

Analysis of Cultural Elements, Components, and Manifestations: A Qualitative Study Through Literature and Participative Observation

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ABSTRACT

Culture is a complex and dynamic concept that encompasses various aspects of human life, including values, norms, artifacts, and practices. This paper explores the elements, components, and manifestations of culture, aiming to provide a comprehensive understanding of how these aspects contribute to the construction and preservation of social identity. A qualitative methodology was employed, utilizing literature analysis and participative observation to examine both theoretical and empirical dimensions of culture.

The study identifies seven key cultural elements: language, knowledge, social organization, tools and technology, economy, religion, and arts. These elements are classified into material and non-material components, each playing a vital role in shaping social interaction and collective identity. Moreover, the manifestations of culture are analyzed through three dimensions: the ideal (abstract ideas and values), the behavioral (patterns of social activity), and the artifact (tangible cultural products).

Findings reveal that cultural elements are deeply interrelated, functioning synergistically to maintain continuity and adaptability in response to changing social, economic, and political contexts. The study emphasizes the significance of understanding culture not only as a legacy of the past but also as a living system that evolves and sustains the community in the era of globalization and social transformation..

Keywords: culture, cultural elements, cultural components, cultural manifestation, qualitative analysis

1. INTRODUCTION

Humans and culture are two inseparable entities that together shape life. Humans organize themselves into socio-cultural units known as societies. These societies create, develop, and enrich culture: there is no humanity without culture, and no culture without humanity; no society exists without culture, and vice versa. Culture is the result of human creativity within their society (Nurdien Harry Kistanto, 2015).

Human awareness of their experiences drives them to formulate, define, and construct theories about life, which later become what is known as culture. This awareness stems from the unique gifts of reason, emotion, and human instinct—traits not possessed by other creatures such as animals. This journal aims to identify and analyze the main elements of culture and their constituent components. Culture encompasses the values, norms, artifacts, and practices that shape the daily lives of a society. These elements not only reflect traditions and legacies of the past but also adapt to changes over time.

In terms of values, culture includes moral principles, ethics, and beliefs that guide individuals and groups in making decisions and taking action. These values often form the

basis of social norms that regulate interactions among individuals and groups within a society. In addition to values, cultural norms include both formal and informal rules that govern behavior and social interaction. These norms vary across cultures and can change over time in response to social, economic, and political transformations.

Cultural artifacts include all physical objects created by humans, such as tools, visual arts, architecture, and technology. These artifacts not only reflect a society's creativity and technical expertise but also reveal the values and beliefs it upholds. Cultural practices encompass a wide range of activities, rituals, and traditions passed down from generation to generation. These practices include everything from styles of dress and customary ceremonies to ways of honoring parents and ancestors (Rahmawati Siwi Nur, 2022).

By identifying and analyzing the core elements of culture, this journal seeks to present a concrete representation of culture as observable in society. Through this approach, it is hoped that we can understand how culture not only survives but also transforms and evolves in response to the ever-changing dynamics of the times.

2. METHODS

This research uses a qualitative method with literature analysis techniques and participatory observation. Data was collected through literature review from various sources such as books, journals, and relevant articles, to gain an in-depth understanding of the topic under study. In addition, direct observation in the field was also carried out to identify the form of culture in the community. This observation involves active participation of researchers in community activities, so that researchers can obtain more accurate and contextual information. This method allows researchers to see and feel directly how the culture plays a role in the daily life of the community. Thus, the combination of literature analysis and participatory observation provides a comprehensive approach to studying cultural phenomena, combining theoretical data with empirical experience in the field.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

A. Culture

The word "Culture" comes from the Sanskrit "Buddhayah", which is the plural form of "Budhi" (mind). So, culture is everything that is concerned with the mind. In addition, the word culture also means "mind and power" or the power of the mind. So culture is all the power of the mind, namely copyright, taste and karsa (Ary Gunawan, 2000).

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary culture means mind, intellect, results, customs or something that has become a habit that is difficult to change (Department Pendidikan Nasional, 2000). Culture can be defined as the entirety of a way of life that develops and is shared by a group of people and passed down from generation to generation.

Culture encompasses various aspects such as values, traditions, social systems, technology, arts, and others that influence the way people live and behave. Culture is not merely a legacy from the past, but also something that continuously evolves over time, shaped by

various internal and external factors. The following are some definitions of culture by experts: Edward Burnett Tylor stated that culture is a complex system that includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, laws, customs, skills, and human habits. This definition highlights how broad and diverse the elements that form a society's culture can be.

Values within a culture provide guidance for individuals in acting and interacting with others. Traditions and customs help maintain cultural continuity and identity from one generation to the next. The social system includes the organizational structures of society, such as families, governments, and other social institutions, which help regulate communal life. Technology, as part of culture, reflects humans' ability to adapt to and transform their environment to meet their needs and desires. Art, as a form of creative expression, illustrates the uniqueness and inner richness of a cultural group. All these aspects work synergistically to form a dynamic and ever-evolving culture that reflects the collective experiences and values held by a society (Kristina, 2021).

