



SASAK COMMUNITY'S COMMUNICATIVE ACT IN NGELUKAR AND NGILAHAN KAOQ RITE IN LOMBOK

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Abstract

Keywords:

*communicative act;
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Ngelukar and
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Sasak tribe*

The Ngelukar and Ngilahan Kaoq rite are religious and cultural ceremonies performed by Balinese Hindus and Sasak Muslims in Lingsar Village. The aim of this study is to analyze the communicative actions of the Sasak people in the Ngelukar and Ngilahan Kaoq rite as interethnic socio-cultural integration. This research used qualitative methods with a case study design and the data were collected through observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The analysis used Habermas's theory of communicative action. The results showed that both Hindus and Muslims through this ritual could build the concept of interfaith togetherness, which is actualized for survival. Through the social communication, this can shape the actions to maintain the tradition of both adherents (Hindu and Muslim) according to the prevailing rules and values in the Ngelukar and Ngilahan Kaoq rituals. This ritual activity is a form of the communicative rationality actions by the Sasak people.

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Kata kunci:

tindakan komunikatif; kearifan lokal; Ngelukur dan Ngilahan Kaoq; suku Sasak

Abstrak

Ritual Ngelukur dan Ngilahan Kaoq merupakan upacara agama dan budaya yang dilakukan oleh penganut Hindu Bali dan Muslim Sasak secara bersama di Desa Lingsar. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis tindakan komunikatif masyarakat suku Sasak dalam upacara ritual Ngelukur dan Ngilahan Kaoq sebagai integrasi sosial budaya antaretnis. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan desain studi kasus, dan berupaya mengolah data-data kualitatif yang dikumpulkan melalui observasi, wawancara mendalam, serta dokumentasi. Analisis dalam penelitian ini menggunakan teori tindakan komunikatif dari Habermas. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kedua penganut Hindu dan Muslim melalui ritual ini dapat membangun konsep kebersamaan antaragama, yang diaktualisasikan untuk kelangsungan hidup secara bersama. Melalui komunikasi sosial yang dibangun, hal ini dapat membentuk tindakan pada setiap penganut (Hindu dan Muslim) dengan mempertahankan tradisi sesuai aturan yang berlaku serta nilai dalam ritual Ngelukur dan Ngilahan Kaoq. Kegiatan ritual ini merupakan wujud rasionalitas tindakan komunikatif yang dilakukan masyarakat suku Sasak.

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INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country with diverse ethnics, races, and cultures spreading in many islands. Geographically, it consists of 13,667 islands, 358 tribes, and 200 ethnics. According to Indonesia's Central Bureau of Statistics in 2010, the number of population identify themselves as 87.18% Islam, 6.96% Christian, 2.91% Catholic, 1.69% Hindu, 0.72% Hindu, 0.05% Kong Hu Cu, and 0.13% unstated. The diverse ethnics, cultures,

and religions are the form of multicultural and religion plurality that can affect social relation. This tends to be opened to newcomer community (Bakri, 2015; Irhandayaningsih, 2012).

Sasak tribe community is the native tribe of Lingsar Village, while other tribes such as Javanese, Chinese, *samawa*, *mbojo*, and Balinese are minority ones. Out of them, there are two religion group ethnics developing and adhered to Sasak Islam with 4,442 adherents and Bali Hindu with 159 adherents. These two religion groups can affect social system until today, as shown on annual tradition of *Perang Topat* (Topat War) in Lingsar Village.

Ngelukar and *Ngilahan Kaoq* traditions are held by Hindu and Muslim adherents conducted at the same time and place, emphasizing the communicative symbol of religious life harmony since a long time ago. Although it exists between two religion adherents with different creed, it can build togetherness through communicative act based on local wisdom values in *Perang Topat* tradition (Jayadi et al., 2018).

