



Meaning of Tattoos Atoin Meto Analysis in Southeast Province East Nusa

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Abstract

This study aims to determine the meaning and values are in the tattoo Atoin meto problem in this research is the true meaning and value of what is contained in the tattoo Atoin meto and values are contained in the tattoo Atoin meto. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to address the three issues. In this study used data sources include primary data, ie data collected directly from the individuals under investigation as a person who knows about the object and the research problem. Besides this research uses secondary data that the data in the form of written literature. Determination of informants used in this research is a *snowball sampling* by identifying key informants trust, so that the informants in this study are indigenous elders, community leaders and the tattoos. informant determination criteria is that having appropriate experience of research problems, adult, physically and mentally healthy. Data analysis techniques used in this research is descriptive qualitative that is done by: Reduction, Display and Verification of data. Meto Atoin meaning of the tattoo is a tribute to ancestors who believed, with a picture of their ancestors on the body. Values contained in the tattoo Atoin meto the principle of mutual assistance, moral values, religious values, the value of unity and brotherhood.

Keywords: Meanings; Tattoo; Atoin Meto

Introduction

Throughout his life humans do not live with their natural body, in because in a given society sometimes there is a tradition-a tradition that relation can change or add anything to their bodies. Humans always have and show ideas, creativity, taste, aesthetic, to feel his humanity throughout civilization. One was by adding reducing, changing, in many ways. The actions carried out by individuals or groups either voluntarily or compulsory even forced. Changes made to the human body has the goal of a wide range, changing from time to time as well as the different areas one culture with another culture (Martinus Ngau., 2015, 3: 108).

The word tattoo comes from the *Tatu* in *Tahitian* that means making a mark. The use of tattoos in the ancient world is closely linked to the values that flourish in the mass are: belief animism, dynamism even mysticism. Tattoos have a strong connection with the natural factors, emblems or symbols in the paste on the body of living creatures, including humans (Amy Krakow., 1994: 2).

Tattoos have four important functions for the public, one of which is to show the identity and difference in social status or profession. Sikerei eg shaman tattoo model form new tattoo is known for his expert hunting catch images of animals, such as pigs, deer, monkeys, birds, or crocodile. tattoos are also used chieftain (rimata). Tattoos are also used by tattoo artists (sipatiti) but, along with the times and the influence of mass media then stikma tattoos are synonymous with crime or criminality and so finally began to diminish because of the people would judge that the tattoo has started to gain appreciation (Steve Gilbert., 2000: 11).

In traditional societies tattoos are part of traditional rituals are permanently connected so that it becomes binding affinity, sign inseparable until death, but it also serves to show the social status of users and groups. For the people Atoin meto tattoo is a sign for the community so that it is not done arbitrarily bias there is a rule-a rule good choice of image, social status, as well as the placement of tattoos on the body.

The existence of Atoin meto tattoos are part of traditional religious rites and also art. Tattooing is believed to be sacred. But the reality now many of the shift in the meaning and use of the tattoo Atoin meto so in this paper will discuss the meaning and value of tattoos Atoin meto in East Nusa Tenggara province.

Tattoos Atoin Meto

Every work of art can be said to have meaning, especially the meaning of the content or the message given by the artwork. In a study or giving meaning or significance, given from the aesthetics, forms tattoo, sacred characters as well as other forms convey meaning symbolized beauty of form. The purpose of image formation to find meaning in the picture itself is based on the meanings given by the user or tattooist (Couto., 1999: 81).

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Humans are creatures of culture and also the owner of the culture. Culture and the man is a unity that can not be separated. Thus there is no man who does not have the cultural and otherwise there is no culture without people (Gazalba., 1981: 89). Culture is a whole system of ideas and the work of human familiarized with the study. There are seven elements of universal culture which is the contents of all the cultures that exist in this world. The seventh element of culture that includes the religious system and religious ceremonies, and community organization systems, knowledge systems, languages, art, livelihood systems, technology systems and equipment (Koentjaraningrat., 1972: 9).

In Indonesia, especially in East Nusa Tenggara province has a wide range of cultural one of which is the culture of tattoos that are believed and done for many - years Tharoci Leo (public: 84 years) said that at first tattoo made tattoos so that when he died, they can know each other and interact with his group in another world. Besides tattoos on the body believed to be a sign of ancestral spirits to make it easier to serve requests surviving family members. Because of the strong sense of brotherhood, they still want to keep that relationship when life on earth and have died. They believe that when death can still meet again in another world. It is the underlying initial manufacture.

Tharoci Leo (public: 84 years) stated that the tattoo (Lunat) more favored by women. This is because the tattoo is closely related with woven motif. Weaving activities are carried out daily activities of women. In these activities, there is provided a tool that can perpetuate the weaving pattern so that when woven, may be imitated. Therefore, the women do a tattoo motif on the arm, calf or thigh near the knee so that when weaving, the patterned tattoos that can be emulated.

