



Tuan Guru Nyatok's Sufi Heritage in Maintaining Local Cultural Identity in Pujut Central Lombok

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengkaji peran tokoh sufi Tuan Guru Nyatok dalam melestarikan identitas budaya lokal di Pujut, Lombok Tengah. Melalui pendekatan sufistik, Tuan Guru Nyatok berhasil menyebarkan ajaran Islam tanpa menghilangkan tradisi dan kearifan lokal masyarakat setempat. Dengan menekankan aspek spiritual dan cinta kepada Tuhan, beliau mampu menyatukan nilai-nilai Islam dengan budaya lokal yang telah mengakar di masyarakat Pujut. Warisan Tuan Guru Nyatok tercermin dalam berbagai tradisi budaya yang masih dilestarikan, seperti upacara adat merariq, seni pertunjukan tradisional, arsitektur rumah adat, dan pengelolaan sumber daya alam berbasis kearifan lokal. Masyarakat Pujut berhasil menyerap nilai-nilai Islam tanpa menghilangkan identitas budaya mereka, seperti kepercayaan terhadap roh leluhur dan ritual-ritual adat yang dipadukan dengan ajaran-ajaran Islam. Ajaran tasawuf Tuan Guru Nyatok memberikan pengaruh mendalam terhadap kehidupan masyarakat Pujut, seperti pola hidup sederhana, penghayatan spiritual, dan hidup selaras dengan alam. Meskipun menghadapi tantangan modernisasi, masyarakat Pujut tetap berupaya melestarikan warisan Tuan Guru Nyatok sebagai identitas budaya yang bernilai tinggi. Penelitian ini menegaskan pentingnya mempertahankan kearifan lokal sebagai benteng identitas masyarakat dan menjadi contoh harmoni antara Islam dan budaya lokal di Indonesia.

Kata Kunci: Tuan Guru Nyatok, Sufisme, Identitas Budaya Lokal, Pujut, Lombok Tengah.

Abstract

This research examines the role of the Sufi figure Tuan Guru Nyatok in preserving the local cultural identity in Pujut, Central Lombok. Through his Sufi approach, Tuan Guru Nyatok successfully spread the teachings of Islam without eliminating the local traditions and wisdom of the local community. By emphasizing the spiritual aspect and love for God, he was able to unite Islamic values with the deeply-rooted local culture of the Pujut people. Tuan Guru Nyatok's legacy is reflected in various cultural traditions that are still preserved, such as the merariq traditional wedding ceremony, traditional performing arts, traditional house architecture, and local wisdom-based natural resource management. The Pujut community has been able to absorb Islamic values without losing their cultural identity, such as the belief in ancestral spirits and traditional rituals combined with Islamic teachings. Tuan Guru Nyatok's Sufi teachings have had a profound influence on the life of the Pujut community, such as a simple lifestyle, spiritual appreciation, and living in harmony with nature. Despite facing the challenges of modernization, the Pujut community continues to strive to preserve Tuan Guru Nyatok's legacy as a valuable cultural identity. This research emphasizes the importance of maintaining local wisdom as a bastion of community identity and as an example of the harmony between Islam and local culture in Indonesia.

Keywords: Tuan Guru Nyatok, Sufism, Local Cultural Identity, Pujut, Central

Introduction

Indonesia, an archipelagic country stretching from Sabang to Merauke, has an extraordinarily diverse cultural wealth (KEMENDIKBUD RI, 2023). One area that holds a unique and rich cultural heritage is Central Lombok, an area on the island of Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara (BPS NTB, 2022). Here, local cultural identity has for centuries survived and flourished, even after the influx of Islamic influence into the region.

