

## **The Shadow Puppet Show Life in Modern Era (A Social Cultural Study)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The shadow puppet show is full of challenges. The presence of other media contributed to the existence of shadow puppet show performances, either increasingly or even decreasing life progress of that. The presence of electronic media, that followed by the internet is remarkable. The presence of new culture in the modern era is actually very possible to change the performing arts to make it more popular with the public. If it had been for the first generation think that the most prestigious is a show, then the television gradually began to remove such limits. Nowadays, the impressions are often encountered more on the interests of informative and recreational course, very few who have an educative function, especially at the time of the weekend. The severity of free time and one's holiday time on weekends has been contaminated with many such impressions. Television shows at weekends are most affecting the audience. The intensity of television viewers increases if there is no meaningful activity.

In the other words, television shows can influence the way the audience thinks and behaves and behaviors. The relationship of puppet shows and the presence of television results in less good intersections if not properly directed. Puppet art activists in the effort to engage in culture should be followed by critical and open acts. Puppet which was once a closed and serious art show must be adjusted with time and become a more open art toward commodity-worthy commodity entertainmen.

**Key Words:** Shadow Puppet Show, Television, Javanese Culture, Modern Era, Art.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Humans creativity throughout history includes many activities, including the social and economic organization, science and technology and processes that are symbolic of human activity in creating meaning that refers to another reality of everyday experience. The symbolic process includes the fields of religion, philosophy, art, science, history, myth and language (Kuntowijoyo, 1999: 3). The whole system of symbolic processes through several things including among others the dissolution of the various things that are then believed by the public.

The structure of belief that is formed then turns into a paradox of mutual relationship between the symbolic process and the whole society. Gradually more and more people think that existing beliefs become a 'common' thing and then the community re-create a new culture. Symbols that exist and then trusted the community comes from the environment. Basically, everyone is formed by the environment that is usually called the culture. In addition, humans can also form a culture. Culture can be viewed as a patterned action in society. Every person in a cultural group feels a shared symbol and

value. By combining the self-factor with cultural factors, people will act according to their psychic tendencies (Panuju, 1994: 28-29). In other words, society is formed by the culture caused by the environment, and vice versa.

Shadow puppet is a traditional art of the Indonesian people, who can survive and can be recognized its existence across the times and continents. If you look at the history of Javanese culture, shadow puppet has evolved since the 15th century and to this day there are many fans even from certain circles. Shadow puppet is a form of art that displays the scene of the doll's shadow drama made of animal skin, shaped flat, colored and lifted (Budi, 2002). As an art, shadow puppet becomes its own entertainment for local literary and cultural activists. So the puppet show has a thematic tendency to social phenomena presented through the story line which has the content of social criticism and mental development of the nation. Besides, the puppet performances with religious missions serve as a medium of traditional communication by conveying religious teachings by basing on information in scripture and explanation of religious leaders.

Using puppet media as a medium of character education is still very relevant in modern times, because various facilities are offered very easily and cheaper. Therefore, look at the reality, no more people will appreciate the great value legacy predecessors, both ideological values, historical values, moral values, and the values of life. The younger generation ignore the various examples that exist in the culture of the nation, because it is considered ancient and outdated (Suyanto, 2013). Therefore, the role of character cultivation for the community, especially students is still very important and needs to be done in order to create civil society and noble virtuous character. Purwa shadow puppet performances (story of Mahabharata) can still created as other forms to be more closely and easily accepted for the community. If in ancient times to spread the religion of Islam through shadow puppet performances, in this modern era can be developed way of dissemination of moral education for students in schools and society in general. The intended distribution is through puppet comics or puppet animated films without changing the story and characteristic of the characters.

## METHODS

This research is a research of literature through document analysis in the form of literature study. This type of research is a qualitative research that is content analysis. Qualitative research is done by not giving priority to the numbers, but using the depth of appreciation of the interaction between concepts under consideration. According to Taylor (1975: 3), qualitative methodology is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or oral words of people and behavior that can be observed. Qualitative research provides attention to natural data, data in relation to the context of its existence. The object of research is not a social phenomenon as a substantive form, but the meanings contained behind the action, which actually encourages the emergence of these symptoms.

