



**ANALYSIS OF THE CULTURAL MEANING OF THE TORON TANA TRADITION IN
PATEMON VILLAGE, TANGGUL DISTRICT, JEMBER REGENCY**

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ABSTRACT

This study examines the cultural significance of the Toron Tana tradition in Patemon Village, marking the transition from childhood to adulthood through symbolic rituals. Using qualitative methods like interviews, participatory observation, and document analysis, the findings highlight the tradition's deep cultural meaning. Toron Tana not only symbolizes this life transition but also strengthens cultural identity and spiritual values, promoting the appreciation of ancestral heritage among younger generations while preserving local traditions.

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country celebrated for its remarkable diversity, with each region home to unique ethnic groups, religions, and cultural practices. This diversity is reflected in various social norms that guide people in their daily lives, shaping behaviors and maintaining social order. As Koentjaraningrat (2002) describes, culture encompasses all systems of ideas, actions, and works that are learned and passed down through generations.

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An essential aspect of culture is the traditional ceremonies performed across regions, each adapted to reflect local values and beliefs. These ceremonies often function as a means of balancing society's relationship with nature, their vital source of life.

The Toron Tana tradition, observed in Patemon Village, Tanggul District, Jember Regency, is one such ritual. It marks a child's transition from infancy to early childhood and holds significant meaning for the local community. This tradition embodies local wisdom with deeply rooted spiritual and social values. In the face of rapid modernization, Toron Tana acts as a cultural anchor, reminding the community of traditional values that contribute to shaping the character and morals of the younger generation. This ritual also reinforces the cultural identity of the community, a critical aspect in today's globalized world, where many local traditions risk being forgotten. Hence, understanding and preserving traditions like Toron Tana is essential for maintaining the cultural identity and heritage of the community.

Prior research highlights the Toron Tana tradition's importance across different villages. For instance, Amal and Rizal (2023) discuss the symbolic meaning of the Toron Tana tradition in Bataan Village, Bondowoso Regency. In this study, the tradition is practiced as a gesture of gratitude for God's blessings, especially concerning the birth and early development of a child. In Bataan Village, elements like stepping on the Jadah, entering a chicken coop, and selecting items carry specific meanings, such as teaching values that support a child's future ambitions, social development, and gratitude toward God.

The Tedhak Siten Tradition and Its Role in Shaping Self-Efficacy in the Javanese-Madurese Community by Ayu (2023) explores the Tedhak Siten tradition in the Javanese-Madurese community and its connection to the concept of self-efficacy. The ritual, which includes symbolic processes such as walking on offerings, climbing a bamboo ladder, and selecting objects from a chicken coop, is believed to shape a child's confidence in navigating their future. This research employs a literature review method by analyzing relevant sources. The findings indicate that the values embedded in Tedhak Siten foster children's self-confidence, aligning with Bandura's self-efficacy theory, where personal experience and emotional support from parents play crucial roles in achieving goals.

This research identifies a gap in the existing literature by focusing on cultural identity and its spiritual values, which have not been extensively explored in previous studies.

Given this background, this study seeks to analyze the cultural meaning of the Toron Tana tradition in Patemon Village. This ritual is not only a meaningful cultural ceremony but also a channel for transmitting values from one generation to the next. Unlike earlier works that prioritize the effects of similar rituals on self-efficacy or community bonds, this study emphasizes how the Toron Tana ritual strengthens collective identity and spiritual meaning among the local community. By examining this tradition, we aim to understand how local communities preserve their identities in the face of external cultural influences. Additionally, the unique regional context of Patemon Village allows for comparisons of how different communities interpret and practice similar traditions, providing new insights through a qualitative approach that involves participatory observation and in-depth interviews.

The Toron Tana tradition is also vital in shaping children's characters. Through its processions, children learn values such as responsibility, familial love, and social connections. The participation of families and the broader community fosters bonds that strengthen solidarity and a sense of unity among members. This study thus provides insights into the relevance of local traditions in modern life, emphasizing how the preservation of such traditions is essential in maintaining local identity amid the growing dominance of foreign cultural influences.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative research method to explore the cultural meaning behind the Toron Tana tradition. Taylor and Bogdan (2015) argue that qualitative research focuses on collecting descriptive data in the form of words and observations rather than numbers to gain a deep understanding of a phenomenon. In this case, data were gathered through in-depth interviews and field observations, aiming to capture the meanings, values, and perceptions held by the community about this tradition.

