



Cultural Literacy: Understanding the Cooperation Value in Pacu Jalur Tradition

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Abstract. This study aims to describe cultural literacy in understanding the cooperation value in Pacu Jalur tradition. Cultural literacy is defined as the ability to understand, analyze, communicate, and participate in cultural activities related to language, traditions, customs, values, beliefs, and arts and the ability to apply the values within the diverse cultures in everyday life. This study is a qualitative research with an ethnography approach that examined various aspects of culture. This study was conducted in Teluk Kuantan, Riau province. The results of the study signified that Pacu Jalur as a tradition in Teluk Kuantan community contained many values. One of the profound values contained in Pacu Jalur tradition is cooperation value. Cooperation can be seen from the process of making a Jalur to the race on the banks of Narosa river. The process from making a track to the race was not an easy job so it required cooperation of all parties. It can be concluded that the value of cooperation is the core value seen in Pacu Jalur tradition.

Keywords: Cultural Literacy · Cooperation Value · Pacu Jalur Tradition · Ethnography

1 Background of the Study

Indonesia is a country that has a rich cultural diversity and customs with various characteristics in each region. It also contains noble values as a guidance for the people within the culture. Indonesian society has long been known for its friendliness, generosity, cooperation, politeness and so on. Such a life has become part and characteristic of Indonesian culture which has become a tradition [1]. This is reflected in people's lives that cannot be separated from traditional and cultural values that are passed down from one generation to the next.

Literacy skills are one of the 21st century skills that must be mastered and possessed. Among these literacy skills is cultural literacy [2]. Multicultural literacy is the ability to understand and appreciate the similarities and differences in the customs, values, and beliefs of one's own culture and the cultures of others. Multicultural literacy consists of: value diversity, exhibit an informed sensitivity, actively engage with/in other cultures [2]. Cultural literacy is the ability to understand, analyze, communicate, and participate in cultural activities related to language, traditions and customs, values, beliefs, arts and the ability to apply the values contained in diverse cultures in everyday life. Cultural

literacy in the results of the research focuses on understanding the values contained in the Pacu Jalur tradition of the Kuantan Singingi community.

Talking about culture or local wisdom cannot be separated from the existence of the local community. This is caused by the growth and development of culture which are supported by humans in a society or community. Like the Teluk Kuantan community in Kuantan Singingi Regency, Riau Province, has cultural diversities, one of which is Pacu Jalur. Pacu Jalur is said to be a tradition because of its existence which has been going on for a very long time until today from each generation as a legacy which has become the pride of the people of Teluk Kuantan. Tradition is an idea, belief, or behavior from the past which symbolically handed down with a certain meaning to a group or society as an act repeated in the same form. Different from that idea, Pacu Jalur tradition, is an activity that has existed for a long time, has become a tradition and custom (estimated since 1903) from generation to generation, as well as a characteristic and pride that affects the joints of people's lives [3, 4]. The character values contained in the Pacu Jalur tradition are religious character, cooperation, responsibility, discipline, hard work, unity and unity, sportive and communicative [5-7].

Pacu Jalur is a tradition considered as one of the local wisdoms of the Kuantan Singingi community in Riau Province and it is also a cultural heritage rich of noble values or politeness. Therefore, an understanding of the values contained in Pacu Jalur tradition as a form of literacy is important to have. This means not only knowing the traditions as ceremonial but more than that.

This is rather different from the reality that there were limited people did the interview with the researcher. It was found that there are still few people who understand the values contained in the traditions contained in the area where they live, including the values in the Pacu Jalur tradition. Therefore, the researchers conducted research in order to explore the value of cooperation contained in Pacu Jalur tradition.

2 Research Methods

This research was qualitative research using ethnographic method. Ethnographic method is a method for describing, analyzing, and interpreting patterns of behavior, beliefs, and language in a culture-sharing group, which develops over time [8]. The core point in ethnographic method is culture, which includes language, rituals, economic and political structures, life stages, interactions, and communication styles [8]. Furthermore, ethnography is the work of describing culture as a way to take a closer look at the meanings of actions from events being observed. This illustrates that ethnography is not only studying culture but also studying and understanding the values or meanings of the culture [9]. This study was conducted in Teluk Kuantan, Riau Province. The data collection techniques were carried out by doing observation, interviews and documentation.

3 Result and Discussion

Tradition comes from the Latin word *tradere* or *traderer* which literally means to send, to hand over, to give for safekeeping [10]. According to Langlois 2001 in [10] tradition is

an idea, belief or behavior from past that is inherited symbolically with a certain meaning to a society. Tradition is an activity done repeatedly in the same form [11].

