

The Meaning of Batik Motifs in Tando Pusako Batik House in Mukomuko Regency

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ABSTRACT

The Tando Pusako Batik House in Mukomuko Regency, Bengkulu Province, faces the challenge of public understanding of the motifs and meanings of batik that are still not conveyed. This research aims to describe the meaning of Tando Pusako batik motifs through qualitative methods by collecting data from observations, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis follows the Miles and Huberman model, including collection, reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawn. The results of this study prove that there are several meanings of batik motifs, including: 1) The Cerano motif in Tando Pusako batik means respect. 2) The miki fish motif in Tando Pusako batik has a meaning, which reflects gratitude. 3) The Lokan motif in Tando Pusako batik has the meaning of advice to humans that in social life we help each other. 4) The oil palm tree motif in Tando Pusako batik has the meaning of prosperity and abundance of property. 5) The Rafflesia flower motif in Tando Pusako batik has the meaning of earth fertility. 6) The Mangrove Plant motif in Tando Pusako batik has the meaning of perseverance in facing challenges and changes in life. 7) The Basurek motif (Arabic Calligraphy) in Tando Pusako batik has a religious meaning. For further research, research can be carried out on how to transform the source of the idea of Tando Pusako batik motifs which has meaning for Mukomuko district.

KEYWORDS

Craft
Batik
Meaning
Motif

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INTRODUCTION

Batik is one of Indonesia's cultural heritage that we must continue to attract. Batik is the nation's cultural heritage that contains values that should be developed and utilized for life today and in the future (Mulyani, 2021; Mustika, 2018). The word batik comes from the Javanese language, namely "amba" which means dot or logic (verb to make a point), then developed into the term "batik", meaning to connect the dots into a certain image on a wide or wide cloth (Mifzal 2012). Furthermore, according to (Irianto, Agusti Efi, et al. 2022), batik is a typical Indonesian fabric that carries unique motifs with deep meanings that reflect the identity of a region. Along with the development of interaction between countries, the art of batik has become widely known as a form of craft that uses cloth Batik has also long played a role as a vehicle for understanding the idea of inheriting values that grow in society. According to (Wulandari 2011:12), batik was originally used as a motif on cloth and later became part of traditional clothing in Indonesia, especially used by wealthy people such as

the royal family at that time. In the batik motif, it holds an extraordinary meaning of life goals and philosophies, local wisdom, cultural values, and becomes a guideline for life and moral order for people in Indonesia. Because of the beauty and technical value of batik motifs, UNESCO designated batik as a human heritage for intangible culture on October 2, 2009. So, since then October 2 has been commemorated as National Batik Day.

Considering that batik is one of the nation's cultural heritage, so the community must always preserve it. However, in reality, there are still many challenges in attracting public attention in loving and preserving batik. But these conservation efforts are always pursued through education about the interesting components of batik. One part of batik that can attract attention is batik motifs. According to Sunaryo (as quoted in Meliza, Y., & Ernawati 2024:2) said that motifs are the elements of form that are the basis of an ornamental variety. According to Achjadi (2015:103) states that batik motifs are a variety of ornaments or image patterns applied to batik fabrics. Motifs not only display beauty but also become a meaningful element, where the motif can explain where a batik comes from. From the batik motif, it can also be known whether the batik has value or not. According to (Yulia and Nelmira 2019) In addition to having functional value, the motifs in this batik are also capable of meaning.

One of the regions that already has batik is Mukomuko regency. Mukomuko is one of the regencies originating from Bengkulu Province, the batik is called Tando Pusako batik. Tando Pusako Batik was inaugurated in 2018 by the Disperindagkop and Dekranasda of Mukomuko district. Tando Pusako batik, which is fostered by the Mukomuko Regency Disperindagkop, has different characteristics from batik in general. Based on the author's interview with the Head of Disperindagkop, Mr. Deni Haryadi on January 31, 2024 said "The selection of motifs on Tando Pusako batik was made on the basis of the local wisdom of Mukomuko regency, this aims to convey the symbolic meaning of Mukomuko wisdom through the art of Tando Pusako batik motifs". According to Ari (Hasriawati, L., Adriani, A., & Novrita 2017:12), the meanings contained in batik motifs reflect a deep understanding of local values. These values are not only reflected in the colors and shapes of the motifs, but also contain a deep philosophy. This shows that these values are still relevant and continue to this day, emphasizing the importance of cultural heritage in maintaining identity and meaning in the context of Indonesian culture.

