

## The Symbolic Meaning of Sikambang Anak Dance at the Upik Berau Studio, Air Berau Village, Mukomuko Regency, Bengkulu Province

Tira Rofi Juniarti<sup>1</sup>, Erlinda<sup>2</sup>, Surherni<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup> Institut Seni Indonesia Padangpanjang, Indonesia

### *Abstract*

This research aims to determine the symbolic meaning of the Sikambang Anak dance at the Upik Berau Studio, Air Berau Village, Mukomuko Regency, Bengkulu Province. The research method used is a qualitative research method which is descriptive analysis, namely explaining and describing what is then analyzed. This research uses Ferdinand De Saussure's semiotic theory and Y. Sumandiyo Hadi's theory of form. The results of the research show that the symbolic meaning of the Sikambang Anak Dance at the Upik Berau Studio has its own meaning for the people of Air Berau village. The meaning conveyed can be seen from the form of the sikambang anak dance itself, starting from the movements. Properties and poetry (dendang). This dance has a meaning related to people's lives. The meaning of this dance teaches that problems in married life will be better if they are resolved amicably and don't make the wrong decisions. Kindness is always at the forefront of life.

**Keywords:** Sikambang Anak dance, symbolic meaning, the people of Air Berau village

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### **Correspondence:**

Tira Rofi juniarti.

Tirarofijuniarti@gmail.com

## INTRODUCTION

The Sikambang Anak dance is one of the dances in the studio Upik Berau in Air Berau Village, Regency Mukomuko, Bengkulu Province. Studio This was founded in 1992 which was chaired by Yusmani. Relating to origin Sikambang Anak dance proposal at the Studio Upik Berau, Yusmani stated that The dance is based on a story very trusted by the public local, namely a story about divorce between husband and wife who already have a child (still a baby). Consequence In divorce, the husband leaves the wife and his son. When the child falls ill, mother is confused about what to bring his son went to a shaman, namely a person which can cure disease. (interview 23 February 2023).

This dance movement is more about pencak silat movements despite this dance accompanied only by one musical instrument, namely drum, but the movement is in rhythm with drums and rhymes is said to amaze the audience. This can be observed from the expression or the audience's reaction was serious they listened to the poem is displayed. Actually, the poem is rhymes sung with rhythm sad with the word persuasion. That rhyme is a poem full of satire, as anyone knows I rarely said anything in the past openly, but through satire like rhymes. Sikambang Anak dance are only played by two people role as husband and wife. Uniquely, in this dance, for the actor's wife played by a man. equipment used in dance these are dolls, caranos, knives, cloth long and umbrella.

Performance of the Sikambang Anak dance, it seems full of meaning both from movement, property, and story and poetry with full words persuasion and innuendo both subtly or openly. This matter is what is interesting for researchers studying the Sikambang Anak dance with study of symbolic meaning contained in the Sikambang Anak dance.

## METHOD

Scientific research requires methods to assist the research process. Research methods is a scientific method used to obtain data with a specific purpose (Sugiyono,2013:32). Based on this, there are four to pay attention to are: scientific, data, purpose, and use. The scientific way means Research activities are based on characteristics scientific, namely: rational (research is carried out in a reasonable way), empirical (can observed by the five human senses), and systematic (the process used in that research use logical steps according to reason (Andra Tersina, 2018:10)). The research method aims to obtain information and collect data about the Sikambang Anak dance at the Upik Berau Studio Air Berau village, Mukomuko Regency, Province Bengkulu which will be used as an object and research topic, then this method is qualitative in nature

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because it intends to explain the situation there is by conducting a survey in the field. Data Descriptive is a research that aims explain, illustrate and tell as it is (Sugiyono 2013:9).

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Upik Berau studio is studio in Air Berau Village Mukomuko Regency, Province Bengkulu, this studio is moving deep arts field. The existence of the studio Upik Berau was founded in 1992 by Maridun. Actually, it has been before there is a training union.

