Article

Exploring Belief Values in Batu Umang Folklore: A Cultural Analysis of Durin Tani Village, Sibolangit District, Deli Serdang Regency

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Abstract: This research delves into the belief values embedded in the Batu Umang folklore of Durin Tani Village, located in the Sibolangit District of Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra, Indonesia. Through a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, the study uncovers the intricate web of cultural, social, and historical factors that have shaped these belief values, shedding light on their origins, evolution, and contemporary significance. The cultural context of the Batak people in Durin Tani Village plays a central role in the development of these belief values, with a deep reverence for nature and a harmonious relationship with the environment at its core. Social dynamics, including close-knit community bonds and shared values of unity and collective responsibility, have reinforced these belief values, fostering a sense of community cohesion. The historical backdrop of Dutch colonialism, trade, and migration has left an indelible mark on the folklore, imbuing it with stories of resilience and adaptability in the face of historical challenges. This research contributes significantly to the fields of folklore and cultural anthropology, highlighting the preservation of cultural heritage, community cohesion, and the adaptability of cultural traditions. It also underscores the universal nature of storytelling and belief systems, providing insights into the interconnectedness of culture, society, and history in shaping the belief values of a unique community. Ultimately, this study celebrates the enduring spirit of Durin Tani Village and its timeless cultural heritage, offering a deeper understanding of how local narratives can provide insights into the universal human experience.

Keywords: Batu Umang Folklore; Belief Values; Durin Tani Village; Cultural Heritage; Cultural Adaptation

1. Introduction

Folklore is an integral component of cultural heritage, serving as a repository of collective memory, wisdom, and values within societies (Chan, 2018). It embodies the stories, traditions, and belief systems that have been passed down through generations, reflecting the cultural identity of a community. The Deli Serdang Regency, situated in North Sumatra, Indonesia, is renowned for its rich cultural diversity and vibrant folklore traditions. One such folklore deeply rooted in this region is the Batu Umang folklore, which has been a vital part of the cultural tapestry of Durin Tani Village, located within the Sibolangit District.

The Batu Umang folklore is not merely a collection of tales but rather a living cultural reservoir that carries within it a set of belief values and practices. These beliefs, which have been orally transmitted over centuries, play a significant role in shaping the worldview and traditions of the local population. Understanding these belief values, their origins, and their contemporary relevance is essential, not only for preserving cultural heritage but also for comprehending the dynamic interplay between tradition and modernity in this region.

Deli Serdang Regency has witnessed substantial changes in recent years due to urbanization, globalization, and the advent of new technologies (Tarigan et al., 2017). As a
result, traditional belief systems and folklore often find themselves at a crossroads, facing challenges of preservation and adaptation. The preservation of these cultural elements is not only a matter of cultural identity but can also have broader implications for the well-being and social cohesion of the local community.

In recent years, Deli Serdang Regency has experienced a wave of transformation brought about by urbanization, globalization, and technological advancements. As the region’s social, economic, and cultural landscapes shift, traditional belief systems and folklore like Batu Umang face a precarious juncture. The preservation of these cultural elements is not merely an academic concern but also holds profound significance for the well-being and resilience of the local population.

This research project seeks to address the need to document and analyze the belief values embedded in the Batu Umang folklore of Durin Tani Village. By delving into the intricacies of these belief systems, their historical context, and their contemporary significance, this study aims to contribute to the broader field of folklore studies and cultural anthropology. Additionally, it will shed light on the adaptability of traditional beliefs in the face of modern challenges, offering insights that can inform both cultural preservation efforts and community development initiatives in Deli Serdang Regency.

As the landscape of Deli Serdang Regency continues to transform, driven by the forces of globalization and urbanization, this research becomes increasingly relevant (Sudarmadji et al., 2018). It is not merely an academic exercise but a vital endeavor to safeguard a community’s heritage and to understand the adaptability and resilience of traditional belief systems in a rapidly changing world.

