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BADUY PROVERB *LOJOR TEU BEUNANG DIPOTONG, PONDOK TEU BEUNANG DISAMBUNG, GEDE TEU BEUNANG DICOKOT, LEUTIK TEU BEUNANG DITAMBAH*: SEMANTICS VIEW

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to understand the semantics of the Baduy proverb "*Lojor Teu Beunang Dipotong, Pondok Teu Beunang Disambung, Gede Teu Beunang Dicokot, Leutik Teu Beunang Ditambah*" and gain insights into the proverbial wisdom of the Baduy community. In this study, we present the background of Baduy culture, describe the research objectives, explain the research methodology, present the research findings, and draw relevant conclusions. The background of this research reflects the importance of preserving the integrity and culture of the nation, including the preservation of the Baduy community's culture. The Baduy community is known for their strict adherence to traditions and their strong system of beliefs and norms. Baduy proverbs are an integral part of their cultural identity and serve as moral and social guidelines in their daily lives. The objective of this research is to understand the semantic meaning of the Baduy proverb and explore the wisdom embedded in it. The research methodology employed is semantic analysis, which involves dissecting the meanings of words and phrases in the proverb while considering the cultural context surrounding it. The research findings indicate that the Baduy proverb "*Lojor Teu Beunang Dipotong, Pondok Teu Beunang Disambung, Gede Teu Beunang Dicokot, Leutik Teu Beunang Ditambah*" reflects values such as justice, simplicity, and wisdom in managing daily life. The proverb emphasizes the importance of maintaining integrity, preserving unity, respecting hierarchy, and appreciating small things. Based on these findings, the conclusion of this research is that the wisdom of Baduy proverbs holds significant value in preserving culture and tradition. As the future generation, we are tasked with safeguarding the integrity and culture of our nation while upholding the prevailing customary rules. Thus, we can ensure the preservation of the Baduy tribe's culture while maintaining a harmonious balance with nature and their traditions.

Key words: Baduy Tribe, Culture, Proverb, Semantics View

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs are essential components of traditional wisdom, often serving as concise and profound expressions of cultural values and beliefs. As stated by (Reza et al. 2022), proverbs provide valuable insights into the cultural identity and traditional knowledge of a community. The Baduy community, residing in the remote mountainous region of Gunung Kendeng, Lebak Regency, Banten, Indonesia, possesses a rich heritage of proverbial wisdom. These proverbs, deeply rooted in their

everyday lives, reflect their unique worldview and offer valuable insights into their cultural identity and traditional knowledge (Rachman, 2021). The proverb is one of the local wisdoms of the Baduy community, reflecting the philosophy of life, traditions, and principles upheld by this indigenous group. In Baduy culture, the proverb refers to their steadfastness in maintaining harmony with nature, customs, and culture without interference or changes that disrupt balance. In the context of this research, the Baduy proverb "*Lojor Teu Beunang*

Dipotong, Pondok Teu Beunang Disambung, Gede Teu Beunang Dicokot, Leutik Teu Beunang Ditambah" becomes the focus for understanding its semantic meaning and exploring the proverbial wisdom of the Baduy community. This study aims to delve into and comprehend the semantics of the Baduy proverb: "*Lojor Teu Beunang Dipotong, Pondok Teu Beunang*

Philosophical Meaning

Lojor Teu Beunang Dipotong

Teaches that something already long or perfect does not need to be reduced or damaged. This symbolizes respect for existing creations, such as forests, traditions, and social systems.

Pondok Teu Beunang Disambung

Indicates that something short or small does not need to be forced to become bigger, symbolizing simplicity and acceptance of what is already possessed.

Gede Teu Beunang Dicokot

Emphasizes that something big and valuable should not be taken or damaged, as a form of respect for natural wealth or something of high value.

Leutik Teu Beunang Ditambah

Teaches that something small or simple is sufficient in its place and does not need to be changed to become more complex or excessive.

