

FUNCTION OF AND VALUES CONTAINING IN THE STORY OF *WAYANG BEBER PACITAN*

Margana

Fine Art Education of Teacher Training and Education Faculty of Surakarta Sebelas Maret
University

email: margana60@yahoo.co.id Phone. 082134509722

Abstract: This research aimed to find out the function of and the values containing in *Wayang Beber Pacitan* performance. This study was a descriptive qualitative research. Techniques of collecting data used were observation, interview, and document analysis. The sampling technique used was purposive sampling one. Data analysis was carried out using an interactive model of analysis, while data validation was conducted using triangulation. From the result of research, it can be concluded that *wayang beber* is a traditional art of Archipelago having distinctive peculiarity compared with other *wayang* types. The peculiarity of *wayang beber* lies on its painting form and performing method spread (extended) out, and retold by the narrator corresponding to the content of story. The existence of *wayang beber* has a very important function and values for its proponents including; *wayang bebers* has ritual, social, and economic functions, and the story contains character education values including: responsibility, loyalty, subservience, nationalism, and persistence in reaching ideals.

Keywords: Wayang beber, character education

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is well-known for a variety of *wayang* art including *wayang beber*. This type of *wayang* has distinctive peculiarity and is different from other common type of *wayang*. *Wayang beber*'s peculiarity lies on its visual form and performing method. In *Wayang kulit*, every character is prepared one by one and one and given handle, while *wayang beber* is in the form of painting on a roll of paper or cloth featuring some scenes and it is performed through extending the paper or clothe out (*dibeber* in Javanese), and then the narrator retells the story according to the act. Therefore it is called *wayang beber*.

Wayang beber is also called 'Javanese comic', as it constitutes the painting on a roll of paper or cloth containing some scenes drawn chronologically corresponding to the story plot.

Historically, *wayang beber* exists in two places: In Gunung Kidul Regency of Yogyakarta and Pacitan Regency. Therefore based on its origin, *wayang beber* is called *Wayang beber Wonosari* and *wayang beber Pacitan*. The presence of *wayang beber Pacitan* exists in Gedompol village, Donorojo Sub District, Pacitan Regency. *Wayang beber Pacitan* has believably been existing since Majapahit time.

Wayang beber is unique traditional art type because this *wayang beber* is the only one found in Indonesia or world. *Wayang beber* is made in complicated painting in the

form of paper roll. Totally, there are six rolls, and each roll contains four scenes (*jagong*). So, totally there are 24 *jagong* (scenes). Many character and other pictures of flora and faun are painted on each scene. There are also human, animal, plant elements (the floras drawn on each sheet are different), *gaman* or weapon (for example kris, lance) and other painting.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

As aforementioned, *wayang beber* has some peculiarities in its performing method and story. *Wayang beber* performance takes Panji story. The story is a love story well-known in agrarian society. This story has been recomposed in many versions developing in the society. The core of Panji story is the marriage between Raden Panji Asmara Bangun (Panji Inu Kertapati) from Jenggala Kingdom and Dewi Sekartaji (Candrakirana), the princess of Kediri Kingdom.

To find out the content of *wayang beber* story, the write took *Wayang Beber* performance with the story “*Kawine Dewi Sekartaji*” in Gedompol Village, Donorojo Sub District, Pacitan Regency, as the example. Meanwhile the plot of story is retold as follows:

Prabu Brawijaya, the king of Kediri Kingdom, called his servants including Patih Tanda Prawira Mantri Arya Deksa Negara to come before Him in the Palace. Patih Arya Deksa who at that time was discussing the state security with his subordinates came in a hurry to see Sang Prabu. After the kingdom’s officials have come and sent their respect greeting, Sang Prabu told Patih about the loss of Dewi Sekartaji. For that reason, the king – called Prabu Brawijaya by *dalang* Mardi and local people, although this name was not known during Kediri time around the 11th century and was just known during Majapahit time in the 13th century – held a prize contest to find her daughter. The contest told that whoever can find Dewi Sekartaji, regardless his/has their background, will be her daughter’s husband (if he is male), and will be his daughter’s sister (if she is female). Thereafter, Patih Arya Deksa was assigned to announce the prize contest to all people in that country.

