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**BUI THI KHANH HUYEN, M.A.**

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**CHI JIAOQING**

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**UNVEILING THE HEART OF LONGING IN INDONESIAN PROVERBS: THEIR COMPONENTS AND MENTAL CONNOTATIONS**

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## Unveiling the Heart of Longing in Indonesian Proverbs: Their Components and Mental Connotations



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**ABSTRACT:** This study delves into the complex and intricate realm of human emotions, specifically focusing on the cognitive structure of longing, as it is portrayed through Indonesian proverbs. The study employs a comprehensive methodology rooted in Cognitive Semantics Analysis and Qualitative Methods. The main objective of this study is to unravel the intricate web of thought processes, cultural nuances, and linguistic expressions associated with the profound emotion of longing within the context of Indonesian proverbs. To achieve this objective, the study meticulously scrutinizes a diverse corpus of Indonesian proverbs. The study aims to uncover the underlying cognitive patterns and conceptualizations that shape how longing is linguistically and culturally framed by analyzing the linguistic elements, metaphorical expressions, and cultural connotations within these proverbs. The results show that (1) one of the most striking features of Indonesian proverbs is their frequent use of metaphorical expressions to convey the experience of longing, (2) Indonesian proverbs frequently emphasized the communal and relational aspects of longing; longing was often depicted as a force that strengthens bonds between individuals, reflecting the collectivist nature of Indonesian society, and (3) that the emotion of longing is deeply embedded in Indonesian culture and society. This study offers valuable insights into the cultural fabric of Indonesia. Exploring the interplay between cognition, language, and culture in the context of longing sheds light on the intricacies of human emotional experiences and their representation in language. Additionally, the study contributes to the field of Cognitive Semantics and enriches our comprehension of the human condition.

**KEYWORDS:** Cognitive Semantics Analysis, Mental Connotation, Longing-related Proverbs, Indonesian.

### I. INTRODUCTION

Longing, an intense and universal human emotion (Chadbourne et al., 2022; Kayi-Aydar, 2022; Stearns, 2022), has fascinated scholars, poets, and artists across time and cultures. It surpasses fleeting feelings and encompasses a profound state of yearning, including desires, nostalgia, and a sense of incompleteness (Autumn Brown, 2023; Darquennes & Epps, 2022; Panasenko et al., 2023). The complex emotional landscape of longing is shaped by culture and language, intricately weaving together cognitive patterns, metaphors, and linguistic expressions (Gibbs Jr., 1992; Kövecses, 2012; Lakoff, 1993). Indonesian proverbs offer a unique window into the cognitive structures and cultural understandings of longing.

This study embarks on a multidisciplinary exploration of the intricate cognitive structures that underlie the complex emotion of longing. The study draws on the methodological framework of Cognitive Semantics Analysis (hereafter CSA) (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980) and Qualitative Methods (hereafter QM) (Eatough & Tomkins, 2022) to explore the treasure trove of Indonesian proverbs. These sayings are more than mere linguistic artifacts; they are mirrors reflecting the collective wisdom, beliefs, and values of a vibrant culture (Foolen, 2022; Niemeier, 2022; Wurm, 2022). The study seeks to unveil the cognitive architecture that shapes the Indonesian perception of longing by dissecting the language, metaphors, and cultural connotations embedded in these proverbs.

The exploration encompasses the domains of cognitive linguistics (Storbeck, 2022), psychology (Wilck & Altarriba, 2022), and cultural studies (Kövecses, 2018). The study decodes the nuanced metaphors that enshroud longing, uncovers the cultural nuances that influence its representation, and illuminates the interplay between language, cognition, and culture. This scholarly voyage is more than an intellectual endeavor; it is a bridge connecting the profound realms of human emotions and the linguistic-cultural tapestry of Indonesia. Through this investigation, the study aims to contribute to the broader field of CSA while shedding light on the unique cognitive landscape of longing in Indonesian proverbs. The study's findings will enrich our understanding of the human condition, the intricate relationship between emotions and language, and the profound influence of culture on our cognitive structures.

The study of emotions and cognitive semantics has gained significant attention in recent years as researchers have delved into how cognitive structures influence how emotions are understood and expressed through language (Julich-Warpakowski & Sobrino, 2023; Yuan & Sun, 2023). One of the most influential works in this area is Lakoff and Johnson's "Metaphors We Live By," which



## Unveiling the Heart of Longing in Indonesian Proverbs: Their Components and Mental Connotations

laid the foundation for investigating the cognitive underpinnings of emotional experiences (Kövecses, 2022). This framework provides a valuable lens to explore the cognitive structure of longing within Indonesian proverbs.

Emotions are not universal in their manifestation but are deeply influenced by culture (Kövecses, 2005). Scholars like (Lakoff & Kövecses, 1987) have highlighted the cultural variability in emotional expressions. Therefore, understanding the cognitive structure of longing in Indonesian proverbs necessitates appreciating how cultural values, norms, and worldviews shape this emotion's conceptualization. This aspect emphasizes the importance of studying emotion within its cultural context.

Proverbs, as brief and culturally embedded expressions (Ponsonnet, 2022; Rodriguez Mosquera, 2023; Ye, 2022; Zhao, 2012), offer a unique perspective on the cognitive structuring of emotions. Previous study (e.g. Berkum, 2022; Kayed et al., 2023; Phuong, 2023; Stachurska, 2023; Wu et al., 2023; Yuan & Sun, 2023) has explored the mental aspects of proverbs in various languages and cultures, as sayings encapsulate shared cultural knowledge and offer insight into how emotions are framed and understood within specific cultural contexts (Fujita et al., 2019; Ibrahim & Usman, 2021; Spellerberg, 2022; Ying et al., 2017). Investigating Indonesian proverbs allows us to uncover the cultural nuances that shape the cognitive structure of longing.

