

## THE VALUES CONTAINED IN CACI DANCE CULTURE TOWARDS WEST MANGGARAI COMMUNITY

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### **Abstrak**

*Tari Caci merupakan salah satu tarian tradisional yang berasal dari Nusa Tenggara Timur. Tari Caci adalah tari uji kelincahan bela diri yang dibalut dengan bentuk tarian dan menjadi nilai budaya Nusa Tenggara Timur. Tujuan penelitian ini untuk mengetahui nilai-nilai yang terkandung dalam budaya tari Caci terhadap Masyarakat Manggarai Barat dan Fungsi Tari Caci di Manggarai Barat. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode Kualitatif, yang memberikan penjelasan tentang nilai-nilai yang terkandung dalam budaya tari Caci terhadap Masyarakat dan fungsi-fungsinya di Manggarai Barat. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode Kualitatif. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa tarian Caci adalah tarian Khas daerah Manggarai, tarian ini dilakukan oleh dua orang laki-laki yang terlatih. Nilai-nilai yang terkandung dalam tarri Caci terhadap masyarakat Manggarai Barat yaitu (1) Nilai Kepahlawanan, (2) Nilai Moral, (3) Nilai Seni, (4) Nilai Kekompakan, (5) Nilai Persaudaraan, (6) Nilai Toleransi dan (7) Nilai Cinta Budaya Daerah. Fungsi- fungsi yang terdapat dalam tarian Caci yaitu (1) Fungsi Pariwisata, (2) Fungsi Ekonomi, (3) Fungsi Sosial dan (4) Fungsi Pendidikan.*

**Kata kunci:** *Budaya, Tari Traditional, Tarian Caci*

### **Abstract**

Caci dance is one of the traditional dances originating from East Southeast Nusa. Caci dance is martial arts agility test dance wrapped in the form of the dance and becomes a culture value of East Southeast Nusa. The purpose of this study is to find out the values contained in the Caci dance culture towards the West Manggarai Community and the Function of Caci Dance in West Manggarai. This thesis uses a qualitative method, which provides an explanation of the values contained in the Caci dance culture towards the Community and its functions in West Manggarai. This research used Qualitative method. The results of this study show that the Caci dance is a typical dance of the Manggarai region, this dance is performed by two trained men. The values contained in Caci dance towards the People of West Manggarai are (1) Heroic Values, (2) Moral Values, (3) Art Values, (4) Compactness Values, (5) Brotherhood Values, (6) Tolerance Values and (7) Regional Cultural Love Values. The functions contained in the Caci dance are (1) Tourism Function, (2) Economic Function, (3) Social Function and (4) Education Function.

*Keywords: Culture, Traditional Dance, Caci Dance*

## INTRODUCTION

The Archipelago is on a crossroad between two oceans, the Pacific and the Indian oceans, and the bridges two continents, Asia and Australia. This strategic position has always influenced the culture, there are many cultures in Indonesia, for Example in West Manggarai, East Southeast Nusa. Culture (from the Latin *culture* stemming from *colere*, meaning "to cultivate") generally refers to patterns of human activity and the symbolic structures that give such activities significance and importance. Cultures can be "understood as systems of symbols and meanings that even their creators contest, that lack fixed boundaries, that are constantly in flux, and that interact and compete with one another." Culture can be defined as all the ways of life including arts, beliefs, and institutions of a population that are passed down from generation to generation. Culture has been called "the way of life for an entire society." As such, it includes codes of manners, dress, language, religion, rituals, art. norms of behavior, such as law and morality, and systems of belief.

The meaning of the term "culture" has been highly contested, especially within anthropology (Kroeber and Kluckhohn 1952; Baldwin et al. 2006; Syarifuddin, S (2017)). The first highly influential definition came from Edward Tylor (1871), who opens his seminal anthropology text with the stipulation that culture is, "that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, law, morals, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society." Subsequent authors have worried that Tylor's definition packs in too much, lumping together psychological items (e.g., belief) with external items (e.g., art). From a philosophical perspective, this would be especially problematic for those who hope that culture could be characterized as a natural kind, and thus as a proper subject for scientific inquiry. The term "culture" is defined as the whole way of life in a particular society. What is also implied is that the culture is "learned" and "shared" or shared by the members of a society. Nevertheless, it must be admitted that culture is a very complicated concept. In the book *Keywords*, Raymond Williams, a prominent cultural theorist, states that "Culture is one of the two or three complicated words in the English Language" (Williams, 1976). Culture Form J. Honigman (in Koenjtaraningrat, 2000) distinguishes the three 'cultural phenomena': namely: (1) ideas, (2) activities, and (3) artifact, and this was made clear by Koenjtaraningrat who termed the three states of culture: Form of culture as a complex of ideas, ideals, values, norms, rules and so on and Form of culture as a complex pattern of activity and human action in society.

