

## Rambu Tuka': Making Ready-to-Wear Clothes Inspired by Traditional Thanksgiving Ceremonies in Toraja Land

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### ABSTRACT

*Rambu Tuka' has the meaning Kameloan which means joy or happiness. For example, wedding ceremonies, Tongkonan houses, and harvests. The process of the Rambu Tuka' event carried out by the Toraja community is followed by the Ma'letton ritual or what is known as the slaughtering of pigs, buffalo and chickens, then distributed to the community. Furthermore, the Pa'gellu Dance became a form of dance performed by the Toraja people during the Rambu Tuka' event. This ceremony is also carried out by the Toraja people as a form of gratitude to God for the gifts given. The uniqueness of the Rambu Tuka event then became a source of inspiration for the author in creating fashion works consisting of one ready-to-wear outfit. Clothing creation uses the Double Diamond Model process or double diamond model which consists of four creative processes, namely: (1) Discovery phase, (2) Define phase, (3) Development phase, (4) deliver. It is hoped that the results of this clothing creation will make people more familiar with the diversity of Indonesian culture, especially the uniqueness of the Rambu Tuka' ceremony.*

### KEYWORDS

*Rambu Tuka' Clothing Creation Double Diamond Method*

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### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country that has many tribes and nations, from Sabang to Merauke. Every region in Indonesia has different tribes or languages and customs with all their problems and cultural complexity. One of them is the problem of art as a form of culture which is often related to cultural existence or even a process of degradation. For this reason, nowadays many artists and cultural figures celebrate this process of cultural experimentation.

Regional art can only be seen through experimental operations, either through art performances or packaging of cultural artifacts, one of which is clothing (Marsan, 2021: 42). Clothing has existed since ancient times. It is proven that humans have long started covering their bodies using leaves and bark. The purpose of covering the body is to cover certain parts of the body and protect the body from natural phenomena, climate and disturbances from animals (Riyanto, 2003). Fashion developments are currently very rapid. Starting from the design, model, type of fabric and clothing decoration. This makes designers compete to create new innovations and create creative fashion models so that they can be accepted by society. Unique and attractive clothing is currently very popular with the public (Putri, 2016).

Regarding ethnic culture, one of the tribes in Indonesia is the Toraja tribe who live in South Sulawesi Province. The Toraja tribe is known for having a unique culture that is able to attract tourists to come there. Apart from being known for their unique customs and culture, the Toraja people are also known as a tribe that upholds its customs and culture (Ikramah & Puspitasari, 2022). Toraja is a tribe that has many works of art from the Toraja tribe which are loved by many people, one of which

is Rambu Tuka'.

Terminologically, Rambu Tuka' consists of two words, namely; Rambu which means smoke and Tuka' which means incline or upwards. Rambu Tuka' has the meaning Kameloan which means joy or happiness, for example a wedding or thanksgiving. Some of the series of events in implementing Rambu Tuka' include holding events at Tongkonan's house. The Tongkonan House is a Toraja traditional house which is the center of social and cultural life and has an important meaning for the people. This term refers to Toraja society which refers to large house buildings that are owned by the community both personally and owned by people born in the house (Ayu & Russanti, 2022).

The Tongkonan ritual is carried out using various kinds of plants, each of which has a unique meaning. Plants that are used as materials, tools or media in Tongkonan rituals according to Toraja tradition are rich in natural resources including various types of plants because of their location in the highlands (Tandirerung et al. 2023). Tongkonan House has unique and beautiful decoration. These decorations are used to decorate the front of Tongkonan houses, gates and pillars of traditional houses. There are approximately 125 decorations in the Toraja Tongkonan House (Suciningtyas, Khikmiyah, & Ulah, 2020). Among them are *Pa'barre Allo*, *Pa'tedong*, *Pa'manuk Lodong*, *Pa'ulu Karua*, *Pa'lolo Tabang*, *Pa'sepu To Rongkong*, *Pa'papan Kandaure*, *Pa'tangki Pattung*, *Pa'daun Bolu*, *Pa' Repehorn*, *Pa'sekong*, *Pa'kapu Baka*, *ne'limbongan* and *Pa'daun Peria* and others.