The existence and preservation of local cultural identity in Central Lombok cannot be separated from the role of Sufi figures who spread Islamic teachings in a way that respects local culture. (Hefner, 2000). One of the figures who played a major role in this was Tuan Guru Nyatok, a Sufi scholar who lived in the 17th century AD. (Fikri, 2018). Tuan Guru Nyatok, whose full name is *Deneq Mas Putra Pengendeng Segara Katon Rambitan*, whose real name is *Sayyid 'Abdurrahman*, is a Sufi figure known as the guardian of Nyatok (Fikri, 2018). He had a great influence in spreading Islamic teachings in the Central Lombok region, especially in Pujut, which is now one of the centers for spreading Sufism on the island of Lombok (Sila, 2015)

The Sufistic approach used by Tuan Guru Nyatok enabled the spread of Islam without losing the local cultural identity of the Pujut people. This makes Pujut an example of harmony between Islamic teachings and local culture, something that is very important to be preserved as a legacy for future generations. Sufism, or spirituality in Islam, is the path taken by Tuan Guru Nyatok in teaching Islam to the Pujut community. He emphasized the aspect of

love for God and deep spiritual passion, while respecting local traditions that have been deeply rooted in the community.

"Tuan Guru Nyatok teaches that love for God also means love for His creation, including the culture and traditions that have been passed down by our ancestors," said Kyai Haji Mustafa, a religious leader in Pujut. Thus, the people of Pujut can accept Islam without feeling lost their cultural identity. Tuan Guru Nyatok's approach provides an example of how Islam can coexist with local culture in harmony (Hefner, 2000) His legacy is proof that cultural acculturation can occur without losing the essence of each tradition, as long as there is mutual understanding and respect.

One important aspect of Tuan Guru Nyatok's teachings is the emphasis on tolerance and respect for cultural diversity. He taught that cultural differences are not something to be eradicated, but rather valued as wealth that can enrich human life. As stated by Amaq Sulaiman, a Pujut traditional leader, "Tuan Guru Nyatok teaches that Islam is not something that should eliminate our culture, but rather enrich it with deeper spiritual values." This teaching became the foundation for the Pujut people to accept Islam without leaving their cultural identity.

Tuan Guru Nyatok's legacy is reflected in various cultural traditions that are still preserved by the Pujut community today. One prominent tradition is the traditional merariq ceremony, a traditional Sasak wedding ritual that has been combined with Islamic elements. (Cederroth, 1995). In the merariq ceremony, there are rituals that reflect the belief in

ancestral spirits and natural forces, such as the recitation of mantras and offering offerings. However, these rituals are now accompanied by Islamic prayers and recitation of the holy verses of the Quran, indicating acculturation between local culture and Islamic teachings. In addition, Tuan Guru Nyatok's legacy is also seen in traditional performing arts, traditional house architecture, and local wisdom in managing natural resources. The Pujut people believe that preserving these traditions is a way to honor their ancestral heritage and maintain their identity as a cultured Sasak people.

Tuan Guru Nyatok's success in spreading Islam without losing the local cultural identity in Pujut is an inspiration for other regions in Indonesia that have rich cultural diversity. (Hefner, 2000) This shows that Islam can acculturate with local culture without having to get rid of or eliminate traditions that have been rooted in society.

Research Methods

This research uses qualitative methods with an ethnographic approach to explore cultural practices and traditions that are still preserved by the Pujut community (Creswell, 2007). The ethnographic approach was chosen because it allows a deep exploration of the cultural and spiritual heritage left by Tuan Guru Nyatok as well as its application in the daily lives of the local people.

Data were collected through participant observation techniques, where researchers were directly involved in the cultural activities of the Pujut community (Spradley, 1980). Participant observations were conducted to understand in depth the meaning behind traditions that are still preserved, such as traditional ceremonies,

performing arts, traditional house architecture, and local wisdom practices in managing natural resources. In addition, in-depth interviews were conducted with community leaders, religious leaders, and cultural actors to explore more information about Tuan Guru Nyatok's legacy and its application in everyday life (Kvale, 1996). In-depth interviews allow researchers to gain a first-hand perspective from the Pujut community on how Tuan Guru Nyatok's teachings have influenced their cultural identity.

