

## Identity of Kecak Touristic Performance in Uluwatu Temple

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### ABSTRACT

Touristic performances at Uluwatu Temple have some differences in other tourist attractions, so this research was conducted aimed at providing information or an overview of identity in tourist performances at Uluwatu Temple itself. This study uses qualitative methods that prioritize objectivity and honesty in gathering data so that the results obtained will be truly based on research. The results obtained from this study are the performing arts tour in Uluwatu Temple has an identity and characteristics on the presentation. The presentation is good in terms of a strategic place with views of cliffs, the sea, and sunsets, a unique presentation mode spiced with jokes that gives an interesting impression on the presentation. Likewise with the attractions that are served, such as Hanoman dancers who rise above the temple and the scene when burned. All of that has its own charm in this show at Uluwatu. This show is very different from ones in other places.

Keywords: performing arts, tourism, identity, kecak.

### ABSTRAK

Pertunjukan wisata di Pura Uluwatu memiliki beberapa perbedaan di tempat-tempat wisata lainnya, sehingga penelitian ini dilakukan bertujuan untuk memberikan informasi atau gambaran tentang identitas dalam pertunjukan wisata di Pura Uluwatu itu sendiri. penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif yang mengutamakan obyektivitas dan kejujuran dalam pengumpulan datanya sehingga hasil yang didapat akan benar-benar berdasarkan penelitian. Hasil yang didapat dari penelitian ini adalah seni pertunjukan wisata di Pura Uluwatu memiliki identitas dan ciri khas pada penyajiannya. Penyajian tersebut baik dari segi tempat yang strategis dengan pemandangan tebing, laut, dan matahari terbenam, mode penyajian yang unik dengan dibumbui lelucon-lelucon sehingga memberi kesan menarik pada sajiannya. Begitupula dengan atraksi-atraksi yang disuguhkan, seperti penari Hanoman yang naik di atas candi dan adegan pada saat dibakar. Semua itu memiliki daya tarik tersendiri pada pertunjukan yang ada di Uluwatu ini. Pertunjukan pariwisata ini sangat beda dengan pertunjukan-pertunjukan wisata di tempat lainnya.

Kata kunci : seni pertunjukan wisata, identitas, kecak.

## INTRODUCTION

Opportunities and challenges of the dynamic tourism industry in Bali have aroused curiosity from various circles. The curiosity encourages to explore more deeply about the existence of the tourism industry (Ruastiti, 2019: 3). The main capital in developing cultural tourism which is sold as attractions and attractions is cultural and artistic elements, one of which is the performing arts in Uluwatu Temple.

Uluwatu Temple has status as Sad Khayangan Jagat. The temple is located on a coral hill with a height of about 90 meters above sea level. The temple which is located on a rock cliff, the temple is named Uluwatu which in Sanskrit means the Peak of the Rock. Along with the development of tourism in Bali, Uluwatu Temple began to be glimpsed by tourists, so from this, the desire of the community to be able to prepare a variety of facilities, which can provide services to tourists who come to visit. In this case several attempts were made such as the arrangement of the place to make it look more attractive, the procurement of parking lots, trade stalls, and a tourist attraction. The procurement of tourist attractions is intended to provide a very interesting traveling experience.

Uluwatu Temple has become one of the icons of the Bali tourism industry, especially in South Bali. Tourism business in Uluwatu Temple has a tourist attraction visited by tourists, especially foreign tourists to enjoy the culture in Bali. One of the most well-known touristic attractions in the Uluwatu area is Kecak Uluwatu. The kecak dance has its own uniqueness, it can be seen from the form of dance that involves many people, so that it will be able to accommodate members of the community in Uluwatu who want to join in it as an effort to preserve and maintain the cultural heritage of the ancestors. In every tourist attraction, it will certainly show a performance with their respective identities, so that it will be a special attraction for tourists who visit and different from tourist attractions in other places.

Therefore, it makes the writers interested in deciphering the identity of existing tour shows in Uluwatu Temple. Based on the results of observations by researchers, tour performances at Uluwatu Temple have several differences in other tourist attractions, so this research was conducted aimed at providing information or an overview of identity in tourist performances at Uluwatu Temple itself.