For women, the tattoo can also be made in the abdomen. According to the community, usually tattooed on the abdomen is made at the time of the pregnant women with gestational age of 7 (seven) months with the intention that the stomach does not slack when tattooed. Tattoos abdomen performed from the mouth aunt take it down a section through the chin towards the stomach via the throat down the neck and above the breasts left and to the right and then down into the stomach through the middle of the breast to the abdomen. Tattoos can stomach shaped lizard, geckos, crocodiles and ikat motifs (Kaif).

From the story several informants surnamed Leo stated that they are derived from the crocodile that tattoo crocodile drawn on the body part to the memory of their ancestors, while shaped tattoo weaving motifs drawn adjacent to tattoo crocodile motif on the grounds as offering woven sarong or blanket to the crocodile as homage to their ancestors. In addition to offering to their ancestors, a tattoo found on both the belly female body, calf, thigh and hand made with the intent to replicate on a mission to make the weaving. Tattoos Atoin meto can be divided into two, namely the shape and tattoo motif. The first tattoo *Uis Oe* or tattoos animal form more specialized forms of crocodiles. Long before entry and developing Christianity Protestant communities still believe in things mystical and still believe that the power of the ancestors there. According to some informants surnamed Leo, they believe that they are derived crocodile. According to the belief of the villagers Kusi, tattoos *Uis Oe* made with the aim when he died, they can know each other and socialize with the group in the other. Besides tattoos on the body believed to be a sign of ancestral spirits to make it easier to serve requests surviving family members. Because of the strong sense of brotherhood. This pattern crocodile depict animals. Usually made on the hands, arms, thighs and calves. Animals crocodile believed to be the ancestral community. People believe that they are descended from crocodiles that motif is made in the form of a tattoo as an offering to the ancestors. Besides tattooing with crocodile motif is believed to be a sign to unite, introduce and unite people who have died so that they can meet in another world for having the mark as a bond.

Second tattoo *Kaif's* is a motif found in woven fabrics. Woven patterned tattoos are interlinked and mutually binding symbolizing unity, brotherhood, togetherness so that people become a single entity. Long before were found stationery, to recall the motif custom clothing custom clothing motif to draw the public on the grounds of their bodies when they weave can be viewed as an example of an existing image on their bodies. Tattoos patterned custom clothing is more favored by women, but there is also the man who has a tattoo motif this kaif. Tattoos kaif usually alongside tattoos *Oe Uis* as a sign that the offering will be given to the ancestors. Usually motif woven parallel with crocodile motif for motif woven made in the form of a tattoo as a symbol of an offering to the spirits of the ancestors. This is because the weaving is of high value goods price that deserves to dedicate to my ancestors.

The Value of Tattoos

Atoin Meto was significant value and is a measure of a thing, good or bad it is and the system contained in the way of life inherited from generation to generation. The values contained in the tattoo *Atoin meto* namely (1) the value of mutual assistance which contains the concept that man does not live alone, but life in a broad community that is the community that help others selflessly is the duty of each member of society. This is evident in the youth community involvement Kusi village Kuanfatu District of South Central Timor in the ritual before the tattoo process. This ritual is that it contains the value of mutual cooperation is not only reserved for the village youths Kusi Kuanfatu District of South Central

Timor, but it involves young men and women from the surrounding villages. They get together, make a deal to help each other search for tools and materials in the process of tattooing. According to local people, these activities are done willingly, without coercion. Gasper Sila (Society: 89 years) explains that the public trust is a mutual cooperation of cultural values and customs that must be kept in maintained in their lives. This shows that the principle of mutual assistance is one of the values shared by the village community Kusi Kuanfatu District of South Central Timor. (2) The moral, in which the public especially the young generation to know the culture of his tribe and moral messages contained in them so that these values are not forgotten by society. As the tattoo Atoin meto, according Aksamina Benu, (Society., 87 years) shape of a crocodile at the tattoo has a moral value that is a reminder of their ancestors that crocodiles and their award as a thank you because through ancestors, they can live. Through custom crocodile-shaped tattoo, they become people who are not believed to be forgetting something that determine their lives. Through this they also taught the value of loyalty that is true to who determines life. Shaped tattoo motif woven, moral worth that is present forms of the weaving motifs to their fathers that crocodile, because a tattoo shaped woven motifs made alongside the crocodile-shaped tattoo. Seeing this we can conclude that the District Kuanfatu Kusi Village community of South Central Timor, have high moral values in terms of beliefs and customs.

(3) The value of a religious and spiritual values of the highest divinity and absolute. This religious values rooted in trust or confidence man. Making the crocodile-shaped tattoo categorized as a religious act, as understood as a tribute to believed. (4) The value of unity and brotherhood that is evident is during the process through from start looking looking tattoo equipment and materials until the completion is always done together. The division of tasks in any business is divided regularly. A close brotherhood not only between members of the tribe but with other tribes as well as their mutual esteem and respect so as to create a familial relationship.

CONCLUSION

Tattoos in traditional societies is not only limited to images carved on the body but behind it there is a very valuable meaning to the user tattoos. Tattoos Atoin meto a traditional tattoos that are considered important and have diverse meanings and different functions. Tattoos Atoin meto has two types of tattoos and tattoo Kaif Uis Oe. There are some values are in Atoin meto tattoos include the value of gotong-royong, moral values, relegius values, and the values of brotherhood.

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