Melville J. Herskovits stated that everything found in a society is determined by the culture that the society possesses. Bronisław Malinowski argued that culture is closely related to society, and everything found within society is determined by the culture the society has. Andreas Eppink defined culture as encompassing the entire understanding of social values, social norms, knowledge, as well as the entirety of social, religious, and other structures that characterize a society (Budaya, t.t.).

Components of Culture

Material Component: Includes artifacts, buildings, and technology.

Non-Material Component: Includes values, norms, beliefs, and ideologies.

Forms of Culture

The form of culture can be divided into three, namely (Rahmah, 2023):

Ideal Form: This form of culture is in the form of ideas, ideas, values, norms, rules, and so on which are abstract in nature, that is, they cannot be touched or touched. For example, the values of honesty, togetherness, and justice.

Ideal Form: Values of honesty, togetherness, and justice. Ideas and notions about life.

Activity Form: A social system consisting of interacting human activities. Customs and traditions practiced by the community.

B. Elements of Culture

Culture has several elements that form culture in a community group. The elements of culture are divided into seven elements, namely:

1. Language: Language is the primary means of communication that reflects the identity of a group. Language is a tool for humans to fulfill their social needs to interact with others.
2. Knowledge: The knowledge system is formed concretely and developed continuously so that humans can know the various uses of technology that will support survival.
3. Social Organization: Social organization consists of kinship systems and social organizations that influence the way people live (Universitas Nusantara Persatuan Guru Republik Indonesia (PGRI) Kediri dkk., 2025).
4. Living Tools and Technology: The tools of life and technology used by people to fulfill their needs.
5. Economy: The economic system in the form of livelihoods or economic activities of a community is an important focus in ethnographic studies.
6. Religion: Religious elements in the form of belief systems, religious ceremonial systems, and the people who adhere to the religion.
7. Arts: Works of art and artistic expressions that reflect the aesthetic values of a culture (Koentjaraningrat, 2000). Arts in the form of human works such as art, music, and dance.

B. Cultural Characteristics

In his work *The Cruch and Cultures*, Louis tried to formulate the general characteristics of culture, namely: First, culture is a way of life. Second, culture is the sum of the plan or plan of life. Third, functionally, culture is organized in a system. Fourth, culture is acquired through the learning process. Fifth, culture is the way of life of a group or social group, not the way of life of individuals or individuals In his work *The Cruch and Cultures*, Louis tried to formulate the general characteristics of culture, namely: First, culture is a way of life. Second, culture is the sum of the plan or plan of life. Third, functionally, culture is organized in a system. Fourth, culture is acquired through the learning process. Fifth, culture is the way of life of a group or social group, not an individual or individual way of life (Maran, 2000).

1. Culture is a way of life that functions for society Culture is a way of life. Culture has a very big function for humans and society. There are various forces that society and members of society have to contend with, such as the natural forces in which it lives, as well as other forces within society itself, which are not always good for it. Apart from that, humans and society also need satisfaction, both in the spiritual and material fields. The needs of the community mentioned above, for the most part, are fulfilled by the culture that comes from the community itself. It is said that it is largely because of man's limited ability, and thus the cultural ability that is his creation is also limited in meeting human needs (Soekanto, 2002).

2. Culture is a way of life in a group Humans are creatures that live in groups, and have organs that are biologically inferior to other types of animals. Nevertheless, the human brain has evolved the furthest when compared to other creatures. The human brain has been developed by language, but the one that develops language contains the ability of reason, that is, the ability to form ideas and concepts that are increasingly sharp, to choose alternative actions that are beneficial to human survival. These ideas and concepts can be communicated by vowel symbols called language, not only to other individuals in the group, but also to their descendants.
3. Culture is organized in a system As a social being, humans always live in groups. The attitude of living in a group is not due to instinct alone, but due to mutual needs. They view group living as much more profitable than living alone.
4. Culture is obtained through the learning process Culture is obtained through the learning process. Every living thing is in an environment. The environment is the basic situation of his behavior. The situation of the environment causes the emergence of an inner impulse to act in him, on the contrary, it results in a reaction in the form of a certain act done by the creature
5. Culture is the way of life of a group or social group Culture is the way of life of a social group or group. R. Linton, an anthropologist at Columbia University and Yale University, said that to research the general personality of the citizens of a society is done by studying the customs of raising children in the culture of the society in question. The customs of child-rearing in a culture cause that almost all individuals in that culture are raised in the same way as children. The result is that they later develop some of the same character traits

4. CONCLUSION

Humans and culture are two things that cannot be separated. Humans create, develop and enrich culture through various aspects of life such as values, norms, artifacts and practices. Culture reflects collective experience, human adaptation to their environment, and fulfills the needs of society. The elements of culture include language, knowledge, social organization, living tools and technology, economy, religion, and art. This research uses qualitative methods with literature analysis and participatory observation to understand the elements and components of culture in society. Culture consists of material and non-material components, and its form can be divided into ideals, activities and artifacts. All of these aspects work synergistically to form a dynamic and ever-evolving culture, reflecting the collective experience and values embraced by the community.

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