

## **Meaning of The Symbol of The Mulutna Figure in Sukuraga Puppet**

**Regina Putri Aulia**

Muhammadiyah University of Sukabumi

e-mail: [reginaputriauliaa@gmail.com](mailto:reginaputriauliaa@gmail.com)

Corresponding author: [reginaputriauliaa@gmail.com](mailto:reginaputriauliaa@gmail.com)

### **ABSTRACT**

The content of the discussion is about puppet, symbol, and the meaning in one of the figure in the puppet. Puppet is one of the traditional 2-dimensional entertainment media, which can be seen and also felt. A puppet always contains a message in it related to the conditions of life in the world that we live. In West Java, especially in Sukabumi, there is a Sukuraga puppet created by an extraordinary artist named Effendi. Mr. Effendi created Sukuraga puppet, where this Sukuraga means "limbs" because the shapes of the puppets are a reflection of the shape of the human body. It aims to remind people that there will be consequences for all actions. There are 9 Sukuraga puppet characters, one of which is the mouth, each character has symbols and meanings that we can learn from and relate them to various phenomena that exist in the world we currently live in. The method used is descriptive qualitative because the research was conducted by conducting direct interviews with informants to obtain more detailed information.

**Keywords:** *Puppet, Symbol, Meaning*

### **PENDAHULUAN**

Puppet is one of the traditional 2-dimensional entertainment media, which can be seen and also felt. In a puppet always contains a message in it related to the conditions of life in the world that we live. In puppet, there is usually a puppeteer who leads the storyline and moves the puppets. One of the central areas for puppets is West Java.

In West Java, especially in Sukabumi, there is a Sukuraga puppet created by an extraordinary artist named Effendi. It took 6 years for Mr. Effendi to find, manufacture, and finally perform his first puppet in a village in 1997. The creation of this puppet has gone through various processes and life experiences that have been passed by Mr. Effendi so the Sukuraga puppet was created.

Mr. Effendi created Sukuraga puppet, where this Sukuraga means "limbs" because the shapes of the puppets are a reflection of the shape of the human body. With the uniqueness of this shape, it can be symbolized and it aims to remind people that there will be accountability for all actions. Based on this, there are nine figures in the Sukuraga puppet

In these 9 figures, only five are used in learning, namely eyes, nose, ears, hands, mouth. The background of the composition of these figures is from Al- Qur'an Yasin in verse 65 (Nurdin, 2014: 16) In this verse it is explained that testimony or speech carried out by human hands and feet is a witness for everything that is done while living in this world. in another sense, what will testify later is not the mouth that speaks but the whole body will speak and guarantee every deed that has been done in this world, this statement is not only related to things that are good but about bad things that have been done too (Nurdin, 2014:16) one shape of the Sukuraga puppet figure that is quite interesting is a mouth-shaped figure named Mulutna

The Mulutna figure will be the author's focus point in the discussion chapter, apart from its unique shape, this Mulutna figure has quite a deep message that Effendi wants to convey in his work. The message is a reminder that every mistake made verbally

or in words will have consequences. All the figures in the Sukuraga puppet have their respective symbols and roles in educating the public, but of all shapes of puppet, as a whole it symbolizes prudence. Examples are the mouth, when the mouth says something that is not pleasing it will hurt others and become a boomerang for ourselves, the figure of the hand, the hand that should be used for something good such as helping turns out to be used for stealing, the figure of the foot, if the footsteps the wrong direction can damage the life we are currently living. The writer is interested to discuss about the symbol and the connection between the meaning and the symbol of the Mulutna figure in Sukuraga puppet.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Symbols**

In a work of literature or art there will be symbols that are deliberately made or associated with a work, a symbol is a sign that is shown through an idea or a certain object. The following is the definition of a symbol according to experts, symbols according to Kennedy (1991) generally do not "stand" for one meaning, not for one that is absolutely certain. Symbols in works of fiction are generally not only in the shape of abstract ideas such as or truth, but also more predictable objects (or depictions in the shape of words that make us need to imagine them) in this case, an object, a person or a situation. can represent the symbol ( Kennedy, 1991: 182-184).

A symbol is something that contains a deeper meaning than the actual meaning ( Landy, 1972: 271). Symbols can take different shapes. In general, a symbol is an object that represents another object to give a different meaning than it actually does and that contains a deeper and more significant meaning. This is a way of writers to give more meaning and emotion to the words in their work (Landy, 1972: 272).

Based on the theories above, it can be concluded that a symbol is an image that has an implied meaning. Symbols are usually not always about an object, but can represent a person or a particular situation.