Which means Something long should not be cut, something short should not be extended, something big should not be taken, and something small should not be added. (Abdullah & Suprianto, 2020). By uncovering the semantics of this proverb, we can gain deeper insights into the cultural values and traditional practices of the Baduy community. The Baduy community, living in relative isolation, maintains a way of life and distinct cultural practices that have remained unchanged for centuries. They adhere to a set of traditions, rituals, and strict principles, guided by their deep respect for nature and their harmonious coexistence with it. Hartono and Yulianti (2019) emphasize that their sustainable practices and social values are closely related to

the wisdom of their proverbs. According to research conducted by (Rahayu, 2016), Baduy proverbs are used as a form of self-expression and depict values such as simplicity, fairness, and wisdom that are inherent in the Baduy society. To achieve the research objectives, the author will employ a comprehensive methodology that combines textual analysis and interviews with members of the Baduy community. Additionally, interviews will be conducted with community members to gain a deeper understanding of their wisdom and its integration into their daily lives. This research is significant as it contributes to the understanding and preservation of the cultural wealth and wisdom of the Baduy community. By exploring the semantics of their proverbs, we can elucidate their original knowledge, values, and beliefs. These findings are not only beneficial for researchers and scholars interested in the Baduy community but also for educators, policymakers, and cultural heritage enthusiasts who seek to appreciate and safeguard this invaluable cultural heritage. This research is guided by the following research questions: 1) What is the semantic meaning of the Baduy proverb "*Lojor Teu Beunang Dipotong, Pondok Teu Beunang Disambung, Gede Teu Beunang Dicokot, Leutik Teu Beunang Ditambah*" as expressed by the Baduy community? 2) Why is it important to study Baduy proverbs in preserving and respecting local wisdom, as well as the sustainability of Baduy traditions and culture? 3) How can a deeper understanding of the proverbial wisdom of the Baduy community provide new insights into the cultural values embedded in the proverb?

Proverbs and Their Social Functions

Proverbs play a significant role in the culture of a community as a form of cultural expression and hold relevant social functions. According to (Johnson, 2010), proverbs serve as powerful communication tools for transmitting cultural values, life experiences, and wisdom from one generation to the next. Proverbs also function as unifying forces within a community, strengthening social bonds, and building a strong cultural identity (Smith, 2015). They convey moral and social messages within a specific

culture. In the study of Javanese proverbs, (Misbach, 2012) demonstrates that Javanese proverbs are used to teach ethics, life values, and social principles to the younger generation. In other cultures, such as Chinese culture, proverbs are used to honor traditions, promote wisdom, and uphold social norms (Chen, 2014). The social function of proverbs is also evident in the context of education. In research conducted by Veldsman (2018), proverbs are used as effective learning tools in the educational context in South Africa. Proverbs help students understand their cultural values, expand their vocabulary, and develop critical thinking skills. In the context of this research, the Baduy proverb "*Lojor Teu Beunang Dipotong, Pondok Teu Beunang*

Disambung, Gede Teu Beunang Dicokot, Leutik Teu Beunang Ditambah" also holds important social functions. This proverb can help depict the norms and deeply cherished values in the Baduy community, such as justice, simplicity, and wisdom in managing daily life.

Baduy Culture and Use of Proverbs

The Baduy community, an isolated community in the province of Banten, Indonesia, possesses a unique cultural heritage. The Baduy people are known as strict guardians of tradition, with strong belief systems and norms (Jones, 2018). In their daily lives, the use of proverbs is an integral part of the Baduy cultural identity. Previous research has highlighted the importance of proverbs in Baduy culture. (Rahayu, 2016) reveals that Baduy proverbs are used as a form of self-expression and depict the inherent values of the Baduy community, such as simplicity, justice, and wisdom. The use of Baduy proverbs can also reflect the underlying social values that govern the community's life. In their daily lives, Baduy proverbs serve as guidelines and directions in navigating various situations. The proverb "*Lojor Teu Beunang Dipotong, Pondok Teu Beunang Disambung, Gede Teu Beunang Dicokot, Leutik Teu Beunang Ditambah*" can provide insights into the highly esteemed values in the Baduy community. For instance, this proverb emphasizes the importance of maintaining integrity (not being cut), preserving unity (not being connected), respecting hierarchy (not

taking), and appreciating the small things (not adding). The use of Baduy proverbs is not only part of everyday conversations but also prevalent in traditional ceremonies and rituals. Proverbs serve as a means to convey messages and guidance to members of the Baduy community, particularly in decisionmaking and conflict resolution contexts.

Semantic Analysis

Proverbs play a vital role in human communication, capturing wisdom, insights, and cultural values in concise and memorable expressions.

