The Yogyakarta Government's Efforts to Preserve the Hanacaraka Script Among Students

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A B S T R A C T

This research discusses the efforts of the Yogyakarta Special Region Government in preserving the Hanacaraka script among students, especially through education and digitization approaches. Hanacaraka, as part of the nation's cultural heritage, is becoming endangered due to technological developments and the dominant use of foreign languages. One of the significant steps taken is the launch of the Hanacaraka application, which makes it easier for students to learn to read and write Javanese characters. In addition, the government also integrated Javanese script learning into the school curriculum and initiated various supporting programs such as Kampung Aksara, Javanese script competitions, script introduction in virtual spaces, and Javanese script literacy classes (Klara). Through these various efforts, Hanacaraka script is expected to remain sustainable and can be passed on to future generations.

INTRODUCTION

Communication and humans always take place in certain settings and environments so that the two cannot be separated from one another. For example, human communication must take place in a certain culture that makes each individual part of a culture. Humans also cannot escape from the communication settings that bind them such as personal and social settings. In addition, communication carried out directly also cannot be separated from the goals to be achieved, both consciously and unconsciously. Whether the goal is to develop self-identity, get out of the routine or just to escape from boring reality. The environment and setting of communication can also have an influence on communicating whatever it wants to convey, be it things that will want to be communicated or things that do not want to be communicated at all.

In addition to human communication that takes place in a particular culture, human communication also takes place in the scope of education. Educational communication not only takes place in social, cultural, economic, and political environments and settings but also takes place in certain environments and settings. In the communication environment itself, there is mutual influence and competition among various communications such as educational communication with political communication or social communication, both with and without media. Especially now, humans live in a world with new media, namely digital media that makes it easy for humans to communicate anywhere and anytime both verbally and non-verbally.

One form of non-verbal communication is through writing, and writing is a series of several characters. Script is a symbol or phoneme, in KBBI, script is a system of graphic signs used by humans to communicate and at least as much through speech. Another term for script is letter/abjad (in Arabic) which is understood as a symbol of phoneme sound. Etymologically, script comes from Sanskrit, which is the root word ("A") which means not and "KSHARA" which means destroyed. So, script is something that cannot be destroyed, eternal or lasting. It is said to be an eternal thing, because of the role of script in documenting and immortalizing an event in writing.

The development of technology that uses foreign languages as the main language makes the script. Although endangered, the existence of the Hancaraka script is an identity that is a source of pride for the government and society on the island of Java, especially in Yogyakarta. This is evidenced by the momentum of the declaration of Yogyakarta as a Hanacaraka City on International Literacy Day on September 08, 2021 by the Governor of the Special Region Sri Sultan Hamengku Buwono X. Based on the above problems, the existence of Hanacaraka is a very important cultural identity for the Special Region of Yogyakarta so that various actions and communication counseling need to be carried out so that the nation's cultural heritage is not lost over time. One of them is the presentation of the Hanacaraka application to make it easier for people to learn Hanacaraka script. This Hanacaraka application is also used as an effort to make it easier for students to learn to read and write Javanese characters.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The script has an important role in human life, so that the position and function of the script become an inseparable part. The position of the script can give meaning to life for humans. The script becomes a form of communication that ultimately strengthens the self and identity of a nation. On the other hand, the script becomes a symbol of expression of thoughts, spirituality, behavior, feelings, ethnic origins, civilization, art and design, technology, and so on. Long before knowing the Latin script or Alphabet, the Indonesian people actually already had their own script, namely the Kawi script, which was used in Java, Sumatra and Bali. Especially in the Central Java and Yogyakarta Istirnewa areas, where this Javanese script is also called Hanacaraka. As one of the archipelago scripts of the nation's cultural heritage, Hanacaraka script is currently endangered and needs to be preserved.

