

Analysis Of The Local Wisdom Values In The Nyengkelan Tanah Tradition

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Abstract

This study examines the local wisdom values embedded in the Nyengkelan Tanah traditional ritual among the Dayak Kantuk ethnic group in Jelemuk Village, Bika District, Kapuas Hulu Regency. Nyengkelan Tanah is a traditional ritual to bless the land that the Dayak Kantuk community will use or be designated for farming. In Jelemuk Village, Bika District, the Nyengkelan Tanah tradition is carried out annually before the community starts planting rice in their fields. This ritual represents a form of traditional practice that holds deep significance in the social, cultural, and spiritual life of the Dayak Kantuk people. The study aims to identify and understand the aspects of local wisdom integrated into this ritual and its impact on cultural preservation and social harmony. The research employs a qualitative approach with data collection techniques including in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and document analysis. Data analysis techniques are data reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing. The analysis involved eleven informants, consisting of seven key informants and four additional supporting informants. The findings reveal that the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual encompasses important local wisdom values such as communal cooperation and solidarity, cultural preservation, respect for ancestors, and the maintenance of tradition. This ritual strengthens cultural identity and serves as a mechanism for maintaining ecological and social balance within the Dayak Kantuk community. The study is expected to contribute to the documentation and preservation of local wisdom values and enhance understanding of the role of traditional rituals in contemporary society.

Keywords: Local Wisdom Values, Traditional Ritual, Nyengkelan Tanah, Dayak Kantuk Ethnic Group

INTRODUCTION

Local wisdom is the identity or cultural personality of a nation that enables it to absorb and even transform cultures from outside or other nations into its own character and capabilities (Ramadhan *et al.*, 2022). Local wisdom is also a worldview and knowledge derived from various life strategies that consist of activities genuinely carried out by local communities to meet their needs (Njatrijani, 2018). West Kalimantan has various ethnic groups that reflect cultural diversity, contributing to national wealth. The culture that develops within indigenous communities is closely related to local values that are considered sacred and true, passed down from generation to generation as guidelines for life. Values are ideas or concepts about what someone thinks or considers important (Herman, 2020). Social values are a consciousness that relatively persists, accompanied by emotions towards an object (Brown, 2013). Solidarity is the state of mutual trust among members of a group or community. When people trust each other, they become united, foster friendship, respect one another, and are motivated to take responsibility and consider the common good (Saidang & Suparman, 2019). Mutual cooperation aims to bring happiness and goodness to its practitioners (Adha, 2015). Culture is a set of values and a belief system that is passed down by society from generation to generation. Culture within a community always contains benefits or usefulness for each of its adherents, but it can also pose a threat to other groups (Malukeke, 2014). Spiritual values refer to those associated with belief concepts, which include the bonds that govern the relationship between humans and their God (Nabila, 2023). These values form an interconnected system, encompassing social, cultural, and spiritual aspects, which are important to study and develop in education. Indigenous communities are known for their spirit of social solidarity in all their activities. A concrete example is the Dayak Kantuk tribe in Kapuas Hulu Regency. Beyond the

mystical elements, understanding these values is vital for the people of West Kalimantan, especially for the Dayak Kantuk tribe, both now and in the future. The Dayak Kantuk are spread across 14 districts in Kapuas Hulu Regency, with a population of about 16,000 people, including those living outside Kapuas Hulu, such as in Nanga Kantuk and Semitau districts in Sanggau Regency, and in Sintang Regency up to the Sarawak border.

The Dayak people are the indigenous inhabitants of Borneo, consisting of various ethnic groups, each with its own customs, traditions, dialects, cultures, and regions. One of the Dayak ethnic groups in West Kalimantan is the Dayak Kantuk, which is spread across Kapuas Hulu Regency, particularly in Jelemuk Village, Bika District. This ethnic group still preserves various traditions and rituals, such as Makai Taun, Begelak, Nyengkelan Tanah, Ngali Tanah, and other ceremonies. One tradition that is still maintained by the local community is the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual performed by the Dayak Kantuk in Jelemuk Village, Bika District. This ritual is conducted at the beginning of farming activities, where the villagers collectively seek permission from Petara (God) to cultivate the land and ask for protection from pests and crop failures. This ritual also serves to strengthen cooperation and familial bonds among the villagers.

The local wisdom values that the researcher will highlight and describe are three: social aspect values, cultural aspect values, and spiritual aspect values. Local wisdom refers to all things related to the various cultural riches that grow and develop within a society, recognized, believed, and acknowledged as important elements that can enhance social harmony within the community (Banda, 2017). Local wisdom is a part of the culture that exists within a society and cannot be separated from that society itself; it can be said to represent three reference values for the researcher to describe, which play a role in the advancement of the community's culture in Indonesia. Preservation is an effort to maintain, protect, and safeguard cultural elements that have the potential for continuity of identity and the nation's character (Gusnadi, 2019).

