Aksara Ulu Lubuklinggau and Its Implementation in the Senior High School Cultural Arts Learning Material Module

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Abstract

This research aims to: (1) Examining the form of ulu lubuklinggau script for high school cultural arts learning materials. (2) Making a high school cultural arts module with the material of the ulu lubuklinggau script. (3) Testing the feasibility of the ulu lubuklinggau script material module for high school cultural arts learning materials. This research uses a qualitative descriptive methodological approach to examine the history, origin and form of the ulu lubuklinggau script which then the data with the Research and Development (R&D) methodology approach is processed into cultural arts learning material products. At the same time it aims to test the feasibility of the Ulu Lubuklinggau script learning material module. Based on the results of qualitative research and development research, it can be concluded as follows: (1) Lubuklinggau ulu script is one of the script varieties in the Rencong Nusantara script group which consists of several variants of Sumatran script. The study of the Lubuklinggau ulu script began after the discovery of the Gelumpay Manuscript at the Negeri Ulak Lebar site, which contains stories about teachings in Hinduism that teach how to meditate or meditate. However, the existence of the Lubuklinggau ulu script has only been known and studied by a small number of academics in Lubuklinggau City, which is considered less effective in sustainable preservation. (2) Module making as a cultural preservation technique is one of the effective strategies in preserving culture in the community. In making the learning material module of the Lubuklinggau ulu script, the needs analysis data showed that there was no special subject or special material that specifically discussed the Lubuklinggau ulu script in the scope of formal education. Therefore, the module was made by following the module making procedure and going through the product validation process. The result is a learning material module on typography of the Lubuklinggau ulu script consisting of three main materials, namely two-dimensional art, Lubuklinggau ulu script, and typography, which can be used as a learning resource in learning cultural arts in grade X high school. (3) The learning material module of the Lubuklinggau ulu script has been declared feasible because each stage of its manufacture is carried out systematically and in accordance with the module design procedure. The assessment results from media experts, material experts, class teachers, and participants showed excellent results with the category "Very Good". The design of this module aims to appreciate and preserve the cultural identity of the Lubuklinggau City community, as well as a response to the task of the education unit in preserving regional culture and teaching it to the next generation.

Keywords: Aksara Ulu Lubuklinggau; Cultural Arts Module; Material Implementation

Introduction

Palembang, South Sumatra, is a city with the oldest civilization in the archipelago, its name taken from the Malay language with the meaning of a place of low land inundated with water. The ancestors of the Palembang people utilized this geographical condition for commerce through the river as a vital and effective means of transportation. The strategic location and economic activities make Palembang have a high and diverse pattern of cultural acculturation through interaction with incoming traders. Social interactions in Palembang and its surroundings provide diverse cultural variations. The influence of the Srivijaya Kingdom in the past made Palembang a transcontinental trade center, which contributes to the diversity of traditions today. This makes the culture and traditions found in South Sumatra rich and unique (Supriyanto, 2010: 65). However, many art traditions from various regions in South Sumatra, including Palembang, are facing extinction and are only known by a handful of people. One of the important art traditions to preserve in South Sumatra Palembang is the Ulu Lubuklinggau script.

The script is an intangible part of cultural heritage associated with tradition and oral expression. Its function as representation and documentation of history, science, culture, and art is important in human progress. The use of script distinguishes prehistoric and historical times. Before independence, Indonesians generally used script to write in specific regional languages, influenced by Indian Hindu religious culture before the influence of Islam and colonialism. Ulu script is a form of writing found in the hills of Sumatra and used by the Rejang Tribe, Serawai Tribe, and Lembak Tribe. It is used for various purposes such as recording travel, documenting local wisdom, recounting sagas, recording legal traditions, writing poetry or verse, healing, spreading religious teachings, and conveying messages from ancestors. As according to (Baroroh, 1994:55) script is a cultural work from the past in the form of handwriting that describes a variety of documentation, expressions of thoughts and feelings. For example, manuscripts at the Negeri Ulak Lebar Lubuklinggau site use ulu script on bamboo pieces called 'Gelumpai' (Suwandi, 2012:27).

The 'gelumpai' script consists of eight pieces of bamboo slats produced in the 16th to 17th centuries AD. It originated from the Malay sub-ethnicity in the Uluan area of Lubuk Linggau and Musi Rawas. Using ulu script, the manuscript contains moral teachings and messages that reflect Hindu and Buddhist doctrines and their development in the Uluan area of Palembang South Sumatra. This manuscript also tells about life following the teachings of Hinduism and the story of the hermitage of the monks (Ottoman, Rochmiatun, 2020:104). The discovery of historical artifacts in Lubuklinggau City shows the interpretation of the ancestors' ideas in the form of implicit, conceptual messages, and as a cultural reference at that time. Ulu script as a symbol of artistic creativity, engraved on media with special techniques such as carving and carving. The ulu script becomes the cultural identity of Lubuklinggau City, a local language that is conveyed orally, influences abstract concepts and cultural values, and acts as a social guide. The presence of the ulu script shows that the cultural habits of the riverbank have a significant intellectual tradition. Manuscripts with the ulu script are used as a means of disseminating religious teachings, medical knowledge, fatwas, mantras and local wisdom. The ulu script has become a cultural value system and part of the identity of the people of Lubuklinggau City, distinguishing it from other regions.

