

Knowledge Preservation of Various Types of Braid: *Indigenous Knowledge of Minangkabau*

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Abstract—This paper aims to describe the various types of braid in Padang Pariaman in terms of the artificial value and implicit knowledge contained in the braid. The objective to be achieved in this paper is to increase community knowledge on the types of braid in Padang Pariaman Regency and the values contained. The method used is ethnographic which results in the form of verbal descriptions from the informants who master and understand something through the process of acculturation which is not just knowing but also living. Besides, they are still classified as involved in the activities being studied. Data collection techniques were carried out by observation, field notes, interviews and documentation. The results reveal that the braid in Padang Pariaman District had quite high artificial values. The braids which have philosophical value, cultural value and economic value are pandanus mats braid, bamboo braid and braid from coconut leaves while braids which have economic value without historical value are braid from ribbon, curtain and braid from stick.

Keywords: braid, indigenous knowledge, Minangkabau

I. INTRODUCTION

Padang Pariaman is a regency in the West Sumatra Province of Indonesia. This district has an area of 1,328.79 km with a population of 411003 inhabitants, Padang Pariaman Regency has the motto "Saiyo Sakato" and is headquartered in Parit Malintang (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2019).

The people of Padang Pariaman Regency have handicrafts that have descended from their ancestors, the handicrafts owned by the people of Padang Pariaman Regency are braid handicrafts. This braid handicraft contains a lot of artificial value for the people of Padang Pariaman District, artificial value is an invisible value, but can be imbued by humans. Among these artificial values are historical value, aesthetic value, cultural value, and economic value. Similar research has also been carried out by Djojuroto (2013) on the Jotan community in North Sulawesi, who discovered the historical value in *ketupat* braid which is a tradition of the Javanese village of Tondano which is carried out every year as strengthening the friendship and as a thanksgiving for the success of running fasting during *ramadhan*.

Braid is a craft and a skill activity in its making by way of infiltration and folding each other between the slats and sheets so that they strengthen each other (Minarsih, 1998). Braid is also made from the composition of blades and pandanus leaves by crossing to produce a braid structure (Angewulan, 2017).

However, basically braiding seems easy to do, although in the process of making this braid requires quite high skills, so not everyone can do it.

Braid is a work that is formed from the folds and overlapping the material into one. According to Graha (2009) weaving is an activity of braiding material in the form of a ribbon so that it becomes a single unit and reinforces one another. There are two basic techniques of weaving that are suitable for the type of braid, namely tightly braid and tenuous braid techniques. In the technique of tightly braid there are several types of braid patterns including: a) two-axis matting, namely weaving which is done by crossing two axes of each blade to form a crossed structure, the position of the weaving does not have to be always straight, but it can also form a slash; b) three-axis braid is a three-way braid pattern and does not give a tenuous hole; c) braid four axes have a pattern similar to two axes, the difference with a greater number. The basic technique of braid four axes has holes with regular octagonal shapes; d) plaited plaits or braid plaits as *sasak* braid, has twisted plaiting or braid braid; e) Braid lotus is a technique of weaving braid material which has its own difficulty level, the way to do this pattern is the material is made into boxes; and f) clove braid is a braid that resembles clove flowers.

Many types of plaits in Pariaman District, only a small portion of the people of Padang Pariaman Regency produce woven. Based on statistics from Padang Pariaman District, only 30% of the people in Padang Pariaman Regency depend on the trade, service, craftsman and teacher sectors. Among economic value that is in the type of woven, of course still has a big enough opportunity to support the economy of the community in Padang Pariaman Regency. This is in line with what was conveyed by Ms. Gusnaini, a woven trader in the Sunur area of Nan Sabaris District, saying "we are still short of suppliers of matting so that sometimes the stock runs out while there are still many who seek and need". Until this research was conducted, there were still many people who did not know much about the values contained in any type of woven, one of these values was able to support the economy of the people who produced it.

