

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the finding and discussion of the study about Gending Sriwijaya dance as a cultural tourism attraction of Palembang.

4.1 Finding

The writer had collected the data through interview. Then, the writer analyzed the data and gave explanation based on the data collection of Gending Sriwijaya dance as a cultural tourism attraction.

4.1.1 The Result of Interview

The writer had conducted interview to 3 respondents which they were humanists of Palembang. There were 16 questions that asked by the writer about Gending Sriwijaya dance as a cultural of Palembang, Gending Sriwijaya dance as a tourism attraction, and Gending Sriwijaya dance as a cultural tourism attraction of Palembang. By the questions, the correspondences gave answers and explanation about Gending Sriwijaya dance as a cultural tourism attraction of Palembang.

By the result of interview, it is explained that Gending Sriwijaya dance is a traditional dance that has a function for welcoming the honorable guests who come to Palembang. Gending Sriwijaya dance is usually performed for formal events, such as welcoming President, Governor, Ministers or Ambassadors. Respondents said that this dance is usually performed in inside of a building, because this dance is a sacred dance, which means that this dance cannot be performed at any places.

Gending Sriwijaya dance is created as a welcoming for honorable guests because in ancient time, Palembang did not have a dance to welcome guests who come to Palembang. Therefore, the Government and experts of dance created a dance functioning to welcome honor guests. The honor guests consist of the head

of a State, such as President and state officials, such as Ambassadors and Prime Ministers. Gending Sriwijaya dance is very necessary and important to be held in the formal event to welcome the guests because this dance is purposely created to welcome the honorable guests. Since the creation of the Gending Sriwijaya dance, this dance has been included into the cultural art and also cultural heritage of Palembang.

The respondents told that Gending Sriwijaya dance includes as a cultural of Palembang because in every elements of this dance contain of Palembang culture and certain meaning of a traditional dance. The dance movements of Gending Sriwijaya dance are graceful and elegant. The graceful and elegant movements following the rhythm of the music that show friendliness of Palembang people to the guests who come. The dancers of Gending Sriwijaya dance wear traditional clothes of Palembang as the dancers' costume, named *Aesan Gede*. *Aesan Gede* used as the costume for the dance can be useful to preserve the Palembang traditional clothes.

Gending Sriwijaya dance is accompanied by a traditional song of Palembang called Gending Sriwijaya. Gending Sriwijaya song describes glorifies of Sriwijaya Kingdom in ancient time, especially Buddhism as a religious of Palembang people at that time. Gending Sriwijaya dance and song describe nobleness culture, glory and majesty of Sriwijaya Kingdom that had triumphed in the ancient times. It shows that all of elements in Gending Sriwijaya dance contain of Palembang culture.

Gending Sriwijaya dance as a traditional dance of Palembang has uniqueness that not many people know it. According to the respondent, Gending Sriwijaya dance is a traditional dance that was created within a short time, which was only for few weeks. At first, every dancer of the dance wore *songket* with different of colors and motifs and not similar, because each dancer at that time wore their own *songket* for the costume which they owned different kinds of *songket*. For several time, Gending Sriwijaya dance might not be performed in G.30.S PKI era. It was because the creator of Gending Sriwijaya dance was involved as the part of that organization, which made the Government banned

Gending Sriwijaya dance to be performed. The dancers also wore *Tanggai* or fake nails as the accessories to beautify the appearance of the dancers.

Gending Sriwijaya dance includes as a tourism attraction of Palembang. This dance includes as a cultural art of Palembang in form of a traditional dance that has its own interesting attraction because this dance contains of Palembang culture that has difference from other cultures from other areas.

Gending Sriwijaya dance has an important role in tourism of Palembang which this dance has a special attraction that makes it becoming an attractive tourist attraction to be seen by many people and can be introduced to people and can support tourism in South Sumatra, particularly Palembang. There is message in the Gending Sriwijaya dance which it shows that Palembang has a great culture that can be seen from the every element of the dance.

For the people of Palembang or tourists who do not know about Gending Sriwijaya dance in detail, they can seek information of the Gending Sriwijaya dance from the various websites over the internet, such as videos that show the performance of Gending Sriwijaya dance, or they also can attend a workshop about Palembang culture including Gending Sriwijaya dance conducted by Art Council of South Sumatra.

4.2 Discussion

A traditional dance formed by a certain area definitely contains of culture, because a dance is an attainment of culture. Gending Sriwijaya dance is a Palembang traditional dance which contains of culture of Palembang. In every element of dance of Gending Sriwijaya dance contains of Palembang culture, which the culture of Palembang describes the way of life of Palembang people in ancient times, especially in Sriwijaya Kingdom era which was having heyday.