The existence of the Lubuklinggau ulu script is a social reality, especially for traditional communities that use local languages in daily communication. The Lubuklinggau ulu script becomes a cultural value system that binds and reflects the local culture of the Lubuklinggau City community. Although the Lubuklinggau ulu script grew and developed in a hereditary habit pattern, many people do not recognize this tradition in the context of writing. The lack of cultural education about the ulu script of Lubuklinggau has led to the fading of the cultural identity. The slow implementation of cultural inheritance causes concerns about the preservation of the ulu script in the Lubuklinggau City community. Lack of knowledge about local cultural values (local wisdom) in the next generation can occur if not

pursued systematically. The limited references and academic studies that discuss the ulu script as a local culture of Lubuklinggau City are systematic problems. This can result in long discussions from various scientific perspectives, especially because the Lubuklinggau ulu script writing tradition is in a society that still maintains local and traditional values in the context of regional language, but does not understand the writing system.

The preservation of Aksara Ulu Lubuklinggau through education is an important effort to convey cultural values and shape the character of the younger generation. Research in education science shows that learning occurs throughout life, both through individual and community interactions. Therefore, designing local culture-based learning media in formal education units is an important step to achieve local culture-based learning objectives and develop students' understanding and skills related to their own culture. So far, material about the ulu script of Lubuklinggau has only been studied in a small scope of academics or individuals who specifically study it. However, they often experience difficulties in implementing the knowledge in their daily lives. The integration of the Lubuklinggau ulu script as local cultural content in cultural arts subjects, which are included in category 'B' in the 2013 Curriculum, as well as a 'Compulsory' subject in the prototype/independent curriculum for the Senior High School level, can be a solution to fill this gap.

This is in line with the opinion of Criticos (1996) in Daryanto (2010: 5), which states that the media is one of the components of communication, which is the carrier of messages from communicators to communicators. Lubuklinggau ulu script can be integrated as material in cultural arts subjects, especially two-dimensional fine arts. The use of the Lubuklinggau ulu script in typography art can produce a variety of letterforms that are artistic and fun for readers. In addition, the ulu Lubuklinggau script can also be developed into ornamental objects. This material is expected to promote local wisdom values and preserve cultural heritage for the younger generation through two-dimensional works of art. In the prototype/independent curriculum, integration of local content in other subjects is possible. The development of local cultural materials in formal subjects aims to disseminate knowledge about the ulu script of Lubuklinggau, provide a comprehensive understanding, and develop learners' skills. The learning process begins with learning the history and various forms of letters in the ulu script of Lubuklinggau, with the hope of inspiring learners' creativity in appreciating and expressing their culture through two-dimensional fine art. In the implementation of local culture-based arts and culture learning, a good learning strategy is needed. One of them is using a learning module that is attractively designed and easily understood by learners. This module is compiled in digital format to strengthen learners' independent ability to search for information and develop their knowledge. The utilization of technology can be a support in the development of the learning process so that the learning module can be maximally utilized as a learning resource.

This development research aims to integrate aksara ulu Lubuklinggau in the subject of fine arts and culture of class X SMA through module development. The module focused on the visualization of the Lubuklinggau ulu script as an example for students. Students are expected to be able to recognize the Lubuklinggau ulu script and apply it in two-dimensional form or other media according to the steps of the techniques taught in the module. One of the techniques taught is to use typography in the writing of the Lubuklinggau ulu script, so that the letters and text made are legible and attractive. This module is prepared in digital format to facilitate independent access and utilization by learners, anytime and anywhere. This development research was conducted with the title "Ulu Lubuklinggau Script and its Implementation in High School Cultural Arts Learning Material Module". The aim was to explore and implement the use of the Ulu Lubuklinggau script in high school cultural arts learning through the development of an appropriate module.

Research Methods

This research uses qualitative methods and Research and Development (R&D) development. The qualitative method is used to study the validity, origin, form, and content of the Lubuklinggau ulu script in depth which is then processed again using the R&D method to review and implement each stage of product development of creative and interesting learning materials. The descriptive qualitative approach will be focused on collecting data through three methods, namely interviews, observations, and documentation from two main locations, namely PGRI Silampari University and SMA Negeri 1 Lubuklinggau which are then processed using the triangulation method to combine and compare all data obtained and ensure data reliability by comparing various sources and different points of view, including data from direct observation of the object of research.