The process of implementing the Rambu Tuka' event includes a series of events, namely the *Ma'letton* ritual. The *Ma'letton* ritual is one of the rituals carried out by the Toraja people by being paraded around a traditional tongkongan house containing pigs. The traditional tongkongan house held at the event was equipped with green plants such as coconut leaves, tabang leaves, and siri-siri or commonly known as puring leaves (Asrifalgi, 2022). Regarding the process of carrying out this event, the author observed the dominance of green in every artifact or ritual attribute used so that through the results of these observations, ideas emerged to produce works of art which on the one hand aimed to maintain cultural values. Apart from that, this idea can become the newest form of cultural expression born from the traditions of the Toraja ethnic community.

In the implementation of the Rambu Tuka' event there is also a traditional dance called Manimbong. Manimbong is a dance performed by men and is usually accompanied by the Ma'dandan or Women's dance (Novita & Lestari, 2021). The Manimbong dance is believed to be an expression of the body which is an old tradition of Toraja society. Therefore, if it is explored in depth, it will be revealed that the Manimbong dance has a history and is very influential on the survival of the Toraja people. This dance has the meaning that the Toraja people want to convey the love and inclusion of God Almighty or Puang Matua or Debata, even abundant blessings for the Toraja people through the rice harvest and even finished houses or tongkonan (Gasong & Rajuati, 2017). In order to strengthen the ideational stimulus, the author explores again the dance performed at the Rambu Tuka' event, called the Pa'gellu Dance, which is a form of dance that is also often performed by the Toraja people. This dance is performed by women or usually Toraja girls, which in ancient times was used to welcome heroes returning home from the battlefield. The dances that the author has described have become the source of the author's creation which will be manifested in ready-made clothing works or today it is called Ready-to-Wear.

Ready-to-Wear is a product whose manufacturing process is based on general sizes and is marketed as ready-to-wear clothing (Andriyanti, Sinaga, & Lubis, 2022). According to Yuniya Kawamura (2014), Ready-to-Wear products have several target market specifications related to taste and economic class. Ready-to-use products are products that are widely used by the public. This has given rise to many Ready-to-Wear designers who have international and local experience (Kharimah & Nursari, 2019).

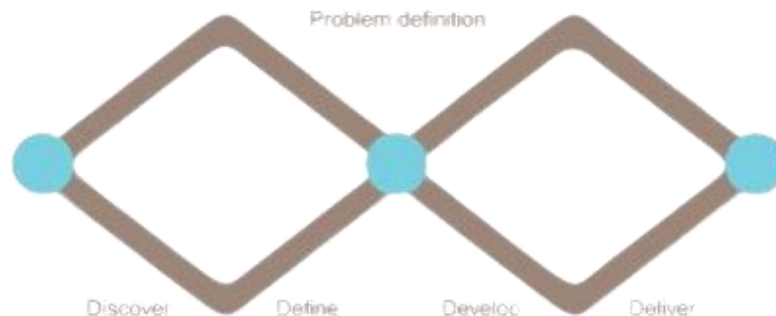
Several previous studies have conducted research similar to the research conducted (Ayu et al, 2023). His research is related to the source of inspiration for Rambu Solo Toraja. Meanwhile, this research uses the inspiration of Rambu Tuka' Toraja. The design created by the author began when he was given the task of making clothes of his own design using Trend Forecasting with a Transcultural theme. The inspiration for the design created by the author came from one of the

traditions of the Toraja people. The Grand Show exhibition will be held at the University of Malang in 2022. This event will be attended by the classes of 2019 and 2020 majoring in fashion. A total of 120 students were creative in creating their own works. When the best designer category was announced, the author designer was selected to be one of the best designers at the event.

## METHOD

The author uses qualitative research with an ethnographic approach in order to understand the cultural events and life views of the subjects studied as objects of study. In this approach, the data collection process is carried out systematically regarding views of life as well as various cultural activities and social values contained in a society (Endraswara in Rifandi, 2023: 161). The research process was carried out by collecting data through interviews with sources who deeply understand the culture of the Toraja people and exploratory documentation studies. The author also uses data such as recordings on YouTube which contain various information related to culture which the author uses as a source of inspiration, related to philosophy and specific forms related to the spirit of the people. Apart from that, in the design process, the author uses the creation method to design ready-made clothing.

