

# Gogok War Tradition as a Way of Local Culture Preservation in Globalization Era: A Study of Anthropolinguistics on Buara People, Brebes

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**Abstract**—Indonesia is a country which has culture diversity in every region of the nation, each culture has their own unique and characteristics which can differ from other regions. Culture is shaped by the habit of the people that have the same principle which understand and interact to each other. Therefore, culture of a certain people will show as their identity. In the era of advance science and globalization, local culture may be neglected by people so that the tradition value starts fading. However, there will be certain people that preserve their local wisdom. One of these people is people in Buara Village, Ketanggungan, Brebes. They still practice a tradition which is inherited from the past generation in a wedding ceremony, namely *Gogok War*. *Gogok war* is a dance which is performed by two males in a wedding ceremony after the groom and bridesmaid say a promise that they will be together forever. The dance tries to tell people about bad and good behavior. This study belongs to qualitative research which aims to, 1) know the history of *Gogok War* in wedding ceremony of Buara village people in Ketanggungan, Brebes, 2) know the practice in a more detail process, 3) describe how people in Buara village preserve the *Gogok War* tradition. The result of the study is expected to increase the knowledge about culture diversity in Indonesia which is still practiced until now in Buara Village. The people of the village still practice the tradition of *Gogok War* as a way to preserve local culture in the era of globalization and still hold the belief of the tradition from the past generation.

**Keywords**—local culture, *Gogok war*, and anthropolinguistics discussion

## I. INTRODUCTION

Today is an era when people need to communicate by the means of digital technology in every aspect of life. Electronic media has made life easier so that people that are separated by time and space can communicate and interact to each other. In other words, it can make people who are far away from each other can talk as if they sit side by side. However, this life which seems to be convenience will make people forget to keep in touch in the real life. One of communication means is language. Language can express people feeling. Many say that language is a form of culture and vice versa.

Language and culture are two products by human thinking which cannot be separated. Many experts have theories about the relationship between language and culture. one of those is Willem von Humboldt, a German

philosopher. He said “*Language by its very nature represents the spirit and national character of a people*”, [1]. Humboldt believes that every existing language in the world is a culture product of the people. Hence, the people point of view is represented by the language. Language is the product of a culture. Language is the reflection of the people who use it to interact to each other.

That culture is only possessed by human and grow together with the society [2]. In today society, local culture is having some threats.

Therefore, this paper analyzes local culture in Buara Village, Brebes by using anthropolinguistics discussion. The name of the tradition is *Gogok War*. The problem formulation will be discussed is: 1) the history of *Gogok War* practiced in the wedding ceremony by the people in Buara Village 2) the way people in Buara village practice the tradition and 3) the way people in Buara village preserve their tradition.

The rest of this paper is organized as follow: Section II presents the notion of language and culture. Section III presents obtained results and following by discussion. Finally, Section IV concludes this work.

## II. RUDIMENTARY

Culture is a very wide terms and the terms have many meanings. In this study, culture is not meant as music, literature or art. Culture here is a knowledge that is needed to know by someone who lives in a certain society [3]. The definition of culture: “a society’s culture consists of whatever it is one has to know or believe in order to operate in a manner acceptable to its members, and to do so in any role that they accept for any one of themselves” [4].

“Culture, therefore, is the ‘knowledge’ how that person must possess to get through the task of daily living.” The definition has not concerned the language aspect which relates to culture. Anthropology is a knowledge which learn people and culture as a whole in a society tradition [5]. In one side, human is the inventor of culture, in another side culture can “create” people in accordance with the environment. Hence, there is strong relationship between people and culture.

Language and culture have coordinative relationship, and they share the same level. Culture and language are a system that really relate to human being [6]. The

relationship between language and culture cannot be separated and it is difficult to identify since they influence each other. There are two kinds of language and culture [7], which are:

- a. Language is the part of culture (phylogenetic) and
- b. Someone who learns culture through his language (ontogenetic).

Language can be used to preserve the culture. A culture can be understood and respected by the people who can master the language. There are some arguments which say that culture exist after the language, without language there will be no culture. Indeed, the language used by people is affected by their culture. In semantic analysis, that language is unique and have strong relationship with the culture of the people [8]. Hence, language analysis can only be used in that language and is unable to use in another language. According to [9], language is a product of culture. In this case, culture affects the language and language is a reflection of the culture of the people. Anthropolinguistics approach emphasizes more on function and application in the context of the socio culture condition.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We have known that every region has their own cultures. Until now, many regions still practice the tradition which is inherited by the past generation. It also happens in southern Brebes, especially in Buara Village, Ketanggungan, Brebes. Many traditions which are practiced by the people of Buara Village, one of them is *Gogok War*.