Discussion and Results

Nusantara script is a specialized writing system for regional languages. Etymologically, "aksara" means letters, sounds, or vowels. In general, script is a writing system that uses visual representations to express language. The writing medium can be paper, stone, wood, cloth, and others. The script is considered as something eternal because it comes from Sanskrit, the word a+kṣara; the prefix a- (अ) means 'not', while kṣara (क्षर) means 'annihilated'. As a medium of documentation, the script captures events, cultures and civilizations through writing. By using literal evidence, we can learn about the past that is full of glory and gloom, providing valuable lessons in life. One example of the diversity of Nusantara scripts is the ulu lubuklinggau script which developed in the Huluan area of the Batanghari Sembilan River.

The discussion of the ulu lubuklinggau script as one of the variants of the archipelago's rencong script needs to be focused on understanding its characteristics. The ulu lubuklinggau script is part of a cognate script in the rencong script group, such as Rencong Script, Lampung Script, Rejang Script, and Kerinci Script. Although they have similarities in shape and characteristics, each script variant has differences in some letters or punctuation marks used.

The ulu lubuklinggau script has a different letter typography anatomy from the rencong kaganga script. This can be seen in the documentation table made by Drs. H. Suwandi at the History Laboratory of PGRI Silampari University, Lubuklinggau City. The ulu Lubuklinggau script is placed in the first column of the table because the Lubuklinggau region is directly adjacent to other provinces. Research on the ulu Lubuklinggau script was conducted after the discovery of eight pieces of bamboo called gelumpai by the local community. The gelumpai contains ulu script writing and was found at the Ulak Lebar Site in Lubuklinggau City. The writing is a translation of ancient manuscripts written in Sanskrit and Old Malay. An explanation from Yeni Asmara, M.Pd, as Head of the History Department of Silampari University who validated the research of Drs. H. Suwandi, explained the collection objects related to the ulu script of Lubuklinggau. The finding of this bamboo gelumpai provides a deeper understanding of the ulu lubuklinggau script and provides insight into its use in the context of history and language in Lubuklinggau City.

During research at the Negeri Ulak Lebar site in 1980, 8 pieces of ancient manuscripts made of bamboo, called glumpay, were found. This manuscript uses the ulu script (rencong script) which has the same letters as Rejang letters, but uses Sanskrit (Suwandi, 1993:2-3). The manuscript's literal translation emphasizes the important role of Maharesi and priests in reciting mantras as part of Hinduism. The mantras have an important role in seeking inner peace and erasing human mistakes as a Hindu religious practice. This teaching provides an example that when a person commits a mistake, even those with honorable positions such as Rishis and Priests, they will lose their honor. Therefore, the practice of asceticism (tapa) became one of the teachings taught, spread, and developed in Hinduism in the uluan

region of Palembang at that time.

The development of the Lubuklinggau ulu script material module in cultural arts subjects involved several stages. The first stage is a preliminary needs study analysis, which includes evaluating potential constraints and collecting relevant materials. The second stage is product design, which consists of five steps, namely determining learning objectives, making flowcharts, designing materials, visualizing materials, and compiling product materials. The third stage, the final stage, involves product validation, in which an assessment and evaluation of the learning material module is carried out based on aspects of presentation, content, and learning methods. The evaluation was conducted by experts, cultural arts teachers, and grade X high school students in Lubuklinggau City through questionnaires and interviews. The results of this evaluation were used to revise the learning materials module.

A.　Needs Analysis of Learning Materials Module

In June 2022, a needs analysis and information gathering was conducted for research on efforts to integrate local culture, such as the ulu script of Lubuklinggau, in cultural arts learning. This process involved direct observation, field studies, interviews with various related parties, and literature review relevant to the research topic.

B.　Product Design

The learning product design stage is the first step in creating a structured and systematic learning product to achieve learning objectives. It involves problem identification, needs analysis, formulating learning objectives, concept determination, design development, selection of learning strategies and methods, and development of materials and learning aids. Trial and evaluation of learning products are also conducted to ensure their effectiveness. The purpose of this stage is to produce a learning material module of ulu lubuklinggau script.

C.　Initial Product Design

With the orientation of material planning that refers to the learning objectives of the cognitive and psychomotor domains to develop thinking and understanding skills, product development includes making flowcharts, designing materials, visualizing materials, visualizing materials, compiling products.