Conducted as a field study, this research involved gathering firsthand information directly from participants and other community members involved in the Toron Tana tradition in Patemon Village, Jember Regency. Key sources of data included community leaders, families, and elders who play a role in the tradition. The primary research instrument was interviews with knowledgeable individuals who could provide insight into the ritual's process and meaning. Additionally, the study relied on observations of the ritual

itself, as well as the collection of relevant documents that describe local customs and practices.

The data gathered were descriptive and written in narrative form, allowing for a detailed understanding of the social and cultural significance of the Toron Tana tradition. This approach enabled us to capture the values embedded within the tradition as understood by the local community. Through this method, we could closely examine how the community in Patemon Village views and practices the Toron Tana ritual, gaining a richer perspective on its cultural importance.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Tradition

As Geertz (1973) said, Tradition is a collection of customs, values, beliefs, and practices that are passed down from one generation to the next in a culture or community. Tradition plays a very important role in maintaining the continuity of cultural identity, strengthening relationships between community members, and giving meaning to everyday life. Tradition helps people in a community to understand who they are, where they come from, and how they relate to others. Tradition becomes part of a group's identity, making them feel connected to the past and to others who have had similar experiences (Bourdieu, 2013).

The Toron Tana tradition, which is a ceremony to welcome a child who has just been able to walk, is not only a physical ritual but also reflects the social and spiritual values of the community. Tradition has an important function in shaping community identity and providing a sense of continuity in changing times. In the context of Toron Tana, this ceremony is an important moment to celebrate the growth and development of children while also binding the community together (Amal & Rizal, 2023)

Tradition can be considered a "pattern of meaning" that helps individuals and groups understand their world. In the Toron Tana tradition, every element of the ritual, from the procession to the symbols used, carries a deep meaning related to the community's hopes for the child's future. For example, the use of certain objects in this ceremony reflects the hope that the child will grow into a good person and contribute to society.

In addition, it is important to observe how the Toron Tana tradition adapts to the times. In the modern era, despite the influence of external cultures and social changes, the

essence of this tradition remains intact. This adaptation shows that tradition is not a static entity but something that is dynamic and can develop along with changes. The Patemon Village community tends to maintain key elements of Toron Tana while integrating some modern aspects, such as the use of technology in organizing events or how to promote traditions to the younger generation. In understanding this tradition, it is important to see how Toron Tana adapts to the times. Despite the influence of modernization, the essence of this tradition is maintained, showing that tradition can function as a bridge between the past and the future. Thus, tradition is not only a legacy but also an important part of the social and cultural life of the people of Patemon Village.

Toron Tana

Toron Tana is a highly valued tradition that has special meaning in the community. This ceremony is held to celebrate the important moment when a child begins to walk, which usually occurs at the age of around 7 months to 1 year. The implementation of Toron Tana is often held on a good day that is considered to bring blessings, and the place of implementation can be at the family home or another location agreed upon by the community. During the ceremony, participation from various elements of society is very important. The immediate family, relatives, and neighbors will gather to celebrate together. This activity is also often attended by community leaders or religious leaders who give prayers and blessings to the child. Their presence adds to the social and spiritual meaning of this ceremony.

The ritual in Toron Tana involves several stages. First, there is a preparation process that involves setting up the place and serving food. The food served generally consists of traditional dishes, such as yellow rice, which symbolizes good luck and hope. During the ceremony, parents and religious leaders will usually lead prayers to ask for safety and success for the child being commemorated.

One of the core moments of Toron Tana is the procession where the child is paraded around the event venue. The children usually wear beautiful traditional clothes, a symbol of family pride and cultural identity. This procession not only symbolizes the child's growth journey but also illustrates the support of the community in supervising and guiding the child toward the future. In addition, Toron Tana also involves various symbols and objects that have certain meanings. The cultural meaning of Toron Tana is very deep. In addition

to being a celebration of the child's development, this tradition also serves to strengthen social relationships between community members. When families and neighbors gather, they not only celebrate but also create moments to share stories and experiences, which strengthens solidarity among them. In the view of the people of Patemon Village, Toron Tana is a way to keep their traditions and culture alive while teaching important values such as togetherness, hope, and community support.

Overall, Toron Tana is not just a ritual but also an integral part of the social and cultural life of the Patemon Village community. Through a deep analysis of this tradition, we can see how it plays a significant role in shaping the community's identity and social structure and how these values remain relevant in modern life.