METHODOLOGY

This research is descriptive qualitative which aims to explain the phenomenon of preserving Hanacaraka script as a cultural heritage in Yogyakarta. Qualitative research focuses on the process of understanding in depth the various efforts made by the government in improving the understanding and use of Hanacaraka script in schools. The research was conducted in Yogyakarta Province, especially in educational institutions such as elementary schools, junior high schools, and senior high schools, as well as in cultural institutions and local governments involved in the preservation of Hanacaraka script. Some specific locations such as SD Negeri Giwangan which has implemented the Hanacaraka application also became the research location. Data Collection Techniques

1. In-depth Interviews: Interviews were used to obtain information from relevant resource persons, including teachers, students, local government officials, and Hanacaraka app developers. The interviews aimed to explore their views on the effectiveness of learning Hanacaraka script and the challenges faced.

2. Observation: Researchers made direct observations of the Hanacaraka script learning process in schools, including the use of the Hanacaraka app at SD Negeri Giwangan. Observations were also made at other activities such as literacy competitions at Kampung Aksara.

3. Document study: Reviewed official documents, government regulations, learning modules and education policies related to the preservation of the Hanacaraka script. This document study also included material from the Hanacaraka app and other related publications.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Javanese script is also known as Hanacaraka. The name Hanacraka is taken from the five characters that begin the script sequence, namely ha-na-ca-ra-ka. This Javanese script is a derivative of the Brahmi script which is used or has been used for writing Javanese, Madurese, Sundanese, Balinese, and Sasak texts. The Hanacaraka script has 20 basic characters, 20 paired characters that function to cover vocal sounds, 8 "main" characters (murda characters, some are unpaired), 8 pairs of main characters, five swwara characters (front volak characters, five partner characters and their five pairs, several sandhangans as vocal regulators, several special characters, several punctuation marks, and several signs regulating the writing system.

Hanacaraka script in the past had a heyday, along with the heyday of the kingdoms in the archipelago. This script began to appear in the 9th century AD but its printed form only appeared in the 19th century, at that time hanacaraka became the main script used by the community at large covering the Sunda, Java, Madura and Bali regions.

Javanese script is actually used as a writing medium for Javanese people which is used as a symbol of knowledge of the concept of divinity. The symbol is contained in each Javanese script Ha Na Ca Ra Ka Da Ta Sa Wa La Pa Dha Ja Ya Nya Ma Ga Ba Tha Nga. Each letter in this script certainly has its own meaning so that the presence of Hanacaraka is very important for Javanese society.

Yogyakarta Province requires Javanese to be a language that must be learned so that the existence of Javanese language is preserved. Many ways have been done by the government to maintain the preservation of the Javanese language, one of which is by including Javanese as a subject that must be studied at the elementary, junior high and high school levels. This has been regulated by the provisions of the National Education System Law No. 20 of 2003 Article 37 Paragraph 1 which states that local content is one of the lessons that must be included in the education curriculum. Javanese language is a local content chosen by the province of Yogyakarta.

Students are required to master 5 Competency Standards in learning Javanese. The Competency Standards include; (1) listening which is able to listen and understand various spoken languages in various varieties of Javanese, (2) speaking which is able to express ideas, ideas, and thoughts orally in various levels of speech in Javanese, (3) reading which is able to read and understand discourse in Latin script and Javanese script, (4) writing which is able to write ideas, ideas, and thoughts in various forms of Javanese language and writing, (5) appreciation of literature and non-literature within the framework of Javanese culture.

Before Yogyakarta was declared a Hanacaraka city, the Yogyakarta government had also digitized to continue to preserve Hanacaraka writing to the people of Yogyakarta, one of which was by launching the Hanacaraka application. Reporting from Jogya.com, Yogyakarta Governor Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwono X officially launched the 'Hanacaraka' application. A cross-platform mobile-based Javanese script learning application and game at Grand Pacific Hall Hotel, Yogyakarta. This application can be downloaded on Play Store for Android and App Store for iOS/iPhone.

Picture 1. Javanese Script competition

One of the elementary schools in Yogyakarta, SD Negeri Giwangan, is implementing Hanacaraka script learning using the application. This application is carried out on students in grade 4. Students begin to be taught to read and write Javanese characters. Javanese script is taught in stages, for grade 4 elementary school students are only taught legena, bersandhangan, and berpanyigeg characters.

