

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the background of the research, problem formulation of the research, purpose of the research, problem limitation and the benefits of the research.

1.1. Background

Indonesia is a country that has a wide range of ethnic and cultural groups in each region. The various culture that exist in Indonesia can be distinguished from each tribe that has its cultural characteristics from customs, religion, language, home, artistry, and clothing. When viewed from the science of anthropology, culture is the whole ideas, actions and result of human work in the context of community life that is made to belong to humans by learning.

In everyday life, humans are never separated from a culture because the culture is all activities that are generated from each individual aimed at himself or the community, and includes all means or patterns of thought to act.

Base Koentjaraningrat (2015) culture has divided on three forms, first the form of culture as a complex of ideas, ideals, value, norms, and regulations. Second the form of culture as an activity. The last is the form of culture as objects of human works.

According to E.B Tylor in the book Soekarno (2006) give his opinion “culture is a complex that includes knowledge, beliefs, moral arts, law, customs, and other abilities as well as habits obtained by humans as members of society”.

Indonesia has known the art of making traditional cloth as an item of distinctive clothing for each tribe since long ago, in every province in Indonesia, has a variety of traditional fabrics, especially Sumatra, had already known traditional woven cloth. A traditional woven fabric that develops in Sumatra is known as *ikat* woven fabric which has various types of traditional woven fabrics such as *Tapis* fabric that develops in Lampung, *Ulos* fabric in North Sumatra,

Pandai Sikek woven fabric in West Sumatra and *Songket* fabric is a traditional cloth typical of Palembang city.

The opinion is that the most sophisticated traditional weaving art that the world has ever produced came from Indonesia, such as woven cloth, *Batik* cloth and *Songket* fabric.

The fabric craft is a cultural product that has been passed down for generations and still being developed. The characteristic of the community in developing its skills reflect its own distinctive characteristics in each region, one of which can be seen in the *Songket* fabric which has become a traditional cloth from the city of Palembang.

Palembang is one of the regions in Indonesia that has the *Songket* craft of Palembang people called it *Sawet* (cloth) and the famous one is *Sawet Songket* with the origin of the word making *Songket* from the word stick and crank so it is abbreviated as *Suk-kit* and finally known as *Songket* until now.

Palembang people have known and made *Songket* cloth since long ago, in the past, weavers only knew the raw material of woven yarn from cotton so that the *Songket* produced was not so beautiful and the resulting colour was less sparkling.

But now with the passage of time *Songket* fabric produced with gold and silk thread have more high value on each user and make a mirror of the wearer's social status, both in term of price, materials, and motifs produced from the *Songket* cloth. Besides being used by the nobility of the *songket* cloth is also functions for the Palembang people at the wedding ceremony, the birth of a baby, and when welcoming guest from home, the social functions of the *Songket* cloth can be used in accordance with the motifs of the *Songket* cloth itself.

Palembang society is a group of individuals who inhabit the capital city of south Sumatra, commonly called the Palembang tribe, divided into indigenous tribes and immigrant tribes. Palembang people have a system of territorial division between the central government and the border area which is called the *Iliran* or *Iilir* pattern commonly known as Ogan Komering Ilir (OKI) in the East and Ogan Komering Ulu or (OKU) *Uluan* in the West. The indigenous people of Palembang are people who use the house build on the surface of the water and use the native *Malay* language – Palembang with the dialect “O”.

Culture is a complex that includes knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, law, customs, abilities, and habits, acquired by humans as members of society.

According to the science of anthropology Koentjaraningrat (2016), “culture” is the whole system of ideas, actions and result of humans work in the lives of people who are made to belong to humans by learning. Seven elements of culture can be found in all nations, the seven elements that we call the main content of each culture in the world are:

1. Language
2. Knowledge system
3. The system of social organization
4. Living equipment and technology system
5. Living livelihood system
6. Religious system
7. Art

From the opinions of the expert above it can be concluded that culture is a product of creation, work, and human taste to meet all their needs. *Songket* fabric is a traditional fabric made from a long cloth using raw materials of gold, silver and silk with various colours. In ancient Palembang *Songket* cloth was only used by aristocrats and noble families, but now *Songket* cloth developed and can be used by all levels of society, without losing the values contained therein. In every motif drawn from *Kain Songket* is inseparable from the philosophical values contained, the philosophical values of the *Songket* cloth motif generally describe the situation at the time the *Songket* was used, because the use of *Songket* cloth at each ceremony was adjustment to the philosophical meaning of the motifs contained in the *Songket* cloth.

Because many people who do not know about the various motifs that exist in *Songket* fabric, therefore the writer took the initiative to make “A Booklet about Kinds of *Songket* Motifs as Traditional Clothes from Palembang” that contains a variety of motifs/patterns that usually decorate *Songket* fabric, it aims to provide knowledge about Indonesian culture, especially on typical *Songket* fabric South Sumatra itself.

1.2. Problem Formulation

The problem with this report is how to make a booklet to provide information about the motifs of *Songket* as various traditional clothes from the city of Palembang.

1.3. Limitation Problem

The writer takes the theme because of the lack of knowledge of the Indonesian people about various kinds of motifs that are one each *Songket* cloth which is a traditional Indonesian dress especially on *Songket* cloth originating from Palembang, South Sumatra. Therefore, the writer took the initiative to make A Booklet that aims to provide information about the various kinds of motifs of the *Songket* fabric to the wider community as an effort to preserve culture. But the writer limit the discussion that will be raised in this report about the exact price of each *Songket* because each *Songket* has a different price according to the level of difficulty of

making and the type of material used to make the *Songket*. Therefore in this paper, the writer focused on the discussion of various kinds of motifs, philosophies and stories from each Palembang *Songket* to become the contents of the booklet.

1.4. Purpose

The purpose of this final report is to inform people about the various types of *Songket* in Palembang and to look for the meaning of each *Songket* to add insight into the motifs that are in the *Songket* cloth which is a typical fabric of the city of Palembang.

1.5. The Benefits

1. For Government

Government can realize that traditional various types of *Songket* in Palembang. Though this, government can immediately preserve and restored a variety of traditional cloth by festivals traditional cloth, cloth events, fairs, etc.

2. For Visitors

Visitors will get the information about the various types of *Songket* in Palembang.