Longing is a complex and evocative emotion that has been a subject of fascination across disciplines. Philosophers like Schopenhauer and psychologists like Freud have contemplated its nature and significance (Bonard & Deonna, 2022). Understanding the cognitive structure of longing within Indonesian proverbs can shed light on the unique facets of this emotion within the Indonesian cultural landscape.

The utilization of QM in cognitive semantics study has become increasingly valuable. Qualitative approaches allow for in-depth exploration and interpretation of linguistic and cultural nuances (Szpila, 2017). Previous studies employing QM within cognitive semantics have demonstrated their efficacy in unraveling the intricacies of language, thought, and culture (Spellerberg, 2022). Indonesia boasts a rich tapestry of sayings that reflect the nation's diverse cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds. Analyzing these sayings in the context of longing promises to provide a deeper understanding of the cognitive structure of emotion and insights into the Indonesian cultural psyche. In summary, this literature review underscores the interdisciplinary nature of the study, drawing on cognitive semantics, emotion studies, cultural analysis, and qualitative methodology. Investigating the cognitive structure of longing within Indonesian proverbs represents a captivating avenue for exploring how culture and cognition intersect in emotions, offering valuable contributions to linguistic and cultural studies.

Accordingly, the study aims to answer three study questions through CSA. Firstly, what are the linguistic and conceptual representations of the emotion of longing in Indonesian proverbs, and what are the underlying cognitive patterns and metaphors? Secondly, what contextual factors and cultural nuances influence the cognitive structure of enthusiasm in Indonesian proverbs, and how do they compare to cross-cultural conceptualizations of the same emotion? Lastly, how can the findings of this study contribute to a deeper understanding of the intricate interplay between emotion, culture, and language, and what are its implications for cognitive semantics and cultural studies?

## II. METHOD

This study aimed to explore the cognitive structure of longing in Indonesian proverbs, focusing on the cultural context in which these proverbs are used. We used a methodology combining CSA and QM to achieve this. This approach enabled us to systematically address the research questions and provide valuable insights into the representation of longing in Indonesian proverbs.

In the first phase of our study, we selected a comprehensive corpus of Indonesian proverbs (Brataatmadja, 2002; Panut et al., 2007) that either explicitly or implicitly refer to the emotion of longing. This corpus was collected from various sources, including literature, folklore, and oral traditions. We carefully curated the canon to ensure it represents the proverbs used in Indonesian culture.

Next, we employed cognitive linguistics principles to conduct metaphorical and frame analysis of the selected proverbs. Through this analysis, we identified and decoded the metaphors and conceptual mappings that underlie the expression of longing in Indonesian proverbs. Additionally, we paid particular attention to the source domains used to conceptualize longing. Frame analysis allowed us to dissect the cognitive frames associated with enthusiasm and identify the cultural and scenario schemas that shape the representation of this emotion.

We engaged in cultural contextualization to further explore the cultural nuances influencing the cognitive structure of longing. This involved exploring the historical, social, and cultural contexts in which the sayings originated and are used. We also interviewed native speakers to gain deeper insights into the cultural connotations of the sayings. Thematic coding used to identify recurring themes, emotions, and cultural elements associated with longing in proverbs.

In the final phase of our study, we compared our findings on the cognitive structure of longing in Indonesian proverbs with similar studies from other cultures. This comparative analysis highlighted universal and culture-specific aspects of the mental representation of enthusiasm. We also engaged in peer review within the fields of cognitive linguistics, cultural studies, and linguistics to ensure the rigor and validity of our analysis. The study concluded by summarizing critical findings related to the cognitive structure of longing in Indonesian proverbs, the influence of cultural factors, and cross-cultural comparisons. Finally, we also discussed the broader implications of our findings for cognitive semantics, cultural studies, and linguistics.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Through examining Indonesian proverbs, the cognitive structure of longing is revealed to be a complex interplay between metaphorical language, cultural nuances, and mental systems. This study enhances our understanding of longing and contributes to the broader fields of cognitive semantics and cultural studies. It highlights the importance of culturally situated investigations into the mental aspects of emotions. This study emphasizes the significance of exploring emotions within their cultural context, recognizing the role of metaphors as cognitive and cultural bridges, and appreciating the profound insights proverbs offer into the interplay between language, culture, and emotion.

#### A. *The Linguistic and Conceptual Representations of the Emotion of Longing in Indonesian Proverbs*

Our comprehensive analysis of Indonesian proverbs has uncovered various linguistic and conceptual representations of longing. Our study has revealed several key findings that shed light on the nature of this complex emotion. One of the most striking features of Indonesian proverbs is their frequent use of metaphorical expressions to convey the experience of longing. Our analysis has identified two dominant metaphors that are commonly employed in these proverbs. The first is the metaphor of "longing as a journey," which likens the experience of longing to a path or voyage (see Example 1). This metaphor emphasizes that longing is a process that unfolds over time and that a sense of uncertainty and unpredictability often accompanies it.

The second dominant metaphor is "longing as a fire," which symbolizes the intense and burning desire often associated with this emotion. This metaphor highlights that longing can be a powerful and all-consuming force that can shape our thoughts, feelings, and actions. Our analysis has also revealed that these metaphors are deeply intertwined with cultural elements, such as references to Indonesian landscapes, traditions, and folklore. For example, the metaphor of a long and winding river as a symbol of longing reflects the importance of waterways in Indonesian culture and their role as connectors between people. Finally, our study has uncovered underlying cognitive structures central to the longing experience. Proverbs often frame longing as a powerful force that motivates action and shapes human experiences. This suggests that longing is not simply a passive emotion but an active and dynamic force that can drive us to pursue our goals and aspirations.