The work creation method that will be used is the Double Diamond Model or double diamond model which was first introduced by the British Design Council. The model is a holistic approach to design. The Double Diamond Model is an approach used in the design process to describe four main stages. This research adopts the Double Diamond Model from Ledbury, (2018) in designing and developing high performance clothing products. The Double Diamond Model or double diamond model consists of four creative processes, namely: (1) Discovery phase, (2) Define phase, (3) Develop phase, (4) deliver.



**Figure 1.** Double Diamond Model

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Design Process

At this stage of the design process the author adopts the 'Design Thinking' method known as the 'ideation' stage, namely the transition process from problem formulation to problem solving. In this stage, the ideas that the author has obtained through collecting qualitative data are manifested as a basis for making a design prototype. Ideation basically aims to push the range of ideas as far as possible before finally choosing the best idea that can be a solution to a problem. The most concrete manifestation in this stage is pouring ideas into a moodboard (Anggarini, 2020: 2).

The idea discovery stage, which is an idea search process, is inherently intended as a process to clarify the concepts that will be used to produce work. This stage is the stage of classifying research data and processing information related to the traditions of Toraja society. Based on the background that the author has described, the author is interested in the traditions of the Toraja people which are unique and authentic and are still maintained by the Toraja people to this day. Based on this information, the author puts it into a moodboard. Mood boards in creating clothing designs can help

writers guide the selection of visual elements and clarify the boundaries of the clothing design that will be created

This party fashion work was inspired by the Toraja tradition, namely Rambu Tuka'. The display of Tuka Signs has been carried out by the Torajan people for generations. What is unique about the implementation of Rambu Tuka' is that Toraja people wear different clothes but have typical Toraja cloth, namely woven cloth. Toraja Woven Cloth is cloth that comes from the native Toraja people. From this tradition, several color schemes were chosen to be applied in fashion works, taking the colors green, black and red.



**Figure 2.** Moodboard

### Define

The Define stage is the stage for identifying the most important priorities and to whom the idea or work will be shown. This stage also shows the segmentation of fashion design works created with the aim that each fashion design always refers to the creator's imagination of his work. Therefore, the author determines that this fashion work is segmented for women aged approximately 20-30 years on the grounds that the design depicted depicts youth and wisdom based on ethnicity. In terms of posture, this work is intended for women who have a proportional height of approximately 160 cm and weigh 50 kg, with the aim of emphasizing the silhouette design found in the clothing design. Apart from that, the skin color factor is also one of the authors' considerations, namely women who have fair skin so that the color of the clothing design looks more vibrant.

The Toraja traditional clothing work, namely Rambu Tuka', is applied with a variety of decorations based on the traditions of the Toraja people. The design process can be seen through the moodboard design and it can be said that the application of this decoration does not go through a stylization process but rather the size of the decoration is different. The decorative application uses Toraja woven motif cloth with Pa'Tedong and Pa'Erong carvings. Applying decorations to clothing applies design principles that will make the decorations attractive. The choice of color to be applied to the decoration is adjusted to the color that dominates the clothing.

### Develop

The development stage is the process of realizing the design ideas that have been generated and then turning them into a work. Based on the inspiration from the Rambu Tuka' tradition on the

mood board, namely Pa'Tedong and Pa'Erong decorations which have meanings in harmony with Toraja society. In Toraja decoration there are three basic colors, namely black, red and yellow. The Pa'Tedong decoration itself is an abstraction of the face of a buffalo which is the main pet for the Toraja people.

This decoration means prosperity for the people and is a sign of prosperity because they have the ability to raise buffalo. Apart from that, by adding Pa'Erong decorations, the philosophical value is also found that those who use these decorations are smart and wise people. In the author's creative process, the development of form is also linear with the philosophy believed by the community. The application of this decoration does not go through a stylization process, but the size of the motif will change to suit the overall design.