Talking about the aspects of communication in the *Ngelukar* and *Ngilahan Kaoq* traditions, communication is the core of human relation in a variety of beliefs, values, and views. Communication is the transmission of information, idea, emotion, skill by using symbols, words, images, features, graphs, etc (Chon, 2019). Furthermore, there is a process of sent and delivered by the subject—whether it is in the form of ideas, processes, or messages containing pictures, graphics, symbols, words, and so on. Therefore, this transmission is named as communication. Communication activity is inseparable from social life, as it can construct self-concept, actualization and survival (Honneth et al., 1991).

Communication as a context leads to several levels and situations. In this case, context of communication can be divided into several levels that are individual, between individuals, groups and organizations, and mass, communication. Referring to social communication, it can create

descriptive fact, and the perception on public. Meanwhile, the wish to maintain right, obligation, and obedience to the enacted rule, evaluation on decision, and individual's opinion about communication typically involved as standard value, information, feeling, and need criteria (Germonprez & Zigurs, 2009; Nuris, 2016).

Each individual's act in performing inter-group social interaction builds on communicative act through social interaction. Inter-group social interaction is conducted based on their awareness.]As it happens between Hindu and Muslim in organizing *Ngelukar* and *Ngilahan Kaoq* rite of *Perang Topat* tradition (the Topat war) in Lingsar Village (Saloom, 2009). They still maintain the tradition until today. So that, it is interesting to analyze the communicative act of Hindu and Muslim Sasak tribes in holding *Ngelukar* and *Ngilahan Kaoq* rite in *Perang Topat* tradition.

Generally, the term tradition can be formulated as a group of practices and beliefs that are socially transmitted from the past and be a habits from one generation to the next generation (Hultkrantz, 2010). This practice and belief are their main reference to held the same rituals from their ancestors (Gibson et al., 2018).

Tradition is an element of the cultural heritage system and it passes to the next generation. Tradition became a heritage and life guidance coming from their ancestors. The tradition teaches human to live in a good way and avoid danger. Meanwhile, people inherit the ritual as creativity to continue the heritage (Sahin, 2012). There are various forms such as worship through the readings of ancient spells or verses, there is also a scenario of war describing the past in relation to the present (MacFarlane, 2012).

War means violent acts, battles between two opposing parties and damage each other to achieve the goal. War is identical with conflict causing loss of moral and material (Ulmer & Harris, 2013). War can influence the revolution in the government and society. Also, damage the social environment and weaken the economic development (Masud, 2005)

Perang Topat is a series of Pujawali rite to celebrate or to memorize Sheikh Abdul Malik, one of Islam priest in Lombok Island. This tradition is organized together by Hindus Balinese and Sasak Islam adherents in Pura and Kemaliq. Both of them hold cultural tradition and religious rite as the form of reconciliation without discrimination and domination between those adherents (Jayadi et al., 2018).

The Sasak people, especially in Lingsar village, have a variety of religions, consisting of Christianity, Catholicism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam. Lingsar village also has several traditions that are still existed such as; tambourine traditions, *kecimol*, *drum beleq*, *presean*, drama gong Bali, *bateq line Lingsar* and *Perang Topat*. The tradition of *Perang Topat* is an annual tradition carried out in a massive ritual (Jayadi et al., 2019). In holding the tradition, two religions are directly involved, namely Islam and Hinduism.

Religion is a very important element in the people's life. Even it is fused with souls. As a logical consequence of confession or belief in the existence of religion, society will always have good relations with Him (Giovagnoli, 2016). It has the supernatural power beyond human beings and cannot be possessed by humans. Supernatural powers can give a good and bad to people (Giovagnoli, 2016; Masud, 2005). Rituals is the efforts to avoid these plagues.

The ritual activity of Ngilahang (surround) Pura Gaduh and Kemaliq Lingsar was narrated by Hindus and Sasak Muslims. Ritual activities are aimed at the offerings before the implementation of *Perang Topat* along with kebon *Odeq* outside *Kemaliq*, followed by buffalo dish decorated with white and black fabrics. The ritual of *Ngilahan Kaoq* is conducted in the afternoon after Ashar prayer.