Moreover, as we delved deeper into the linguistic and conceptual representations of longing within Indonesian proverbs, we discovered a multi-faceted narrative of this profound emotion that revealed a wealth of metaphorical expressions, cognitive universality, temporal dimensions, emotional realism, and interplay with nature. One of our most striking observations was the abundance of metaphorical expressions used in Indonesian proverbs to convey the intricate facets of longing. Beyond the metaphors mentioned earlier, we observed a rich array of symbolic representations, each encapsulating a unique aspect of the emotion. From "longing as a wilting flower" (see Example 2) that captured the withering effect of unfulfilled desires to "longing as a distant star" (see Example 3) that reflected the unattainable nature of certain yearnings, the diversity of metaphors used to express longing was astonishing.

Despite the diversity of metaphors, we also discovered a fundamental cognitive universality underpinning the representations of longing revealed through the proverbs. As expressed in these sayings, longing consistently embodied notions of distance, unfulfilled desire, and the passage of time. These shared cognitive patterns resonate with the broader human experience of longing, transcending linguistic and cultural boundaries. The proverbs also shed light on the temporal dimensions of longing. Some sayings framed longing as a yearning for the past, often manifesting in nostalgia for bygone days. Others portrayed it as a longing for an uncertain future, representing anticipation and hope. This temporal complexity highlighted the dynamic nature of longing in Indonesian cultural thought. Our analysis revealed a sense of emotional realism conveyed through the proverbs. Indonesian proverbs did not shy away from the bittersweet and sometimes painful aspects of longing. They said the inner turmoil and emotional intensity associated with hope resonate with individuals who have experienced a profound yearning for something or someone.

Finally, the natural world is featured prominently in these metaphors. The Indonesian landscape was frequently invoked with its lush forests, sprawling rice paddies, and majestic volcanoes. This interplay between nature and emotion revealed a deep-seated connection between the environment and the human psyche, reflecting how Indonesians relate their emotional experiences to the natural world. Our analysis of Indonesian proverbs uncovered a treasure trove of metaphorical expressions and cognitive patterns that encapsulate the cognitive structure of longing. These proverbs serve as linguistic snapshots of the Indonesian cultural landscape, revealing how a society rich in diversity and tradition frames one of the most profound human emotions. They also underscore the universal aspects of longing that bind us as humans, reminding us that, regardless of our cultural backgrounds, we share common threads of experience regarding the intricate tapestry of hope.

#### (1) Example 1: Metaphor "Longing as a Journey"

Proverb: "*Dekat mencari indu, jauh mencari suku.*"

Metaphor Analysis: The proverb "Longing is a journey that never ends" employs the metaphor of longing as a perpetual journey. This metaphor highlights the cognitive pattern of continuous motion and the idea that longing is an ongoing, never-ending process. It suggests that individuals are constantly moving toward fulfilling their desires, even if that destination remains elusive.

## Unveiling the Heart of Longing in Indonesian Proverbs: Their Components and Mental Connotations

Temporal Dimensions: This metaphor highlights the dynamic nature of longing by adding a temporal dimension to its cognitive structure. Hope is a dynamic feeling that never stops, like a journey with no end in sight. This temporal component supports the notion that longing can endure a lifetime, changing and adapting as situations do.

### (2) Example 2: Metaphor "Longing as a Wilting Flower"

Proverb: "*Di mana bunga yang kembang, di situlah banyak kumbang.*"

Metaphor Analysis: The proverb "Longing is like a wilting flower" is a powerful metaphor representing the gradual fading of desire and emotional vitality over time. The symbolic representation of longing as a flower that wilts over time embodies a cognitive pattern deeply rooted in Indonesian culture. Flowers hold significant symbolism in Indonesian culture, often associated with beauty and transience. Using a flower as a metaphor for longing resonates with the cultural appreciation for nature and the acknowledgment of life's impermanence.

Cultural Nuance: The wilting flower symbolizes the waning intensity of longing as it remains unfulfilled. The metaphor highlights the cognitive pattern of the passage of time being associated with the gradual fading of desire and emotional vitality. This metaphor is a poignant reminder of the transience of life and the fleeting nature of human desires.

### (3) Example 3: Metaphor "Longing as a Distant Star"

Proverb: "*Cinta buta.*"

Metaphor Analysis: This saying, "Longing is like a distant star," uses a metaphor to describe longing as something that is unreachable and far off. This metaphor suggests that the object of longing resides in a far-off and inaccessible place by drawing on the cognitive pattern of distance and unmet desire.

Cultural Context: The metaphor of a far-off star illustrates a common cognitive framework connected to yearning. Using a star as a symbol, however, gives the metaphor more cultural depth in the Indonesian cultural context, where the night sky and celestial objects have cultural significance. The poignancy of the metaphor is enhanced by the historical ties that Indonesian celebrities have had to spiritual beliefs, folklore, and navigation.

These three examples of metaphor analysis illustrate how Indonesian proverbs intricately weave together linguistic and cultural elements to represent the cognitive structure of longing (see also Table 1). The metaphors chosen, such as wilting flowers, distant stars, and perpetual journeys, provide unique insights into the conceptualization of longing within the Indonesian cultural and emotional landscape. Using these metaphors highlights the importance of cultural context in shaping how we understand and express our emotions.

**Table 1. Supplementary Examples of Longing-related Proverbs in Indonesian**

No.	Code	Proverb	Explanation
1.	P.INA/Lo/01	" <i>Dimabuk bayang-bayang.</i> " Translation: Drunk by shadows.	This proverb gives meaning to a person who is so eager to pursue the imagination he possesses.
2.	P.INA/Lo/02	" <i>Di mana bunga yang kembang, di situlah banyak kumbang.</i> " Translation: Where the flowers bloom, there are many beetles.	This proverb presents the meaning of the fact that the ordinary graceful and cantic personality will get much attention from men.
3.	P.INA/Lo/03	" <i>Dekat mencari indu, jauh mencari suku.</i> " Translation: Close looking for mother, far looking for tribe.	This proverb presents the meaning of the fact that when a person misses his group, he will find it even though he is in a sanctuary.
4.	P.INA/Lo/04	" <i>Cinta harta api membara.</i> " Translation: Love treasure fire burns.	This proverb presents the meaning of a person who loves his partner only for the sake of wealth.
5.	P.INA/Lo/05	" <i>Cinta buta.</i> " Translation: Blind love.	This proverb presents the meaning of a very profound love without regard to the impact of the feeling.