Figure 3. Toraja Weaving Motifs

### Deliver

The deliver stage is the final stage, at this stage you will see the finished results of applying the Rambu Tuka' tradition to making Ready To Wear clothing. In creating a fashion work there are several stages, namely 1) Determining the source of the idea in the form of a moodboard. 2) Determine the target market, namely for whom the work will be created. 3) Create a design that will be realized, following is a picture of the design that will be realized. 4) Prepare materials and tools. 5) Make a tool to find out the location of the decorations that will be applied. 6) Evaluation on first fitting. 7) Cutting the actual material. 8) Sew the actual material.



Figure 4. Design 1 (left) and Design 2 (right)

Toraja people know the thanksgiving event as Rambu Tuka'. The Rambu Tuka' party is a form of worship event for deities (*deata*) such as *ma'pesung*. Ma'pesung is believed by the Toraja people to be a god who gives good fortune or blessings from nature in the form of fertile land and abundant produce, forests and fields and rice fields containing the life of Tongkonan families and abundant water as a source of life.

Tuka' signs are implemented on the northeast side. The Toraja people believe this to be a form of guidance from the gods towards peace from their ancestors. This means that the rising smoke rises into the sky before the rising sun reaches the zenith. Some of the traditions carried out during the Rambu Tuka event are: a) plowing the fields and sowing seeds and harvesting, b) Tongkonan house parties (Mangrara Banua), c) proposing (*ma'parampo*) and wedding parties (*mandapo*).

First, plowing fields and sowing seeds and harvesting. Torajan people have skills and expertise in farming, raising animals and poultry as well as in sowing fish seeds. The skills of the Toraja people have been inherited from ancient times until now. For example, the tongkonan economy. Tongkonan economy is an activity that originates from the lives of indigenous peoples who are bound by economic and social values. This is a form of togetherness in meeting the basic living needs of society.

The two Tongkonan houses (*Magrara Banua*). The Toraja people are known to be very close to the habits of their previous ancestors. One of them is building a house to live in for activities. Several types of buildings known to the Torajan people are 1) *pandokodena* houses, 2) *barung-barung* houses, 3) ordinary houses with normal shapes, 4) *a'riridan* stone tongkonan houses, 5) *layuk* tongkonan houses.

The beginning of establishing a tongkonan house usually begins with a prayer to God Almighty in the hope of receiving blessings, peace in the guidance of His grace, strength and health that continues to flow in the home and family as hope. Furthermore, when the house is finished, it is usually continued with making a barn or *alang* as a complete *aluk* and Toraja community custom which is adapted to the family's economic capabilities and there are carved, semi-carved and uncarved forms of the house and *alang*.

The third is proposing (*ma'parampo*) and a wedding party (*mendapo*). As in general, Toraja society interacts with each other socially. The Toraja people directly or indirectly experience the same thing in determining their life partner. Since childhood, he has been educated and taught moral ethics in socializing. This is mentioned in Toraja culture, namely *Karumme-rumme*, *Lande-lande*, *Ma'retteng to Ma*; *badong* as a unit that is transformed into community organizations.

Dance performed at the Rambu Tuka' event is *Manimbong*. *Manimbong* is one of the dances in Rambu Tuka' that has been around for a long time. This dance has a history that is very influential on the survival of the Toraja people. This dance conveys the love and inclusion of God Almighty or *Puang Matua* or *Deata* and even abundant blessings for the Toraja people. *Manimbong* is played by men and is usually performed together with the *Ma'dandan* (women's) dance. *Ma'dandan* is played by a group of women who wear fairly simple clothes, jewelry and other accessories. *Manimbong* is played by a group of men wearing *Bayu Pokko' seppa Tallu Buku*, and old/unique cloth sashes.

The process of performing the *Manimbong* dance is not accompanied by music. However, each person will bring a musical instrument called a *Sarong Simbong*, which is like a small circle-shaped shield with a Toraja carving pattern decorated with hanging ropes and coins attached so that when you shake the instrument it will produce a sound which then becomes a beat or rhythm for the players. Then the *Pa'gellu* Dance became a form of dance performed by the Toraja people. This dance is performed by women or usually Toraja girls, which in ancient times was used to welcome heroes returning home from the battlefield.