### **Figures**

Figures are actors who play a story or are in the story. Figures are also tasked with guiding and showing a storyline in a fictional story, drama, or puppet. The following is the definition of a character according to experts, According to Atmazaki (2007:103), "Characters are individuals who are always present in our minds and hearts as readers from beginning to end". Eventhough the character is fictional, it's hard for us to forget it. Characters do not always have to be human, animals and plants are often used as characters

According to Aminuddin, in Milawasri (2017: 89) a character is an actor who brings events in a fictional story so that the event is able to weave a story as a whole, an important role lies in the function of the character who plays a role that can be understood by the reader.

Characters are also related to the creation of a conflict. Characters in the story according to Abrams (1981: 20) in Nurgiyantoro (2002: 165) are people who appear in a narrative or drama work which is interpreted by the reader as having certain moral qualities and tendencies as expressed in speech and what is said. done in action.

From some of the explanations of the characters according to experts, it can be concluded that the character is something or a person who is involved in a story. Usually, a character has their respective roles. And characters are also not always human, but can also be animals, plants, and others.

### **Meaning**

Meaning is something that has a meaning that can be understood. Usually, a meaning is contained in a word or sentence in which something we can interpret and learn. The following is the definition of meaning according to experts, According to Hornby in Sarwani ( 2017: 59) Meaning is what we interpret or what we mean. According to Ullman in Utmawati (2018: 22) when someone thinks about the meaning of someone's words as well as the reference or vice versa, meaning will be born. So, the meaning is a combination of meaning and words. According to Spradley (2012: 36) Meaning is conveying the experience of the majority of human beings in all societies .

Based on the opinions of the experts above, it can be concluded that meaning is a combination of thoughts and words, which have intentions and meanings that we can receive or understand from what has been conveyed.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The method used by the author is a descriptive qualitative research method, because the author obtains research data by conducting direct interviews with informants to obtain in-depth and more reliable information and as is based on the results of interviews with these informants. According to (Sugiyono, 2006) descriptive research is an analysis that is collected by explaining data without drawing conclusions while comparative research is research that compares the presence of one or more variables in two or more different samples.

According to Olsson (2008) Qualitative research is a research method that can be used to explore and understand the meaning that comes from social or human problems. This qualitative research process involves important efforts such as: asking questions, developing procedures, collecting specific data from informants or participants. Analyzing data inductively, reducing, verifying, and interpreting or capturing meaning from the context of the problem under study (Olsson, 2008)

For collecting the data, the author use note taking techniques. According to Azwardi (2018) the listening and note-taking method is a way to collect data by paying attention to the use of spoken or written language in certain social contexts, through tapping or observation techniques to obtain the required data by focusing on the speech delivered. In this study interviews were conducted with informants, then recorded and recorded the things that would be studied in this study.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION Result**

**Table 1. Symbol of Mulutna Figure**

<b>No</b>	<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Shape Symbol</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Leather Symbol</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Color Symbol</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Gender Symbol</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>

## **DISCUSSION**

In this chapter, it contains the discussion and in the shape of answers to the formulation of the problem in the previous chapter. In this chapter it will be discussed about the symbols found in the Mulutna figure in Sukuraga puppets and also discuss about the meaning contained in these symbols.

Data

*"...Sukuraga means body parts, the same is true for all humans from various nations in the world regardless of who has body parts..."*

Mr. Effendi explained and gave parables and comparisons regarding the Sukuraga puppet which is a reflection of the human body as a way to convey messages so that they can be better understood and understood in our lives as humans.

### **Symbols in Mulutna Figure in Sukuraga Puppet**

One of the 9 figures in the Sukuraga puppet is the Mulutna figure. This figure has a unique shape on each side of this figure's shape has its own symbol and meaning. The following are the points that the author will analyze regarding the symbols contained therein:

#### **Shape Symbols Mulutna Figure in Sukuraga Puppet**

In terms of shape, this figure has a unique shape and is in accordance with the name given by Mr. Effendi, which is shaped like a human mouth, starting from the face, hands, feet and other body parts which have a shape that is described like a human mouth or lips. Our discussion this time is about the mouth. The mouth itself functions to convey something, and in this puppet, the mouth symbolizes caution and vigilance towards what we say.

Data

*"...Each member of the body has its own function and responsibility, all of which are interrelated, and cannot be separated from one another..."*

Mr. Effendi in making the Sukuraga puppet was inspired by the shape of the human body, starting from the mouth, hands, feet, even the genitals.

### **The Symbol of the Basic Material in the Mulutna Figure in Sukuraga Puppet**

All the figures in the Sukuraga puppet is made of leather, in the process of making each puppet, there are meanings that Effendi has embedded based on his life experiences. Like this skin, Effendi thinks that sometimes most people only see things from the outside or the surface, therefore the material made of this skin also symbolizes prejudice.