Upik Berau Studio is a studio that the public trusts surroundings are able to defend traditions from ancient ancestors. Dance Sikambang Anak is one of them lively traditional performing arts and developed in Air Berau Village Mukomuko Regency, Province Bengkulu. As the information says obtained at the Sikambang Anak dance tell stories about divorce between husband and wife who have one child who is still a baby. As a result of divorce that, husband leaves wife and his son. when, the child fell ill, mother Confused about bringing her child seek treatment from a shaman, namely a person who able to cure disease. (Yusmani interview 23 February). Then mom decided to meet her estranged husband leaving it with purpose notify their child's condition being sick. In the end, mother carrying the baby by the way carrying earlier met with her husband and conveyed his meaning and that goal. But darling The meeting was exactly what my husband wanted grabbed the child he was holding and a fight broke out between both for the sake of winning the baby. While holding the mother's child still can save himself and took the knife from her husband's hand, then the mother put her child down. From this husband and wife struggle, husband realizing his wife's persistence, finally husband admits defeat and fights This led to the couple's reconciliation, they are committed to take your child for medical treatment together. Based on phenomena these, previous artists took the initiative to create a dance accompanied by singing. (Interview Maridun, 25 February 2023)

Form of Dance performance Sikambang Anak, then before must first be known and understood regarding the form of performance. Dance Sikambang Anak is not only analyzed from a textual perspective but also a study contextual, textual studies are studies related to dance forms namely dance elements, meanwhile contextual studies are studies related to life society such as background, function, as well as symbols and meaning. In accordance with contextual studies stated above, then more explanation in-depth on the sides that can be the study of Sikambang dance Children use Y. Sumandiyo's opinion Hadi (2007) explains that form is a form that is interpreted as the result of various dance elements namely movement, dancers, make-up, costumes, music, properties and performance venues. From this opinion can be withdrawn

conclusion that form is a unity that cannot be separated from the parts are spread out so a regular sequence is obtained.

Sikambang Anak dance performance inspired by people's stories about husband and wife divorce. In accordance with Sal Murgiyanto's opinion (2016:6) also explains that The performance is divided into three basic elements, namely the performer, the audience who are ready to appreciate and fill in the message or meaning to be communicated by the performer to connoisseur. Based on the opinion above form of Sikambang Anak dance performance can be seen from the performer namely Sikambang Anak dance dancers and musicians, and spectators or also called with moderate society watched the show. Observe the Sikambang Anak dance performance are not only seen in plain sight eyes but can also be interpreted through the dance performance itself. In this connection the elements of dance Sikambang Anak can be explained as follows:

Basembah motion on Sikambang Anak dance performance is an opening movement, a greeting movement This is in first place as a form of respect for the audience or guests who were present during this dance performances and final greeting gestures as a form of thanks to the audience and guests present. The Ngecam movement is carried out with standing position facing each other, movement this is the movement that will attack enemy, this movement is like lifting one hand up to bluff enemy and the other hand is lower to protect when the enemy attack. This condemnation movement describe how a mother who is protecting her child from a husband who wants to seize her child custody.

The movement of Mecah Langkah is movement develops steps or take a step. The movement is forward that is, forward with the right foot, backward namely with the right foot stepped back, forward with left foot in step forward, right foot on behind, step forward and The left foot is shifted to step to the back. This Step Breaking Movement depicts that dancer women who act as mothers as if he couldn't accept it husband's treatment of his husband who tries to separate himself with his son.

The performer is the inner renderer performances, whether directly involved or indirectly for present a form of performance. Some shows are just that involving male perpetrators, perpetrators women, and displays the perpetrator the man was at the same time as the perpetrator Woman. Performers are seen of age and age may vary, for example children, teenagers or people adults (Gupita & Eny, 2012). Performers in a performance dance is called a dancer. Dancer is one of the most important in in a dance performance Sikambang Anak, because without it There are no dancers in this dance communication presented between dancers and audience. Sikambang Anak Dance is danced by two dancers the man who plays the role of husband wife, for the wife actor played by men. This is because every movements that can be done and can be

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done express its meaning contained in the Sikambang Anak dance movements. This condition is due to The dance performance was attended by community and guests as the audience, because the audience is very means to motivate dancers to enthusiasm for demonstrations in the dance performance.