Fig.1 Front and Back Module Cover Design

D.　Product Validation

The product was evaluated by material experts, media experts, and classroom teachers to determine the feasibility of its use in learning. The material validation results have a minimum score of

4 and a maximum score of 5. The total score obtained was 84, with an average score of 3.81 and a percentage of 95.25%. By referring to these scores, it can be concluded that the material validation results fall into the "Very Good" category. The validation score obtained from the media expert was 80, with an average score of 4.00 and a percentage of 80.5%. Therefore, it can be concluded that the results of these scores can be classified as "Very Good". the results of the exposure of the average score conducted by the class teacher obtained a score of 88 with an average of 4.82 and a percentage of 95.5%. The results of the validation scoring fall into the "Very Good" category.

E.   Product Design Revision

In the aspect of the material presented in the module is feasible to be tested in learning activities at school. As for the visual aspects of the material, it underwent several revisions from media experts, such as on the cover added script elements that strengthen the content of the module, the addition of concept maps to be more detailed, and descriptions that added aspects of relevance.

F.   Product Trial

To identify learner responses, the product trial stage was carried out by presenting the product to 31 class X students. This stage lasted for two meetings. At the beginning of the meeting, learners were given instructions to carry out a practical task that involved making a table of letters and reading markers of ulu lubuklinggau script. After completing the task, learners were given an additional task to create words using at least three letters of the ulu lubuklinggau script, using the table and punctuation markers they had previously created.

Fig 2. Learning activities to make a script table

The second meeting students were given a little introduction to the ulu lubuklinggau script and began to be introduced to typography material. Furthermore, giving practical assignments to test students' creativity in two-dimensional art activities. The first stage is for students to determine the word that will be made into a typographic work of art, after making the design of the letters of the ulu lubuklinggau script with dotted lines or faint lines, the second stage is for students to create volume on the letters and as a final stage students are assigned to choose the stylization of the ends of the letters that they already have a power point after mescan barcode in the module attachment section.

Fig 3. The process of making typography script

After completing the assignments, the results were obtained from five aspects of the assessment of four assignments, script letter table, script reading marker, translate ulu lubuklinggau script, selection of typographic stylization, typography of ulu lubuklinggau script, exposure description. Using a Likert scale of 1-4, it resulted in an average accumulated learner assessment of 3.45 and a percentage of 86.25%. Thus, the scoring results fall into the "Very Good" category.

Conclusion and Suggestions

The ulu lubuklinggau script is a cognate script in the rencong script domain of the archipelago consisting of several script variants, namely Rencong Aksara, Lampung Aksara, Rejang Aksara, and Kerinci Aksara, although each script variant has differences in some letters or punctuation marks used. The ulu script of Lubuklinggau was studied after the discovery of an ancient manuscript (gelumpay), at the Negeri Ulak Lebar site in 1980, this manuscript reads ulu (rencong script) using the same letters as Rejang letters, but uses Sanskrit, containing stories about teachings in Hinduism that teach how to meditate or meditate. The existence of the ulu lubuklinggau script which has only been known and studied by historical and language academics in Lubuklinggau City is still considered ineffective in sustainable and massive preservation of the ulu lubuklinggau script. The selection of modules as a cultural preservation technique is one of the effective strategies for preserving culture in society, especially by considering several things such as the quality of the material, compatibility with local culture, the use of learning models that are easy to understand, and the ability of technology to expand the reach of the module. By considering these things, the module can be an effective tool in strengthening cultural identity and preserving the cultural heritage of the community.

The making of the learning material module of the ulu lubuklinggau script was carried out from the results of the needs analysis data collection that there was no special subject or even special material that specifically discussed the ulu lubuklinggau script in the scope of formal education. Furthermore, in accordance with the module making procedure and the product validation process, it produces a product of typography learning material for the ulu lubuklingau script with three main materials, namely two-dimensional fine art, ulu lubuklinggau script, and typography which can be used as a learning resource in learning class X high school cultural arts.

The Lubuklinggau ulu script learning material module has been declared feasible because every step of the manufacturing process until testing is carried out systematically and according to the procedure for making modules and product tests. The results of the media expert assessment showed a

score of 80 with an average score of 4.00 and a percentage of 80.5% which fell into the "Very Good" category. Meanwhile, the results of the material expert assessment showed a score of 84 with an average score of 3.81 and a percentage of 95.25% which also fell into the "Very Good" category. The assessment of the class teacher showed a score of 88 with an average score of 4.82 and a percentage of 95.5%, which again fell into the "Very Good" category. At the stage of testing to students, this module received an average score of 3.45 and a percentage of 86.25% which fell into the "Very Good" category. In addition, the design of this module is also the first step to appreciate and preserve the existence of the cultural identity of the Lubuklinggau city community, which in this case is the Ulu Lubuklinggau Script. This module needs to be taught to the next generation and as an answer to the task of the education unit as a forum for preserving regional culture.

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