Data

*"...Almost all humans see things from the outside or the surface, without looking deeper and thinking further..."*

Mr Effendi said so because it was based on life experience and what he had gone through in his life's journey.

### **Color Symbols on Mulutna Figure in Sukuraga Puppet**

In this puppet, Effendi uses primary colors or only basic colors, namely Yellow, Blue and Red. However, he also added a green ornament to his puppet work. The term 'color' refers to the property possessed by an object of producing a distinct sensation to the eye as a result of the way it reflects or emits light, and it is considered to be a visual perceptual attribute but which combines chromatic and achromatic content named: black, green, red, pink, etc (Saihu, 2019:59)

The reason he uses this Primary color is because it makes it look more striking and more colorful, and so that it can be more easily recognized by the wider community. By using these colors, the figures in the Sukuraga puppet is made and ready to appear in front of the general public. From these colors, symbols are inserted, for example, red

symbolizes a brave and firm figure. The yellow color symbolizes joy and idealism. Blue color symbolizes responsibility.

Data

*"...In a work of art, giving color is important so that the work of art looks attractive and quite striking, here I use basic colors because it's the same as humans from childhood being introduced to basic things, namely the parts that exist in our body..."*

Mr. Effendi says that everything was introduced by the basic first. It's very important to get to know everything in a right way.

#### **Gender Symbols in Mulutna figure in Sukuraga Puppet**

According to the language, the word gender is defined as a group of words that are masculine, feminine or without both, neutral. (Rokhimah, 2014:136) In fact, the character of Mulutna in the Sukuraga puppet is actually not certain to have a certain gender in this puppet, because this character is neutral and can have multiple roles, depending on how the storyline of the puppet is. Effendi as the person who created it said that there is no specific gender in the character of mouth, depending on how and from which perspective we see it, it can be adapted to the content and storyline led by a puppeteer. The Mouth character can act as a character symbolizing a woman and can also symbolize a man.

Data

*"...In this mouth character there is actually no specific gender. Because, the character depends on the content and storyline led by the puppeteer..."*

Mr. Effendi explained about gender for the mouth character who apparently does not have a specific gender, it depends on how we see and understand the storyline led by a puppeteer. The Meaning of Symbols in the Mulutna Figure in Sukuraga Puppet Each symbol that has been discussed previously has its own meaning and meaning, which are as follows:

#### **Meaning of the Shape Symbols of the Mulutna Figure in Sukuraga Puppets**

The mouth symbolizes caution and vigilance about what we say. Each character in Puppet Sukuraga has a specific purpose or message to convey. Like the ear, the ear itself has a function as a means of hearing. Therefore, in hearing something we must be able to distinguish between good and bad something. Also, each member of the body has its own role but you cannot do it alone, all of that requires cooperation, both between the ears, eyes, nose, mouth, ears, hands and other body parts. If the ears are for hearing, then the eyes are useful for seeing, and all of that can be based on our minds.

Effendi was inspired to make this mouth-shaped character because every member of the body has its own responsibility and role, the same goes for the mouth, as the saying *"your mouth, your Tiger"* This means that when we speak, we must always guard our speech so that we are not wrong in saying a word, we must always be careful so that our speech does not hurt other people's feelings, sometimes what we consider to be normal, it is not certain that other people will think the same and may fatal consequences that will harm ourselves. Humans are puppeteers and their limbs are puppets, as humans we must be able to control these puppets. Must be smart in making decisions and smart in choosing and considering what to say, because all actions or actions will have consequences and responsibility from the Almighty.

#### **The Meaning of the Basic Material in the Mulutna Figure in Sukuraga Puppet**

A prejudice can be shaped when we see someone from their outward appearance or what we usually hear with the term *"First Impression"* These words remind us of this era. Appearance is everything, from appearance we can judge someone. In fact, if we deepen the meaning of the word "judging appearance" it is not only from the outside but also from the inside, because in essence humans are naive and changeable in their hearts and attitudes. We will never know what a person's original attitude is if we look at it from

the outside without knowing more deeply, it could be that what looks good from the outside turns out to be not so, and vice versa when we see someone who is a bad figure it could turn out to be a bad character. very good figure. Being prejudiced and deciding whether someone is good or not cannot be as long as we decide before knowing more deeply.

Prejudice is usually the desire to discriminate, to carry out verbal abuse such as backbiting, and various other negative actions. Meanwhile, knowledge about objects of prejudice is usually in the shape of formulation, which is often unfounded, regarding the background of the object being prejudiced (Novianti:2015). In creating his work, Effendi was inspired by his life experiences, even the basic material made of leather was not spared from the story of his life's journey. How do people see it, whatever he has gone through, everything he has applied and represented in the shape of an extraordinary work.