METHOD

Based on the research issues being studied, this research falls within the qualitative research approach using descriptive research methods. Murdiyanto (2020) defines "qualitative research as a type of research that produces findings that cannot be achieved using statistical procedures or through other forms of quantification." The researcher will explain how the values of local wisdom in the Nyengkelan Tanah customary ritual of the Dayak Kantuk ethnic group in Jelemuk Village, Bika District, Kapuas Hulu Regency have benefits for local wisdom through descriptive research to describe, reveal, and present the data and facts found in the field. This research is located in Jelemuk Village, Bika District, Kapuas Hulu Regency.

The data collection procedures for this research include observation, documentation, and interviews. The observation method involves systematic observation and recording of phenomena that are the subject of the research. This includes structured observation and recording of objects or phenomena that are the focus of the study. In this context, the researcher directly observes the values of local wisdom in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual performed by the Dayak Kantuk community in Jelemuk Village, Bika District, Kapuas Hulu Regency. For documentation in this research context, the documentation used by the researcher includes relevant data to support the study, such as archives, notes, images, and activities related to the values of local wisdom in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual performed by the Dayak Kantuk community in Jelemuk Village, Bika District, Kapuas Hulu Regency. The researcher also

conducts interviews with several sources, including the temenggung (customary leader), traditional leaders, village heads, and community members participating in the activities. The data analysis used in this research involves data reduction, data presentation, and data verification, which includes drawing conclusions and meanings related to the values of local wisdom in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual of the Dayak Kantuk ethnic group.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Social Aspect Values of Local Wisdom in the Nyengkelan Tanah Ritual of the Dayak Kantuk Ethnic Group in Jelemuk Village, Bika District, Kapuas Hulu Regency

Based on the research findings and observations regarding the social aspect of local wisdom, the researcher notes that this social aspect in the customary ritual is very evident, as the community engages in harmonious communication among its members. This is particularly clear during the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual, where cooperation and solidarity among the community are highly visible. They are very united in the activities organized by Teluk Sindur Village, from preparations to the execution of the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual.



Figure 1. Community cooperation in preparing the materials for the Nyengkelan Tanah tradition.



Figure 2. Solidarity among the customary leaders in the Nyengkelan Tanah tradition.

Based on Figure 1 and 2, the results of the discussions from the observations and interviews conducted by the researcher indicate that the social aspect values of local wisdom in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual show that this ritual not only has spiritual and cultural meanings but also plays an important role in the social aspects of the Dayak Kantuk ethnic community. The Nyengkelan Tanah ritual strengthens social structure in the context of community cooperation and solidarity. Within this ritual, the social aspect values of local wisdom strongly reflect the principles of cooperation and solidarity. The practice of cooperation in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual requires active participation from all community members. Cooperation aims to provide happiness and benefits to its participants (Adha, 2015). An example of this is the communal work involved in preparing materials and executing the ritual. This activity involves all members of the Dayak Kantuk ethnic community participating in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual, working together to demonstrate the principle of cooperation in tangible actions.

The practice of solidarity in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual enables the community to collectively take responsibility for the activities of the ritual. Solidarity also helps ensure that all parties are involved in the activities and benefit from them. Solidarity is a state of mutual trust among members of a group or community. When people trust each other, they become united in friendship, respect one another, and are motivated to take responsibility and consider the common good (Saidang & Suparman, 2019). Solidarity in the ritual teaches social responsibility and solidarity, which are important for maintaining collective welfare and facing future challenges. Overall, the practice of solidarity in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual provides significant benefits in building and maintaining social strength within the community, especially through the activities of the Nyengkelan Tanah tradition.

Cultural Aspect Values of Local Wisdom in the Nyengkelan Tanah Ritual of the Dayak Kantuk Ethnic Group in Jelemuk Village, Bika District, Kapuas Hulu Regency

Based on the research findings and observations regarding the cultural aspect values of local wisdom, the researcher notes that the cultural aspect in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual is carried out due to the efforts made by leaders (temenggung, customary heads) and the community to preserve the tradition of Nyengkelan Tanah so that it can continue to be performed every year. The researcher observed that this ritual includes accessories and traditional clothing that are worn during the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual. Preserving these elements is very important, as only certain individuals wear and use the accessories and traditional clothing during the ritual. For instance, some individuals observed wearing these accessories and traditional attire include the temenggung (ritual leader), the village chief, the drum players for the ritual, invited government officials, and members of the community who are allowed to enter the area where the ritual takes place.



Figure 3. the drum players of the ritual nyengkelan tanah tradition



Figure 4. Temenggung and the customary leaders wearing traditional clothing and accessories



Figure 5. The form of preservation by inviting government officials to attend the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual

Based on Figure 3, 4, and 5, the findings from the observations and interviews conducted by the researcher indicate that the cultural aspect values of local wisdom in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual demonstrate that this ritual, performed by the Dayak Kantuk community in Jelemuk Village, Bika District, Kapuas Hulu Regency, is an important example of local wisdom in cultural aspects. This ritual holds deep meaning and value for the Dayak Kantuk community. The researcher sees the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual as a vital part of Dayak Kantuk tradition and culture. By carrying out this ritual, the community not only maintains their relationships but also preserves their cultural heritage and customs. Preservation is the effort to sustain, protect, and maintain cultural elements that have the potential for continuity of national identity and character (Gusnadi, 2019).