The motifs on tando pusako batik contain symbolic meanings. So that this batik motif becomes a symbol of the characteristics of Mukomuko regency and has a symbolic meaning, the symbolic meaning such as regional historical value, cultural value, local wisdom, flora and fauna and others. So that this batik must be the pride of the people of Mukomuko Regency. Because Tando Pusako batik depicts local wisdom and becomes the cultural identity of the Mukomuko community which is expressed through batik art, the Mukomuko regency government strongly supports the existence of this tando pusako batik. In addition to being one of the cultural identities of Mukomuko regency, Tando Pusako batik can also help the government in developing MSMEs. This real support of the government is evidenced by the existence of Regent Regulation number 13 of 2021 concerning typical batik of the Mukomuko region which must be used by stakeholders in uniforms or official clothes of employees and officials in Mukomuko regency, clothes in official celebratory activities, both national and local to regional celebrations.

Tando Pusako Batik has a study of the meaning of batik motifs that have their own characters and characteristics that are closely related to Mukomuko Regency. However, there are still many users who do not know it. In addition, there is still a lack of literature about Tando Pusako batik that discusses the meaning of the motif which makes the author feel important to understand and learn about the meaning of the Tando Pusako batik motif. Each of these motifs contains a symbolic

meaning that wants to be conveyed, so this study aims to analyze the meaning of Tando Pusako batik motifs in Mukomuko Regency, Bengkulu.

Based on the results of the relevant research, the researcher found several significant studies with this study. Although there is a discussion linkage, this study has differences with previous research, as for some of these studies, including, (Saputra Andi, Erwin 2014) in his research entitled "Form, Function and Meaning of Batik Batik Motif Batik Basurek Bengkulu", the results of the research showed that The meaning of the basurek motif is a description of the natural resources that exist in Bengkulu as a form of gratitude for God's creation. Furthermore, Research (Sulistiyobudi 2017) in his research entitled "Batik Gringsing and Ceplok Kembang Kates Bantul (Symbolic Meaning)", the results of the research show that the batik has the meaning of Ceplok Kembang Kates as a symbol of the spirit of defending the nation, state, and community welfare. Furthermore, research by Pratiwi, P., & Novrita, S. Z. (2022) entitled "The Meaning of Batik Motifs in South Solok Regency Case Study at the Azyanu Batik Studio 1000 Rumah Gadang", the results of the research are that there are various meanings of batik motifs in the Azyanu Batik Studio 1000 Rumah Gadang, namely: 1) *GATE NAGARI 1000 RUMAH GADANG* means to be friendly or kind 2) motive *Bungo Vibrant in Nagari 1000 Rumah Gadang* meaning beauty 3) motif *Semarak Nagari 1000 Gadang House* means lively, beautiful and magnificent 4) motif *rangkiang in tengah rimbomeans* symbolizes prosperity and abundance of wealth 5) motif *Deer in Nagari 1000 Gadang House* This motive means the nature and attitude of a leader 6) motive *Peacocks and moons* means the nature and attitude of a person in leading 7) motive *Carano* has the meaning of respect 8) motif *Balimbiang Wuluh Leaf* meaning to utilize plants in our environment 9) motif *Songket Tower* Meaningful advice 10) motives *Tanda Kabau* Meaning Symbol of Honor 11) Motif *sirine leaves* means simplicity 12) motif *crow* Motive means a leader who has power. Furthermore, the results of the research Norma Kuwala & Zulfia Novrita, (2022) entitled "Ornamental Variety of Tanah Liek Batik Motifs Dharmasraya (Case Study in Tanah Liek Citra Batik Crafts)" where the results of the research describe Tanah Liek Dharmasraya batik motifs *Liek* The images include those inspired by naturalist forms (flora such as: oil palm flower motifs, rubber tree motifs, bamboo motifs, plant motifs *lauik*, motif *Nail Skull* motif *Kiambang Bataulik*, fauna such as: Hong bird motif, motif *Kudo Site*) decorative shapes such as: motifs *rangkiang*, house motifs *gadang* which is a symbol of Dharmasraya's wealth.