Suryadiningrat in (Mulyani, 2015) reveals that the art of dance is a human gesture arranged in such a way to be aligned with the rhythm of music, and has a certain purpose. Kussudiardjo in (Aprilina, 2014) reveals that dance is the beauty of the form of human limbs that move, rhythm, and harmonious spirit. Dance is a form of expression of thoughts, feelings, wills, and human experiences whose main media features use the main elements of motion equipped with supporting elements to form a structure called dance (Pekerti, 2014: 7). Traditional dance is a dance that comes from a group of people in an area that descends down and then has become a culture in the local community. In Indonesia, the traditional Dance is very area have unique body language from 34 provinces of Indonesian. That's why Indonesia is rich in artistic culture. East southeast Nusa certainly has some dances still they are preserved to this day. There are several dances in the East-Southeast Nusa-West Manggarai tribe, namely : (1) Tiba Meka dance, (2) Caci dance, and (3) Ja'i dance.

The function of dance is the existence of dance that has values and useful results that benefit the community, especially in social life (Hidayat, 2005). Traditional is a way of thinking and acting that always adheres to norms and customs that exist for generations. Soedarsono revealed that traditional dance is all dances that have experienced a long historical journey and always rely on the patterns of existing traditions. Traditional Dance forms (often called Folk dances in the West) can be defined as any local dancing tradition, often strongly connected with local musical forms and/or local beliefs. Traditional dance is a dance art that has undergone a long journey and has past values that are maintained for generations and have rituals or mores (Sekarningsih & Rohayani, 2006). Meanwhile, Hidayat (2005) argues that traditional dance can also be understood as an ordinance that applies in certain ethnic or indigenous environments that are hereditary. Caci Dance is one of the sacred traditional arts with the concept of war dance. In its history, this dance is inspired by the strength of inter-regional youth who are hereditary, until then become one part of the sacred culture and cultural arts on the island of Flores. The dance consists of two men who fight using leather whips, and shields made of buffalo skin. When the two competed, the music was endlessly accompanied by the cheers of the audience. As one of Flores's distinctive cultures, this dance is performed only on special occasions. For example, during Hang Woja (harvest season), Penti (new year ritual), traditional wedding ceremony, and other customary ceremonies. Then today, Caci Dance develops into a special treat for government guests, as well as tourist visits to traditional Flores villages. The Researcher interested to know more about Caci dance in West Manggarai, East Southeast Nusa. So, the Objective of this Study are as follows: To find out some of the values contained in Caci dance culture towards West Manggarai Community. To find out the function of Caci dance in the West Manggarai regency.

## **METHOD**

The researcher used qualitative methods. The purpose of using a qualitative approach is to obtain the function of dance and the values contained in Caci dance. Qualitative methods are research methods used to examine the natural condition of objects, where researchers are as key instruments, data collection techniques are triangulation (a combination of observations, interviews, documentation), and qualitative research results are to understand the meaning, understand the uniqueness, construct phenomena, and understand hypotheses. A qualitative approach can produce a more in-depth description of speech, writing, and up to the behavior of those observed from individuals, groups, communities, and organizations in a given state-certain context. In this study, researcher used two types of instruments, namely cameras and recording devices used by researchers to complete the data. The researcher used the camera to take some pictures related to the research problems that the researchers found in the field, while the recording device was used to record conversations when the researcher conducted interviews with several informants who knew well about the Caci dance in West Manggarai, East Southeast Nusa. Researchers have analyzed, described and summarized various conditions and situations from various data collected from observations, interviews and documentation of problems in the field. This research was conducted in East Southeast Nusa, precisely in West Manggarai regency in May 2022. This research lasted for approximately two weeks.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### The Values Contained in Caci Dance Culture Towards West Manggarai Community

#### Heroic Value

Caci is a heroic dance because it takes the form of a "war" or sparring between brave and mighty men. The fighting men gallantly entered the arena accompanied by Gong and Drum music to increase the enthusiasm for fighting. Two men face each other, one as an attacker with a hard whip with a small, sharp tip, while screeching around looking for a trick to hit a fully armoured opponent.

#### Moral Value

Caci dance itself highly upholds the cultural value of the heritage of previous ancestors, and how its generations maintained that heritage. As a generation of Manggarai, they must be able to explain and maintain this culture and explain it later to the next generation. In the performance of caci dance, of course, there are moral values that must be obeyed by both the dancers and the audience who enliven the caci performance, a message that can be used as a guide by the community from this moral ethical value is the existence of an attitude of courtesy, high tolerance towards fellow members of the community respecting each other and obeying all the rules and provisions that have been mutually agreed upon.

#### Value of Art

Caci dance is basically interesting when someone performs Caci after receiving a punch or giving a punch when speaking or singing, which is done using beautiful language with terms that attract the attention of the audience. The language used certainly uses the regional language (Manggarai). The superiority of a caci player is seen from the beauty of speaking and singing in harmony with his way, fighting in conjunction with the sound of gongs and drums and other chants ( sanda). In playing the caci dance, it has certain clothes that are used by the dancers so that harmony is created in the performance of the caci dance, the clothes used by a caci performer are traditional clothes, including panggal which functions as a head highlighter, shawl, songke cloth, belt, herding and white trousers.