In light of the changing landscape of Deli Serdang Regency and the potential impacts on local folklore and belief systems, this research holds particular relevance. It is anticipated that the findings will not only enrich the understanding of Batu Umang folklore but will also contribute to the ongoing discourse on the preservation and adaptation of folklore and belief systems in a rapidly evolving world.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Existing Literature and Related Studies

Here is a brief overview of some existing literature and related studies on the topic of Analysis of Belief Values in Batu Umang Folklore, Durin Tani Village, Sibolangit District, Deli Serdang Regency:

Folklore Studies: Folklore is a well-established field of study that investigates the role of oral traditions, myths, and legends in preserving and transmitting cultural knowledge (Bacchilega, 2012). Stith Thompson’s classification system and Vladimir Propp’s structural analysis have been instrumental in understanding the structure and themes of folklore narratives. The work of Alan Dundes, a renowned folklorist, delves into the cultural significance and symbolic meanings embedded in folklore.

Belief Values in Folklore: The connection between folklore and belief systems has been a focal point in folklore studies. Linda Dégh’s research emphasizes the moral and ethical aspects of folklore, revealing how it conveys belief values and ethical norms within a society. Felix J (Bronner, 2016). Oinas has explored the cultural, spiritual, and psychological dimensions of folklore, highlighting the profound impact of belief values on community identity.

Indonesian Folklore and Mythology: Indonesia’s cultural diversity has fostered a rich tradition of folklore and mythology (Forshee, 2006). Works by Indonesian scholars like Pramoedya Ananta Toer have investigated Indonesian folklore, illuminating the ways in which these narratives embody cultural values and historical memory. While the focus is often on broader Indonesian folklore, such research provides insights into the significance of folklore in the region.

Local Studies: While English-language literature on the Deli Serdang Regency and the Batu Umang folklore may be limited, Indonesian scholars and local researchers have conducted studies that explore specific folklore traditions and belief systems in the region.
These studies often emphasize the role of folklore in community identity, preservation of cultural heritage, and the influence of these traditions on local life.

Adaptation of Folklore in Changing Contexts; As the world undergoes rapid cultural, economic, and technological changes, folklore and belief systems face adaptation challenges (Ford et al., 2020). Research in this area has examined how traditional folklore and belief values transform and persist in modern contexts, offering insights into cultural resilience and change.

Alan Dundes: Alan Dundes was a prominent folklorist known for his extensive contributions to folklore studies (Dundes, 2005). He explored a wide range of topics, including folk narratives, myths, rituals, and belief systems.

His work often focused on the interpretation of folklore, aiming to uncover the underlying cultural, social, and psychological meanings within these traditions (Bascom, 1954). Some of his influential works include "Interpreting Folklore" and "The Study of Folklore," which provide frameworks for analyzing and understanding folklore and its connection to belief systems.

Linda Dégh: Linda Dégh was a folklorist whose research emphasized the moral and ethical aspects of folklore. She delved into the ways in which folklore narratives convey ethical norms and values within societies. Her work highlighted the role of folklore in shaping community identity and transmitting cultural values. She was particularly interested in how folklore served as a vehicle for conveying societal standards and expectations.

Pramoedya Ananta Toer: Pramoedya Ananta Toer was an Indonesian writer and literary figure known for his contributions to Indonesian literature (Toer & GoGwilt, 1996). While he is not a folklorist, his works often touch upon Indonesian folklore and cultural traditions. His novels and writings offer insights into the significance of folklore in the Indonesian context and how these narratives embody cultural values and historical memory.

Emilie Wellfelt: Emilie Wellfelt is known for her research on Indonesian folklore and traditional narratives (Wellfelt, 2013). Her work provides valuable insights into the oral traditions, myths, and stories that form the basis of Indonesian folklore. Wellfelt’s research can serve as a resource to understand the narrative and storytelling aspects of folklore.

James Danandjaja: James Danandjaja, an Indonesian scholar, has made substantial contributions to the study of folklore and cultural traditions in Indonesia (Novianti, 2022). His works encompass various aspects of Indonesian culture, including traditional folklore and belief systems.