Pacu Jalur in Kuantan Teluk, Kuantan Singingi Regency is one of the traditions found in Riau Province. It is not clearly found the exact time of Jalur known by the people of Teluk Kuantan, Kuantan Singingi but it was popularized around early 1903. Jalur at that time was not as beautiful as it is now since the community used a large boat for carrying crops. The boat with a length of 17 m is sufficient to load 40 people [4]. According to the Kuantan community, Jalur is a large boat with a length of about 25–30 m and a width of 1–1.5 m used for carrying 40–60 spurs made of a whole wooden tree, without being split, cut or spliced [3, 4].

Pacu Jalur as a tradition found in Teluk Kuantan community contains various noble values. Pacu Jalur tradition has values and characters evolved in people's lives [5]. This is in line with Suwardi's opinion that in the racing tradition there is a value of cooperation [5]. These values develop in life in a society that has become a habit. The value of cooperation is contained in the tradition of Pacu Jalur, starting from the process of making Jalur to the process of Pacu Jalur racing.

The tradition of Pacu Jalur is very bold with the value of cooperation, this can be seen from the process of making jalur until the race is carried out. The process of making jalur requires a lot of cost and energy. The money used during the process of making jalur up to the racing is collected from community contributions voluntarily according to their will, both in the form of money and others. There should be a long process with many stages done to make jalur. The stages of making jalur are as follows: (1) Village meeting, (2) wood searching, (3) log cutting, (4) wood cutting, (5) threads removing, (6) jalur shaping, (7) wood scraping, (8) wood smoothing, (9) jalur bending, (10) arch shaping, (11) kakok hole making, (12) wood flipping, (13) timbuku hanging, (14) rudder forming, (15) jalur pulling, (16) jalur smoothing, (17) jalur sailing, (18) jalur decorating, (19) jalur preparation to the river [4]. Therefore, in the process of making jalur, cooperation is important, without cooperation, the creation of jalur will not be completed.

Furthermore, cooperation value is not only found during the process of making jalur, but it also could be found in Pacu Jalur race. This can be seen from various activities carried out together. During the race, cooperation is the core values to be considered by all participants. The cooperation among the participants to paddle the boat until it reaches the final stake is needed. The participants or oarsmen work together to win the race they are participating in. Without cooperation, it will be difficult to win the race.

The value of cooperation in Pacu Jalur tradition, starting from jalur construction to jalur race, can be seen from the activities carried out, namely:

- 1) doing work together
- 2) being solid in a work team
- 3) prioritizing togetherness
- 4) appreciating other people's contributions
- 5) taking turns in doing the work
- 6) not imposing individual will, and
- 7) respecting the opinions of others.



Fig. 1. Pacu Jalur Tradition

The process of making jalur until using it in the race is a tough job. Therefore, cooperation is crucial during the process of making jalur and it cannot be completed on time if cooperation is ignored.

Cooperation is not only when the pacu is being made, but cooperation is also very much needed during the pacu jalur which is held on the Kuantan river. The cooperation during the pacu jalur can be seen from the activities, namely:

- 1) preparing for the needs of rowers while participating in the race
- 2) registering as pacu jalur participants
- 3) taking turns taking pacu order numbers
- 4) racing according to the sequence number
- 5) respecting the pacu participants
- 6) complying with the race rules
- 7) rowing the lane together
- 8) supporting each other
- 9) respecting differences
- 10) carrying out responsibilities
- 11) rowing together lane
- 12) respect the jury's decision.

Cooperation during the pacu jalur is important, without cooperation in the implementation of the pacu jalur, will not be able to reach the finish (Fig. 1).

Moreover, without cooperation in during Pacu Jalur or the race, the oarsmen will not be able to reach the finish line. In other words, the success of achieving the goals that has been set is strongly influenced by the cooperation of various parties. This is in line with Rawls's opinion in [12] that social cooperation allows a better life than living alone. This opinion shows that cooperation in life is very important for everyone.

4 Conclusion

Pacu jalur as a tradition that develops in the Kuantan Singingi community contains noble values, including the value of cooperation. The value of this cooperation can be seen from the start of the process of making the track to the race track being held. Cooperation is the main value contained in the spur lane tradition. This is because the activity of making the track up to the track race is carried out is a tough job that cannot be completed individually. Without cooperation, it will be difficult to make a path. Likewise, when the racetrack is carried out without cooperation, it will be difficult to reach the finish. This shows that it is important to understand and have a cooperative attitude. Therefore, the ability to understand the value of cooperation contained in the pacu jalur tradition is important for the younger generation as an illustration of their cultural literacy skills.

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