Literature studies are also conducted to enrich data and provide a wider historical context about the life journey of Tuan Guru Nyatok, his teachings, and his influence on the development of Islam in Central Lombok (Creswell, 2007). Literature study includes searching books, journals, and other written sources relevant to the research topic.

The data obtained from participant observation, in-depth interviews, and literature studies were then analyzed thematically to identify the main patterns and themes that emerged (Braun & Clarke, 2006). Thematic analysis was conducted to gain a deep understanding of Tuan Guru Nyatok's heritage and its influence in maintaining local cultural identity in Pujut Central Lombok.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Tuan Guru Nyatok's Teachings as a Guideline for Pujut Community Life

Research findings show that Tuan Guru Nyatok's teachings have become a living guide for the Pujut community in maintaining a balance between Islamic values and local culture. His teachings based on Sufism or Islamic spirituality allowed the unification of religious values with pre-existing local wisdom. As stated by AmaqSulaiman, a Pujut traditional

leader, "Tuan Guru Nyatok teaches that Islam is not something that should eliminate our culture, but rather enrich it with deeper spiritual values". This teaching became the foundation for the Pujut people to accept Islam without leaving their cultural identity.

One important aspect of Tuan Guru Nyatok's teachings is the emphasis on tolerance and respect for cultural diversity. He taught that cultural differences are not something to be eradicated, but rather valued as wealth that can enrich human life. This allows cultural acculturation between Islamic teachings and local traditions that have taken root in the Pujut community. Through the Sufistic approach he used, Tuan Guru Nyatok was able to instill Islamic spiritual values without losing the local cultural identity of the Pujut community (Hefner, 2000). He emphasized the aspect of love for God and deep spiritual life, while respecting local traditions that have been passed down by ancestors. "Tuan Guru Nyatok teaches that love for God also means love for His creation, including the culture and traditions that have been passed down by our ancestors," said Kyai Haji Mustafa, a religious leader in Pujut. Thus, the people of Pujut can accept Islam without feeling lost their cultural identity.

B. Local Cultural Traditions Preserved

Tuan Guru Nyatok's legacy is reflected in various cultural traditions that are still preserved by the Pujut community today. One prominent tradition is the traditional merariq ceremony, a traditional Sasak wedding ritual that has been combined with Islamic elements (Cederroth, 1995). In the merariq ceremony, there are rituals that reflect the belief in ancestral spirits and natural forces, such as the recitation of mantras and offering offerings.

However, these rituals are now accompanied by Islamic prayers and recitation of the holy verses of the Quran, indicating

acculturation between local culture and Islamic teachings. In addition to the merariq ceremony, Tuan Guru Nyatok's legacy is also seen in traditional performing arts, such as Cupak Gerantang dance and Gendang Beleq. Although rooted in pre-Islamic traditions, these performances are now often interspersed with poems in praise of Allah (swt) and the Prophet Muhammad. reflects the strong influence of Islam in it. Traditional house architecture in Pujut is also one of the cultural heritage that is still well preserved. These traditional houses have characteristics in the form of barns and walls made of woven bamboo, reflecting local wisdom in utilizing natural materials available in the surrounding environment.

C. Tuan Guru Nyatok's Role in Preserving Local Cultural Identity

Tuan Guru Nyatok played a central role in preserving the local cultural identity in Pujut through the Sufistic approach he used. By emphasizing spiritual aspects and love for God, he was able to unite Islamic teachings with local cultural values that had been rooted in the community. "Tuan Guru Nyatok teaches that love for God also means love for His creation, including the culture and traditions that have been passed down by our ancestors," said Kyai Haji Mustafa, a religious leader in Pujut. Thus, the people of Pujut can accept Islam without feeling lost their cultural identity.

Tuan Guru Nyatok's approach provides an example of how Islam can coexist with local culture in harmony. His legacy is proof that cultural acculturation can occur without losing the essence of each tradition, as long as there is mutual understanding and respect.