From several reviews of relevant research results, it turns out that the Tando Pusako batik motif can be fully explored to conduct research on the meaning of the motif. Previous research also aims to find out the authenticity of this research. This research was conducted to answer questions related to the problems faced regarding the lack of literature that discusses the meaning of Tando Pusako batik motifs. So this research aims to describe the meaning of the Tando Pusako Batik motif. The meaning of the Tando Pusako batik motif has become a new topic in research.

METHOD

This research uses a qualitative research method, this research will produce data that is described and presented through words objectively regarding the meaning of Tando Pusako batik motifs. Accumulating two main types of data, namely primary data, by conducting direct observation and in-depth interviews with informants, and secondary data, namely from related documents and literature. Data collection techniques include field observations, in-depth interviews, and documentation. The main instrument is the researcher himself who directly conducts field research assisted by observation, interview, and documentation guidelines. Data analysis refers to the Miles and Huberman approach, including data collection, data reduction for research focus, clear data presentation, and drawing conclusions based on analysis of the collected data. So that it can answer the research, namely describing the meaning of the Tando Pusako Batik motif.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of the research at the Tando Pusako Batik house in Mukomuko Regency focused on the meaning of the seven batik motifs produced. Each of these motifs contains a symbolic meaning that you want to convey. Based on the results of research data obtained from primary data and secondary data, the results and discussion of the meaning of Tando Pusako batik motifs are presented below.

1. Cerano

This carano motif has a relationship that is full of meaning with Minangkabau customs.



Figure 1. Cerano motif

Based on the results of the study, it was concluded that the carano motif has respect for the head and leader and as a symbol for marapulai candidates and daro children. This Cerano motif depicts the Minangkabau traditional view of life. This is in accordance with the opinion of experts, batik motifs usually have a symbolic meaning that describes the outlook on life, beliefs, and hopes of batik makers and users (Sudaryat, 2009:13). In the meaning of the motive that the researcher obtained in the field, the results of the research are in line with the results of the research (Novrita and Pratiwi 2022) entitled "The Meaning of Batik Motifs in South Solok Regency: A Case Study on the Azyanu Batik Studio 1000 Rumah Gadang" which said that the Cerano Motif has the meaning of a respect for the leader.

2. Mikih Fish

The mikih fish is a symbol of Mukomuko Regency which is rich in aquatic resources that must be grateful, especially marine resources.



Figure 2. Mikih Fish Motif

Based on the results of the research, the fish has a meaning, which reflects gratitude for being given luck and happiness. According to (Oktora and Adriani 2019) In designing the shape of batik motifs, the craftsmen are creative in creating motif shapes that come from surrounding objects. Where this will be the philosophy of meaning for the place where batik comes from. Thus, this Ikan Mikih motif describes the philosophy of Mukomuko Regency in Tando Pusako Batik.

3. Lokan

Lokan is a symbol of Mukomuko's typical fauna which is processed into a typical culinary of Mukomuko regency which usually lives in groups.



Figure 3. Lokan Motif

Based on the results of the author's research, Lokan has the meaning of advice to humans that in social life we help each other so that a harmonious relationship is established. Symbol of meaning In this lokan motif, it contains the teachings of meaning to humans. This is in accordance with the opinion (Parmono 2013) Symbols in batik contain moral teachings on how to live a useful, good, true and beautiful life so that life becomes more meaningful. Through symbols, communication between humans is formed; Through human symbols, they are warned of the existence of the highest essence that they worship (Herusatoto, 2005:10). In particular, meaning is used to give terms to certain fields to make them clearer (Anton, 2012:548).

