



The Symbolic Meaning of Wedding Offerings in Buru Island

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Abstract

The meaning of a marriage is the union between the two brides, namely a man and a woman. This research examines the symbolic meaning of the groom's surrender to the bride. The approach used in this study is a semantic approach. The semantic approach is an approach to see the form of speech and interpret the form of the speech or the meaning of symbols. In determining the source of data for research, it is based on the ability and skill of the researcher in trying to uncover a subjective event and determine the informant in accordance with the terms and conditions so that the data needed by the researcher is truly in accordance with nature or concrete facts. Data collection techniques carried out in this study were interviews, recording, notes, and documentation. Data analysis is a process of arranging data sequences, organizing them into patterns, categories, and basic units of description. The data that has been obtained through the recordings, then analyzed using descriptive methods, namely the depiction of the facts found as they are. The results of the study show that there are seven forms of offerings given by the groom, namely a. seserahan banana, b. seserahan betel leaf, c. seserahan ring, d. women's clothing e. traditional food and fruits, f. household furniture. g. surrender of money. Then from the meaning of the surrender, the two existing cultural values are, the social values contained in the handover ceremony at the Buru Island marriage and cultural values

1. Introduction

Marriage is part of one of the cycles of human life which has its own meaning for those who organize it. In a marriage, it does not only involve the bride and groom, but also the parents of both parties and the extended family of both parties. Therefore, marriage has a very important meaning so that in its implementation it always begins and is accompanied by various complete ceremonies (Suryadin, 2017) In Indonesia, there are various customs in wedding ceremonies. The customs in the marriage contain the procedures and stages that must be passed by the bride and groom and the parties involved in it (Iye, 2018).

A traditional wedding ceremony is a traditional ceremony held to welcome the wedding event. Marriage as an important event for humans, needs to be sacred and remembered through various ceremonies (Suryadin, 2017). The ceremony itself has to do with beliefs beyond human control. In every wedding ceremony, the bride and groom are presented especially, complete with make-up, hair styling, and complete fashion make-up according to the customs that are followed, both before and after the wedding (Oktarina et al., 2018). the culture that has its meaning. Culture has a very large function for human life and society. because every human being in society always does good or bad habits for himself. Marriage customs contain values, personality traits, and even philosophy because marriage customs will still exist in a cultured society (Nugroho, 2019).

When we talk about marriage, we can look at it from two sides. Marriage is a religious order. Meanwhile, on the other hand, it is the only way of showing sex that is legalized by religion (Aisyah, 2020). From this point of view, when people marry at the same time, they not only have a natural desire to fulfill their biological needs, but must also be channeled (Mudhiiah, 2014). Like other needs in life, biological needs must also be met (Mahardika Putera Emas, 2020). Islam has also determined that the only way to fulfill human biological needs is only by marriage, marriage is a very interesting thing if we take a closer look at the meaning of this issue of marriage. (Shihab, 2007) says that marriage is a sacred covenant between a man and a woman to form a happy family. This definition clarifies the notion that marriage is a deal (Habibah Nurul Umah, 2020). The agreement is stated in the form of consent and qabul that must be pronounced in one assembly, either directly by the person concerned, namely the candidate husband and future wife, if both are fully entitled upon himself according to law or by those who empowered for it (Otong Husni Taufiq, 2017). Otherwise, for example in a state of madness or underage, because they can act as their legal guardian (Galuhpritta Anisaningtyas dan Yulianti Dwi Astuti, 2011).

In the process of giving, the men will bring them to the women's house either before the wedding or when the wedding will be held depending on the culture of each region (Sam, Belinda, 2019). On the island of Buru itself, the custom or food of the offerings has been eroded by the modernization era so that the meaning of the various offerings is simply forgotten by the younger generation and even some of the community, then the importance of this research can also be a solution as a cultural preservation movement on the island of Buru for this reason, the presence of this research can reveal the meaning of traditional wedding offerings as cultural preservation in Buru district

2. Methodology

This research is a qualitative descriptive study, with the type of research being Field Research, which is based on the results obtained through field research. Regarding the object being discussed according to the reality that occurs in society, especially in the people on Buru Island. The approach used in this study is semantic. The semantic approach is an approach to see the form of speech and interpret the form of the speech or the meaning of symbols. In determining the source of data for research, it is based on the ability and skill of the researcher is trying to uncover a subjective event and determine the informant by the terms and conditions so that the data needed by the researcher is truly by nature or concrete facts (Mahsun, 2005). Data collection techniques used in this study were

interviews, recording, notes, and documentation. Data analysis is a process of arranging data sequences, organizing them into patterns, categories, and basic units of description. The data that has been obtained through the recording, then analyzed using a descriptive method, namely the depiction of the reality found as it is.

3. Result and Discussion

In the traditional Buru Island wedding ceremony, there are several traditional ceremonies held, such as proposals, handover ceremonies to the marriage contract. In essence (in ancient times), the handover was a ceremony of handing over goods from the groom to the bride and her parents as a gift or burden before the wedding ceremony, it was handed over to the prospective groom to the bride the night before the ceremony Ijab Kabul.

There are seven offerings given by the groom to the bride on Pulau Buru, namely, a. Seserahan Banana, b. Seserahan betel leaf, c. Seserahan rings, d. Women's Clothing e. Traditional Food and Fruits, F. Household Furniture. g. Money Surrender. As well as the two objects of value contained therein, namely, social values and cultural values.