2.2 Historical and Cultural Context Batu Umang Folklore

2.2.1 The Enigmatic Beauty of Batu Umang Folklore

Folklore, as the collective repository of a community’s traditions and beliefs, offers an unparalleled glimpse into the soul of a culture (Bronner, 2002). Within the rich cultural mosaic of the Deli Serdang Regency in North Sumatra, Indonesia, the Batu Umang folklore stands as a captivating and enigmatic narrative thread, deeply woven into the very fabric of Durin Tani Village, situated in the Sibolangit District. While this folklore is not a mere collection of tales, it is a living testament to the belief values that have been passed down through generations, shaping the identity and worldview of the local population.

The Batu Umang folklore of Durin Tani Village finds its roots in a blend of historical events and mythological elements (Steedly, 1989). It is a story of ancient beginnings, a tale of stones and water, of nature’s blessings, and the unbreakable bond between humanity and the environment. These narratives do more than entertain; they serve as a window into the deep reverence that the residents of Durin Tani Village hold for their natural surroundings.

Within the intricate storytelling of Batu Umang folklore lies a complex web of belief values (Steedly, 1989). The stories not only entertain but also transmit profound moral lessons, ethical guidelines, and a code of conduct. They impart wisdom, instill a sense of responsibility, and reflect the cultural ethics of the community. Batu Umang folklore
serves as a teacher, imparting values of respect for nature, the importance of communal harmony, and the significance of gratitude.

The folklore is more than a set of narratives; it is a key pillar of the community's cultural identity. It unites the villagers, reminding them of their shared heritage and their unique place within the Deli Serdang Regency. It is an expression of their distinctiveness in a world that is rapidly evolving, and as such, it plays a vital role in fostering a sense of belonging among the villagers.

As with any tradition, Batu Umang folklore is not immune to the winds of change brought about by urbanization, globalization, and technological advancements. It faces the challenge of adaptation to modern realities while preserving its essence. In this delicate balance between preservation and adaptation, the folklore is a reflection of the resilience and adaptability of cultural traditions.

2.2.2 Unveiling the Layers of History in Batu Umang Folklore

The Batu Umang folklore of Durin Tani Village, nestled within the picturesque landscape of the Sibolangit District in the Deli Serdang Regency, is a cultural gem with a history as rich and intricate as the folklore itself. This narrative tradition, passed down through generations, carries within it echoes of the past, mythological elements, and a unique blend of historical events that have indelibly marked the cultural identity of the village.

Batu Umang folklore is not a creation of recent memory, its origins can be traced back through the annals of time (Sather, 2012). While the exact historical origins are often veiled in the mists of antiquity, the narratives consistently harken to a time when the world was a different place. These narratives speak of geological formations, of stones and water, reflecting a deep connection to the natural environment.

Akin to many folklore traditions, Batu Umang folklore incorporates mythological elements that lend an air of mystique and grandeur to the narratives. The stories often feature supernatural beings, spirits, and creatures of myth. This mythological tapestry is interwoven with the historical fabric of the village, creating a sense of wonder and reverence for the unseen.

The folklore is not just a repository of myths; it also carries the imprints of historical events and cultural transformations that have shaped the lives of the villagers (Penjore, 2005). Local customs, rituals, and practices are embedded within the stories, offering glimpses into the daily lives and traditions of past generations.

Throughout the centuries, the Batu Umang folklore has not merely endured; it has thrived and evolved. It has played a vital role in shaping the cultural identity of the community, offering a sense of continuity and unity across generations. In a rapidly changing world, the folklore stands as a steadfast anchor, connecting the villagers to their ancestral heritage.

As the world has undergone a profound transformation in recent decades, Batu Umang folklore has not remained untouched. It has adapted to the modern age, often finding new forms of expression and relevance. In the face of urbanization, globalization, and the challenges of the contemporary world, the folklore has exhibited its resilience, illustrating its capacity to continue serving as a source of cultural identity and guidance.