The process of implementing the Rambu Tuka' event includes a series of events, namely the *Ma'letton* ritual. The *Ma'letton* ritual is one of the rituals carried out by the Toraja people by parading around a Tongkonan traditional house containing pigs. The traditional Tongkonan house held at the

event was equipped with green plants such as coconut leaves, tabang leaves and siri-siri (croton leaves).

### **Ready To Wear**

Indonesia is a high potential market for textiles and fashion due to stable economic growth and the fourth highest population in the world. According to the McKinsey Global Institute, the number of middle class consumers in Indonesia is estimated to grow from 45 million people in 2010 to 145 million people in 2030 and is one of the keys to economic growth in Indonesia (Tanzil et al., 2021).

Ready to Wear clothing is clothing that can be worn easily without having to take body measurements and order the design first, such as when making contour clothing or ordering clothes from a tailor, ready to wear clothing also does not require repeated fitting to suit the body (Yusuf et al., 2018). According to John Hopkins (2005), the word ready-to-wear is adapted from the French term "prêt-à-porte", and is also called "Off The Peg" from the British term which means something that is ready to be made or ready-to-wear clothing (Ameliasari & Nursari, 2019).

### **Ready To Wear Clothing Making Process With Rambu Tuka' Inspiration**

The clothes made by the author come from the culture and customs of the Toraja region. The tradition taken is the Rambu Tuka tradition. Rambu Tuka' is a traditional ceremony of thanksgiving or joy, such as weddings, thanksgiving for harvest achievements, and the inauguration of a house or tongkonan. The concept used in the process of making the author's design is based on the Rambu tuka' tradition. Starting from rituals, traditions, music, dance and clothes worn during the Rambu Tuka' event. The process of implementing the Rambu Tuka event is dominated by women. This happens because the number of women in Toraja is greater than men. So that when performing a dance, for example, it will be dominated by women. On the other hand, in Indonesia, currently the number of women is much greater than the number of men. Based on the conditions that occur in the field, it inspires the author to make clothes for women.

The color design used by the author consists of several colors, namely: red, green and black. This color choice was motivated by the Toraja people when holding the traditional Rambu Tuka event. First, red. One of the events used in Rambu Tuka is Mangrara Banua. Mangrara Banua in Toraja means blood. The blood in question is that when holding the Mangrara Banua event, a tradition will be carried out by dripping the blood of slaughtered animals, namely pigs, buffalo and chickens. The purpose of dripping from these animals is as a sign of gratitude to God for his inclusion and blessing. Next, the slaughtered animals will be distributed to the community. This indicates that the Toraja people have strong friendship. This background is what made the author choose the color red.

Next, the second color is green. During the Rambu Tuka' event, there is a series of events, namely the Ma'letton ritual. The Ma'letton ritual is one of the rituals carried out by the Toraja people by parading around a Tongkonan traditional house containing pigs. The traditional Tongkonan house held at the event was equipped with green plants such as coconut leaves, tabang leaves and siri-siri (croton leaves). This background inspired the author to choose the color green.

Then the third color is black. The black color that the author took comes from the Ma'letton ritual as well. At this event there was an offering or what is known by the Toraja people as Dirempun. Dirempun is the collection of pigs which are used as offerings. The pigs used must also be black. Based on this tradition, the author uses black as one of the design colors.

One of the carvings found in the Rambu Tuka' ritual is Pa'Tedong and Pa'erong which are found at the stage of making tongkonan houses which will be used to house pigs that will be paraded. Pa'Tedong in Toraja is a buffalo. This type of carving symbolizes that the buffalo in Toraja is the main and much loved pet. On the other hand, the Toraja people believe that Pa'Tedong carvings are a symbol of strength, prosperity and nationality. The Torajan people also believe in using the

Pa'erong motif as a hope that ancestral spirits will protect and improve their fortune. The writer took motifs from animals or plants as inspiration because animals and plants symbolize virtue, such as water weeds (plants), crabs and kecebing (plants) symbolize fertility. Thus, the design created will use sunkit cloth and Toraja woven cloth.