Tuan Guru Nyatok's success in spreading Islam without losing the local cultural identity in Pujut is an inspiration for other regions in Indonesia that have rich cultural diversity. This shows that Islam can

acculturate with local culture without having to get rid of or eliminate traditions that have been rooted in society.

Through the spread of Sufism, Tuan Guru Nyatok had a profound influence on the lives of the Pujut people. Sufism, or spirituality in Islam, emphasizes self-cleansing (*tazkiyatun nafs*) and self-approach to Allah through the practices of remembrance and contemplation. (Al-Qusyairi, 2007)

The Sufism values taught by Tuan Guru Nyatok, such as humility, simplicity, and love for God, have animated the local cultural traditions preserved by the Pujut people. This is reflected in the community's attitude to life that reflects the spirit of spirituality and deep appreciation of religious teachings. "For us, preserving tradition is not just repeating rituals physically, but also animating its spiritual meaning," said Mr. Lalu Suparman, a traditional art practitioner in Pujut. This statement shows how Tuan Guru Nyatok's Sufism teachings have integrated with the local cultural practices of the Pujut people.

Tuan Guru Nyatok's Sufism teachings also affect the lifestyle of the Pujut people who tend to be simple and close to nature. Pujut people believe that living simply and thanking God is the path to true happiness, as taught in Sufism. (Al-Ghazali, 2011) This simple lifestyle is reflected in the architecture of traditional houses that utilize natural materials from the surrounding environment, as well as agricultural patterns that still uphold local wisdom in managing natural resources.

Pujut people consider that living in harmony with nature is part of Sufism teachings that emphasize simplicity and humility. Although Tuan Guru Nyatok's

legacy is still well preserved by the Pujut community, challenges remain present in maintaining the local cultural identity. One of the main challenges is the increasingly strong influence of globalization and modernization pervading people's lives.

The wave of modernization brought a new lifestyle that tended to erode traditional values and local wisdom. (Picard, 2008) The younger generation in Pujut is beginning to be influenced by popular culture and modern technology, which can threaten the preservation of local traditions if not properly anticipated. "We are worried that if the younger generation is further uprooted from their cultural roots, the noble heritage of Tuan Guru Nyatok will be lost in the future," said Amaq Sulaiman, a Pujut traditional leader. This statement reflects the Pujut community's concern about the threat of cultural degradation that can occur.

The Pujut community has made conservation efforts, such as documenting cultural traditions in the form of writing and video. In addition, education about Tuan Guru Nyatok's legacy is also provided to the younger generation through cultural activities and learning in schools. However, these efforts still require support from various parties, including local governments and related institutions, so that Tuan Guru Nyatok's legacy can continue to be preserved as a high-value local cultural identity.

Conclusion

This research provides an in-depth understanding of the role of Sufi figure Tuan Guru Nyatok in preserving local cultural identity in Central Lombok, especially in the Pujut region. The Sufistic teachings and approaches he used allowed the Pujut people to accept Islam without leaving behind local

traditions and wisdom that had been passed down from generation to generation.

Tuan Guru Nyatok's legacy is reflected in various cultural traditions that are still preserved, such as traditional merariq ceremonies, traditional performing arts, traditional house architecture, and natural resource management based on local wisdom. The Pujut people are able to absorb Islamic values without losing their cultural identity, such as belief in ancestral spirits and traditional rituals combined with Islamic teachings.

This research confirms that Tuan Guru Nyatok's legacy exemplifies harmony between Islam and local culture, as well as the importance of maintaining local wisdom as a bastion of community identity. The teachings of Sufism that he adhered to had a deep influence on the lives of the Pujut people, such as simple lifestyles, spiritual passion, and living in harmony with nature. Despite the challenges of modernization, the Pujut community still strives to preserve Tuan Guru Nyatok's heritage as a high-value cultural identity. Conservation efforts such as documenting traditions and educating the younger generation continue to ensure the preservation of this cultural heritage in the future.

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