This *Ngilahan Kaoq* rite performs the procession of offerings or the welcome of spirits of the ancestors who have been on the shuttle and then placed in *Pura Gaduh* and *Kemaliq Lingsar*. Ritual activities accompanied by traditional dance and music are presented with decorated buffalo. This

tradition was conducted by both Hindu and Islamic groups of Sasak heading to *Sarasutra* to perform the closing ceremony of the *Ngelukar* or *Betete* tradition. *Ngelukar* comes from the word *Tulak* or back. It is a Hindu term means a ritual return, or the repatriation of supernatural spirits. The ritual activity became the concluding activity of *Perang Topat* traditions. After the worthy ceremony was completed, the participants of *Ngelukar* delivered prayers and returned to their homes. The ritual ceremony was performed by Hindus as the last ceremony in the *Jalasutra*.

Based on the above explanation, Habermas' communicative action theory, is expected to melt the debate over interfaith dialogue. Habermas' theory is used as an important aspect in dissecting and analyzing how the dialogue process between religious communities is important. The main idea of Habermas' theory becomes a framework or a point for the implementation of dialogue across religion. Besides, dialogue that takes place in this context is seen as communicative dialogue, free from domination, and critical intentions that are unconsciously done by speaker (Kernstock & Brexendorf, 2009; Mitrović, 1999).

The interfaith dialogue is a communication practice from a compound community. The communication theory of Jurgen Habermas is an update of the Frankfurt School's critical theory that has fallen into ideology (Jacobson, 2003; Masud, 2005). Habermas sees the dimension of communication as a human practice, where previously in a critical theoretical environment stated as the subject of Marxism. It is reduced as a work and underwriting social relations under the production tools.

Habermas as a reformer critical theory drew his thoughts from the legacy of previous philosopher. For example, his theories of communicative rationality and instrumental rationality can be traced to the prudence and *techne*, or *praxis* and *poesis* (Mitrović, 1999). In a communicative community, Habermas criticizes the instrumental rationality, such as a *Tarnpak* in analytical science—empirical, and ideological concealing intent

and importance, and then communicative rationality that is understanding, critical and emancipatory (Hoch, 2007; Dharma, 2017).

The idea of communication models in Habermas' whether it is teleologist—or dramaturgist—related to the claims of truth, claims as suitability and claims of authenticity which are very useful in viewing the perspective of communication that occurs in the interfaith dialogue (Johnson, 1991). Inter-religious dialogue is working on the meeting point “truth “ where the location of the religious is not defeated, his statements and opinions are not contradictory with the religious norms, and expressed in a honest, authentic manner, where the participants get the same opportunity to express their feelings and truthfulness, or the consensus is achieved freely (Conrad, 1998; Nuris, 2016).

To achieve the sense of reciprocal in a dialogue, Habermas also emphasized the community of moral subjects. Habermas aspires a model of ethical discourse in dialogue, through personality integrity that can build empathy and solidarity (Ferraro & Beunza, 2019). For that, he looks at Piaget's cognitive development theory, and the moral phasing theory of Kohlberg (Inayatillah & Aziz, 2019). Cognitive and moral development influences the achievement of a person's understanding of reality far from egocentric perspective, and is able to see everything from other people's points of view. This is accomplished at the stage of cognitive development as well as post-conventional morals (Hoch, 2007). The stage of requiring universalistic truth and autonomous morality are based on universal ethics.

The theory of Habermas' communicative action as a framework or point of dialogue between religions is an attempt to connect between moral decisions (stages of moral development) with social interaction, explaining about an attempt to investigate the normative assumptions of social interaction (societal relations) by emphasizing communicative dimensions in dialogue or rational discussion (Donnell & Donnell, 2004; Mitrović, 1999). In this context, Habermas theory of communicative

action is an ethical, practical, not merely imperative-individual ethical recommendation, but as a procedure of moral argument through dialogue or rational discussion to achieve mutual acceptance of public (Janson, Woo, & Smith 1993; Kruse et al., 2018).