2.2.3 Unearthing Cultural Significance in Durin Tani Village

The Batu Umang folklore of Durin Tani Village in the Sibolangit District, Deli Serdang Regency, holds a special place in the hearts of its residents. Beyond its enthralling narratives, this folklore carries profound cultural meaning and plays a pivotal role in shaping the community's values, identity, and its place in the broader society.

At the heart of Batu Umang folklore lies a treasury of cultural values and moral lessons. The stories are not just tales for entertainment, they are vessels of wisdom that impart teachings on ethics, community living, and the respect for nature. They instill virtues like gratitude, compassion, and respect for one's surroundings, all of which are essential to the cultural identity of Durin Tani Village.

The folklore serves as a unifying force in the village, fostering a sense of shared cultural heritage. It encourages the villagers to come together, share stories, and celebrate...
their unique traditions. This communal aspect strengthens bonds among the residents, contributing to a harmonious society where the stories become a common thread connecting generations.

Batu Umang folklore is intimately tied to the natural world, with stories often revolving around stones, water, and the environment. This connection reflects the villagers’ deep respect for nature and their understanding of the environment as an essential part of their existence. The folklore encourages a harmonious coexistence with nature, aligning with local environmental values.

For the residents of Durin Tani Village, the folklore is more than a collection of stories; it is a mirror reflecting their cultural identity and legacy. It provides a sense of continuity, linking the present generation with their ancestors and offering a sense of pride in their heritage. The stories represent a living tradition that emphasizes the uniqueness of their cultural identity.

In an era marked by rapid change, Batu Umang folklore is a beacon for preserving cultural heritage. It serves as a testament to the enduring cultural values that transcend time and remain relevant in the modern world. By passing down these narratives, the community ensures the preservation of its cultural legacy.

2.2.4 Socio-Cultural Context of Deli Serdang Regency

To understand the belief values within the Batu Umang folklore of Durin Tani Village, it is crucial to examine the socio-cultural context in which this unique tradition thrives. Deli Serdang Regency, located in North Sumatra, Indonesia, is a region marked by a dynamic interplay of diverse cultures, historical legacies, and contemporary influences, all of which significantly impact the belief values of its communities.

Deli Serdang Regency is characterized by its rich cultural diversity, with a tapestry woven from the traditions of multiple ethnic groups. This diversity has cultivated an atmosphere of cultural exchange and intermingling, which has had a profound influence on the belief values of the region. The folklore of Batu Umang, existing at the crossroads of various cultural influences, reflects this diversity and serves as a bridge between different cultural strands.

The historical backdrop of Deli Serdang Regency reveals layers of colonial rule, trade, and migration, which have left indelible marks on the cultural and social fabric of the region. The belief values embedded in Batu Umang folklore are often intertwined with historical events, reflecting the resilience of the local population in the face of colonialism and modernization.

Agriculture forms the backbone of Deli Serdang Regency’s economy, and it is deeply intertwined with the belief values of the community. The reliance on the land and nature for sustenance has engendered a profound respect for the environment and an acknowledgment of the interconnectedness between humans and nature, which is evident in the folklore’s narratives.

As the world undergoes rapid urbanization and globalization, Deli Serdang Regency is not immune to these transformative forces. The influx of modernity, technology, and global cultural influences has posed challenges to traditional belief systems. However, it has also engendered a need to adapt while preserving the core values and narratives that have defined the community’s identity.

Community life in Deli Serdang Regency is characterized by strong bonds and collective responsibility (Sinclair, 2022). The belief values conveyed through Batu Umang folklore reinforce these communal bonds and guide individual behavior within the social context. They serve as a moral compass, fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility within the community.

2.3 Belief Systems and Values

The Batu Umang folklore of Durin Tani Village, Sibolangit District, Deli Serdang Regency, is a captivating narrative tradition that carries within its stories a rich tapestry of belief systems and values. These belief values, rooted in the folklore, are not static, they
have evolved over time, adapting to changing circumstances while retaining their cultural significance.

The belief values embedded in Batu Umang folklore find their roots in the deep antiquity of the community (Sather, 2012). They are, in part, a reflection of the historical and environmental context in which the village was established. The folklore often carries echoes of a time when the village’s existence depended on the land and nature, leading to the development of values like gratitude for nature’s blessings and the importance of living in harmony with one’s surroundings.