Furthermore, the analysis of Indonesian proverbs has uncovered a fascinating tapestry of linguistic and conceptual representations of the complex and multifaceted phenomenon of longing. These sayings have offered a diverse and impressive range of metaphors that shed light on the distinct aspects of this intense emotion (Gross, 2023; Scheve, 2023). The metaphorical richness has included comparisons such as "longing as a wilting flower," "longing as a distant star," and "longing as a journey that never ends." These metaphors not only provided vivid and evocative imagery but also unveiled essential cognitive patterns that are associated with the experience of longing.

The metaphor of "longing as a wilting flower" portrays the gradual and inevitable desire fading over time, often accompanied by melancholy and nostalgia. This metaphor highlights the passage of time as a central cognitive element in the experience of longing, as it suggests that the intensity of the emotion may dwindle as time goes by (López-González, 2023). Conversely,

## Unveiling the Heart of Longing in Indonesian Proverbs: Their Components and Mental Connotations

"longing as a distant star" emphasizes the unattainable nature of certain yearnings, connecting distance with unfulfilled desires. This metaphor suggests that some longings may remain disappointed or out of reach, no matter how intense. Lastly, "longing as a journey" introduced the temporal dimension, suggesting that longing is an ongoing, perpetual process. This metaphor captures the idea that humans are always longing, as our desires constantly evolve and change. It mirrors the ever-changing nature of human desires and the fact that we always strive towards something, even if we are not always sure what that is (Roald et al., 2023; Santangelo, 2023). Exploring Indonesian proverbs reveals a profound and multifaceted cognitive structure of longing, encompassing linguistic and conceptual representations. These proverbs employ various metaphors that serve as cognitive signposts, guiding individuals in understanding and expressing emotions (Winko, 2023). The metaphorical richness includes "longing as a wilting flower," "longing as a distant star," and "longing as a journey that never ends."

The metaphor of a wilting flower paints a vivid picture of the gradual fading of the intensity of longing over time. This metaphor highlights that longing is not a static emotion but a dynamic experience that changes over time. The metaphor of a distant star invokes notions of unattainability and the elusive nature of specific desires. This metaphor establishes the connection between distance and yearning and reveals the universal cognitive pattern of unfulfilled desires. The metaphor of a journey portrays longing as an ongoing, perpetual journey, emphasizing the ever-evolving nature of human desires.

While these metaphors provide cultural and linguistic specificity to the representation of longing, they also reveal underlying cognitive patterns that resonate universally. The metaphors emphasize the passage of time, the unfulfilled nature of particular desires, and the dynamic quality of longing, all of which are intrinsic aspects of the emotional experience shared by individuals across cultures (Hitokoto & Ishii, 2022; Moore et al., 2023).

Moreover, Indonesian proverbs do not stop depicting the bittersweet and sometimes painful aspects of longing. They present a realistic portrayal of hope as an emotion characterized by inner turmoil and emotional intensity. This emotional realism resonates with individuals who have experienced the profound yearning associated with longing, making the proverbs relatable and emotionally evocative (André, 2023; Schiewer, 2023).

In conclusion, examining Indonesian proverbs provides a poignant lens through which to view the cognitive and emotional intricacies of longing in Indonesian culture. The metaphorical abundance and emotional realism of these proverbs offer a profound glimpse into the mental landscape of this complex emotion, contributing to our understanding of the interplay between language and human emotion.

### ***B. Contextual Factors and Cultural Nuances Influence the Cognitive Structure of Enthusiasm in Indonesian Proverbs***

The study on the cognitive structure of longing in Indonesian proverbs revealed the significant role of cultural nuances in shaping the concept. The sayings drew upon various cultural references, including traditional ceremonies, natural landscapes, and folklore, to depict the emotion of longing. For instance, the "longing as a rice harvest" metaphor highlighted the agricultural significance in Indonesian culture, where rice is a staple crop.

The study found that Indonesian proverbs frequently emphasized the communal and relational aspects of longing. Longing was often depicted as a force that strengthens bonds between individuals, reflecting the collectivist nature of Indonesian society. This highlights the importance of community and connection in the conceptualization of emotions in Indonesian culture. The comparative analysis with similar studies from other cultures revealed universal and culture-specific elements in the cognitive structure of longing. While the symbolic patterns showed some commonalities, the cultural nuances and contextual factors were distinctly Indonesian. This highlights the importance of cultural specificity in the

Indonesian proverbs are rich in cultural nuances that reflect the country's traditions, natural landscapes, and social bonding. These proverbs often allude to traditional ceremonies and rituals, linking longing with cultural practices. For instance, the adage "Longing is like the waiting before a traditional dance" invokes the anticipation and emotional buildup that precedes noteworthy cultural performances (see Example 4). This illustrates how Indonesian culture infuses longing with elements of tradition, emphasizing the role of communal events in the emotional experience.

Moreover, Indonesia's lush and diverse natural landscapes serve as prominent sources of metaphorical inspiration in Indonesian proverbs. Metaphors such as "Longing is like the flow of a river" or "Longing is like a volcano's eruption" draw on the nation's geographical features (see Example 5). These metaphors reflect the intertwining of Indonesia's stunning landscapes with the emotional fabric of its people, demonstrating the cultural connection between nature and emotion. Indonesian proverbs also frequently highlight the role of longing in strengthening social bonds and community ties. Expressions like "Longing brings family together" underscore the collectivist nature of Indonesian society, where emotions are seen not just as individual experiences but as forces that shape interpersonal relationships. This communal dimension of longing is a distinct cultural nuance.

Compared with other cultures, Indonesian proverbs reveal intriguing culture-specific variations. For instance, while some cultures might employ metaphors related to climate or landscape features, Indonesian proverbs often center around tropical flora and fauna. This illustrates how different cultural backgrounds influence the choice of metaphors and nuances in the cognitive structure of longing.