Soon after, a youth came before the Kediri Kingdom to attend the price contest. This youth has a very high supernatural power as indicated with the presence of a wild ox (*banteng*) in Kediri’s square (*alun-alun*) subjected to him. The King was surprised seeing the youth’s supernatural power, then asked Patih Arya Deksa information about the youth. Patih informed that the youth is *Jaka Kembang Kuning*, coming from Ketambor, the messenger of Ki Demang Kuning.

Then, the king told his servant to call Jaka Kembang Kuning to come before the King. Jaka Kembang Kuning was asked by the King whether or not he can find Dewi Sekartaji, and may not come back to Kediri Kingdom before he finds Dewi Sekartaji. With his pleasure, Jaka Kembang Kuning stated his capability of finding Dewi Sekartaji constituting her sweetheart. In his search for Dewi Sekartaji, Jaka Kembang Kuning met the soldier of Prabu Klana who would follow the price contest.

Jaka Kembang Kuning then said goodbye to Sang Prabu and went to find Dewi Sekartaji. He was accompanied with his two servants: Ki Tawang Alun and Ki Nolo

Dermo. Having made a retiring journey, Ki Tawang Alun recommended Jaka Kembang Kuning a way of finding the Princess immediately. The way of finding Dewi Sekartaji was to hold *Barang Terbang* performance (a kind of *terbangan* [tambourine] art) in Katumenggungan market, because Dewi Sekartaji liked to see *Barang Terbang*.

Dewi Sekartaji running away from the palace in fact went to Ki Tumenggung Paluamba's residence in Katumenggungan. At that time, Nyi (Mrs.) and Ki (Mr.) Katumenggungan were quarrelling about Nyi Katumenggungan's dream of getting twin revelations. Amid the quarrel, they were surprised suddenly with Sekartaji's come. They were very afraid of Dewi Sekartaji's come because they would be accused to hide Sekartaji. Therefore, Nyi Tumenggung advised Sekartaji to come back to Kediri immediately. However, Sekartaji did not want to leave Ki Menggung's house and even threatened that she would go anywhere when Ki and Nyi Tumenggung did not want to receive her. They were compelled to receive Sekartaji to live temporarily in their home. Soon after that, Jaka Kembang Kuning's group arrived at Katumenggungan market to hold *Barang Terbang* performance. All visitors and surrounding people were in uproar, as they see a very young and handsome artist of *barang terbang*.

The uproar or crowd was herd immediately by Nyi Tumenggung and she was interested in inviting and holding *Barang Terbang*. Nyi Menggung asked Ki Tawang Alun how long they have played *Barang Terbang*. Ki Tawang Alun said that it was the first time he played *barang terbang*. Ki Tawang Alun showed *Barang Terbang* in Katumenggungan house yard. At that time, Dewi Sekartaji seemed to watch the art under Banyan tree.

Having completed the performance, Jaka Kembang Kuning along with servant went back to Ketambor. As soon as he arrived at Ketambor, Jaka Kembang Kuning was asked by his father, Ki Demang Kuning, about what Prabu Brawijaya has instructed to him. Jaka Kembang Kuning stated that he was delegated to find Dewi Sekartaji who went to the palace and finally has been found in Katumenggungan.

Jaka Kembang Kuning delegated Ki Tawang Alun came to see Prabu Brawijaya, the ruler of Kediri Kingdom, to report that Gusti Ayu Dewi Sekartaji has been found. Meanwhile, Ki Naladerma was delegated by Jaka Kembang Kuning to see Dewi Sekartaji in order to give her a *kotak kencana* (gold box). As soon as receiving the instruction, both of them go to do respective assignments.