#### Compactness Value

In Caci dance Compactness is very important, for example how the herding of caci dance performs sanda or special singing in Caci dance where the performance must be compact. The cohesiveness in the Caci dance that matters is the group or its group. Before the staging begins the community will form several groups, consisting of : caci dance groups, music, danding, sanda. When the caci dance was held, the local people ranging from young to old, whether they had dance talents or not, were also present to watch this dance as a form of their enthusiasm. So, it can be said that this dance involves society, this is where the cohesion is created.

#### Brotherhood Value

In the caci dance, although a dancer is hit by a blow from the opponent, there is no intention of resentment when the game is over, because basically this scolding game is not a war but a brotherhood. The familiarity of the caci dance participants at the time of the continuation of the caci dance showed a sense of brotherhood between them. Caci dances are often performed in order

to celebrate big days and customs. At the closing ceremony of the caci dance tradition which is officially established by the traditional shop, all participants must shake hands with each other and forgive each other as a form of friendship or brotherhood is upheld in the caci dance tradition, so that after the completion of the caci dance there is no hostile event because the caci dance is a peaceful tradition.

### **Tolerance Value**

Indonesia is spread from Sabang to Marauke. There are diverse tribes and cultures scattered in several regions. To maintain tribal peace and harmony, as citizens the State must respect and respect. Indonesia also has socio-cultural diversity that must be maintained and maintained. This socio-cultural diversity can create tolerance. Basically, the participants of the Caci dance do not look at any religion, as long as he is a Manggarai person then he can participate in the fight. When there is a caci dance, many people also witness, both from the area itself and from outside. In this case, anyone who wants to witness is welcome, there is no prohibition. Because in Caci dance, the dancer is required to uphold the value of tolerance.

### **The Value of Love for Regional Culture**

West Manggarai has several Caci dance studios in certain areas. With the existence of these studios, it aims to re-improve the cultures of the previous ancestors that were almost extinct, as well as how the West Manggarai generation maintained this Caci dance culture. Now, all the cultures passed down by the previous ancestors have begun to develop again. So, the caci dance is a dance that deserves to be witnessed and preserved. It is a culture of high value and deserves attention.

### **The functions of Caci dance in West Manggarai Regency**

#### **Tourism Function**

In West Manggarai every year always hold cultural festivals, especially caci dance. This activity is one way to open up opportunities for the outside community to see firsthand how the caci dance takes place, in addition to that so that the outside community knows and understands the caci dance more deeply. Thus, it is hoped that it can bring to life the cultural values of the region and also as one of the unique spectacles for tourists, so that the caci dance can be known more widely by the general public.

#### **Economy Function**

One of the fields of cultural arts that can support the economy of the People of West Manggarai is the art of caci culture. The role of local governments is very important in selling cultural assets, especially caci dance to the wider community, so that the wider community knows the uniqueness and advantages of caci dance. With the introduction of this dance, it will indirectly provoke tourists to come to visit the West Manggarai area. If it happens that they will use the facilities provided, including lodging places, feeling the deliciousness of special cuisine made by the local community so that it can increase income for the community.

#### **Social Function**

Caci dance has a very big role for the community, because through the Caci dance event the community will gather to enliven it. Through caci dance, there are also people who used to be



ignorant of what was said by the elders, but now they are very obedient. So that now it is not so difficult when there are important meetings in each village, the people are so polite and respectful of each other. For example, if you attend inter-village meetings or other meetings, must wear a sarong, proper clothes and songkok and this is all a social function of this Caci itself.

### **Education Function**

These Caci players themselves have been trained for a long time how to perform this dance and they are educated as well as possible to become reliable players in the future. Now in some areas in West Manggarai already have a special studio for Caci dance. For example, in Melo village (one of the villages in West Manggarai) has one cultural studio in elementary school, and another in Junior High School and what is engaged in this studio is Caci dance, and this is an improvement in the world of education. With the existence of several art studios in several schools in the West Manggarai district, it aims to revive the cultures of the previous ancestors that were almost extinct.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Caci is one of the dances native to the Manggarai area, the Caci dance is performed by two men who love her and are trained, each Caci player is performed from two teams, and then two caci players are one pair of players. Caci dances are usually held on certain days, that is, at the end of the harvest season, the inauguration of officials, and enlivening national holidays, as well as at the time of receiving grand guests. In the culture of caci dance there are several values that can be learned by the people of West Manggarai for the sustainability of their daily lives. These values are Heroic values, Moral values, Art Values, Compactness values, Brotherhood Values, Values of Tolerance and Regional Cultural Love Values. In caci dance there are several functions that are very beneficial for the West Manggarai Community. These functions are functions for Tourism, namely to open up opportunities for the outside community to see firsthand how the caci dance takes place, the economic function is to support the economy of the people of West Manggarai, Social function, namely through the Caci dance event, the community will gather to enliven it, and the Educational Function is that this dance is used as one of the extracurriculars in elementary schools and junior high schools with the aim of introducing them to caci dance.

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