Music is one of the tools used when carrying out the Rambu Tuka tradition in Toraja. One of the names of the musical instruments played is Sarong Simbong. Sarong Simbong is a musical instrument that people play in a circle when dancing. The dance used is Manimbong. The design made at the bottom has a circle-shaped decoration like factory manipulation, equipped with a technique that forms a circle motif. Thus, the bottom of the author's design was inspired by the Sarong Simbong music played during the Manimbong Dance.

Next at the top is the author's design. Ma'Lettoan is one of the traditions of the Toraja people which is still routinely carried out today. The Toraja people believe that Ma'Lettoan is a custom that is carried out by parading traditional tongkonan houses containing pigs or buffalo which are paraded as a form of gratitude and brotherhood. Thus the top of this design is inspired by Ma'Letton. The aim is to attract the interest of the general public when they see this design.

### **The results are ready to wear clothing inspired by Rambu Tuka'**

The results of ready-to-wear clothing inspired by the Toraja Rambu Tuka' tradition are as follows:



**Figure 5.** Result of Design 1 and 2

### **Form Of Work**

The Rambu Tuka' fashion collection consists of two Busan Ready to wear designs. Each outfit consists of several pieces. The first Ready to Wear clothing design in the Rambu Tuka' collection is women's clothing which consists of two pieces. At the top of the outfit, use a blouse with bishop sleeves. The blouse uses green Sunkist material on the left and black Toraja weaving on the right side of the blouse. On the right and left sides of the blouse there are blouse decorations that hang down from the middle of the face and back to the sleeves of the blouse which are cut diagonally using black Toraja weaving. The blouse uses a back zipper to make it easier to wear. Next are green trousers made from Sunkist material. At the bottom of the front trousers there is a pointed cut detail, while the back has a flat red cut made from Toraja woven fabric. Then the trousers use decoration such as a diagonal skirt which is attached to the trousers but does not cover the trousers which use a rampel detail consisting of two levels, while the back does not use a rampel. The trousers use a zipper opening on the side of the trousers to make them easier to wear.





**Figure 6.** First Design

The second design for Ready to Wear clothing in the Rambu Tuka' collection is women's clothing which consists of just one piece. In the middle of the face of the clothing there is a sharp cut using black Toraja weaving which functions as a clothing decoration. Top sleeves use bishop sleeves. The clothing top uses green Sunkist material and uses black and red Toraja weaving. On the right and left sides of the blouse there are blouse decorations that hang down from the middle of the face and back to the sleeves of the blouse which are cut diagonally using red Toraja weaving. The clothing uses a back zipper opening to make it easier to wear. Next is the bottom of the green clothing with Sunkist material which is made like a plisket skirt. At the bottom of the clothing above the plisket skirt there is fabric that is made like a skirt with fabric that is piled up or tiered but does not cover the plisket skirt. The middle of the front of the clothing is cut like a circle, while the back is a flat black piece made from Toraja woven fabric.



**Figure 6.** Second Design

## CONCLUSION

This clothing collection is inspired by one of the cultures of the Toraja people, namely Rambu Tuka'. Rambu Tuka' has the meaning Kameloan which means joy or happiness. From the Rambu Tuka' concept, a clothing collection consisting of ready-to-wear foam is produced. Making a fashion

collection requires a series of processes or methods in creating a fashion collection. The method used in creating this clothing is Double Diamond. Double Diamond has four stages, namely (1) Discovery phase, (2) Define phase, (3) Develop phase, (4) deliver.

The discovery stage (Discover) is the stage in searching for ideas or concepts that will be used to produce work. At this stage the author conducted research and looked for information related to the traditions of the Toraja people. Then Rambu Tuka' was chosen and a moodboard was created. Next, the define stage determines the decoration that has been determined on the moodboard. The develop stage is the embodiment of the design ideas that have been generated which will be turned into a work. The deliver stage is the final stage, at this stage you will see the finished results of applying the Rambu Tuka' tradition to making Ready-to-Wear clothing.

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