II. METHOD

The research method used is ethnographic which results in the form of verbal descriptions. The end result of making ethnography is a verbal description of the cultural situation being studied. The research area was carried out in various

regions scattered in Padang Pariaman Regency, including the Laban River, Pauh Kamar, Nagari Sunur, Kurai Taji, Limau, Santok, Kabun and border areas of the Padang Pariaman region. Data sources are visual data in the form of material structure, braid pattern, form of braid and verbal data obtained through informants. The techniques used for data collection are observation techniques, field notes, interviews and documentation. The data analysis procedure uses the interpretive analysis described with an emphasis on the study of artificial value.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A. Braids from Pandan Leaf

Pandan leaves are plants that live in marshes or on hillsides. Pandan leaves are rooted plants and have thorny leaves. It is not known when this pandanus leaf started but pandanus leaves were used by ancestors for hundreds of years ago used to make handicrafts such as making braid mats for sleeping mats, making straps to tie something, etc. Several forms of braid crafts are made of pandanus, they are:

1. "Lapiak Kasa" Braid

"Lapiak" comes from the Minang word which can be interpreted as a mat. "Lapiak" plaiting is plaited made of thorny pandanus leaves by using a two-axis dense pattern braid technique. The tools used in making "lapiak kasa" are saga or small knife, *panyawuik* is material made from small bamboo which functions to flex pandan leaves.

The historical value possessed by *lapiak* braid is the bonding of fraternity, in the past *lapiak* was used only as a gift for relatives who came from overseas, the process of *latiak* removal so that it became a close unity is a strong brotherhood value. According to a source Nurbaini said "*dulu kalau ado sanak nan pulang, baliak karantau harus mambawo lapiak, itu sabagai tando bahwa inyo alah pulang kampuang, kalau ndak bawo lapiak berarti nyo dak pulang tu doh*". In the past, every relative who returned from overseas to his hometown had to bring a *lapiak*, because it was a sign that they really had returned home. At present *lapiak* is braid to be used as a source of income by women in Nagari Muaro. The selling price of one "lapiak" reached IDR 25,000 to IDR 50.000, - each.

2. "Lapiak Aluih" braid

Basically "lapiak aluih" braid or soft mat is the same as "lapiak kasa". The pattern used is a two-axis dense pattern. The difference lies in the width of the pandan leaf used is only a half centimeter. "Lapiak Aluih" is made by using pandan puti leaves, Pandan Puti leaves are different from thorny pandan leaves. Pandan Puti leaves have finer, non-dense thorns, Pandan Puti leaves grow on hillsides and are not often found (Djojuroto, 2013). The tools used to make *lapiak* are *jangko* that used to measure the width of pandan leaves to be sliced, saga, and *Panyawuik*.

The process of making "lapiak aluih" is quite long and complicated. Pandan leaves that have been taken are then soaked for three days and three nights. This process is carried

out so that the pandanus fiber is stronger and changes the color of the pandanus to be whiter. According to the informant *Andung Liani* said the pandan soaking process is a quite complicated process, soaking pandan leaves are not only soaked and left alone, but must be reversed once every five hours, this is done so that the soaking process is quite evenly distributed.

The historical value contained in the braid "lapiak aluih" is, in the past "lapiak aluih" is only used to wait for special guests, and not used for daily life. If there is someone who is a son-in-law, the son-in-law is welcomed by stretching "lapiak aluih" and told to sit on it. "Lapiak aluih" is also used for *ninik mamak* who is holding an adat meeting or family meeting. In accordance with the explanation by a grandmother, Roslaini said "lapiak aluih" is only spread when there are respected guests coming, and not used in everyday life.

In terms of current economic value, "lapiak aluih" already has economic value, because the price of *lapiak aluih* is more expensive than "lapiak kasa". For small patterns, "lapiak aluih" is sold at IDR 65,000 per sheet, while for large patterns it is sold at IDR 100,000 per sheet.

3. "Sajadah" braid

Braid for prayer mats is made by the community around the Ulakan area, Ulakan District, Padang Pariaman Regency. Braiding for the prayer mat is the same process as making "lapiak aluih", the only difference is the smaller size. There is no historical value contained in the pandanus matt prayer braid, but the braid has a high economic value. The price of a prayer mat has a selling value of IDR 35,000 to IDR 150,000 per sheet.

4. "Katang-katang" braid

Katang-katang is a slender-shaped braid which has a diameter of 20cm. *katang-katang* has a function to accommodate special food for pariaman parties called *kanji*. The manufacturing location of this braid is in the pauh kamba hilir area and will be marketed to Payakumbuh region. The braid is made from thorny pandanus leaves, the process of making this braid is the same as making "lapiak kasa" using a two-axis pattern.

Katang-katang has its own historical value. In the past, the *Katang-katang* was used as an "uncang" or a place to store coins by "anduang-andung" or grandmothers at the market, this braid is sold at IDR 5000 per piece.