Having arrived at Kediri, Ki Tawang Alun saw Raden Gandarepa who was quarrelling with Raden Sedah Rama. The quarrel formerly departing from dissent ceased suddenly after Ki Tawang Alun has come. Soon after, Ki Tawang Alun escorted by Raden Gandarepa came to see sang Prabu. However, their measure was stopped by Raden Klana Gendinggepita's arrival, who wants to bring Dewi Sekartaji to her country to be his wife. Raden Gandarepa explained that the one deserving to be Sekartaji's husband is Jaka Kembang Kuning because he has found the Princess successfully. However, Raden Klana Gendinggepita did not care about it and compelled to bring Sekartaji with him. The circumstance was getting hotter, the oral war was getting sharper between them. The culmination was when Raden Gandarepa challenged Raden Klana to fight against Ki Tawang Alun.

In some following days, Raden Klana came to kaputren palace of Kediri kingdom through back door. Before entering into the Palace, he asked his little brother, Retna Tenggaron, to adorn him in order to be disguised from the kingdom soldier. He said, Tenggaron, please adorn me, to disguise and to come into kaputren of Kediri and bring Dewi Sekartaji with him”, “yes brother, I will adorn you”, answered Tenggaron briefly.

In his disguise, Raden Klana went carefully to the palace via back door. How surprised he was as he was caught red handed by Raden Gandarepa. Raden Klana was expelled from that place and saw Ki Tawang Alun. Their quarrel was inevitable. The violent quarrel was finally won by Ki Tawang Alun. Raden Klana Gendingpita died with broken-off neck due to Ki Tawang Alun’s kris.

After Raden Klana has died, Jaka Kembang Kuning came to see Prabu Brawijaya to demand his promise fulfillment and told his servant to adorn Dewi Sekartaji immediately. Finally, Dewi Sekartaji got married with Jaka Kembang Kuning and lived happily forever.

The existence of *wayang beber* and the story performed contain the following values.

Values contained in wayang beber

Wayang beber has multifunction including: ritual/spiritual and social-economic functions. *Wayang Beber* is inseparable from Gedampol villagers upholding communality values and harmony. *Wayang beber* becomes a very important in maintaining and growing its proponent solidarity. Thus, social cohesion can always be reformed through customary rite organized by performing *Wayang Beber*. In addition, considering and listening to *wayang beber* narrator’s statement, the people always get religious advice from the narrator about the importance of living in concord and maintaining social harmony. Briefly, *wayang beber* is not only an attractive spectacle, but also the guidance for the audience holding on the culture. *Wayang Beber* can be an important social institution in Gedampol Village people’s life.

Wayang Beber contains very high advice or moral tenet, for example, teaching human being to live warily, to keep introspecting and always remember God’s power. It also contains advice to live within society by avoiding negative speech that can harm social relation. Human being should maintain balanced relationship between human beings and God, between human beings and nature, and between human beings.

This art has economic function as well, eliciting economic benefit to *dalang* Mardi’s family in particular and to Gedampol villagers in general. *Wayang Beber* and narrator in this village are the only ones left in Indonesia thereby having distinctive uniqueness. *Wayang Beber*’s uniqueness and peculiarity has generated interest in many stakeholders including state officials, cultural observer, artist, researcher, student, and other society beyond Gedampol, not only Indonesian people but also foreigners. The high interest in coming to this village impacts on the social-economic activity of local society.

Wayang Beber also has cultural function, becoming the identity of local society’s culture and reflecting local wisdom. *Wayang beber* represents agrarian culture of local society living in hilly and dry field environment. Majority people live as farmers and in colony in hamlet or village. Farmer society is the one upholding harmony and concord

values, still holding on the old values originating from ancestor's tenet and Hindu and Buddha tradition. Therefore, animism and dynamism elements are still found in daily life practice of local people. It is these values that are crystallized later and preserved through *wayang beber* art. So, actually that *wayang beber* is the manifestation of local people cosmology still holding on the old values. Borrowing term Clifford Geertz, Gedompol villagers can be categorized into *abangan* group (distinguished with *santri* and *priyayi*), the farmer society group still maintaining pre-Hindu-Buddha values emphasizing on the adoration to the spirit of ancestors. They still believe in village's tutelary spirit, natural power, and hold customary rites followed with a variety of offerings as the means related to supra-natural power. It is in this context that *wayang beber* live everlastingly until today. It becomes local identity distinguishing Gedompol village from others.

