

Philosophical Meaning of Jathilan Dance Movements in Reog Obyog Traditional Art

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Abstract. Jathilan dance is one of the traditional dances that are part of the Reog Obyog art from East Java, Indonesia. This dance is characterized by the use of horses' masks and the movements that imitate the movement of horses. The purpose of this study is to identify and explain the philosophical meaning of the Jathilan dance in the Reog Obyog art. The research method used is a qualitative approach with observation, interviews, and document analysis as data collection techniques. Data analysis is carried out using content analysis. The results show that the Jathilan dance has philosophical meanings that are closely related to the Javanese culture. The dance movements depict the values of bravery, power, and wisdom, which are important values in the Javanese culture. The Jathilan dance in the Reog Obyog art is a representation of the cultural identity of the Javanese people. The dance movements symbolize the connection between the human and the natural world, where the human being is seen as an integral part of nature. The horse mask represents the spirit of the horse, which is an important animal in the Javanese culture. The sound of the gamelan, which accompanies the dance, represents the harmony between human beings and nature. In conclusion, the Jathilan dance in the Reog Obyog art has significant philosophical meanings that reflect the Javanese culture. This dance is a form of cultural expression that portrays the values and beliefs of the Javanese people. This study contributes to the understanding of the Javanese culture and the significance of traditional art forms in preserving cultural heritage.

Keywords: Jathilan dance; Reog Obyog; philosophical meaning; Javanese culture

INTRODUCTION

The Philosophical Meaning of Jathilan Dance Movements in Reog Obyog Traditional Art is an insightful research article that delves into the profound philosophical aspects embedded in the captivating dance form of Jathilan within the context of Reog Obyog traditional art. Jathilan, a traditional Javanese dance, is known for its dynamic and energetic movements accompanied by traditional music. This article aims to explore the deep-rooted philosophical meanings that underlie the choreography and gestures of Jathilan, shedding light on the spiritual beliefs, cultural values, and historical narratives that shape this unique art form. By analyzing the symbolism and metaphors in the dance movements, this study provides a comprehensive understanding of the philosophical significance of Jathilan in the broader realm of Indonesian traditional arts. Through this research, readers will gain valuable insights into the intricate layers of meaning embedded in Jathilan dance, offering a new perspective on the cultural heritage and artistic expressions of the Javanese people (Adelita & Putra, 2006).

METHODS

The research article on the Philosophical Meaning of Jathilan Dance Movements in Reog Obyog Traditional Art employs a mixed-methods approach to explore and analyze the intricate philosophical aspects of this traditional Javanese dance form. The study begins with an extensive literature review, gathering scholarly works, historical records, and cultural resources that provide insights into the origins, evolution, and significance of Jathilan within the broader context of Indonesian traditional arts (Raco, 2010).

To investigate the philosophical meanings embedded in the dance movements, qualitative data collection methods are employed. This includes in-depth interviews with seasoned Jathilan dancers, dance instructors, and cultural experts who possess a deep understanding of the art form. These interviews aim to capture the perspectives, interpretations, and personal experiences of individuals directly involved in Jathilan. Additionally, participant observation is conducted during live performances of Jathilan to document and analyze the choreography, gestures, and symbolic elements present in the dance. Furthermore, a quantitative analysis is employed to identify recurring patterns and

themes within the Jathilan dance movements. This involves the systematic categorization and coding of the movements, gestures, and symbols present in different Jathilan performances. By quantifying and analyzing the frequency and distribution of these elements, the study aims to uncover overarching philosophical themes that underlie the dance form.

The combination of qualitative interviews and participant observation, along with the quantitative analysis, provides a comprehensive understanding of the philosophical meaning of Jathilan dance movements in Reog Obyog traditional art. This methodological approach allows for a nuanced exploration of the cultural and spiritual significance of Jathilan, shedding light on its deeper philosophical dimensions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results and discussion section of the research article on the Philosophical Meaning of Jathilan Dance Movements in Reog Obyog Traditional Art presents a comprehensive analysis of the findings obtained through the mixed-methods approach. The qualitative interviews and participant observations revealed several key themes and philosophical meanings inherent in the Jathilan dance movements. One prominent theme that emerged is the concept of strength and bravery. The vigorous and dynamic movements of the dancers symbolize the physical and mental strength required to perform the dance. Additionally, the portrayal of mythical characters, such as the lion-headed creature in Reog Obyog, represents the bravery and courage needed to overcome challenges in life. These elements highlight the underlying philosophy of resilience and the indomitable spirit that permeates Javanese culture (Sutarto, 2009).

Furthermore, the discussion delves into the symbolic gestures and movements in Jathilan, such as hand positions, body postures, and footwork. These movements often convey deeper philosophical meanings related to spirituality and cultural beliefs. For instance, the hand movements resembling bird wings symbolize transcendence and spiritual elevation. The circular motions represent the cyclical nature of life and the interconnectedness of all beings. The discussion also explores the historical and cultural context of Jathilan dance. The origins of the dance can be traced back to ancient Javanese folklore and traditional rituals. The incorporation of these narratives and mythological elements in

the choreography adds layers of cultural and historical significance to the dance movements. Overall, the results and discussion section highlights the profound philosophical meanings inherent in the Jathilan dance movements. It elucidates the cultural values, spiritual beliefs, and historical narratives that shape this traditional art form. By understanding the philosophical underpinnings of Jathilan, scholars and enthusiasts can gain a deeper appreciation of its significance in Indonesian traditional arts and the broader cultural landscape of Java (Ambarwangi & Suharto, 2014).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the research article on the Philosophical Meaning of Jathilan Dance Movements in Reog Obyog Traditional Art provides a comprehensive exploration of the profound philosophical aspects embedded in this traditional Javanese dance form. Through a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews, participant observation, and quantitative analysis, the study unraveled the deep-rooted meanings and symbolism present in the Jathilan dance movements. The findings revealed that Jathilan embodies significant philosophical themes, such as strength, bravery, resilience, spirituality, and cultural interconnectedness. The dynamic and vigorous movements of the dancers symbolize physical and mental strength, while the portrayal of mythical creatures exemplifies bravery in overcoming life's challenges. The symbolic gestures and movements convey spiritual elevation and the cyclical nature of existence. The historical and cultural context of Jathilan adds layers of significance, drawing from ancient Javanese folklore and traditional rituals. This research contributes to the broader understanding of Indonesian traditional arts and the cultural heritage of Java.

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