METHODS

This qualitative research employed to see a model of communicative action in maintaining religious tolerance on Hindu and Sasak Muslim adherents in Lingsar Village of West Lombok. Furthermore, the approach in this study used a case study approach. It analyzed the social integration of religion and local culture in realizing religious harmony.

The data was collected directly through in-depth interviews with several informants. The informant consisted of key informants including *Kepala Adat* (Customary Leader), *Pemangku Pura*, *Amangku Kemaliq Lingsar*. These informants were selected through purposive sampling technique based on the adequacy of the data to be obtained. The main informant consisted of Hindu and Muslim adherents in Lingsar village and supporting informants consisted of organizing committee, participants, and visitors of *Perang Topat* tradition.

Apart from going through interviews, the data collection was also carried out by observation and documentation. Related to data analysis, it was conducted using an interactive model encompassing data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusion (Creswell, 2016; Yin, 2017).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Ngelukar And Ngilahan Kaoq Rite In Perang Topat

Both Hindu and Muslim communities organize *Ngelukar* and *Ngilahan Kaoq* to get sang Widi (God)'s blessing which is the ancestors' spirit safety and comfort. The blessing is given to Lingsar villagers (Hindu and Muslim communities) through *air suci* (holy water) *kemaliq Lingsar*

to meet their daily needs for eating, washing, and planting in dry field, garden, and farm.

In addition, hopes always appear among the two religious communities: expecting health and welfare for family and being avoided from any disease, expecting sufficient rainfall, the flowing *Kemaliq* water source, *Lingsar* soil fertility, being avoided from plant pest, and successful plantation. The attempt of achieving such the desire should be taken by holding religious rite or celebrating ancestor customary tradition, an attempt of achieving the expected ideals. One of rites held is *Perang Topat*; through this tradition implementation, they feel that they fulfilled their predecessors' exhortation.

The statement above shows that *Perang Topat* tradition is a religious rite and a cultural traditional expression to Hindu and Muslim religious communities. The date calculation is different, but the implementation time is the same which is at the same day and time in national calendar. *Perang Topat* tradition is held on the evening after *azan asar* before *azan magrib* during the full moon on Sasak people's calculated date.

Perang Topat tradition is conducted in *Pura Gaduh* and *Kemaliq Lingsar* which are located in *Pura Lingsar* park. Then, the rite begins in the houses of *Pemangku Hindu*, *Amangku Kemaliq Lingsar*, yard of *Kemaliq* and *Pura Lingsar*, *Lingsar Park Square*, *Pura Lingsar* and *Aiq Mual Lingsar*, and *Sarasuta* water source where the rite is ended. The development of *Perang Topat* improves over times along with the enthusiasm of *Lingsar* villagers coming from different backgrounds and even foreigners participating in the activity. *Perang Topat* rite is the one with the largest number of visitors, compared with other religious rite and tradition activities.

The activities conducted before the implementation of *Perang Topat* tradition and its procedure include: *Mendaq*, and *Ngilahang Kebon Odeq* or *Kaoq*. *Mendaq* rite is the rite of picking up the exalted guests (invisible spirits mastering Mount Rinjani or coming from Mount Agung). This *memendak*

rite is attended by Hindu and Muslim communities, followed with *Pujawali* rite in *Pura Aiq Mual*, then *Ngilabang Kebon Odeq* or *Kaoq* following the *memendaq* to *Lingsar* Park or called *memendak kebon odeq*. The word *ngilabang* means to walk around inside and outside *Kemaliek Lingsar* three times. The escort troops are represented in the row dance representing the war troops, and the main row consists of *kebon odeq* carrier. This *kebon odeq* row is flanked by men carrying spear, exalted umbrella and *tunggu*. This *ngilabang kebon odeq* outside *Kemaliek Lingsar* is followed with a buffalo paraded before being slaughtered and served for meals (Achmad, 2019; Jayadi et al., 2019).