The implementation of this ritual strengthens the identity of the Dayak Kantuk ethnic group, showcases their cultural richness, and enhances the sense of pride and unity within the community. This ritual plays a crucial role in preserving the cultural heritage and traditions of the Dayak Kantuk ethnic group. By conducting the ritual regularly each year, the community ensures that their customs remain alive. Culture is a set of values and belief systems passed down from generation to generation, often containing benefits for its adherents but potentially posing threats to other groups (Malukeke, 2014). To preserve the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual, the researcher identifies several important steps. First, actively participating in each ritual performance. Second, educating the younger generation about the importance of this ritual and how to carry it out according to the inherited procedures, while collaborating with the local

community to document and record the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual traditions to keep them alive as part of the cultural heritage. Lastly, supporting preservation efforts by collaborating with the government to focus on traditional rituals. Traditional clothing (adat clothing) has been passed down through generations and represents an identity that many cultural supporters take pride in (Dharmaika, 2015: 16). The researcher also observes that several traditional accessories used in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual carry specific meanings. For example, bead necklaces, traditional garments, Dayak caps, and drums played during the ritual often hold deep symbolism. These accessories serve not only as adornments but also reflect social status, identity, and the community's relationship with their ancestors. Each element of the accessories they wear tells a story, embodying beliefs and cultural values passed down through generations.

Spiritual Aspects Values of Local Wisdom in the Nyengkelan Tanah Ritual of the Dayak Kantuk Ethnic Group in Jelemuk Village, Bika District, Kapuas Hulu Regency

Based on the research findings and observations regarding the spiritual aspects of local wisdom, the researcher sees that the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual has significant spiritual value, evident from the initial to the final stages of the ceremony. Each stage involves offerings hung both on land and in water, accompanied by the recitation of mantras. This form of self-reflection, honoring the Petara (God), is manifested through the ritual to seek blessings from the Almighty, ensuring that their fields are protected from pests and remain fertile. Thus, the spiritual value present in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual lies in the various processes and the recitation of mantras, encouraging individuals to reflect on their lives and remember their need for blessings and safety from the Petara (God) in their daily lives.



Figure 6. Hanging offerings on land for the ancestors



Figure 7. Hanging offerings in the water for the ancestors

Based on Figure 6 and 7, the results of observations and interviews conducted by the researcher indicate that the spiritual values of local wisdom in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual reflect the community's deep understanding of the relationship between humans, nature, and spiritual forces. This ritual demonstrates the belief that spiritual power plays a significant role in daily life. Through this ritual, they honor and pray to their ancestors, seeking blessings and protection. Spiritual values relate to beliefs that govern the connection between humans and their God (Faresi, 2023). This reflects an understanding that spiritual power greatly impacts the well-being and balance of the Dayak Kantuk community in Jelemuk. The deep respect for ancestors observed in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual is based on the belief that they act as intermediaries between the human and spiritual realms. In this ritual, honoring ancestors signifies the belief in their significant power and influence in daily life, providing blessings, protection, and guidance for the Dayak Kantuk community. In a broad sense, spirituality relates to the spirit, representing eternal truths connected to human purpose, often contrasted with worldly and temporary matters, which may include beliefs in supernatural forces, especially in religion, but emphasizes personal experience (Crosby, 2013).

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and the discussions presented by the researcher above, it can be concluded that the values of local wisdom in the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual of the Dayak Kantuk ethnic group encompass several aspects, including social values, cultural values, and spiritual values. The conclusions based on the sub-problems addressed by the researcher are as follows, In the social aspect of local wisdom, there are principles of mutual cooperation and solidarity. The implementation of this ritual involves active participation from the entire Dayak Kantuk ethnic community, strengthening solidarity and social bonds among them. This activity demonstrates how the community supports each other and collaborates to achieve common goals through the Nyengkelan Tanah tradition. In the cultural aspect of local wisdom, this ritual serves as a medium for preserving the culture and traditions of the Dayak Kantuk. Through this ritual, the community indirectly preserves the Nyengkelan Tanah tradition and the values

passed down from generation to generation. The traditional accessories worn during the ritual, such as beaded necklaces, traditional clothing, and drums, reflect the social status and ethnic identity of the community. This ritual also reinforces their pride and recognition of their cultural heritage.

In the spiritual aspect of local wisdom, the Nyengkelan Tanah ritual reflects the community's belief in the significant role of spiritual power in daily life. This ritual serves as a form of respect and prayer to ancestors as intermediaries between the human world and the spiritual realm. The community believes that ancestors possess great power to provide blessings, protection, and guidance that influence their well-being and balance in life. Overall, the Nyengkelan Tanah tradition is a tangible expression of profound local wisdom values, reflecting a harmonious integration of social, cultural, and spiritual aspects in the lives of the Dayak Kantuk community. This ritual not only preserves and upholds traditions but also strengthens community solidarity and fosters a spiritual connection with ancestors that is essential for their well-being.

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