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## Research Article

### Existence of Sobokartti Building as a Physical Culture in Semarang City in Law Anthropology Approach

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#### ABSTRACT

Physical culture can be understood as objects created by human beings which are an embodiment of the growth and development of cultural values in a particular society, in the form of buildings that have been designated as cultural heritage buildings in the city of Semarang. The building is the Semarang Sobokartti building on Jalan Dr. Cipto Semarang, which is a reflection of the development of humans to always preserve culture both Javanese culture and western or European culture

The approach used in this research is an empirical approach and a comparative approach to law anthropology. In an empirical approach, the sobokartti building is a physical culture which is a historic building that accommodates traditional arts which are closely related to Javanese culture, namely karawitan training, puppetry routine, puppetry courses, host courses, dancing courses and batik training. It should be appreciated because the community can maintain its preservation until now by showing the existence of Javanese culture with a love for culture that deserves to be preserved and for the nation's successor generation. Likewise with a comparative approach, it is said that the existence of physical culture in the sobokartti building is expected by the government to have regulations on cultural heritage objects, namely historic buildings or ancient buildings of the Sobokartti Semarang building as outlined in the Cultural Heritage Law No. 11 of 2010 to protect cultural heritage buildings with the aim of preserving, utilizing, and maintaining the beauty of a cultural heritage building Sobokartti Semarang.

Suggestions that will be used in this research that is the role of the Government and Society to maintain physical cultural wealth should be developed by the nation's next generation, with the utilization of the Sobokartti building can provide sustainable use. So that,

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the Government and the community have the desire to protect and preserve the function of the Sobokartti Semarang building.

**Keywords:** *Physical Culture, Law Anthropology Approach, Cultural heritage buildings, Semarang city*

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## Background

The Sobokarti Semarang Building was designated as a cultural heritage building based on Law No. 11 of 2010 concerning Cultural Heritage Act - BCB. Cultural Heritage is material cultural heritage in the form of Cultural Heritage objects, Cultural Heritage Buildings, Cultural Heritage Structures, Cultural Heritage Sites, and Cultural Heritage Areas on land or in water that need to be preserved because they have important historical, scientific, educational, religious, and or culture through the process of determination. Cultural Heritage Buildings are built structures made of natural or man-made objects to meet the needs of walled and or non-walled and roofed spaces.

Cultural Heritage as a cultural resource that has fragile, unique, rare, limited and non-renewable nature. This property causes the amount to decrease as a result of utilization that does not pay attention to protection measures, even though the age limit of 50 years as a starting point for determining the status of "archeology" of objects gradually places old objects, buildings, or structures into new cultural reserves. Older legacies, because they cannot be replaced with new ones, will continue to diminish inevitably, due to a shift in foreign or western cultures that hit Javanese culture.

## Theoretical Framework

### *Understanding of Culture*

Culture is derived from the Sanskrit language "Buddayah" which is the plural form of the word "budhi" which means mind or reason. Culture is defined as "things that are concerned with reason or reason. In terms of cultural development, the architecture of an ancient building reflects and carries national cultural values that are and / or have characteristics and cultural works as a guide for the development of a nation's culture, because cultural development is traced through the development of the archi-

tecture of an ancient building as culture physical as explained in Article 10 paragraph Law No. 28 of 2002 concerning Buildings including requirements for designating locations, densities, heights and free distances of buildings determined for the location concerned and in Article 14 paragraph (1) of Law No. 28 concerning Buildings with their environment, and consideration of the balance between local socio-cultural values to the application of various architectural and engineering developments in a building in the reliability of the construction of a protected ancient or historic building.

### *Definition of physical culture*

Physical culture is a culture related to historic buildings / ancient buildings regulated in the Cultural Heritage Law No. 11 of 2010. In connection with the building of sobokarti buildings there are two concepts namely Javanese culture and western culture.

Physical culture in Javanese culture is a Javanese cultural building synonymous with building traditions or traditional houses is one form of culture that is concrete. In its construction every part or space in a traditional house is full of values and norms that apply to the community that owns the culture. So in terms of architecture, thing that must be preserved is a building that represents one particular style or is a subscription from a particular ethnic community (Martana, -).