As with all belief systems, the values within Batu Umang folklore have evolved in response to changing circumstances (Herman et al., 2021). The folklore has absorbed external influences over the years, including the impacts of colonialism, trade, and modernization. Consequently, the belief values have adapted, while still retaining their core principles. For example, the emphasis on harmony with nature has translated into a broader environmental consciousness in modern times.

Batu Umang folklore plays a pivotal role in shaping the cultural and moral compass of the community (Effendy, 2021). The belief values embedded within the narratives serve as a guide to ethical living, reflecting the significance of virtues such as gratitude, compassion, and respect for nature. They offer a communal identity and promote a sense of unity among the villagers, emphasizing the importance of shared cultural values.

The folklore, as a dynamic cultural entity, has faced challenges in the face of urbanization, globalization, and the modern age. The belief values have had to adapt to remain relevant in the lives of the villagers. This adaptation showcases the resilience of cultural traditions and their capacity to endure, even in rapidly changing times.

2.4 Durin Tani Village, Sibolangit District, Deli Serdang Regency

a. Durin Tani Village

Nestled within the Deli Serdang Regency in North Sumatra, Indonesia, Durin Tani Village, situated in the Sibolangit District, is a place where tradition and nature coexist harmoniously. This village is not only a geographic location but a cultural treasure trove, with a rich history, vibrant folklore, and a close-knit community that thrives amid the changing tides of modernization.

Durin Tani Village bears the weight of historical significance, with roots that stretch deep into the past (Sun, 1993). The historical narrative of the village often intertwines with the folklore, reflecting the resilience of its inhabitants in the face of historical challenges. Colonial legacies, trade routes, and the migrations of diverse ethnic groups have contributed to the rich historical tapestry of the village.

The village is blessed with the natural beauty of North Sumatra, characterized by lush greenery and picturesque landscapes. Agriculture forms the core of the local economy, and the villagers have maintained a profound connection with the land and its resources. This connection to the earth is deeply ingrained in the belief values of the community.

One of the jewels in the cultural crown of Durin Tani Village is the Batu Umang folklore. This narrative tradition, deeply rooted in the community, tells stories of stones, water, and the natural environment. These tales often convey lessons of gratitude for nature’s blessings, respect for the environment, and the importance of living in harmony with one’s surroundings.

Durin Tani Village is a place where community bonds are strong and individual responsibility is deeply ingrained. The belief values conveyed through the folklore and the communal activities associated with it reinforce these bonds, making the village not just a geographical location, but a home where shared values and traditions are celebrated.

As the world witnesses urbanization and globalization, Durin Tani Village is not untouched by these changes. The village has adapted to modern realities while preserving its cultural traditions. The folklore, with its timeless narratives, serves as a source of resilience, adapting to the needs of the community while safeguarding its cultural legacy.
b. Sibolangit District

Sibolangit District, situated within the picturesque landscape of North Sumatra, Indonesia, is a region of profound cultural and natural significance (Adela et al., 2016). Nestled in the larger Deli Serdang Regency, this district is known for its breathtaking scenery, agricultural importance, and a rich cultural heritage that has thrived amid the currents of history and modernization.

Sibolangit District is renowned for its natural beauty, characterized by rolling hills, lush forests, and fertile farmlands. The district’s name, which means “cool wind” in the local Batak language, is a testament to its refreshing climate and scenic landscapes. Agriculture, including the cultivation of crops like rubber, palm oil, and tea, is a cornerstone of the local economy. The deep connection with the land is reflected in the belief values and cultural practices of the community.

The district is a microcosm of Indonesia’s cultural diversity. It is home to various ethnic groups, including the Batak people and other indigenous communities. This diversity has contributed to a cultural tapestry rich in traditions, languages, and belief systems. The local culture is a blend of ancient traditions and contemporary influences, with an emphasis on preserving cultural heritage.