*Gogok war* is a dance performed by two males after the act when the groom and bridesmaid promise to each other. The dance shows us the good and bad behavior. *Gogok* is another term of jar. The tradition performed by two males in 10 until 15 minutes. The first male carries a shield made of big bamboo to protect the jar. The other male carries a rice spoon made of wood as a tool for breaking the jar and he also hands traditional fan made of bamboo and it is tightened on his waist. Equipment needed are jar, fan made of bamboo, rice spoon and things needed when the groom and bridesmaid throw some goods to people or it is also known as *saweran*.

In the past, people wore the traditional white clothes and shorts for male acting as good behavior and black clothes and shorts for male acting as bad behavior. The *Gogok* dancers have supernatural power which common people do not possess. However, the time has changed and many people do not want to practice certain rituals, they also do not believe mystical things and do not want to prepare for the traditional clothes. Hence, the *Gogok* dancers nowadays are performed by the common people and they do not necessarily require having supernatural power. The clothes they wear are ordinary clothes which are not specially designed for this occasion.

There is limited information when the *Gogok war* started to be practiced by the people, but some says that it has already existed before the Indonesia independence days. The *Gogok war* is only performed in the wedding ceremony of the marriage between the first child and the first child, the first child and the last child, the only child and the last child, the last child and the last child. The practice has some

explicit aims and meanings. Although it seems like they just perform it with no purposes, but actually the practice has some meanings. People also think that the *Gogok war* is just an ordinary dance for entertainment. However, it has some meanings.

Based on the interview with the public figure there, the meaning of *Gogok War* practice represents the good and bad behavior of the married couple. In the marriage life, there will be some disputes. The *Gogok war* shows the characteristics when the married couples have a dispute. *Gogok* or jar represents bad behavior, and spoon rice represents good behavior. When the jar is successfully broken, it means that bad behavior can be defeated by good behavior. There must be some emotional feelings after the couple get married. It is expected that the life of the married couple can always throw the bad behavior away.

Every *Gogok war* will succeed in breaking the jar. There is an expectation that when the couple gets married, they can beat the bad behavior. The dancer who holds the rice spoon and bamboo fan represents an occasion when the bad behavior must be able to handle with calm mind and heart. The jar that can be used is a hot water filled jar, hot water represents bad behavior.

The dance is an entertainment to watch since it is only performed in a special occasion and it has some jokes. The dance is only performed in a certain wedding. It is practiced in the wedding between the first children because the first child is stubborn and selfish. Besides, the *Gogok war* is practiced in the wedding between the last children, because they are spoil and selfish also.

*Gogok war* also has a joke that can make people laugh, so that they will not feel bored. The language used in the joke is Sundanese, but it uses body language more. The kind of joke is for example, when the dancer pretends to carry the jar, acting as if he gives the jar to the opponent. When the opponent will break the jar, the jar is suddenly protected by the bamboo shield. The dance uses traditional gamelan music or the hysteria of the audience. The audiences are not only the villager's surroundings, but also the villagers from other villages.

After breaking the jar, there will be an occasion when the married couple and their families throw some coins to people. The tradition is called as *saweran*. Adults and also children take parts in those occasions. The tools that are used to collect money are umbrellas, wooden hat, and other tools. While the gamelan music plays, the *Gogok War* comes to an end. Local wisdom is a term deriving from "local genius" which means the ability of local culture to challenge the influence of alien culture when those cultures collide [10]. Meanwhile, [11] say local wisdom is basic knowledge gained from living in balance with nature. Based on that statement, nowadays, the advance of technology has developed and the people [mindset becomes sophisticated, but people of Buara village still keep their local culture to show their identity. In this modern era, there are still people who can preserve their local culture.

### IV. CONCLUSION

The *Gogok war* tradition is a culture that is still practiced in Buara Village, Ketanggungan, Brebes. Since no one

knows exactly when this dance appears for the first time, but many people say that this has appeared before Indonesia Independence Day. The *Gogok War* is practiced when the married couple is between the first children in which it symbolizes the first child is a stubborn and selfish man or woman. The *Gogok war* is a dance performed by two males by using shields and rice spoon while the gamelan music plays. It also uses body language. The requirement to perform the tradition is only when the married couple are between the last children, to symbolize that they tend to be selfish. Since Buara Village people still practice this tradition, it means that they want to keep this tradition alive although some say that it does not need to be practiced in this modern era. The *Gogok war* also symbolizes some meanings and it can be proved from the reasons why the tradition is held and from the equipment being used in the practice.

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