Dance and music are not available separated, because music in dance plays a very important role as form of arrangement and explanation of pressure movement in form. A creator dance realizes that dance and music interrelated accompaniment, through inevitable implementation (Y Sumandiyu Hadi 2012:115) because of music functions as an internal tempo regulator dance, if a dance is not using musical accompaniment for dancing it feels less interesting. Sikambang Anak Dance with musical instruments used to accompany this dance is a tool Redab music and singing. Music Accompaniment to the Sikambang Anak dance using internal music (dendang from the musician himself) and external (an instrument played by musicians). Drum or regular musical instrument people call it gedap/dim is a musical instrument traditional originating from Mukomuko. Redab is played by hitting it. Gedab strokes are shaped like tum...tum...no....Tum...tum...

no...tum...tum...no. Great musical instrument played as a regulator and motion adjustment. Poems sung by musicians in the Sikambang Anak dance is a song that contains rhymes, singing in the Sikambang Anak dance usually accompanies existing movements in its presentation. If the song is sad, a singer often express it with such murmurs haaaa.....laiiii....hieeee....eeeeee. Every singing related to parts- the dance part, so the singing and Sikambang Anak dance cannot separated.

Make-up and fashion Dance performances act as elements complement to a dance performance, but the use of make-up and clothing in a dance performance you can't put aside because fashion becomes a picture that explains the expression from the dance performance. Form fashion also allows freedom move according to expression and dancing skills. Clothing used in Sikambang Anak Dance are dancers who playing the role of mother wearing clothes kebaya and long-sleeved shirt, skirt long cloth, head covering. Dancer who plays the role of father (male) wearing a shirt (sleeve long and short), trousers and hat. The clothes are forms simplicity and neatness trusted by the supporting community. Their everyday clothes use greater emphasis on neatness and comfort. This can symbolized that the clothes used is the para symbol dancers have a clean body and soul.

Props used in dance Sikambang Anak is a doll and cloth long. Puppets in the Sikambang Anak dance is used as a symbol substitute figure of a child. Dancer stepped into the arena performance using movement basembah or greeting. Children can't do the Sikambang Dancedisplayed without any properties doll, because of this dance story told about her husband's divorce wife fighting for custody child. Long cloth is also a

properties used in Sikambang Anak dance performance, cloth long in the Sikambang Anak dance become part of the dance as well symbolized as the protector of children. Knives are used as internal weapons husband and wife fight, Umbrella used as shade and betel nut carano as a complement in dance Sikambang Anak.

The floor pattern is a design floors that appear to be painted on the floor, The floor pattern is a person's position dancers, both solo dancers and pairs or in groups. In dance Sikambang Anak consists of straight lines and curved lines. The dancers move from dancer line point A to dancer point B and move along curved lines to form circle.

Place and time of performance Sikambang Anak dance usually adapt to needs supporting community. This dance It could be done in an open place, in the form of stages and arenas in the yard, for example at events cultural arts performances and events indecisive/marriage. Meanwhile time Sikambang Anak dance performances are frequent shown at night with The aim is to make this dance performance possible witnessed by many spectators from community and guests.

Sikambang Anak Dance has meaning related to life everyday in society. Meaning is the concept that everything exists has an outside purpose or goal its mere existence (Marsel Danesi 2011). While a symbol is something stimuli that contain meaning and values learned by humans (Deddy Mulyana 2013). So therefore basically meaning and symbols do not can be separated.

Sikambang Anak Dance implies that there is a dispute in marriage it is a must resolved amicably, and don't make a decision wrong. Sikambang Anak Dance have symbols in life everyday, describing how a mother's love for his son who always protects him his son. Benefits of Sikambang dance for children in society is as example in marriage for complement each other, because of the divorce not a good ending.

Variety of movements in the Sikambang Anak dance from time to time never have changes, the movement does not a lot because of ancient society don't know much about dance moves, so the movement is very simple and many movements are made over and over again. Sikambang Anak dance movements have their own meaning, This movement is the basembah movement, threatening movements and breaking movements step. The meaning of dance movements Sikambang Anak is described as following:

The Basembah movement is obeisance gesture to the guests. Marker Firstly, this movement lies with the dancer in a sitting position facing the direction spectators and guests present, then both palms put together pointing up straight at the in front of the dancer's body, then position dancers stand face to face and shake hands hand. Facing greeting gesture spectators and guests have signs politeness, respect and honor. Politeness was shown as a welcome and thank the audience and guests who have come and participated

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watching the Sikambang Anak dance is at the show. Value audience by respecting them, because the audience is a figure valued. The second marker is a dancer facing each other has a sign that the dancers have a low attitude yourself and respect yourself and others.