As the closing ceremony, *Kebon Odeq* is put on *Kemaliek* altar. Participants conduct worship led by *Pemangku Hindu* and *Amangku Muslim*. In this case, Hindu community participates in putting the offering (*sesaji*) and conduct worship with their own *I'tiqat* (conviction) and intention. On the night before *Perang Topat* is held, an activity called *haulan* is held in Pamangku's house involving reading Qur'an, *zikrullah*, *Sholawatan* and pray, conducted by *jemaah* and religion leader and local people under *Penghulu's* (*Lingsar Village Chief*) leadership. Meanwhile on the day through the evening, *Perang Topat* tradition is held. The organization of *Perang Topat* consists of *nampab kaoq*, *miaq pesaji*, *nyerahan kaoq*, *mendaq pesaji*, *ngaturan pesaji*, with *Perang Topat* as the main event.

Nampab Kaoq activity is held before *Perang Topat* tradition. It is the first rite conducted; *Nampab Kaoq* is the slaughtering of buffalo as the sacrifice (in Muslim's term). Other animals such as cow, horse, goat, pig, and its kind, are not allowed to substitute it. Amangku said that *nampab kaoq* activity can be conducted using buffalo only, and no other animal is allowed. Next, *miaq pesaji* (Muslim's term) is the activity of arranging *sesaji* (offering) consisting of *ketupat* (rice cake boiled in a rhombus-shaped packet of plaited young coconut leaves), flower, fruit, and etc. In this *miaq pesaji*, there are nine *pesaji* containers called *dulung*. In addition, nine *senganan* or *dulang* containing any kinds of snacks is also made as the complement. This preparation is conducted in the morning in *bale* or repository.

Later, *Nyerahang Topat* is held with the participant share *ketupat* to be piled on *Altar Kemaliq*. The number of *ketupat* provided depends on the participants' willingness. *Mendak Pesaji* is the next rite after *miak pesaji* in the morning, exactly around the evening coincidentally with *rarak kembang waru* (the fall of *waru* flower). It is intended to welcome *pesaji* in Pemangku's house. At the same time, *kebon odeq* is brought to pemangku's house to welcome *pesaji*, and all *pesajis* are brought to *kemaliq*. Having arrived there, *nghilangan* ceremony is conducted by parading *kebon odeq* and *sesaji* encircling *Kemaliq* three times.

Later, *Nganturang Pesaji* is held. In this *Nganturang Pesaji*, the offering (*persajian*) has been conducted completely, *persajian* is dedicated to the invisible spirit, then the participants wait for the invisible spirit receiving this offering. The *nganturang pesaji* to the invisible spirit is then followed with the organization of *Perang Topat* tradition. All participants are out of *Pura* and *Kemaliq* walls or they are in the park receiving *Ketupat* thrown up from inside the wall. Meanwhile, *Perang Topat* tradition or public participating in the tradition consists of two positions: in upper front of *Pura* gate and in lower front of *Kemaliq* gate. Those staying in the upper part of *Pura* are largely Hindu communities coming from many corners, while those in front of *Kemaliq* gate are Islam communities.

Meanwhile, *Ketupat* is thrown as the instruments of *Perang Topat* to the front part of *Pura* belonging to Hindu communities' territory. Otherwise, Hindu communities throw *ketupat* to Muslim territory. Few minutes later, *Perang Topat* tradition has been completed. All *ketupats* are brought back home, without any remains, to be uplant fertilizer.

Communicative Action: Rational And Irrational Action

Each individual action in group interacts socially with other individuals and groups based on the motivation and conception to act. Such the act is represented by Hindu and Muslim communities through

organizing *Perang Topat* tradition based on rational and irrational actions in interaction (Fitriyah, Sarwoprasodjo, Sjaf, & Soetarto, 2019). Rational action performed by Hindu and Muslim religious communities builds on the expectation for environmental object and other effect of inter-group action (Kernstock & Brexendorf, 2009). Both Hindu and Muslim religious communities' action is oriented to norms and values contained in a series of *Perang Topat* tradition activities, for example, in *Ngilaban Kaoq* ritual activity.

