

ABSTRAK

MAKNA SIMBOLIK DAN FUNGSI TARIAN CACI DI KABUPATEN MANGGARAI NUSA TENGGARA TIMUR

Elisabeth Surya

Universitas Sanata Dharma

Yogyakarta 2009

Tarian Caci merupakan tarian rakyat Manggarai yang merefleksikan kebudayaan dan keseharian masyarakat Manggarai. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk: (1) mendeskripsikan makna simbolik tarian Caci bagi masyarakat Manggarai dan (2) mengetahui fungsi tarian Caci bagi masyarakat Manggarai.

Metode penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian etnografi-kualitatif, suatu metode yang menggunakan observasi langsung mengenai kegiatan manusia dalam konteks sosial-budaya. Pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan cara observasi, wawancara, dan studi kepustakaan. Untuk mengkaji makna simbolik dan fungsi permainan Caci bagi masyarakat Manggarai digunakan pendekatan folklor.

Hasil penelitian memperlihatkan bahwa unsur-unsur tarian Caci diadopsi dari berbagai kebudayaan dari luar. Namun demikian, Caci hanya ada dalam kebudayaan Manggarai dan menjiwai semua aspek kehidupan orang Manggarai. Tarian Caci selalu dipentaskan pasca panen, antara bulan Juli sampai dengan September, dan dilakukan antara tiga sampai tujuh hari. Tarian Caci mengandung makna simbolis, melambangkan kejantanan, keramaian, kemegahan, dan sportivitas. Peralatan tarian Caci yang terbuat dari kulit kerbau melambangkan kekuatan, ketenangan kerendahan hati, dan tidak emosional, sedangkan bentuknya yang relatif bundar melambangkan adanya satu titik pusat yang mengatur semuanya, itulah Tuhan yang Maha Esa. Tarian Caci juga memiliki banyak fungsi bagi kelangsungan hidup masyarakat Manggarai, sebagai komoditas pariwisata, sebagai sarana komunikasi dengan Tuhan dan para leluhur, serta media pendidikan. Caci memang sarat makna simbolis dan memiliki beragam fungsi bagi kelangsungan hidup masyarakat Manggarai.

ABSTRACT

SYMBOLIC MEANING AND THE FUNCTION OF CACI DANCING AT MANGGARAI REGENCY EAST NUSA TENGGARA

**Elisabeth Surya
Sanata Dharma University
Yogyakarta 2009**

Caci dancing is Manggarai people dance that reflex the culture and Manggarai people daily life. The purpose of this research is : (1) describing the symbolic meaning of Caci dancing to Manggarai people and (2) knowing the function of Caci dancing to Manggarai people.

This research method is using ethnography-qualitative research, a method that using direct observation about people activity in social-culture context. Observation, interview, and library research is done to collect the data. Folklore approach is used to study the symbolic meaning and the function of Caci dance to Manggarai People.

The result of the research shows that Caci dance adopted from other cultures. But, Caci could only found in Manggarai culture and inspiring every aspect of Manggarai people life. Caci dance which always been perform after the harvest, between July until September, and will be perform between three until seven days. Caci dance has symbolic meaning, symbolize manliness, festivity, and glory, and also symbolizing power, sportivity. The tools of Caci dance that made from water buffalo skin that symbolizing power, peaceful, and humble, and without emotional, where as have quite round shape symbolize there is one center point that arrange everything, it is the all mighty God. Caci dance also has many functions for the continuance of Manggarai people life, as tourism commodity, as a media to communicate with God and the ancestor, and also for education. Caci have many symbolic meaning and also have many function for the continuance of Manggarai people life.