

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer presents the background, research problem, research purpose and research benefit.

1.1 Background

Culture is the identity of a nation that has existed even when a country does not get its independent yet. Culture covers all aspects of life, such as law, religion, customs, and many others.

Indonesia is a country that has thousands of islands. These islands produce many different tribes and languages. These make the cultures and natures very rich and diverse as well. These diverse cultures and natures are treasures and of course, these must be preserved for this nation. One of the cultural assets owned by this country is the legends.

According to Hooykaas (1965), legends are story about things based on history that contains something magical or events that indicate supernatural powers. Meanwhile, according to the Indonesian Dictionary/KBBI (2005), legends are folk tales in ancient times that have something to do with historical events. The characteristics of each region develop different cultures including the legends. As explained above, legends are characterized by humans even though sometimes they have extraordinary properties and often are also assisted by magical creatures/contain supernatural. It can also be concluded that legends are closely related to the history of life in the past even though the level of truth is often not pure or is called semi-historical. Legends are very important for the country and must be retold from generation to generation so that regional cultures can be preserved.

Time by time, due to the increasing necessities of life, the older generations do not have enough time to tell stories or the legends to their children.

The impact is that the younger generations do not care about the legends that exist in their area which are actually cultural heritages that must be preserved because a great nation is a nation that respects the history and the culture of its people.

Many years ago, the legends were retold to the children orally in spare time or before the children go to bed. The older generation believes that listening to the legends is very beneficial for the children because they tell the moral messages which are very important for developing their good characters. The activities can also strengthen the relationship among the members of the family. Unfortunately, these activities are very rarely done in these current times. To preserve the culture, the young generation has to know these legends.

Some young generation may know the legend of *Malin Kundang*, *Roro Jongrang*, *Keong Mas*, and *Tangkuban Perahu* because these legends which are usually delivered orally, now are already converted into the written texts such as storybooks. Unfortunately, these do not occur to many other legends yet. Therefore, efforts need to be made to change this oral communication into written communication so that the message that will be conveyed can be well received. One of the legends that is not yet converted into the reading text is the legend of *Si Pahit Lidah* from South Sumatra. The writer suggests converting this oral legend into the written text such as the storybook because the storybook is interesting tool for the writer to preserve the culture. It can contain interesting pictures and beautiful paragraphs that can influence the reader to understand the moral message delivered.

The legend of *Si Pahit Lidah* is originated from Ogan Komering Ulu. It tells about the prince who misused his supernatural powers just to boast himself. Based on the above explanation, in this final report, the writer tried to find out how to design the storybook to preserve the culture. The title of the final report is **“Designing a Storybook of *Si Pahit Lidah* to Preserve the Legend from Ogan Komering Ulu”**.

1.2 Research Problem

The Problem of this report is how to design a storybook of “*Si Pahit Lidah*” to preserve the legend from Ogan Komering Ulu.

1.3 Research Purpose

The purpose of this report is to find out how to design a storybook of “*Si Pahit Lidah*” to preserve the legend from Ogan Komering Ulu.

1.4 Research Benefit

The following are the research benefits.

a. For the writer:

- The writer understood the legend of "*Si Pahit Lidah*".
- The writer understood the moral message delivered from the legend of "*Si Pahit Lidah*".
- The writer understood how to design a storybook of "*Si Pahit Lidah*" to preserve the legend from Ogan Komering Ulu.
- The writer got experience in researching and writing this report.

b. For the readers:

- The readers understood the legend of "*Si Pahit Lidah*".
- The readers understood the moral message delivered from the legend of "*Si Pahit Lidah*".
- The readers understood how to design the storybook of “*Si Pahit Lidah*” to preserve the culture of Ogan Komering Ulu.