Javanese building construction contains philosophical elements that are loaded with religious values, beliefs, norms and values of Javanese ethnic customs which have historical significance that needs to be preserved.

Javanese culture does not appear in daily life, including: (Hidayatun, 1999)

*First*, Javanese culture is considered impractical

*Secondly*, Javanese culture imposes many rules and rituals which are indeed expensive

Third, Javanese culture imposes uploads that are too high for teenagers nowadays.

Fourth, Javanese culture has ingrained among Javanese people.

With the reality or empirical approach that exists in society, the government is obliged to preserve Javanese culture as an effort to become a preserver of one of the local Javanese cultures. Javanese culture is symbolic culture. For example, in the life of Javanese people who express their human behavior and feelings through various traditional ceremonies. The symbols which is used contain cultural values, ethics, and morals which are cultural products that need to be constantly understood and infused by the society, fundamentally enduring in a society that has routine social interaction and communicates through local culture, that is, Javanese culture which is adopted with western culture through the creation of the physical culture of the Semarang sobokartti building and the mayor's office building in Bogor which is a cultural heritage that is included in the protected cultural heritage objects, preserved its existence, so that the physical culture is maintained its original authenticity.

#### *Definition of Sobokartti Building*

The meaning of Sobokartti comes from Sanskrit, namely: (Mardiarsito, 1981)

Sabha is a place/courtroom (meeting, gathering, meeting, meeting, association, assembly): facing hall/court, grand hall, hall, pesaban, square, terrain, court, yard, court, park (broadcasting, for walking- street, palace, residence, area, neighborhood, visitor area).

Kirtti is service, charity, good deed, social foundation, something as a warning (foundation, monument, building, etc.), fame, as a memorial or monument, famous, founded, made.

In the Staatsblad van Nederlandsch-Indie 1929-50 stated the purpose of establishing Sobokartti as follows: *De vereeniging stelt zich ten doel de bevordering van de inheemsche kunsts en verbreiding der waardering voor deze kunst onder alle bevolkingsgroepen en in het bijzonder delands*. Activities include staging, courses, exhibitions, discussions and others.

#### *Empirical Approach to Law Anthropology*

In this case, it can be seen empirically and clearly that the Semarang sobokartti building is a building that has many activities related to Javanese culture through Javanese dance, batik art, puppetry, karawitan, institutions which are forms of Javanese culture. Sobokartti Building Semarang is intended as a place for training, performing arts and as a place for community gatherings, discussions and other activities that can provide an increase in physical cultural love for ancient or historic buildings that must be protected under the Cultural Heritage Law No. 11 of 2010. Comparative Approach to Law Anthropology.

#### *Comparative Approach to Law Anthropology*

In order to protect the Sobokartti Cultural Heritage building regulated in the Cultural Heritage Act No. 11 of 2010, the researcher analyzes in her research that a comparative approach is to compare one rule with another as well as one with the development of society in preserving its culture, especially physical culture, which based on article 19 and article 21 paragraph 3 which regulates how to protect and preserve objects of cultural heritage that may be revitalized.

For this reason, in this comparative approach the researcher links the Cultural Heritage Law with the culture found in the local community both in the city of Semarang and the city of Bogor through its research on ancient or historic buildings which are protected cultural heritage objects. In the event (Provision of Article 1, 2005) of restoration of buildings that are protected and preserved are activities to repair and restore the building back to its original form.

Based on the Decree of the Mayor of Semarang Second Level Regional Head Number 646/50 dated February 4, 1992 concerning the Conservation of Historical Ancient Buildings in the Municipality of the Semarang Second Level Region, the Sobokartti Building was designated as a protected building of the Monumenten Ordonantie Stbl.193131 Number 238 juncto Instruction of the Minister of Home Affairs Number Pem.35/1/7 dated February 5, 1960.

The protection of cultural heritage also refers to the highest law, namely the 1945 Constitution Article 32 paragraph 1 which reads: "The state promotes Indonesia's national culture amid world civilization by guaranteeing the freedom of the society in maintaining and developing its cultural values".