The series of Toron Tana ceremonies in Patemon Village, Tanggul District, Jember Regency, which researchers obtained from interviews with Mr. Isbudiono and Ribut Jumentoro.

1. After the baby reaches 7 months of age, the Toron Tana tradition is carried out by stepping on a seven-colored Jadah. This symbolizes the parents' hope that the child can go through seven days of his life well. The Jadah made of flour will stick to the soles of the child's feet, illustrating that the child must be able to face various difficulties and challenges in life.
2. Stepping the baby's feet on the porridge that has been provided and the porridge will also be distributed to residents in the village or residents who help carry out the tradition or residents who watch it. The sweet reddish-brown porridge, which is equipped with balls of rice flour dough, which is usually called Jenang Sapar in Madurese, has a sacred meaning. This is because the metaphor of Jenang Sapar is useful for the baby to become a strong and tough child throughout his life. Before carrying out the tradition, the baby must be pure, clean, and have been bathed. Then, during the implementation of the tradition, it is generally witnessed by the public, both residents, family, and community leaders also attend the tradition. Generally, community figures such as Kyai or Koran teachers give special prayers to the baby, such as reciting Al-Fatihah or other special prayers.
3. After the process of stepping on the Jenang Sapar, the baby is given a treat that is available in a container. The container contains several objects, such as a

mirror, comb, mirror, pen, notebook, Al-Quran, money, and prayer beads. Each of these objects has its sacred meaning. The meaning of these objects is explained as follows:

- a. A comb and mirror are symbols of the meaning that if the baby chooses the object, then it is known that in the future, he will be a child who likes to dress up and looks neat.
- b. A notebook is a symbol of the meaning that if the baby chooses the object, then the parents hope that he will be a smart child, diligent in studying, and become an intelligent child.
- c. A pen is a symbol of the meaning that if the baby chooses the object, then the hope is that in the future, he will be a child who likes to write and create works.
- d. The Qur'an is a symbol of the meaning that if the baby chooses the object, then the hope is that in the future, he will like to read or even memorize the holy words of Allah.
- e. Money symbolizes the idea that if the baby chooses the object, the parents hope that their child will be a successful person and have abundant sustenance.

The objects presented in the Toron Tana tradition each have their symbolic meaning, and all of these objects certainly have a meaning for the success of the baby's life in the future.

The Purpose of the Toron Tana Tradition

The Toron Tana tradition is a deeply significant cultural event, particularly in Madura, where it plays a vital role in the social life of children. The main objective of this tradition is to signify the child's transition from childhood to adulthood. It marks a key moment in the child's development as they start to take on new roles and responsibilities within their family and community. The ceremony represents the child's readiness to contribute meaningfully to society and indicates their growing independence.

During the Toron Tana ceremony, several rituals and symbols are used, each carrying an important meaning. One key element of the ceremony is when the child steps on the ground for the first time, which symbolizes their readiness to embark on an independent

life. This act is more than just a physical gesture; it embodies the child's new phase of life and their connection to the world around them. The symbolism reflects the child's preparedness to face life's challenges and take responsibility for their actions, reinforcing the idea that adulthood requires a strong sense of duty and self-reliance.

The Toron Tana ceremony also serves as a social event that brings together the child's family, friends, and the broader community. Collective participation strengthens the ties between community members, reinforcing the importance of unity, mutual respect, and shared responsibility. This communal aspect of the ceremony emphasizes that the child's growth is supported not just by their immediate family but by the entire community. It fosters a sense of belonging and helps the child understand their role within the larger social context.

Therefore, the Toron Tana tradition is much more than just a celebration of a child's physical development; it plays a crucial role in shaping their character, identity, and place within the broader social framework. This event serves as an important moment for the community to express its collective hopes and aspirations for the child's future, providing a clear message about the values and responsibilities that come with growing up. The ceremony is a platform for transmitting cultural values and societal expectations, teaching the child about the role they are expected to play as they mature.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The history of Toron Tana is a tradition that has been carried out since ancient times, precisely this tradition is still carried out by the people of Patemon Village, Jember Regency, which is routinely carried out for babies who are 7 months old. The Toron Tana tradition is a form of parents' hopes for their child's future so that they become successful people in the world and the hereafter.

The implied meaning of the Toron Tana tradition is the hope that the Almighty will give safety and a bright future to children who carry out this tradition. Implementing this tradition is still associated with the beliefs of Patemon Village but is adjusted to Islamic teachings, namely by reading special prayers addressed to babies who are 7 months old and reading Fatihah so that the special prayers are answered.

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