B. Braids from rattan

Rattan is a root plant that lives in forests and in swamps, rattan is elliptical like a rope, rattan lives wildly in forest areas and has a length of tens of meters. In the past, rattan was used as a rope to tie goods or harvest from the forest. Some of the braid works that can be produced from rattan are as follows:

1. Sungkuik

"Sungkuik" comes from Minang language which means *songkok* or lid. In the Minang region itself, "Sungkuik" means rice hood (Davida, 1998). "Sungkuik" is produced in Sungai

Limau, Sungai Laban dan Katapiang area and is spread in several areas in Nan Sabaris District, Padang Pariaman Regency. *Sungkuik* braid has a three-axis braids pattern which is similar to cubicle braids technique, the difference in this pattern forms three directions, wicker braid does not give a tight and tight hole, but its strength is stronger. "*Sungkuik*" is made using rattan as a basic material, living rattan in swamps or wild forests. Rattan plants usually live spreading to other trees that are around them.

The historical value that exists in "*sungkuik*" is in ancient times "*sungkuik*" was used to cover rice. But not everyone has this rice hood. "*Sungkuik*" is used to cover the son-in-law's rice to make it look neat and clean. At the market, this braid selling value is getting higher. "*Sungkuik*" priced at IDR 60,000 up to IDR 180,000, - depending on the shape and level of aesthetic value contained therein.

2. Chair

There is no cultural or historical value contained in this Rattan chair, but the Rattan chair has a high aesthetic and economic value. Rattan chairs are sold around IDR 250,000 to IDR 500,000 each.

3. Baby Swings

In the past, baby swings were made from cloth that was hung using a rope. Along with the times, the baby swing is modified from the rattan rod to be sturdier and stronger. There is no historical value contained in this Rattan Swing, but the Rattan Swing has a high aesthetic value and economic value. Rattan swing prices marketed around IDR 300,000 to IDR 750,000 per piece.

4. Garendong

According to the resource person Mr. Khaidir in the nagari area of Tandikek Batahan District, Padang Pariaman Regency. *Garendong* is a tool or place used to carry goods. It is unknown the origin of the word *garendong*, but it is possible that the word *garendong* comes from a basket that is being held. *Garendong* is made with a three axis braids pattern, but there are also those who start with a four axis braids pattern. *Garendong* has a high aesthetic value because the manufacturing process takes a long time, but *Garendong* was born because of the form of human creativity that wants to change for the better. Currently *Garendong* is marketed at a price of IDR 120,000 to IDR 350,000.

C. Braids from "Rumbio" Stem

Rumbio or *Rumbia* is a tree that grows in muddy swamps or bushes. The age of a *Rumbio* tree can last for decades, the older the *Rumbio* tree the better it is used. *Rumbio* trees are very common throughout the Padang Pariaman Regency. There are several handicrafts that can be produced from *Rumbio* trees, including:

1. Atok

Atok in the Minang language is another name for Roof. The roof is part of a building that is used to cover the house from rain and heat. In the past, *Atok* from *rumbio* was used to make a home for living. *Atok* is made from *rumbio* leaves that are old and have a very bold green color.

Rumbio leaves that have been harvested can already be directly braids without any drying process. The tool used as a bone from the roof is a stem from a coconut leaf called a "*mingkawan*". "*Mingkawan*" is made from the stem of a coconut leaf which is cut into two parts and cut one and a half meters long. This "*Mingkawan*" has been dried in the sun to dry and has a brownish color.

The historical value contained in this *atok* is, in the past the buildings in Ranah Minang were made of wood and boards. Buildings that are made are residential houses, shops, or mosques, cattle pens, etc. When installing *Atok* for the roof of the house, it has a fairly good level of humidity, so the house can stand the heat from the sun. *Atok* is currently not used for residential buildings, due to the poor durability of *Atok*. *Atok* is currently only used to make cattle sheds, or small houses in the middle of rice fields. *Atok's* marketed price is quite low, so not many people making *Atok*. *Atok* prices are sold at IDR 2,500 to IDR 6,000 per roof.

2. Tirai

The curtain made from *rumbio* midrib is produced by the people of Ulakan, Ulakan sub district, Padang Pariaman Regency. The raw material of this curtain is the skin part of the *rumbio* is sliced to a part that has a width of one centimeter and a length of two to five meters. The curtain has no historical value, but the curtain has a fairly high economic value. Curtain prices range from IDR 250,000 up to IDR 600,000 per sheet.