This shows that the protection, development and utilization of cultural heritage are important things that must be carried out in the interests of the entire nation, and must be protected and preserved based on the Cultural Heritage Law No. 11 of 2010, articles 1 paragraph 22 and 23 explained that it is appropriate to protect and preserve Cultural Heritage, because if a violation occurs, there are criminal sanctions according to Article 105 of the Cultural Heritage Law which states:

"Every person who intentionally damages a Cultural Heritage as referred to in Article 66 paragraph 1 shall be sentenced to a minimum imprisonment of 1 (one) year and a maximum of 15 (fifteen) years and/or amercement at least Rp.500,000,000 (five hundred million rupiahs) and at most 5,000,000,000.00 (five billion rupiahs)."

Indeed, maintaining ancient/historic buildings is only done by a few people who want to care (Results of Interview with Mr. Gunawan) about the existence of these ancient buildings. It shows the lack of law awareness in the communities of Semarang City and Bogor City. So this limitation provides obstacles for efforts to maintain ancient / historic buildings protected by cultural heritage, which cannot be supported by programs launched by the Regional Government, although several law instruments have been established relating to the protection of cultural heritage objects in the Sobokartti Semarang building and Bogor Mayor's Office Building, but in practice it is still very difficult to implement even though it is protected by the Cultural Heritage Law No. 11 of 2010.

Because ordinary people still consider that historical relics and cultural heritage objects do not have meaning and benefit for people's direct lives. Societies around the location of cultural heritage objects (Widiastuti, 2014) consciously or unconsciously actually have enjoyed the results of the existence of such cultural heritage objects namely the Semarang

Sobokartti Building and the Bogor Mayor's Office, but in reality the society is often not involved in the preservation of these cultural heritage objects.

### **Methodology**

The research method used in this study is an empirical approach and a comparative approach to law anthropology. In this study, researchers used two approaches to law anthropology, namely an empirical approach and a comparative approach. The empirical approach is an approach that directly looks at the culture in the society and will be more relevant when discussing the existence of the sobokarti semarang building as society behavior that likes traditional art including karawitan, puppetry, pranatacara, batik and traditional dance which are Javanese cultural arts in Semarang, which the activity was surely appreciated by the people of Semarang in the Sobokarti institution. Sobokarti as an institution attempts to maintain its existence in preserving Javanese culture.

In the Comparative approach, the unity of people who love culture, respect culture, respect cultural heritage, preserve traditional arts, and strive for cultural development across the ages, then the key to maintaining and protecting cultural preservation is the effort to preserve cultural heritage based on the Cultural Heritage Law Number 11 of 2010 which can be compared or combined with relevant facts that occur in the society in its culture around the Sobokarti Semarang Building in particular and the Semarang community in general.

### **Results and Discussion**

#### ***The existence of the Sobokartti Building as Physical Culture in the City of Semarang in the Empirical Approach to Legal Anthropology***

The existence of the sobokartti building is expected to be able to provide a discourse on the importance of preserving Javanese culture so that it is not easily extinct, eroded by western culture, so that the next generation of the nation can continue to preserve Javanese culture despite the heavy cultural clash as it is

happening today. In the midst of globalization, Sobokartti as an institution that attempts to maintain its existence in preserving Javanese culture.

In the empirical approach to legal anthropology, it is said that in understanding physical culture through an empirical approach, the researcher sees the real life of Javanese people as illustrated by the existence of Javanese cultural development activities adopted by the development of western culture through cultural arts in various cultural activities of Javanese culture and Western culture. Thus, the function of Javanese and Western culture in the Semarang sobokartti building can be maintained if there are conditions and parties that support the ongoing Javanese and Western culture, the very important role in culture preservation is the people or society who love culture and have the culture.

As stated by Jennifer Lindsay in her book entitled *Cultural Policy and The Performing Arts in South East Asia*, revealed that the cultural policy of culture in Southeast Asia is effectively changing nowadays, destroying traditional performing arts, both in interference, excessive handling, policies without direction, and no attention is given by the government to cultural policies or cultural contexts which should be well protected from its extinction.