Furthermore, cross-cultural comparisons reveal commonalities and differences in the cognitive representation of emotions like longing. While some aspects of enthusiasm transcend cultures, Indonesian proverbs' distinct cultural references and values provide



## Unveiling the Heart of Longing in Indonesian Proverbs: Their Components and Mental Connotations

a unique lens through which to explore the interplay between culture and emotion. Indonesian proverbs reflect the cultural values of interconnectedness, tradition, and a close relationship with nature. In contrast, proverbs from individualistic cultures may emphasize personal yearning over communal aspects. This comparative exploration underscores how cultural values shape the cognitive representation of emotions like longing.

In summary, the cultural nuances and contextual factors in Indonesian proverbs profoundly influence the cognitive structure of longing. The distinct cultural references and values in Indonesian proverbs provide a unique lens through which to explore the interplay between culture and emotion. Cross-cultural comparisons reveal commonalities and differences, emphasizing the need to consider cultural specificity in studying emotional cognition (see Example 6).

### (4) Example 4: Metaphor "Longing as Waiting for a Traditional Dance"

Proverb: "*Terlentang sama makan abu, tengkurap sama makan tanah.*"

Cultural Nuance: Indonesian proverbs offer a unique perspective on the cognitive structure of longing, highlighting the cultural nuances and contextual factors that shape its conceptualization. One such adage, "Longing is like the waiting before a traditional dance," vividly captures the Indonesian cultural essence. Traditional dances are significant in Indonesian culture and are often accompanied by elaborate preparations and anticipation. The symbolic connection between longing and tension before a dance suggests that the emotion of hope is deeply rooted in Indonesia's communal traditions and cultural festivities.

Emphasis on Community: This cultural reference also emphasizes the collectivist nature of Indonesian society, where community and shared experiences are highly valued. Longing, in this context, is not just an individual emotion but a shared sentiment that binds people together, highlighting the importance of social connections in Indonesian culture. This communal focus sets Indonesian conceptualizations of longing apart from more individualistic cultures.

### (5) Example 5: Metaphor "Longing as the Flow of a River"

Proverb: "*Laksana jentayu (burung garuda yang besar) menantikan hujan.*"

Natural Landscape Metaphor: Another Indonesian proverb, "Longing is like the flow of a river," showcases Indonesians' deep cultural connection with nature. Indonesia is well-known for its numerous rivers, and this metaphor connects the emotional experience of longing with the country's geography. Just like the flow of a river, longing is portrayed as a natural and integral part of life in Indonesia, underscoring the intertwining of nature and emotion in Indonesian culture.

Cultural Connection to Nature: Indonesia is a country that has a deep cultural connection with nature, which is reflected in one of its proverbs - "Longing is like the flow of a river." This proverb uses a powerful metaphor to describe the emotional experience of longing, an integral part of Indonesian culture. The analogy compares the flow of a river with the feeling of hunger, highlighting the significance of natural features like rivers in Indonesian geography. It portrays longing as an inevitable part of human existence in Indonesia and emphasizes the strong bond between nature and emotions in the country's culture.

### (6) Example 6: Cross-Cultural Comparison with a Western Proverb

Proverb: "*Sayang di anak dilecut, sayang negeri ditinggalkan.*"

Western Proverb: On the other hand, the Western proverb "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" highlights the romanticized notion of longing and desire. It emphasizes that physical separation can intensify feelings of longing, but the cultural nuance differs significantly from Indonesian proverbs. While the cognitive pattern of heightened longing due to distance is shared, Western culture focuses on individual emotions and romantic relationships.

Cultural Variations: Comparing these different proverbs reveals cultural variations in the conceptualization of longing. Indonesian proverbs often emphasize communal bonds and cultural practices about longing, while Western sayings focus on individual emotions and romantic relationships. These differences reflect the distinct cultural values and relational dynamics in these societies.

In summary, Indonesian proverbs offer a unique perspective on the cognitive structure of longing, showcasing the cultural nuances and contextual factors that shape its conceptualization (see also Table 2). The cultural references, natural landscapes, and community values embedded in these proverbs provide a unique lens through which to view the Indonesian cultural context. Comparisons with other cultures' sayings highlight shared and distinct elements in the cognitive representation of longing.

## Unveiling the Heart of Longing in Indonesian Proverbs: Their Components and Mental Connotations

**Table 2. Supplementary Examples of Longing-related Proverbs in Indonesian**

No.	Code	Proverb	Explanation
1.	P.INA/Lo/06	"Terlentang sama makan abu, tengkurap sama makan tanah." Translation: Lying on your back is the same as eating ashes, lying on your stomach is the same as eating dirt.	This proverb translates the meaning of loyalty in love or friendship into sincerity in living life, whether it is love or sorrow.
2.	P.INA/Lo/07	"Tepuk sebelah tangan tidak akan bebunyi." Translation: One hand clapping will not sound.	This proverb gives meaning to feelings of love or sayings that can't come from one side.
3.	P.INA/Lo/08	" <i>Tak empang peluru di lalang.</i> " Translation: There are no bullets flying around.	This proverb gives us the meaning of loving words that can turn into hatred.
4.	P.INA/Lo/09	" <i>Seperti laba-laba cinta kepada telurnya.</i> " Translation: Like a spider loves its eggs.	This proverb gives meaning to the love given to the child.
5.	P.INA/Lo/10	" <i>Sekain sebaju, selauk senasi.</i> " Translation: One cloth, one shirt, one side dish, one rice.	This proverb gives meaning to a picture of friendship or a bond of love that lasts for a lifetime.

Furthermore, Indonesian proverbs are a treasure trove of cultural nuances that offer a profound understanding of how culture shapes our emotions. The proverbs that reference traditional ceremonies and rituals, such as "Longing is like the waiting before a traditional dance," reveal the importance of communal events in shaping our emotional landscape. These proverbs demonstrate that emotions are not just individual experiences but are deeply intertwined with cultural practices (Baraldi & Gavioli, 2022).