The Ngecam Movement Marker of movement This is located when the dancer performs movements such as raising your hand the top to bully the enemy and lower the other hand to protect when the enemy does resistance. Ngamcam movement has a sign of courage, firmness towards life and never break inside any circumstances. The movement of Mecah Langkah, This movement marker located when carrying out Forward movement ie forward with the right foot, backward ie with the right foot step to back, forward with left foot in step forward, right foot on behind, step forward and The left foot is shifted to step to the back. It means developing footsteps. Movement Break up the steps has Markers of agility and Be careful when taking the road the truth is even if it is teetering, no there is defeat in goodness, everything something has a way.

Symbolic meaning in dance Sikambang Anak is also seen from poetry what is sung contains advice be delivered. The poem is sung in the Sikambang Anak dance is persuasion rhymes in a sad tone as well muttering, has meaning in the form of an appeal to take care,

understand, respect and respect each other love in marriage. Every problem in marriage can be resolved without it quarrel leading to divorce, because divorce is not a good solution or ending. Through poetry the poem sung by the musician Hopefully it can add expression

dancers to live it up, so that The purpose of the Sikambang dance for children is understood and felt, not only for dancers but for every connoisseur children's sikambang dance.

At the Sikambang Anak dance performance use properties as characteristics His specialty is in the form of dolls, cloth long, and carano betel. Doll is the first marker seen from Doll. Dolls in general is a kind of toy that can various forms, esp humans or animals, as well as figures fiction. Long Cloth, Knife and Umbrella Long cloth is a cloth that measuring 3 to 4 meters usually made from batik. Long cloth occupy a special and even position including the legitimacy of local customs certain. Long cloth is widely used as a base for a mattress to sit on penghulu and ninik mamak at the ceremony custom.

The knife is the tool used to cut an object. Knife consists of two main parts, namely the blade knife and handle or knife handle. The knife blade is made of flat metal the edge is made sharp, this sharp edge called the blade. Knife handling generally elongated in shape can be held by hand. Form Knives are similar to swords, the difference is is that the blade of the sword is longer than knife blade On the show Children's Sikambang

dance uses a small knife its function is not to cut an object but rather as a weapon in a husband and wife fight, which can be interpreted as a means of defense yourself from enemy attacks.

The presence of Sirih Carano in dance Sikambang Anak has meaning itself (signified) which comes from ideology or a thought Air Berau community. Carano became a symbol that is full of meaning to give to the guests of honor. Sikambang Anak Dance contextual has a background related cultural phenomena with how it appears and the development of the Sikambang Anak dance in The existence of Air Berau Village can be seen inamong the communities associated with function. The function word indicates influence on something else, no stand alone but in a certain relationships can obtain its meaning and meaning, thus what is called functional isn't it is something that is attached to the context must be looked at of the whole.

The function of the Sikambang Anak dance as entertainment has meaning as an art in its nature only to enliven and celebrate a gathering, a form of entertainment dance does not focus on beauty the movement but only as entertainment. Sikambang anak Dance works as entertainment enjoyed by Air Berau community.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the research results obtained it can be concluded that dance Sikambang Anak is a dance traditional life at Sanggar Upik Berau, Air Berau Village, Regency Mukomuko, Bengkulu Province. Dance Sikambang Anak is inspired by A true story is a story about husband-and-wife divorce fighting over child custody. Sikambang Anak dance performance has its own meaning Air Berau village community. The meaning delivered can be seen from the form Sikambang dance the child himself, begins from movement, property and poetry (dendang). This dance has a meaning related to life public. The meaning of this dance teaches that problems in life married would be better if resolved amicably and don't make a decision wrong. Kindness always is at the forefront of life. Sikambang Anak Dance in the supporting community has two The function is art as entertainment and art as a spectacle. Satisfaction the audience depends on how far type of art in performance with Prioritize the weight and message conveyed convey.

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