself and guided by the observation guidance, interview, and documentation guidance. Data analysis and data filtering were conducted until obtained the adequate data by using Verstehen analysis and interpretation. Verstehen analysis is a method to understand the object of social ethics values, symbols in motions of Kejei dance, thoughts and feelings of Rejang customary authorities, meaning of motions, and social symptoms in the Rejang Lebong community [6]. Next, interpretation analysis is further step of verstehen analysis aiming the meaning contained in motions of *Kejei* dance can be communicated to analyze the social ethical values in motions of *Kejei* dance. Then, it continued to data validity through tests of credibility, transferability, dependability, and conformability. In this case, then it continued to test the data validity using test of credibility (extended the observations to ensure the obtained data is appropriate or there is a changing), transferability (report the research results seen from motions to describe the social ethics values in *Kejei* dance to some educators as the consideration that the results of this study can be applied and appropriate for learning of arts and culture, especially dance art in the context of local dance), dependability (re-checking was done to the overall data and has been done by the valuator and advisors to check the activities of researcher such as finding problems, validate the data, analyze the data, and drawing the conclusion), and conformability (check the overall results of research data in order the data is objective through agreement with lots of people - this research has been adjusted to the Rejang

customary rules, so that the results of the research are objective.)

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Kejei Dance consists of 7 different types of motion: starting motion (*gerak awal*), motion of standby (*gerak siap*), motion of

worship (*gerak sembah*), motion of broken paddle (*gerak patah dayung*), eagle motion (*gerak elang*), invitation motion (*gerak ngajak*), and the final worship motion (*sembah akhir*). The interpretation descriptions of dance motions of *Kejei* dance are presents in Table I below:

TABLE I. 7 DIFFERENT TYPES OF MOTION

<p>a. Starting Motions</p>  <p>The starting motion begins with the first step of left foot in count as one, and then closes with the step of right foot in count as two. In count of four and five, is move nowhere, then continue to walk in count of seven and eight, as in count of one and two, performs forward motion up to the dancers' line. The body position is straight position with eyes onwards.</p>	<p>The meaning of motions: by starting with their right foot step, means, the first step with good intentions to build the household that will built in the future</p>
<p>b. Motions of Worship</p>  <p>In count of one to eight, the feet in a position of sitting kneeling with the left foot attach to the floor and the hand position above the right foot. Rise it by the both thumb meet and make a triangle form. After forming a triangle with the fingers onwards, drag them and take them upwards while fully engraved, then the position of both hands clenched. And, in count of eight, raise it and move it down into back in first positions. Perform it repeatedly as much as three times.</p>	<p>The meaning of motions: It is a symbol of respect to all parties that involved in <i>Kejei</i> dance. The worship motions for the customary authorities symbolize the request for permission to dance and apology if there are mistakes that may occur later in the dancing. The worship to the public or invited guests has meaning of asking for blessing or permission to the community to perform and bless the <i>Kejei</i> couple. And, worship to fellow dancers has meaning of honoring and meeting for the first time of single and virgin in <i>Kejei</i> dance and permission request to dance together.</p>
<p>c. Motion of Stand By</p>  <p>The stand by motion is for male. In count of one to four, the feet are walking nowhere that begins with left foot, and the position of hands is in front of the right side of the abdomen. Meanwhile, the palms are on down with the tips of the fingers are met. In the count of one to two, the hands are engraved with the right and left middle fingers are met. Then, in the count of three, the hands are brought to each side with a slightly upfront hand position. Then, in the count of four, the palms are outward with the fingertips upwards at shoulder level. The body position is straight position with eyes onward to the pairs because the standing motions are performed in pairs.</p>	<p>The meaning of motions: Symbolize the standing dancer and start the first meeting between male and female dancers.</p>