## RESEARCH METHODS

In this show, the thing that becomes an attraction to be made into a study is what is the identity of the show at Uluwatu Temple which attracts tourists by using a qualitative analysis approach. Through qualitative analysis, there is a meaning which is a description of the data using words and sentence lines. This study uses a qualitative approach that aims to understand a social situation, events, roles, interactions, and groups. The author also places more emphasis on objectivity and honesty which is realized by explaining the research objectives to the informant. Data and information used in this study were obtained from observations and interviews. Information obtained from direct observation, interview notes, recorded interviews, and photos of activities. The information is in the form of documents and records of events that are processed into data. So basically, this study uses qualitative methods that prioritize objectivity and honesty in gathering data so that the results obtained will be truly based on research.

## DISCUSSION

Dance in Bali is not just a movement full of beauty that is presented by dancers to the audience. The Balinese also have a dance that has such deep meaning, namely the Kecak Dance. Initially, the Kecak Dance originated from a Hindu sacred ritual called Sang Hyang which functioned as a choir to accompany the performance. Kecak is a unique type of taian, because it is not accompanied by any musical instrument/gamelan, but it is accompanied by a choir of around 70 men. Singing with a voice "ecak, ecak, ecak, ecak", which is delivered in the form of rhythmic interwoven. When Kecak had separated from its original function influenced by the swift flow of tourists who came to Bali, Kecak became one of the most preferred entertainment, and finally a Ramayana epic story was inserted into the dance which was presented briefly (Bandem, 1983: 41). Around the 1930s, the story of Ramayana began to be inserted in the series of Kecak Dance performances. It was Wayan Limbak who collaborated with a German painter named Walter Spies who initiated this dance. Furthermore, Wayan Limbak popularized the Kecak Dance which is rooted in the Sang Hyang tradition and the story of the Ramayana story when traveling around the world with a group of Balinese dancers.



Figure 1.  
Kecak Performance in Uluwatu Temple  
(Doc. Adhis Putra Kencana,  
7 December 2019).

Kecak dance is a very typical dance art. This dance was performed by dozens of male dancers. They wore black and white checkered cloth, like the motif of a chessboard wrapped around their waist, and sat in a circle while moving their hands up in unison. Another distinctive feature of Tarik Kecak is that this dance never uses a musical instrument as an accompaniment to performances. This dance accompaniment comes from the "cak cak" sound that is spoken by the dancers simultaneously and creates sound harmonization. In addition to the dozens of dancers, in this dance there were also other dancers who played character shops in the Ramayana story, such as Rama, Shita, Rahwana, Hanoman, and the clowns. Although it has experienced a shift from sacred ritual dance to performing arts

specifically for tourism purposes, the Kecak Dance has never lost its magical power. The dancers' movements, rhythmic exclamations, costumes, and everything in this dance are still able to make the hair stand on end. Before entering Uluwatu Temple site, tourists will be asked to wear a shawl cloth around the waist. If by chance you wear short clothes above the knee, then you must use a sarong. This is because Uluwatu Temple is a sacred location and to respect as a place of worship.

Based on the results of an interview with one of the dancers named Ayu Klarisa, the unique identity of the Kecak Uluwatu Dance is a performance performed on a cliff in the Uluwatu Temple area. From the top of the Uluwatu cliff, the presentation of the sea is increasingly beautiful and enchanting, so that without us knowing while watching the show, we also directly witness the sunset (interview results on Monday, December 7, 2019). It's a tourism show that is very satisfying for the visitors. No wonder if the Uluwatu region is never deserted by visitors. In addition to coming to Uluwatu Temple which has a very high historical value, of course also to watch the Kecak Dance performance which is staged every day. In addition, tourists can also watch the beauty of the sunset because the stage is designed so that the audience can simultaneously see the sunset. Interestingly, the spectators who watched sat in a circle with other tourists. All the spectators faced the dancers who would present the Kecak Dance performance. There is a stove in the middle of the dancer as show equipment.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the discussion above, the researchers concluded that the performing arts in Uluwatu Temple had an identity and characteristics on the presentation. The presentation is good in terms of a strategic place with views of cliffs, the sea, and sunsets, a unique presentation mode spiced with jokes that gives an interesting impression on the presentation. Likewise with the attractions that are served, such as Hanoman dancers who rise above the temple and the scene when burned. All of that has its own charm in this show at Uluwatu. This tourism show is very different from tourism shows in other places.

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