Gending Sriwijaya dance is a traditional dance of Palembang that contains of culture in every elements of the dance. Gending Sriwijaya dance is a cultural art that was created by the art experts and humanists of South Sumatera and Palembang by inserting culture and the characteristic of people of Palembang from the past, especially at Sriwijaya Kingdom era.

Gending Sriwijaya dance is performed with graceful movements that mean friendliness of Palembang people in welcoming the guests who come to Palembang. The graceful movements follow the lyric of the accompanist song called “Gending Sriwijaya” that describes the greatness of Palembang culture and symbolizes the triumph, power, and glory in the Sriwijaya Kingdom era with Buddhist beliefs that they professed. The beautiful dancers of Gending Sriwijaya dance wear Palembang traditional costume called “Aesan Gede” and other accessories that characterize Palembang culture. Lintani and Syafrida (2012, pp.37) says that Aesan Gede is a traditional costume of Palembang created based on assimilation of cultural arts of Hindu, Arabic and Chinese. The dancers also wear fake nails called “Tanggai” to make the appearance of the dancers more beautiful. The nine dancers of Gending Sriwijaya dance symbolize the nine rivers in South Sumatra called “Batanghari Sembilan”.

Gending Srwijaya dance is an art work made by people in the past. Gending Sriwijaya dance is something interesting that can be shown to people as a tourist attraction of Palembang. Gending Sriwijaya dance is not the main tourist attraction or the first reason tourists visit Palembang that can be shown to tourists every time, but for a certain time or event, for instance in welcoming noble guests, this dance can be as an attraction that must be shown to the guests because of the dance’s function is to welcome the guests.

Gending Sriwijaya dance includes as a sacred dance, which the dance should not be danced in any place and any event. Some people say that this dance can only be danced in the room only, and should not be danced outside of the room, because the dance is expected to look like a dance of palace which is only in the palace the dance can be performed. Yet if Gending Sriwijaya dance is danced by its own function which its function is to welcome the honor guests, then it is fine if the dance performed inside or outside the room as long as the function of the dance still remains, which to welcome the honor guests.

Based on the documentation from several sources that Gending Sriwijaya dance ever performed outdoors, such as in the courtyard the Grand Mosque, where the dance was performed for the first time, in the field of Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin II Palembang Airport while welcoming the President, in the courtyard

of Borobudur Temple when to enliven an event in Yogyakarta, in the opening of the Sriwijaya Festival which also welcoming honor guests who attend the opening of the Sriwijaya Festival every year, also in the opening of the sports event which was the International Solidarity Games in 2013.

In addition, Gending Sriwijaya dance also has been performed in several other places both indoors and outdoors in the event of promoting Gending Sriwijaya dance to others. Gending Sriwijaya dance was ever shown in "Indonesia Bangkit" held in Cairo, Egypt in 2014. This event was useful to promote the cultural, economic and educational of Indonesia to the Middle Eastern societies. Gending Sriwijaya dance was also shown at India International Folk Festival in 2014 as one of the seven elected Indonesian traditional dances to be shown in annual cultural event in India.

Gending Sriwijaya dance has a function to welcome the honor guest. Yet not infrequently also the dance is performed as a welcoming dance which the guests are not intended as noble guests, such as president or ambassador, but the head of the company or the people who are considered as important people. It shows that the lack of Palembang people in understanding about the Gending Sriwijaya dance. It can cause the loss of the original function of Gending Sriwijaya dance which is to welcome the honor guests.

In the process of Gending Sriwijaya dance itself, this dance begins when the guests have been in their seats and ready to watch this dance as their arrival greeter. Property for the dance like *Tepak* also has been prepared in the stage, then Gending Sriwijaya dance begins to be shown in front of the guests. Gending Sriwijaya dance is shown with the accompaniment of song and music entitled Gending Sriwijaya. In the middle of the dance performance, the front dancers danced forward towards the guests, and one of them carrying *Tepak* that contains of betel nut, lime, gambier, and areca nut to be given to the guests. After completion, the dancers back to the other dancers on the stage and in make formation as the dance closing, and the dancers back to where they come out before.

The statements above explain that Gending Sriwijaya dance includes as a tourism attraction of Palembang. By showing Gending Sriwijaya dance to people, it is

expected that this dance can be known by people widely. Gending Sriwijaya dance as a cultural heritage should be preserved until later on, so that the cultural heritage owned by Palembang will not be lost and forgotten by the times