<p>d. Motion of Broken Paddle</p>  <p>In the count of one to eight, the foot position is walking nowhere, and begins with lifting the left foot. In the count of one to four, the both palms are rotated simultaneously with the position of the middle finger are met with the thumb. And, in the count of five to seven, bring it into the front of the chest. While, in the count of eight, open the space between the thumb and middle finger, and the palms position open with the fingers are met tightly upward.</p>	<p>The meaning of motions: The walking motions of male and female dancers symbolize the sailing paddles. If the paddle is broken, then the man stops to sailing. Means, humans must stopped looking for a life partner because they have found it. The hand position in front of the chest symbolizes the modesty covering the chest, which means self-care and self-limitation before marriage.</p>
<p>e. Eagle Motions</p>  <p>In the count of one to four, the male motions are same with the stand by motions, while the hands are on the back and straight down. The palms are on down and the finger tip is on backwards and holding scarf. The body position is straight with eyes onwards. Those motions are performed in a fully circle and four corners. This motion is performed simultaneously both motions of male and female. In the count of five to eight, the male dancers turn to the right, and female dancers turn to the left, then they start to walk around the <i>Penai</i> until they cross the position – the female dancers move on male dancer position and vice versa.</p>	<p>The meaning of motions: Like an eagle when hunting, it symbolizes by hands position are straight backward and holding a scarf. It likes an eagle, as well as human who are struggling to pursue his life partner.</p>
<p>f. Invitation Motions</p>  <p>The invitation motions are same with the motion of broken paddle, and the final motion of <i>Kejei</i> dance. In counts of one to four, the dancers are walking on nowhere for four counts starting with left foot. Meanwhile, the position of hands is rather opened and moves to forward. The palms are onward and the fingers are upward parallel with the shoulders, straight body position and eyes onwards. In the count of five to eight, the male dancers turn to right and the female dancer turn to left, they are ready to walk around the <i>Penei</i> and back to the first position.</p>	<p>The meaning of motions: Means an invitation to become a couple, seen from the smile of pairs of dancers, which means they accept the invitation each others. And, the dancers walks around the <i>Penei</i> and back to the first position, which means they have obtained an approval by both families and going to home without any matters.</p>
<p>g. Final Worship Motion</p>  <p>The final worship is actually same with the previous worship as the sign of respect and honor, as well as <i>Kejei</i> dance has finished. The motion performs for three times. After that, the dancer stands and goes back.</p>	<p>The meaning of motions: Give respect to the customary authorities, invited guests, and the fellow dancers, symbolize the thanks for their blessing.</p>

A. The Social Ethic Values of *Kejei* Dance

Based on the elements of ethical values of human life applied among in individuals, organizations, and the surrounding environment, must be instill the values that

proposed by Sanusi [7]. They are: (1) fair, (2) polite, (3) courtesy, (4) disciplined, (5) trustworthy, (6) honest, (7) obey to the rule, (8) mutual cooperation, (9) responsible, (10) cooperation, (11) faithful, (12) peace, and (13) open minded. Based on the elements of ethical values proposed by Sanusi,

then, the ethical values in the motions of *Kejei* dance are classified in Table II as follows:

TABLE II. THE MOTIONS OF KEJEI DANCE

Name of motions	Meaning of Motions	Social Ethics Values
Starting Motion	Start the life with good intentions	Responsible
Motion of Worship	Respect others	Polite and Courtesy
Motion of Standby	Begin the meeting of male and female	Cooperation
Motion of Broken Paddle	Keep the virginity before marriage	Obey to Rule
Eagle Motion	Looking for mate / couple	Open Minded
Invitation Motion	Invite to live together as couple	Peace
Final Worship Motion	Respect others	Polite and Courtesy

Based on the seven motions of kejei dance, it obtained six social ethics values. They are responsible, polite and courtesy, cooperation, obey to rule, open minded, and peace.

IV. CONCLUSION

Kejei Dance is a social dance that was born, lived and developed in Rejang Lebong regency. *Kejei* dance has seven motions. They are; starting motion (*gerak awal*), motion of standby (*gerak siap*), motion of worship (*gerak sembah*), motion of broken paddle (*gerak patah dayung*), eagle motion (*gerak elang*), invitation motion (*gerak ngajak*), and the final worship motion (*sembah akhir*). Based on the seven motions of *kejei* dance, it obtained six social ethics values. They are responsible, polite and courtesy, cooperation, obey to rule, open minded, and peace.

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