3.1 The meaning of the groom's offerings in terms of physical objects

a. The Meaning of Bananas



Figure 1. Banana as a part of Serah-Serahan

In the Serah-serahan, the sanggan banana is chosen from the plantain (a banana that tastes good, smells good, and lasts a long time, even though the skin is dry it is still delicious and ripe). The bananas were chosen to be large, clean, and ripe bananas. It contains the hope of happiness. Plantains contain the meaning of hope that the life of the bride and groom can be happy like a king and empress, giving a sense of good/happiness to others.

b. The Meaning of Betel Leaves



Figure 2. Betel Leaves

The meaning of the symbol of betel leaf That the use of betel leaf in traditional marriages on the island of Buru, especially in the Namlea area. Being a symbol of the union of two people in a sacred bond, namely marriage, the meaning of betel leaf is likened to balance, harmony and harmony.

c. The Meaning of the Rings



Figure 3. Wedding Rings

The ring is one of the items included in the list of items for delivery. From ancient times the ring has a symbolic meaning. A set of wedding rings that are round without breaking means that a couple's love will last forever.

d. The maning of Women's Clothing Sesorahan



Figure 4. Women's Clothing Sesorahan

As a form of accountability and seriousness of the groom to the bride and her family, the groom gives some goods or what is called handover to the bride. One of the items that were handed over to the prospective bride was a set of princess clothes. As for the contents of a set of princess clothes. Consists of a set of prayer tools, clothing (party clothes, kebaya, or others), body care tools (soap, shampoo, body lotion, powder, perfume, etc.), make-up tools, shoes/sandals, underwear, and clothes sleep.

e. Meaning of Traditional Food and Fruit Symbols



Figure 5. Traditional Food and Fruit Symbols

In the handover ceremony, traditional food is one of the items included or also handed over to the prospective bride. The traditional foods that were handed over included jadah, jenang and opak. Each of these traditional foods has a special symbol and meaning. Like jadah, which is made from glutinous rice, it has a meaning, namely the hope that the bride and groom can remain sticky like the nature of the jadah.

f. Meaning of Household Furniture Symbol

**Figure 6.** Household Furniture Symbol

In the application procession on the island of Hunt, household furniture is the groom's obligation to be handed over to the bride, this symbolizes that navigating the household ark must have preparation and maturity so that the meaning of this furniture is interpreted as a complement to fostering a family.

g. The Symbolic Meaning of Money

**Figure 7.** Money as Brideprice

Giving some money from the groom to the bride can be interpreted as a contribution and a form of accountability for the groom to the bride to ease the burden and costs of the wedding.

3.2 The symbolic meaning of handovers in terms of social objects

Individuals in symbolic situations do not only respond to physical objects (objects) but also respond to social objects in the form of human behavior both verbally and non-verbally. In Javanese traditional marriages, the social object is in the form of non-verbal behavior, namely in the form of stages in the Javanese traditional marriage procession. The term non-verbal is usually used to describe all communication events beyond spoken or written words. At the same time, we must

realize that many of these non-verbal events and behaviors are interpreted through verbal symbols (Mulyana, 2007:347). Values Contained In Handovers.

3.3 Social Values Contained in the Handover Ceremony at the Marriage of Buru Island.

Social value is a benchmark for humans in living their lives with other people. Social value is everything that is considered by society, people's assumptions about something that is expected, beautiful, and true, the existence of values is abstract and ideal. The social values contained in the Serah-serahan tradition can be seen from the items or artifacts handed over to the bride-to-be, such as:

- a. Traditional food that symbolizes prayer and hopes that not only the bride and groom can always stick together and harmoniously but also the extended family of both parties
- b. The amount of money that is handed over is interpreted as a form of accountability for the groom to the bride. This can also be interpreted as a form of mutual cooperation between the two parties.
- c. In preparation for the implementation of the handover tradition where the extended family of both parties as well as a number of relatives and neighbors participate in the negotiations in order to prepare things that must be prepared before the handover.

3.4 Cultural Values Contained in the Handover Ceremony at the Buru Island Traditional Marriage

Cultural values are values that have been agreed upon and embedded in a society, organizational scope, community environment, which are rooted in a habit, belief, symbols, with certain characteristics that can be distinguished from one another as a reference for behavior and responses to what is being said. will happen or is happening. Cultural values will appear in symbols, slogans, mottos, vision, and mission, or something that appears as the main reference for the motto or an environment or organization. Abdul Wael said that cultural values are the values contained in the handover ceremony in Namlea Village, Buru Regency (interview 13 September 2021).

As for the cultural values that can be taken from the Serah-serahan tradition, namely the presence of cultural symbols such as the banana sanggan symbol which means prayer and hope for the two prospective brides so that they can live in harmony and prosperity, betel leaf which means the union of two people who must agree with each other. in carrying out domestic life in the future, as well as various stages or processions in traditional marriages on Buru Island which are still preserved and passed down from generation to generation.

4. Conclusion

In the process of marriage in the context of culture and religion, of course, there are various traditional rituals, both customs that are regulated in social life and those decided during the wedding ceremony. In the Buru Island community, most of the weddings that take place, the men give gifts by the customary collective agreement. The purpose of this offering is a series of cultures that exist on Buru Island. In this study, various items were found that were used as

requirements in the marriage process, both items in the form of plants, clothes and other accessories.

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