4. Palm Oil

The oil palm tree is a symbol that the oil palm plantation commodity is the biggest economic support for the community in Mukomuko Regency.



Figure 4. Palm Tree Motif

Based on the results of the research, the Palm Tree has the meaning of prosperity, abundance and property arrangement for the Mukomuko community. The more prosperous the life of the people, the more their daily needs are met. In line with the results of the research Norma Kuwala & Zulfia Novrita, (2022) entitled "Ornamental Varieties of Batik Motifs Tanah Liek Dharmasraya (Case Study in Batik Crafts Tanah Liek Citra)" where the results of the research said that this motif that has oil palm elements has a philosophy of wealth where indeed the majority of people have oil palm plantations for their livelihood.

5. Rafflesia Flower

The Rafflesia flower has become an icon symbol of Bengkulu Province because the rafflesia flower only grows in Bengkulu Province, one of which is in Mukomuko Regency.



Figure 5. Rafflesia Flower Motif

Based on the results of research, the Rafflesia flower has the meaning of a form of gratitude conveyed to God for giving fertility on this earth. in line with the results of the research (Purnamawati, Adriani, and Novrita 2016) entitled "Study of Batik Basurek in the City Bengkulu Province Bengkulu" where the results of the study said that the Rafflesia Flower motif contains the meaning of gratitude. Everything given by God must be thankful so that the blessings will continue to increase.

6. Mangrove Plants

Mangrove plants are a symbol that the Mukomuko area has a wealth of beautiful nature along the coast.



Figure 6. Mangrove Plant Motif

The Mangrove Plant has the meaning of perseverance and strength in facing challenges and changes in life. In line with research Khasanah et al., (2020) entitled "Study of Kutawaru Mangrove Batik Motifs" where the results of the study mentioned Mangrove Plants (*Mangrove*) has the meaning of hope for strength so that in the future they can live independently. This motif also contains morals about life. Budiono Herusatoto (2000:10) said, etymologically, the word "symbol" comes from the Greek, namely the word "Symbolos" which means a sign or characteristic that tells something to someone. In the context of this mangrove plant motif, the symbols contained in it are not just signs or visual characteristics, but also contain moral teachings on how to live a useful, good, true, and beautiful life.

7. Basurek (Arabic Calligraphy)

Basurek (Arabic Calligraphy) as a symbol that the people of Mukomuko Regency embrace Islam.



Figure 7. Basurek Motif (Arabic Calligraphy)

The Basurek motif or Arabic calligraphy has a meaning about the community must instill religious values, namely carrying out commands and staying away from Allah's prohibitions and depicting that the Mukomuko people adhere to the majority of Islam. In line with the results of the research (Purnamawati, Adriani, and Novrita 2016) entitled "Study of Batik Basurek in the City Bengkulu Province Bengkulu" where the results of the study said that Calligraphy Motifs contain meanings that symbolize religion. Every religion that is adhered to will have its responsibility.

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the research obtained, it can be concluded that the meaning of each tando pusako batik motif in Mukomuko Regency is: 1) *The Cerano motif in tando pusako batik* means respect 2) *The mikih fish motif in tando pusako batik* has a meaning, which reflects gratitude 3) *The Lokan motif in tando pusako batik* has the meaning of advice to humans that in social life we help each other 4) *The Oil Palm Tree motif in tando pusako batik* has the meaning of prosperity and abundance of property 5) *The Rafflesia Flower motif in tando pusako batik* has the meaning of gratitude for the fertility of the earth 6) *The mangrove plant motif in tando pusako batik* has the meaning of perseverance in facing challenges and changes in life 7) *Motif Basurek (Arabic Calligraphy) in tando pusako batik* means religious.

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