To understand the semantic meaning of the Baduy proverb "*Lojor Teu Beunang Dipotong, Pondok Teu Beunang Disambung, Gede Teu Beunang Dicokot, Leutik Teu Beunang Ditambah*," a semantic analysis approach can be employed. Semantic analysis allows us to dissect the meaning of the words and phrases contained within the proverb, as well as the cultural context behind it. In semantic analysis, we can examine each word individually to understand its meaning. For example, "*lojor*" can be interpreted as "long," "*teu beunang dipotong*" can be interpreted as "not to be cut," "*pondok*" can be interpreted as "short," "*teu beunang disambung*" can be interpreted as "not to be connected," "*gede*" can be interpreted as "big," "*teu beunang dicokot*" can be interpreted as "not to be taken," "*leutik*" can be interpreted as "small," and "*teu beunang ditambah*" can be interpreted as "not to be added." However, it is important to consider this proverb within the cultural context and its everyday usage by the Baduy community. In the context of Baduy culture, this proverb may reflect values such as justice, simplicity, and wisdom in managing daily life. In decision-making and conflict resolution, this proverb may be used to remind and guide the Baduy community in maintaining integrity, preserving unity, respecting hierarchy, and appreciating the small things. The semantic analysis of this Baduy proverb will provide deeper insights into the meaning contained within it, as well as the related cultural implications. By understanding the semantic meaning of this proverb, we can gain a better understanding of the proverbial wisdom of the Baduy community.

METHODOLOGY

This research employed a qualitative approach with a Natural Observation research

design in the Baduy community area, Leuwidamar Sub-district, Lebak Regency, Banten. The research sample consisted of three trusted figures from the Baduy community who possessed knowledge and experience in using the Baduy proverb, which was the focus of this study, as well as one trusted tour guide who had a good understanding of Baduy culture and proverbial wisdom. Data collection was conducted through observation, in-depth interviews, field observations, and notetaking. The researcher conducted direct observation to observe the daily lives of the Baduy community, including the use and contextualization of the studied Baduy proverb. In addition, in-depth interviews were conducted with the research sample to gain a deeper understanding of the meaning, usage, and interpretation of the Baduy proverb. Observations of social interactions and daily activities of the Baduy community were conducted to obtain a holistic insight into the Baduy proverb. Throughout the data collection process, the researcher recorded relevant and important data for further analysis. The collected data will be analyzed using an approach consistent with the literature and previous research on the Baduy proverb or related topics. Data analysis will involve identifying patterns, themes, and concepts that emerge from the interviews, observations, and fieldwork. The interpretation of the meaning and significance of the Baduy proverb will be supported by references to literature and previous research. This research maintained research ethics and respected the culture and values of the Baduy community by obtaining necessary permits and approvals and ensuring voluntary participation from research participants.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research findings provide a comprehensive understanding of the semantics of the Baduy proverb "*Lojor Teu Beunang Dipotong, Pondok Teu Beunang, Disambung, Gede Teu Beunang Dicokot, Leutik Teu Beunang Ditambah*" and offer valuable insights into the proverbial wisdom of the Baduy community. The principle embedded in the proverb highlights the importance of adhering to the customary laws for all members of the Baduy indigenous community.

The first meaning of the proverb emphasizes the necessity of complying with the

customs and traditions that have been established and regulated by the community. It underscores the importance of honoring and upholding the rules and guidelines set by the Baduy (customary law). This reflects the community's commitment to preserving their cultural heritage and maintaining social order. Furthermore, the proverb conveys the idea that members of the Baduy community should neither exaggerate nor diminish the significance of any aspect of life. It promotes a balanced and harmonious approach to existence, discouraging excessive indulgence or deprivation. This principle emphasizes the importance of moderation and equilibrium in all aspects of life, including material possessions and personal desires. During the process of observation and interviews, the researcher discovered instances of both minor and major violations committed by some members of the Baduy community. For example, it was found that many individuals have begun using smartphones, modern household appliances, and even owning vehicles outside the Baduy area. These practices are not in line with the regulations reflected in the proverb or their way of life, which advocates against excessive accumulation or reduction.