The ritual activity is believed to be the form of dedication to spirits, invisible spirits, and God that is performed jointly by Hindu and Muslim communities in a series of *Perang Topat* tradition (Fatanti & Happy, 2019; Lukmantoro, 2004). Also, this tradition serves as the expression of gratitude to *Sang Wedi* (Hindu version) and Allah (God) (Muslim version). Meanwhile, the worship instruments brought are all crops coming from dry field, garden, and farm.

Irrational action in the organization of *Perang Topat* tradition by Hindu and Muslim communities can be seen from war (battle) practice using *ketupat* as the weapon (Suwignyo, 2012). *Perang Topat* tradition is held jointly Hindu and Muslim religious communities based on the habit bequeathed hereditarily by their ancestors (Inayatillah & Aziz, 2019). Besides, irrational action performed by the two religious communities in organizing *Perang Topat* tradition builds on emotional bond triggering it, so that the action is performed concomitantly in *Pura Gadaub* and *Kemaliq Lingsar*.

Communicative action between Hindu and Islam religious groups in Sasak tribe is based on the awareness building on rational and irrational action. Thus, social interaction between religions and ethnics is established strongly in conducting a series of *Ngelukar* and *Ngilabang Kaoq* ritual activities in *Perang Topat* tradition in Lingsar Village. Communication is so important and affects human beings very strongly, as it can create good

social relation or can scatter the enemy (Atilgan, 2020; Donnell & Donnell, 2004).

Appreciating the difference results in the attitudes of accepting, tolerating, and respecting other cultures and can build harmonious relation among people with different cultural backgrounds. It runs effectively and is accompanied with willingness and sincerity encouraging the communicative action between religions and cultures in Lingsar villagers (Janson, Woo, & Smith, 1993).

An effective intercultural communication can result in the attitudes of accepting, tolerating, and respecting other cultures that in turn can build harmonious relation between Hindu and Muslim adherents with diverse ethnic backgrounds. Such condition, when supported with more varying education level and environment, will fade negative stigma more easily and grow awareness of the reality of religion and ethnic diversities all at once, and furthermore can develop tolerance between Hindu and Muslim adherents.

Thus, communicative action performed by Hindu and Muslim adherents with diverse ethnics and religions can create the feeling of appreciating others' difference. In the ritual activities of *Ngelukar* and *Ngilahan Kaoq* as a representation of social integration between religions and cultures there are principles and values of diversity can unite over differences, peace and harmony in religion and nationality make *Lingsar* village as a safe and peaceful village. This phenomenon is represented in *Perang Topat* rite and cultural tradition as the public space to create communicative action between Hindu and Muslim adherents in *Ngelukar* and *Ngilahan Kaoq* ritual activities.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

From the results of the presentation and analysis of the data that has been presented, it can be concluded that communicative actions between Sasak Hindu and Muslims adherents in Lombok through the *Ngelukar* and *Ngilahan Kaoq* ritual activities aim to establish cooperation and create a harmonious relationship among them. In this context, the existence of cooperation and harmonious relations exist leads to a bonding between Hindus and Muslims in Lombok. In addition, the creation of a harmonious relationship also leads to reconciliation or peace between humans, so that it does not trigger suspicion of the particular domination, ethnicity, and culture over another.

Suggestion

Based on the explanations and conclusions that have been presented, it is necessary to analyze in more depth the *Ngelukar* and *Ngilahan Kaoq* rituals from different points of view. In this case, there needs to be an update in the next research that will be carried out, both in operational methods, determining the subject and main object under study, approaches, and the use of different theories so that the depth of analysis is more varied. Besides, the assumption is that tolerance that occurs between religious communities is basically dynamic and continues to develop.

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