For this reason, the existence of the sobokartti cultural preservation currently shows the existence of cultural arts activities that will continue to be carried out so that the utilization of the sobokartti building can run optimally in accordance with the establishment of the Semarang sobokartti building as a physical cultural building in order to protect the preservation of Javanese culture in an anthropological approach to law which uses an empirical approach in law anthropology as mentioned above.

### ***Legal Protection of Sobokartti Cultural Heritage Buildings in Comparative Approach to Anthropology Comparative law with Bogor Mayor's Office Building***

Thomas Karsten designed the Sobokartti Building by combining the concepts of Javanese performing arts which are usually staged in the pendhapa kraton with the concept of theater

performances in the west. In the sobokartti building we can see pillars that are still original which contain elements of Javanese and Western culture, so that the sobokartti building is a physical culture which must be preserved and protected by Cultural Heritage Law Number 10 of 2011.

In law no. 11 of 2010 explained about what is meant by Cultural Heritage, Cultural Heritage Property, Cultural Heritage Building, Cultural Heritage Structure, Cultural Heritage Site, Cultural Heritage Area, Ownership, Control, etc. as stated in Article 1, explanation of article 1.

To examine the comparative approach in Sobokartti's physical culture, surely we must examine the policy of historic or ancient buildings conservation by knowing the definition of cultural heritage objects in accordance with the Decree of the Mayor of Semarang Number 646/50/1992 concerning conservation of historic or ancient buildings in the City of Semarang, which is meant by buildings historic or ancient is "Ancient / historic buildings that are more than 50 years old or have a building period at least 50 years and have been categorized as having important values for prehistory, history or art and knowledge"

The Sobokartti building is still an original building and if you look at the wooden frame, roof, stage, where the audience sits it will be felt once this building is a cultural heritage of the nation's predecessors with very good quality and very nice design. The weakness of this building is that if there is a tide there will be a puddle on the terrace, even if it is repaired then the procedure is not easy because this building has been designated as a cultural heritage building so that renovations or other repairs cannot be done arbitrarily. (Interview result with Mr. Cahyono, 2016) So that, for the maintenance of the Sobokartti building there is one Sobokartti building employee from the cultural and tourism department of Semarang City who cleans the Sobokartti building everyday. As a building designed by the Dutch architect Herman Thomas Karsten, the Sobokartti building combines traditional Javanese architecture with the concept of amphitheater which is a new thing at that time as an art building which adopted Javanese culture and Western culture.

## Conclusion

1. Empirical Approach in legal Anthropology views that In order to protect cultural heritage from the threat of physical development, both in urban, rural and water environments, arrangements are needed to guarantee their existence and are oriented to the management of society, role and participation, community participation, government decentralization, development, and legal demands and needs in the community, so that it is hoped that the Sobokartti building will continue to be preserved, guarded and protected in Semarang and the Bogor Mayor's Office.
2. Comparative approach in law anthropology views that law regulations are compared with existing culture in the community, where the Sobokartti Building and the Bogor Mayor's Office have the protection of cultural heritage based on Cultural Heritage Law Number 11 of 2010 and has the function of art symbol of masterpieces of national cultural heritage as a reflection of social cultural values inherent in the lives of people who have Javanese culture and Western culture.

## Suggestion

1. The importance of society care in preserving ancient buildings or historic buildings because of high-value architectural works in a physical culture (historical physical objects) that have the desire that the Sobokartti Semarang building as Physical Culture can realize an area that is becoming tourist destination that can improve the society welfare, where in concrete actions taken to protect and preserve cultural assets in the form of historic buildings by involving various components, both human resources, government, society and various other supporting facilities and infrastructure.
2. Re-functioning of the cultural heritage facilities of the Sobokartti Semarang building as the Semarang City art center "Heritage Center" so Semarang society get to know the culture of the Semarang City. So that, Sobokartti can be a place to keep preserving the traditional cultures of the nation as a place of guidance for artists, especially puppetry,

karawitan, and traditional dance so these will not become extinct and culture will disappear. So that, legal protection is needed in order to reduce the threat of damage and extinction of objects cultural heritage objects.

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