D. Braids from Bamboo

Bamboo trees are shrubs that live in the forest or bushes. The bamboo tree has a height of up to 15 meters with a segmented stem posture and lives in groups (Graha, 2009). In the Padang Pariaman area, bamboo trees can be found in every region, because the way of life of bamboo trees is quite easy and does not need to be planted or cared for. Many artistic creativities can be born from bamboo trees, including:

1. Niru

Niru is a rectangular shape container and has a handle opening. Previously in Padang Pariaman District, Niru was used to win rice. Niru is made from knotted bamboo skin. The process of sharpening the bamboo skin is not easy, because the Bamboo tree has a *Miang*. *Miang* is fine hair that can cause itching and discomfort. Harvested bamboo trees are bamboo trees that are quite old and have a thicker color. Weaving *Niru* uses a dense two-axis pattern, as well as weaving with pandan leaves. The process of braids Niru is the same as the process of braids from pandanus. The historical value that exists in *Niru* in Padang Pariaman Regency, *niru* was used by the mothers as a tool to winnow "*Atah*". *Atah* is a form of rice dung that must be

removed before cooking rice. Besides, *Niru* is also used to "merangin" which is the process of removing rice stalks that have just been harvested. At present *Niru* functions are not very used, so *Niru* is rarely found in the market. As for who sells *Niru* priced at IDR 5000, - to IDR 15,000 per piece.

2. Keranjang (Basket)

Basket is also a tool for laying goods or carrying goods. This bamboo-based basket is also hard to find in Padang Pariaman Regency. Previously, baskets were the main tool in transporting crops from fields such as coconut, areca nut and others. But at present, baskets are only used as trash bins and do not have such high economic value. Baskets are only sold with a price range of IDR 15,000 to IDR 50,000.

E. Braids from Coconut Sticks

1. Piring Lidi

A braids plate pattern is a rare but strong four axis braids pattern. The stick plate is not used to eat directly, but the stick plate produced in Padang Pariaman Regency is only for sale to restaurants or restaurants that have distinctive characteristics. There is no historical value contained in the stick plate, but the stick plate has a fairly high economic value. The price of a stick is currently IDR 20,000 to IDR 35,000.

F. Braids from Coconut Leafs

1. Ketupat Biasa

Ketupat is a handicraft made from coconut leaves. *Ketupat* is food made from rice that is put in a braids bag or wrapped in a braids bag of young coconut leaf shoots whose bags are rectangular and so on, then cooked (boiled), eaten as a substitute for rice (Djojuroto, 2013). Rhombus brides pattern is a two axis braiding pattern, which is a dense pattern. In the past, the *ketupat* was only used on major holidays such as Eid day or souvenirs to the in-laws' house. In Padang Pariaman Regency, *ketupat* have started to become a livelihood, because the food vendors of *ketupat* have spread throughout the regions in Padang Pariaman Regency. The average selling price of the *ketupat* is IDR 250, - per each, in one day mothers in Padang Pariaman can produce tens or even hundreds of *ketupat* per day.

2. Ketupat Dasun

Ketupat dasun is a handicraft made from coconut leaves, *Ketupat dasun* is a *ketupat* that is plaited when Eid arrives, but this rice cake is not very attractive to the people in Padang Pariaman Regency because the shape is the size of the *dasun ketupat* is smaller than ordinary *ketupat*. *Ketupat dasun* has no selling value, but has interesting artistic value.

3. Ketupat Burung

Ketupat burung is only for decoration but because the coconut leaves have poor durability in the long term, now *Ketupat burung* is often braids in the form of ribbons. However, because the process of making *ketupat burung* is quite complicated, until now there are no more people in the district of Padang Pariaman who can make them. There is no historical value in this *ketupat burung*, but it has a high artistic value.

4. Palacuik Marapulai

"*Palacuik Marapulai*" braids has a very high historical value, but this "*Palacuik Marapulai*" has no economic value. "*Palacuik Marapulai*" is used during traditional wedding ceremonies or minang parties (Hakimy & Idrus, 2001). There are several types of *palacuik marapulai* which are a unity that must be present during a "*marapulai*" party or making a bridegroom. Among them are: *karambia satandan*, *janjang kuku kambi*, *Liku-liku*, and *laruih*.

IV. CONCLUSION

There are many types of braids in Padang Pariaman Regency, among them are braids from pandanus, bamboo, rattan, coconut leaves and ribbons. From each braid has different artificial values. Not all braids have a philosophical value such as braids plate sticks, braids curtains and ribbon braids, but they have economic value that is sufficient to support the economy of the people in Padang Pariaman Regency. There are a number of plaits which have philosophical value and have economic value including ordinary pandanus braids, alandan braids, *gago*, *garendong*, *niru*, *atok*, *sungkuik* and *valveek*. There are also some plaits which have no economic value but which have very sacred cultural and philosophical values, such as "*Palacuik Marapulai*".

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