The method used in this research is the method of content analysis and descriptive method. The method of analysis means to describe the data obtained as is. As the name implies content analysis is primarily concerned with the content of communication, both verbally, in the form of language, as well as nonverbally. Descriptive research method is done by describing the data obtained without interpreting it with the

numbers, but emphasizes the understanding and appreciation of the relationship that occurs between the concepts studied empirically.

## DISCUSSION

According Koentjaraningrat culture is the power of mind in the form of creativity, intention and taste. Budi (character) is defined as matters relating to the human mind which is the reflection of the mind and the power of all what is thought, felt and contemplated and then practiced in the form of a force that produces life. Culture is a way of life that is developed and shared by a group of people and passed down from generation to generation. Culture is made up of many complex elements, including religious and political systems, customs, language, tools, clothing, buildings, and artwork. According to Tylor, culture is a complex whole, in which it contains knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, laws, customs, and other abilities one gets as a member of society. Culture includes a very broad sense. Culture is the whole result of human creativity is very complex, inside contains the structures that are interconnected, so it is a unity that serves as a guide in life. Culture is as a system, meaning culture is an organic unit, and a series of symptoms, forms and elements related to one another (Widiarto, 2009: 10).

Modern-day shadow puppet shows are full of challenges. Besides the shrinking of the puppet lovers, the presence of other media contributed to the existence of shadow puppet, either increasingly or giving decreasing to the life of puppet. The presence of electronic media coupled with the sophistication of the internet is very remarkable. The presence of new shape in this modern era is actually very capable of changing the art of performance in order to more easily the public. If it had been for the old generation, if the quality and the most prestigious art was a show, then the television gradually began to eliminate such limits. Whereas there nowadays, impressions are often encountered are asked more utilitarian and recreational informative course, very few impressions have an educative function even on display at the weekend. The lethargy of free time and a weekend's holiday time has been contaminated with many such shows, according to Yeo (2017) who explained that the weekend's most influential television impressions on the audience. The intensity of television viewers increases if there is no meaningful activity.

The effect of this television show will directly affect all of its viewers, especially children. A boy and a television are two things that are somewhat difficult to separate, according to Cooney (2006), children and television are a powerful blend known to people elders, educators, and advertisers. Television is also a tool that transcends culture in influencing the child's way of thinking and behavior. Television can help children to know their rights and obligations of the child as a good citizen and can evoke the spirit of a child to engage in repair of society, which is accompanied by a parent guide (Chen, 1994: 66). In a short, television shows can affect the thinking and attitude and behavior of children. Television is also very supportive of the pattern of behavior and development of children even as if it can be said that children's caregivers are television.

The biggest problem is not the number of hours a child spends watching television, because like Interactive TV shows (ITV), it can provide an expanding knowledge of the pedagogical knowledge of the engaged audiences. These long-distance interactive displays can develop science professionally and effectively (Annetta, 2004). So far, the

programs watched and the participation of parents in utilizing these programs can help their language learning activities. Because even though television shows are commercial, what children get from their content, they will tend to use it as a means of education (Lesser 1975: 28). The relationship of puppet shows and the presence of the television get to a less good point if not directed properly. Puppet art activist in his effort to 'nguri-uri' (maintain sustainability) culture must be followed by critical and open acts. Puppet, which was once a closed and serious art show, should be directed in time and become a more open art toward commercially viable commodity intertends. Through what? Of course through more modern media such as television and internet media that can be used. Critical society should change the mindset to be more modern without leaving the culture or identity itself.

There is a new hope for the art of puppet tradition in Indonesia. Indonesian people, especially from Java should be grateful because as you know, the puppet is recognized by UNESCO as world heritage. Of course, this is not only a burden for the supporters of the puppet culture, but also the responsibility of all potentials, especially the government should be responsible for facilitating these cultural interests, namely through appropriate programs, and sustainable, and so forth. How about the relationship of puppet show as a means of supporting character education? The existence of puppet containing the teachings of manners can not be denied. Human character in the human cultural system domiciled as the ultimate foundation fundamental that is put on all aspects of education (Koentjaraningrat, 1981: 202-209) . But it is not easy to know the teachings of manners in puppet, we must learn the plot of the story first. The difficulty is caused by the teachings of manners that are poured in a puppet story implied on a particular event or event.