### **The Meaning of the Color Symbols in Sukuraga Puppet**

Color in art usually has a certain meaning based on the creator's intuition. Similarly, in this Sukuraga puppet, Effendi combines the colors he uses for his work. In this Sukuraga puppet, there are basic colors or what we usually call primary colors, namely blue, red, and yellow. there is a reason why Effendi uses these colors. It's the same as humans from childhood we are introduced to something basic first, such as limbs, and something that is in him first.

These colors symbolize a number of things, such as the red color symbolizing courage, as human beings, we should have this trait, namely when we have a strong heart and mentality, have great self-confidence, are ready to face Yellow color symbolizes joy or joy, the meaning of the yellow color means that there are times when we have to face something with joy and always think positively about what we are facing or will face, because everything will go according to what is in our minds. as a human. And the blue color symbolizes responsibility. The responsibility here is that as a human being we should be responsible for what we do, one important example is, we can be responsible for and control ourselves and our own limbs, because basically a human being is the mastermind behind the members. his body, there will be consequences for the slightest mistake, therefore we must always think before we act.

All the symbols and meanings of these colors represent what Effendi wants to convey through his work. Apart from that, these colors are combined so that a work of art looks more prominent and attractive when displayed.

### **The Meaning of Gender Symbols in the Mulutna Figure in Sukuraga Puppet**

In this case, the meaning of the gender symbol in the Mulutna figure in Sukuraga puppet is actually more towards the symbol of a man, because if we look, for this Mulutna figure there are 2 shapes and colors that are the same but different, for one of the two it has an adequate body posture. as well-built as a man, and for another it is of a smaller build and more faded in color. The symbol of a woman herself in the Sukuraga puppet shows a shape of prudence, as a woman should be able to maintain honor and dignity for herself. Similarly, the male symbol shows masculinity, honor, and also dignity.

## **CONCLUSION**

The summary of the results of the analysis and discussion about the Mulutna figure in Sukuraga puppet is as follows: 1. Each side of this figure has its own symbol and meaning. The first symbol is a symbol of shape, the mouth symbolizes caution and vigilance towards what we say. The second is the material symbol, all the figure s in this Sukuraga puppet are made of leather. The third is the color symbol. For this puppet, Effendi combines the basic colors, namely red, blue, and yellow. And the last, the gender symbol, in this puppet, the male and female symbols are highlighted. 2. Each symbol that has been discussed previously has its own meaning and significance. First, the Mouth symbolizes prudence, every utterance and words uttered will have responsibilities and consequences.

Second, the meaning of the skin symbol is that when a prejudice appears, it can shape when we see someone from their outward appearance. Third, the meaning of the color symbol, puppet sukuraga is created by combining basic colors because everything is introduced and starts from the bottom. Fourth, the gender symbol has the meaning of being careful and always maintaining honor and dignity. Based on the conclusions above, the authors hope that this paper will be useful and can add insight to readers related to art and culture, especially toward Sukuraga puppet. and culture.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Aziz, A. (2021). Refrepresentasi Semiotika Al-Quran (Analisis Simbol Warna Putih). *Mumtaz: Jurnal Studi Al-Quran dan Keislaman*, 5(01), 58-68. . S. (2017). Makna Baayun Maulud Pada Masyarakat Banua Halat Kabupaten Tapin. *Alhadharah: Jurnal Ilmu Dakwah*, 16(31), 55. <https://doi.org/10.18592/alhadharah.v16i31.1756>
- Azwardi. 2018. *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia*. Banda Aceh : Syiah Kuala University Press.
- Sarwani. (2018). *Jurnal Bahasa, Sastra, Budaya, dan Pengajarannya (Protasis) Amik Veteran Porwokerto*. 22-25.
- Olsson, J. (2008). dalam Penelitian Pendidikan Bahasa. 1(1), 305. <http://e-journal.usd.ac.id/index.php/LLT%0Ahttp://jurnal.untan.ac.id/index.php/jpdpb/article/viewFile/11345/10753%0Ahttp://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.sbspro.2015.04.758%0Awww.iosrjournals.org>
- Rokhimah, S. (2014). PATRIARKHISME DAN KETIDAKADILAN GENDER | MUWAZAH: Jurnal Kajian Gender. *Jurnal Kajian Gender*, 6(1), 1-14. <http://e-journal.iainpekalongan.ac.id/index.php/Muwazah/article/view/440>
- Saihu, S. (2019). Rintisan Peradaban Profetik Umat Manusia Melalui Peristiwa Turunnya Adam As Ke-Dunia. *Mumtaz: Jurnal Studi Al-Qur'an Dan Keislaman*, 3(2), 268-279. <https://doi.org/10.36671/mumtaz.v3i2.44>
- Waani, J. O. (2012). Teori Makna Lingkungan Dan Arsitektur. *Media Matrasain*, 9(1), 36-47.