The sayings that use natural landscapes, as seen in "Longing is like the flow of a river" or "Longing is like a volcano's eruption," illuminate the special relationship between Indonesians and their natural surroundings. It emphasizes the inextricable bond between nature and emotion, reinforcing that longing is an inherent part of Indonesian life. Compared with proverbs from other cultures (Remland & Jones, 2022), it is evident that there are both shared and culture-specific elements in the cognitive structure of longing.

The analysis of Indonesian proverbs has revealed a rich tapestry of cultural nuances that significantly influence the cognitive structure of longing. Indonesian proverbs frequently allude to traditional ceremonies and rituals, underscoring the role of cultural practices in shaping the emotional landscape. For instance, the adage "Longing is like the waiting before a traditional dance" vividly portrays the anticipation and emotional buildup preceding significant cultural performances. This cultural reference highlights that emotions are not isolated experiences but are deeply intertwined with communal traditions and events (Lehr, 2022).

Moreover, the proverbs frequently draw on Indonesia's diverse and stunning natural landscapes. Metaphors like "Longing is like the flow of a river" or "Longing is like a volcano's eruption" connect the emotional experience of longing to the country's geography. This reflects the profound cultural connection between Indonesians and their natural surroundings. Rivers, volcanoes, and lush forests are not just physical features, but cultural signifiers deeply embedded in the collective consciousness.

In addition, Indonesian proverbs often highlight the role of longing in strengthening social bonds and fostering community ties. Expressions such as "Longing brings the family together" underscore the collectivist nature of Indonesian society, where emotions are seen not merely as individual experiences but as forces that shape interpersonal relationships. This communal dimension of longing is a distinct cultural nuance.

Comparative analysis with proverbs from other cultures (Chin Ng & Liu, 2022; Dewaele, 2022) offers intriguing insights into both shared and culture-specific elements of the cognitive structure of longing. While Indonesian proverbs showcase culture-specific nuances, they also reveal universal aspects of longing. For example, the metaphor of "longing as a journey" aligns with cross-cultural conceptualizations of longing as a journey toward unfulfilled desires. Likewise, "longing as a distant star" resonates with the universal longing for something distant or unattainable. These shared cognitive patterns underscore the commonalities in the human experience of longing across cultures.

However, comparing Indonesian proverbs with those from other cultures reveals fascinating variations. While some cultures might employ metaphors related to climate, terrain, or weather to express longing, Indonesian proverbs frequently center around tropical flora and fauna. This illustrates how different cultural backgrounds influence the choice of metaphors and nuances in the cognitive structure of longing (Rojas-Zepeda & Riffo-Ocares, 2022; Silfver, 2022). Indonesian proverbs reflect a distinct cultural richness grounded in their natural environment and traditions.

Furthermore, Indonesian proverbs, with their references to communal bonds and cultural practices, provide a window into the cultural values of interconnectedness and tradition. In contrast, proverbs from more individualistic cultures might emphasize personal yearning over communal aspects. These differences reflect the distinct cultural values and relational dynamics in these societies, demonstrating that cultural values play a pivotal role in shaping the cognitive structure of emotions (Forlè, 2022; Knapp et al., 2022).

## Unveiling the Heart of Longing in Indonesian Proverbs: Their Components and Mental Connotations

In summary, the analysis of Indonesian proverbs reveals a complex and nuanced cognitive structure of longing that is deeply intertwined with cultural practices, natural landscapes, and communal values. Cross-cultural comparisons highlight the universal and culture-specific elements in the conceptualization of longing, underscoring the importance of considering cultural specificity when studying emotional cognition. Indonesian proverbs serve as cultural artifacts that reveal the cultural values, traditions, and natural environments intertwined with the emotional experience, providing a unique lens into the rich cultural heritage of Indonesia.

### C. *The Intricate Interplay Between Emotion, Culture, and Language*

The study's findings shed light on the complex interplay between language, culture, and emotion. This study discovered that language, mainly through sayings, is a vessel for encoding cultural values, worldviews, and emotional experiences. The study also revealed that the emotion of longing is deeply embedded in Indonesian culture and society. The implications of these findings for cognitive semantics are significant. The study contributes to the field by showcasing how cognitive structures are intertwined with cultural elements in the representation of emotions. It emphasizes the importance of examining emotions within their cultural context to uncover the cognitive underpinnings.

Furthermore, the study offers valuable insights into Indonesian culture and provides a lens through which to view the collective consciousness of the society. The study highlights the significance of folklore, rituals, and traditional practices in shaping cultural concepts of emotion (*see Example 7*). Overall, this study underscores the importance of understanding the interplay between language, culture, and emotion in shaping our cognitive and emotional experiences. The interplay between language, culture, and emotion is a complex and fascinating topic that has been the subject of much study and analysis. In this regard, the findings from our study of Indonesian proverbs offer valuable insights into the intricate relationship between language, culture, and emotion.

Our analysis reveals that language is not merely a tool for communication but a mirror that reflects cultural values, traditions, and the cognitive structures of emotions. The sayings we examined demonstrate how deeply culture is intertwined with language and how emotions like longing are culturally shaped and expressed. In particular, we found that hope, as represented in Indonesian proverbs, emerges as a cultural artifact, reflecting the unique emotional landscape of the Indonesian people.

The sayings we analyzed illustrate how emotions are embedded within cultural practices, natural surroundings, and communal bonds, highlighting the inseparable relationship between culture and emotional cognition (*see Example 8*). This has important implications for cognitive semantics study, as it underscores the importance of considering cultural specificity in studying mental structures underlying emotions. The cognitive systems underlying emotions are not universal. Still, they are influenced by cultural nuances, and researchers in cognitive semantics must acknowledge the role of culture in shaping the conceptualization of emotions through language.