Are there any consequences for these violations? Yes, the researcher found that if a member of the Baduy indigenous community is found to have violated the adat rules during the customary law enforcement process, they will be subjected to sanctions based on agreed-upon guidelines. However, the severity of the punishment is determined by the extent of the transgression. Additionally, the Baduy community strongly believes in the concept of *karma* as the ultimate law for those who violate the customary rules. They perceive *karma* as a higher form of punishment, particularly for serious offenses such as theft or murder. These findings highlight the dynamic nature of the Baduy community, where the preservation of their cultural heritage and adherence to customary laws face challenges in the context of modern influences. While some individuals may deviate from the traditional norms, it is important to recognize the ongoing efforts of the Baduy community to maintain their proverbial wisdom and cultural identity. In

conclusion, this research provides valuable insights into the semantics of the Baduy proverb, revealing the principles and values embedded within the proverbial wisdom of the Baduy community. This proverb can be seen into three contexts, they are Custom and environment, social implications, and cultural presevation

1. Context of custom and Environment

The proverb “Lojor teu beunang dipotong, pondok teu beunang disambung, gede teu beunang dicokot, leutik teu beunang ditambah” embodies the principles of the Baduy community, rooted in harmony with nature and tradition. This philosophy reflects a symbiotic relationship between humans and the environment, where nature must be preserved as it is, without excessive exploitation. The Baduy people believe that damaging or altering the natural order is a violation of customs and spiritual values. This is evident in traditional prohibitions, such as refraining from using modern tools in farming or converting forests into commercial areas. This concept aligns with the principle of ecocentrism, which views ecosystems as having intrinsic value, with humans being part of the system, not its rulers. On a global scale, this principle is relevant to environmental issues such as climate change, deforestation, and natural resource exploitation. Modern society can learn from this local wisdom to maintain environmental balance and prevent ecosystem destruction. This philosophy also inspires the implementation of sustainable practices in development and environmental management.

2. Social Implications

This proverb is not only related to the environment but also provides guidance for the broader society to adopt simplicity in life. The philosophy teaches simplicity in life to accept what one already has without excess, whether in consumption or lifestyle. The Baduy people are known for living simple lives, without electricity, modern technology, or consumption patterns that burden the environment. This principle serves as a critical lesson in balancing human needs with resource sustainability. Taking only what is

necessary is how the Baduy people ensure resources remain available for future generations. The proverb can also be interpreted as guidance for maintaining harmonious social relationships. Not "cutting" or "adding" to what belongs to others symbolizes respect for others' rights and possessions. In a modern society often driven by materialism, these teachings can serve as an important reflection for creating a more balanced life, both individually and communally.

3. Importance of Cultural Preservation

This philosophy is part of the local wisdom that forms the strong identity of the Baduy community. In the context of modernization and globalization, these values face significant challenges. Key points regarding the preservation of this culture include:

1. Cultural Identity

This proverb is part of intangible cultural heritage that must be preserved as it reflects the Baduy community's worldview. This identity distinguishes and enriches Indonesia's cultural diversity.

2. Character Education

The philosophy can be applied in character education, both locally and nationally. Values such as honesty, simplicity, respect for nature, and social tolerance are the core teachings that can be instilled in younger generations.

3. Challenges of Modernization

Modernization and industrialization often threaten traditional values like these. The influx of technology, urbanization, and economic pressures can alter the Baduy way of life. Therefore, systematic efforts are needed to document, promote, and protect these values to keep them relevant and respected.

4. Sustainable Tourism

The Baduy community is often a tourist attraction due to its unique traditions. In developing tourism, the principles in this proverb can guide the creation of sustainable tourism by respecting customs, preserving the environment, and providing economic benefits to the local

community without compromising their cultural identity.

CONCLUSIONS

The proverb "Lojor Teu Beunang Dipotong, Pondok Teu Beunang Disambung, Gede Teu Beunang Dicokot, Leutik Teu Beunang Ditambah" reflects the core values of the Baduy society, including justice, simplicity, and wisdom. It highlights the importance of integrity, unity, respect for hierarchy, and appreciation for even the smallest things. A semantic analysis of this proverb reveals deep cultural insights, but its true significance emerges when viewed within the Baduy community's context. This proverb serves as a moral compass, guiding decision-making and conflict resolution in everyday life. It is not only a part of daily conversations but also plays a vital role in traditional ceremonies and rituals, where it imparts messages and instructions to the community. The Baduy people uphold this wisdom to maintain their cultural integrity and coexist harmoniously with nature. To preserve the Baduy culture, it is essential to respect their customary laws and embrace the wisdom passed down through generations. As a nation, recognizing the value of cultural diversity is crucial. Efforts to engage in dialogue, education, and collaboration with indigenous communities like the Baduy foster mutual understanding and appreciation. By promoting cultural preservation, we honor the values of unity, justice, simplicity, and wisdom. This contributes to the richness of our national heritage and ensures a sustainable future for generations to come.

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