In addition, *wayang beber* in Gedompol Village is considered not only as the high-value art work product, but also considered as heirloom not everyone can touch or play. Only *Wayang Beber* narrator's descent may hold on, store, and perform the art.

Wayang beber includes folklore, so that there is no written note to which puppetry refers. All *wayang beber* puppetry knowledge and skill are sent down orally. Therefore, there is a very large probability of misspelling or misunderstanding *wayang beber* between previous generation and the next. Oral tradition relies on the actors' power of memory and absolute belief, rather than on textual truth. In this sacredness context, *wayang beber* is mistic-legendary, closed, and difficult to study by others beyond nucleus family or original puppeteer (narrator) descent.

Local Wisdom Value of Wayang Beber story content

The story raised in *wayang beber* performance as aforementioned contains local wisdom values. Local wisdom values contained in *wayang beber* story are: an individual's loyalty to his/her partner, the willingness of officials, nobility or superior group to interact with ordinary people and the persistence to attempt to achieve ideal or wish, as elaborated below.

1) An individual's loyalty to his/her partner

Considering the story contained in *wayang beber* there are main characters named Panji Jaka Kembang Kuning atau Panji Asmarabangun and Dewi Sekartaji. Both Panji Jaka Kembang Kuning and Sekartaji have loyalty to their lover. Panji Jaka Kembang Kuning made disguise and wandered patiently to find Sekartaji who left the palace to bring Dewi Sekartaji back to the palace. Similarly, Dewi Sekartaji in his wandering kept her loyalty to Panji Jaka Kembang Kuning. Although she was seduced by Raja Klana to be his wife in which Raja Klana disguised as Gandarepa (his brother), Sekartaji kept refusing him and waiting for the coming of Panji Jaka Kembang Kuning loyally.

2) The willingness of officials, nobility group or superior group to interact with ordinary people.

Both Jaka Kembang Kuning and Dewi Sekartaji were the members of kingdom family with high social status. Nevertheless, they were not reluctant to interact with

ordinary people in their life circle in the long period of time until they find what they search for.

3) Persistence to achieve ideals or wish

In *wayang beber* story there is also moral message related to persistence to attempt to achieve an ideal or wish. It can be seen from the attempt that has been taken by Panji Jaka Kembang to do anything to achieve their ideals, in finding Dewi Sekartaji leaving the palace and getting married with Dewi Sekartaji when she has been found and brought back to the kingdom palace. Panji Jaka Kembang Kuning's persistence deserves to be role model as he kept wandering and would have not come back to the palace before he found Dewi Sekartaji successfully

CONCLUSION

Wayang Beber as the original Archipelago painting art work constituting a unique and scarce fine art work, as it is the only painting inherited from Majapahit period still left now. *Wayang beber* performs the story of Panji constituting romantic story well-known in agrarian community. This story was composed in many versions developing within society including the addressing of Panji character. The story of Panji is the marriage between Raden Panji Asmara Bangun (Panji Inu Kertapati) from Jenggala Kingdom and Dewi Sekartaji (Candrakirana), the princess of Kediri kingdom.

There are some lessons that can be taken from the existence of *wayang beber*: *wayang beber* serves as traditional art with ritual/spiritual, cultural, and social-economic functions, and the story contains local wisdom values about moral tenet still relevant to life now. Those local wisdom values can be included into local content subject material or cultural art lesson in senior high schools. Including *wayang beber* into local content material or cultural art subject will grow the next generation's understanding on and love to *wayang beber* as archipelago cultural inheritance, so that it can be preserved for its existence, and developed and utilize for many people's interest,.

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