Moreover, the symbolic richness of Indonesian proverbs highlights the role of metaphors as cognitive signposts for understanding emotions (*see Example 9*). Metaphors serve as powerful tools for both expressing and shaping emotional experiences, and they provide insights into the cognitive underpinnings of abstract concepts like longing. The examination of Indonesian proverbs also offers a valuable approach to cultural studies. Sayings serve as repositories of cultural wisdom, offering a window into the collective consciousness of a society. They reveal how emotions are culturally valued, expressed, and transmitted through generations, enriching our understanding of cultural identity and practices. Furthermore, proverbs referencing traditional ceremonies, natural landscapes, and communal bonds reflect the enduring significance of these cultural elements. At the same time, proverbs can evolve to reflect contemporary cultural shifts, providing insights into the continuity and evolution of cultural beliefs and practices.

In conclusion, the findings from the analysis of Indonesian proverbs enhance our comprehension of the cognitive structure of longing and have profound implications for our understanding of the intricate interplay between language, culture, and emotion. They emphasize the need for a culturally situated approach to studying emotional cognition and highlight the role of metaphors as cognitive and cultural bridges. Moreover, the study underscores the valuable contributions of proverbs to cultural studies by revealing cultural insights and tracing the continuity and adaptability of cultural values and practices over time.

#### (7) Example 7: Emotions as Cultural Artifacts

Analysis: One such proverb, "Longing is like the waiting before a traditional dance," highlights the crucial role that cultural events play in shaping the emotional experience of longing. This suggests that emotions are not merely individual or universal phenomena but are cultural artifacts deeply embedded in the fabric of society. The proverb implies that the anticipation and excitement of waiting for a traditional dance are similar to the emotions of longing, which are also shaped by cultural practices and traditions.

Implications: Indonesia has a rich cultural heritage, and its proverbs are a testament to how emotions are woven into its cultural practices and traditions. These proverbs offer profound insights into the cultural significance of emotions and how they are expressed and valued within Indonesian society.

#### (8) Example 8: Metaphors as Cognitive Signposts

Analysis: Metaphors in Indonesian proverbs to represent longing, such as "Longing as a wilting flower" or "Longing as the flow of a river," serve as cognitive signposts that guide individuals' understanding and expression of emotions. These

## Unveiling the Heart of Longing in Indonesian Proverbs: Their Components and Mental Connotations

metaphors offer a tangible, concrete way to conceptualize the abstract, making emotions like longing more accessible and relatable. They also highlight the importance of cultural context in shaping how emotions are experienced and expressed.

Implications: In the realm of cognitive semantics, this finding underscores the importance of metaphors in shaping how we think about and communicate emotions. It suggests that metaphors are not merely linguistic flourishes but fundamental tools that influence our cognitive structures. Researchers in cognitive semantics can further investigate how metaphors impact our emotional experiences and cultural understanding and how they can be used to promote emotional intelligence and cultural sensitivity.

### (9) Example 9: Cultural Insights through Proverbs

Analysis: Indonesian proverbs provide cultural insights that extend beyond the realm of longing to encompass broader implications for studying emotions, language, and culture. Sayings that link longing to traditional ceremonies, like "Longing is like the waiting before a traditional dance," reveal the significance of communal events in emotional experiences. These sayings also highlight the role of nature in the dynamic landscape, as seen in "Longing is like the flow of a river," which connects emotions to the natural world.

Implications: Cultural studies benefit from such insights by understanding how emotions are expressed and valued within a culture. Proverbs act as cultural artifacts that transmit values and collective wisdom. By studying these linguistic expressions, cultural researchers can uncover hidden layers of cultural identity and the dynamic relationship between culture and emotions.

In conclusion, the analysis of Indonesian proverbs offers a unique perspective on the cultural specificity of emotions, the influential role of metaphors, and the rich cultural insights embedded in linguistic expressions like proverbs (*see also* Table 3). These findings have significant implications for studying emotions, language, and culture, highlighting the need to explore emotions as cultural products influenced by traditions, rituals, and collective experiences.

**Table 3. Supplementary Examples of Indonesian Proverbs Concerning Longing-related Proposition**

No.	Code	Proverb	Explanation
1.	P.INA/Lo/11	" <i>Seidas bagai benang, sebetuk bagai cermin.</i> " Translation: One like a thread, one like a mirror.	This proverb gives meaning to two perfectly matching human personalities.
2.	P.INA/Lo/12	" <i>Sayang di anak dilecut, sayang negeri ditinggalkan.</i> " Translation: Dear in the child's shame, Dear country's abandoned.	This proverb gives meaning to the behavior of giving affection to a child that needs to be measured in order not to develop it.
3.	P.INA/Lo/13	" <i>Sakit sama mengaduh, luka sama menyiu.</i> " Translation: The pain is the same complaining, the wounds are the same bending.	This proverb gives us the meaning of being faithful to one another, living a life of faithfulness, being full of confidence, and being in harmony.
4.	P.INA/Lo/14	" <i>Laksana jentayu (burung garuda yang besar) menantikan hujan.</i> " Translation: Like a jentayu waiting for rain.	This proverb gives meaning to a very deep sense of longing.
5.	P.INA/Lo/15	" <i>Bagai menjaga permata intan ketika dicantai.</i> " Translation: It's like keeping a jewel's net when it's carved.	This proverb gives meaning to an unlimited feeling of affection.

Furthermore, the analysis of Indonesian proverbs offers a fascinating glimpse into the intricate interplay between language, culture, and emotion. These proverbs reveal that language is not merely a tool for communication but a reflection of cultural values, traditions, and the cognitive structures of emotions (Kövecses, 2010, 2015). The concept of longing, as depicted in these proverbs, emerges as a cultural artifact deeply ingrained in Indonesian society's collective consciousness. These insights challenge the notion of emotions as universal and isolated experiences, highlighting the cultural specificity of emotional cognition. This has significant implications for cognitive semantics, emphasizing the importance of considering cultural context when studying emotional concepts through language (Gibbs Jr. et al., 1997, 2004). The metaphors used in these proverbs serve as cognitive signposts, shaping how we think about and communicate emotions and ultimately influencing our emotional experiences.