A concrete offer if a puppet show is transformed into another form without changing the story, character or style. The puppet performance can be transformed into a comic book or animated show with a lightweight carriage, so the application of character to the child is easier, because both of these are media closer to the child. Utilizing online media, the presence of comic puppets can be advertised and commercialized easily. In reality, comics are indeed one of the most desirable reading is not only by the children's readers, but also by some adults. Comic reading capable motivate children in reading and even can inspires children's imagination in accordance with the child's development period (Saputro, 2015). Through the television media, the presence of puppet animation stories can be aired at primetime times so that many viewers will be loyal as the audience. This is done for the creation of a more graceful Indonesian society in behaving (moral), especially in the younger generation.

### **FIGURES OF PUPPET FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHARACTER**

The development of the character and / or culture of a nation can never escape from the values of the tradition that has underpinned and enlarged it. The history of the nations of the world shows that the advanced and the great people have very long mythological roots. In Indonesia, especially Java, puppet mythology is a tradition and culture that has been underlying and played a major role in shaping the character and existence of the Indonesian nation. This is because mythology is a crystallization of concepts, values, and norms that animate the attitude of community life for this and cause communication among community members to be efficient.

The puppet story is a work of art that is noble, monumental, and very valuable, not only because of the greatness of the story, the beauty of the delivery, the assertiveness of the character pattern, but also the value of his philosophy and "teachings" which are invaluable and still relevant to the present situation (Mulyono, 1989). The various wayang stories and characters of many characters are used as role models, principles of life, the source of the search for values, or at least affect the attitude of the fans of the story. Wayang is not only a popular art form, but also has become a part of life needed by society. Substantially the value of puppetry relates to the problems of human life concerning personal, social, and religious life. Pragmatically, seen from the aspect of the necessity of human life puppet values serves to support the goal of living, sustaining life, and developing life, all of which leads to the goal of achieving the perfection of life. Human action for the purpose of perpetuating, defending, and developing life must be achieved in the right way and with the right goal (Nurgiyantoro, 2011).

As an example the character of Sengkuni. Sengkuni is an antagonist in the story epic of Mahabharata. He is the maternal uncle of the Kurawa's. Sengkuni is famous as a cunning figure who always incites the Kurawa's to be hostile to the Pandawa's. He managed to seize the Indraprastha Kingdom from the hands of the Pandawa's through a dice game. According to Mahabharata, Sengkuni is the personification of Dwaparayuga, a period of chaos on Earth, the predecessor of the dark ages or Kaliyuga. The story of sengkuni can be considered very tragic, on the big day at batalion Bharatayudha Sengkuni very immune with all sorts of weapons, even to death almost pick up, Sengkuni is told to feel very sick.

We know that Sengkuni character can happen to anyone, no matter what his religion, which can usually be wrapped with religion, titles, descendants and illusions. The existence of such consciousness, at least we can be more vigilant and careful. Do not let be consumed slander and incitement disseminated. Everyone certainly does not want to be Sengkuni or let ourselves be regarded as the character, let's look inside us first. Are we convinced that we are truly free of the nature and bad character of Sengkuni? The story of this Sengkuni should awaken us to the importance of self-assessment of actions and things that can harm us, because basically what we have done backwards is at the end.

## CONCLUSSION

The characters in the story of shadow puppet show generally has the value of character. The character in particular explaining moral education either express or implied depictions of elite leaders, one of them is the character of the sage. Although the development of the times with such an electronic media of television and the Internet, the sustainability of the puppet with the aim education manners or that other course for the purpose of increasing public awareness of build the importance of moral consciousness of the Indonesian nation as well. So, to further introduce the shadow puppet show for the younger generation in the modern era as it's now, it needs special attention and change it to be more well received.

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## BIODATA

The author is an active student of Indonesian language education in Universitas Sebelas Maret Surakarta. His passion for discussing, try to always make something new.