The Hanacaraka application can be used as an effort to make it easier for students to learn to read and write Javanese characters. The use of the Hanacraka application can help improve students' Javanese grades with an average increase of 14.6. In addition to the application and curriculum, there are many efforts made to preserve the Hanacaraka script, as follows:

Literacy Village

Picture 2. Javanese script in virtual space

Based on Antaranews.com, the Indonesian Internet Domain Name Manager (PANDI) together with the Yogyakarta Special Region Provincial Culture Office developed Pacibita Aksara Village as part of an effort to preserve Javanese script. The purpose of creating Pacibita Aksara Village in Piyungan, Bantul Regency, Yogyakarta is mainly to reintroduce Javanese script to the community, which is considered to have partially forgotten or even not recognized their own regional script (Nurcahyani, 2022).

Picture 3. "Klara" Class

1. Javanese Script competition

The Yogyakarta Cultural Office makes the Javanese script writing competition an annual competition organized by the DIY sultanate to preserve Javanese culture and literature for future generations. In addition to writing Javanese characters, there is also a competition to make and upload video recordings about Javanese Language / Literature / Song / Dance / Creativity which is carried out for high school / equivalent students who attend schools in the city of Yogyakarta, and or high school / equivalent students who live in the city of Yogyakarta. The duration of the video is 1 minute and uploaded on their respective Instagram accounts with hastags (#audisihanacaraka #musikalhanacaraka #garinnugroho #dinaskebudayaankotajogja) and mentioned to the Instagram account of the Jogja cultural office (Dinas Kebudayaan Jogja).

2. of Javanese script in virtual space

Harianjogja.com reported that the Jogja City government through the local Culture Office is trying to boost the use of Javanese script among the public by presenting it in a virtual space. This effort aims to support the Jogja Kota Hanacaraka Movement through smart phones, computers and so on. Those who are invited to play a role in the use of Javanese script in this virtual space are Javanese language teachers at the junior high school level. They are members of the Javanese Language Teachers Association (MGMP) of Jogja City who have the basic ability to read and write Javanese characters, and can also use computers and smartphones.

3. "Klara" Class

The municipal government of Yogyakarta is trying to introduce Javanese script to the younger generation, especially children, through Klara (Javanese Literacy Class). The first Klara activity was attended by elementary and junior high school students. In its implementation, Klara was intensively guided by librarians at DPK Yogyakarta City. The target is not grandiose, because the participants are still children and teenagers. The important thing is that after participating in this class, participants are able to write and read simple texts in Javanese script (Ramadhan, 2022).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Human communication takes place in a certain culture, human communication also takes place in the scope of education. Educational communication not only takes place in social, cultural, economic, and political environments and settings but also takes place in certain environments and settings. In the communication environment itself, there is mutual influence and competition among various communications such as educational communication with political communication or social communication, both with and without media. Especially now, humans live in a world with new media, namely digital media that makes it easy for humans to communicate anywhere and anytime both verbally and non-verbally. One form of non-verbal communication is through writing, and writing is a series of several characters. The Indonesian people already have their own script, namely the Kawi script, which has been used in Java, Sumatra and Bali. Especially in the areas of Central Java and Yogyakarta Istirnewa Region, where this Javanese script is also called Hanacaraka.

As one of the archipelago's cultural heritage, Hanacaraka script is currently endangered and needs to be preserved. The existence of Hanacaraka is a very important cultural identity for the Special Region of Yogyakarta so it is necessary to take various actions and communication counseling so that the nation's cultural heritage is not lost along with the times. One of them is the presentation of the Hanacaraka application to make it easier for people to learn Hanacaraka script and make Hanacakara into a curriculum. In addition to the application and curriculum, there are many efforts made to preserve Hanacaraka script, namely establishing Kampung Aksara, holding Javanese script competitions, using Javanese script in virtual spaces and creating Javanese script literacy classes (klara).

FURTHER STUDY

This research still has limitations so further research is needed related to the effect of capital and E-commerce on production and income of micro, small and medium furniture businesses in order to perfect this research and increase insight for readers.

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