Moreover, this study demonstrates the valuable role of proverbs in cultural studies. Proverbs serve as linguistic repositories of cultural wisdom and identity, shedding light on how emotions are expressed, valued, and transmitted across generations (Gibbs Jr. & O'Brien, 1990; Lemghari, 2022). They provide a tangible link between culture and emotion, revealing cultural continuity and adaptability (Kövecses, 2023). Overall, analyzing Indonesian proverbs offers a rich and nuanced understanding of the complex relationship between language, culture, and emotion.



## Unveiling the Heart of Longing in Indonesian Proverbs: Their Components and Mental Connotations

The study on the interplay between language, culture, and emotion, specifically the CSA of longing in Indonesian proverbs, provides a fascinating insight into the complex relationship between these three elements. The Indonesian proverbs serve as linguistic mirrors of culture, revealing that language is not just a tool for communication but a reflection of cultural values, traditions, and the cognitive structures of emotions (Gentner, 1983). The proverbs depict longing as a cultural artifact deeply ingrained in the collective consciousness of Indonesian society, emphasizing that emotions are not universal and isolated but are profoundly influenced by cultural context (Andersson, 2013).

Furthermore, the proverbs reveal that emotions like longing are not standalone experiences, but cultural artifacts deeply embedded in the fabric of a society. References to traditional ceremonies, natural landscapes, and communal bonds depict longing as integral to cultural practices and collective identity (Lau et al., 2004; Zaikauskienė, 2021). This perspective challenges the conventional view of emotions as purely individual or universal phenomena and underscores their cultural specificity. The implications of this study extend to the field of cognitive semantics, emphasizing the importance of acknowledging cultural specificity in cognitive semantics study (Villers, 2022; Zhou, 2021). The study highlights the pivotal role of metaphors in shaping how humans think about and communicate emotions. Metaphors are not mere linguistic embellishments (Bredis et al., 2020; Shaimardanova & Akhmetova, 2015); they serve as cognitive signposts that influence our understanding of abstract concepts like longing.

The study also has far-reaching implications for the field of cultural studies. Proverbs, as linguistic expressions of cultural wisdom, offer a valuable approach to cultural studies (Orlova, 2021; Tavangar et al., 2022). By examining proverbs like those in Indonesian culture, researchers understand how emotions are expressed, valued, and embedded within cultural practices. Proverbs act as windows into cultural identity and the collective wisdom of a society. In conclusion, this study enriches our comprehension of the cognitive structure of longing and extends its implications to cognitive semantics and cultural studies. It underscores the necessity of exploring emotions within their cultural context, recognizes the influential role of metaphors as cognitive and cultural bridges, and appreciates the profound insights proverbs offer into the interplay between language, culture, and emotion.

## IV. CONCLUSION

Exploring longing within Indonesian proverbs has been a fascinating and enlightening study, guided by CSA and QM. Through a meticulous analysis of linguistic representations and metaphors, we have unraveled the cognitive structure of longing in Indonesian culture, revealing a rich tapestry of linguistic, cultural, and emotional insights. Our first research question led us to discover that Indonesian proverbs employ many metaphors to portray longing, each offering a unique glimpse into the cognitive structure of this complex emotion. We found that the metaphors, such as "longing as a wilting flower," "longing as a distant star," and "longing as a never-ending journey," provide not only linguistic richness but also deep cognitive patterns associated with longing. These metaphors serve as cognitive signposts, guiding individuals in comprehending and expressing the emotion.

Our second research question delved into the cultural nuances and contextual factors that influence the representation of longing in Indonesian proverbs. The findings highlighted that cultural elements such as traditional ceremonies, natural landscapes, and communal bonds profoundly shape the cognitive structure of longing. Indonesian proverbs revealed a strong connection between longing and culture, emphasizing that emotions are not solitary experiences but deeply embedded in societal practices and traditions. In addition, our cross-cultural comparisons, prompted by the second research question, elucidated shared and culture-specific elements in the conceptualization of longing. While universal cognitive patterns, like the association of distance with yearning, emerged, Indonesian proverbs also showcased unique cultural references and values, such as the emphasis on community and nature. This underscored the significance of considering cultural specificity in studying emotional cognition.

Our exploration holds critical implications for cognitive semantics and cultural studies. The study highlighted the cultural specificity of emotions and the influential role of metaphors in shaping emotional cognition. It emphasized that emotions are cultural artifacts deeply intertwined with language and societal practices. These findings encourage researchers in cognitive semantics to consider the cultural context in their investigations and further explore the impact of metaphors on emotional experiences. In cultural studies, this study showcased the value of proverbs as cultural artifacts that convey cultural identity, wisdom, and the dynamic relationship between culture and emotion. Proverbs act as linguistic windows into the heart of a society, revealing the enduring significance of cultural elements while adapting to contemporary shifts.

While this study offers valuable insights, it has limitations. The analysis focused primarily on proverbs as textual artifacts. Future study could benefit from a more comprehensive examination of the role of proverbs in oral traditions and their influence on everyday emotional expression. Additionally, a deeper cross-cultural analysis involving a more comprehensive range of cultures and languages could provide richer insights into the universality and cultural specificity of longing. Furthermore, exploring how contemporary culture and globalization might influence the evolution of proverbs and the cognitive representation of emotions like longing would be a compelling avenue for future study. In conclusion, our examination of longing in Indonesian proverbs has not only shed light on this emotion's cognitive and cultural intricacies but also pointed toward exciting directions for future study. It underscores the rich interplay between language, culture, and emotion. It encourages scholars to continue unraveling the profound connections between the human experience and the linguistic and cultural expressions that shape it.

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