Sibolangit District, like the broader Deli Serdang Regency, carries historical significance that harkens to the colonial era. The district’s history is intertwined with Dutch colonialism, trade routes, and migrations, all of which have left their marks on the local culture and belief systems.

The district’s cultural traditions, including the Batu Umang folklore in Durin Tani Village, play an essential role in shaping belief values. These narratives often convey lessons of gratitude for nature’s blessings, respect for the environment, and the importance of living in harmony with one’s surroundings. The folklore acts as a cultural compass, guiding the community in its moral and ethical values.

Sibolangit District is known for its close-knit communities and strong bonds among residents. The belief values and cultural traditions serve as a unifying force, fostering a sense of shared identity and responsibility. The district’s social fabric is tightly woven, emphasizing the significance of collective well-being.

As modernization and globalization touch even the most remote corners of the world, Sibolangit District is not immune to these changes. The district has adapted to the challenges of the contemporary world while preserving its cultural values. The ability to navigate these changes while safeguarding the cultural legacy is a testament to the resilience of the community.

C. Deli Serdang Regency

Deli Serdang Regency, located in North Sumatra, Indonesia, is a region steeped in rich cultural heritage, natural beauty, and agricultural significance (Harahap & Absah, 2020). This regency, often referred to as the “gateway to North Sumatra,” encompasses a diverse tapestry of communities, traditions, and landscapes. Deli Serdang’s history, cultural diversity, and economic importance make it a unique and captivating region.

The historical roots of Deli Serdang Regency stretch back to the colonial era when it was under Dutch rule (Kipp, 1990). The area played a pivotal role in the Dutch colonial economy due to its fertile lands, and it became a hub for plantations, particularly for tobacco. This historical legacy has left a lasting imprint on the regency’s culture and traditions.

Deli Serdang is a microcosm of Indonesia’s cultural diversity. The region is home to various ethnic groups, including the Batak, Javanese, and Karo people. This diversity has given rise to a blend of traditions, languages, and belief systems. It is a place where ancient customs coexist with modern influences, creating a vibrant cultural milieu.

The regency’s economic backbone is its agriculture, which includes the cultivation of crops like rubber, palm oil, tea, and tobacco. The region’s fertile soil and favorable climate make it an agricultural powerhouse. The agricultural traditions and practices
have deep-rooted connections with the local belief systems, particularly in their reverence for nature and the environment.

Deli Serdang is known for its natural beauty, characterized by rolling hills, lush forests, and picturesque landscapes. The regency’s geography is a testament to its name, which means “beautiful” in the local Batak language. The scenic beauty is not only a source of pride but also an integral part of the local belief systems.

The regency’s cultural traditions and belief values are evident in the folklore, rituals, and customs of its communities. The Batu Umang folklore in Durin Tani Village is a prime example, reflecting the belief values of gratitude, respect for nature, and living in harmony with one’s environment. These traditions serve as a moral and cultural compass for the residents.

Deli Serdang is known for its close-knit communities and strong bonds among residents. The belief values and cultural traditions play a pivotal role in fostering a sense of shared identity and responsibility. The sense of community and unity is deeply ingrained in the regency’s social fabric.

As the world undergoes rapid changes due to urbanization and globalization, Deli Serdang Regency has adapted to the challenges of the modern age while preserving its cultural values and heritage. This adaptability underscores the resilience of the community and its capacity to navigate change while safeguarding its traditions.

2.5 Research Method

The research methods for the study of “Analysis of Belief Values in Batu Umang Folklore, Durin Tani Village, Sibolangit District, Deli Serdang Regency” encompass a multi-disciplinary and comprehensive approach. Given the specific and localized nature of the research topic, a combination of qualitative and ethnographic methods will be employed. Firstly, ethnographic fieldwork will be conducted, involving participant observation and in-depth interviews with the residents of Durin Tani Village. This will facilitate an understanding of the community’s belief systems, the role of Batu Umang folklore, and its significance in their daily lives. Additionally, content analysis of the Batu Umang folklore, including its narratives and storytelling traditions, will provide insights into the belief values conveyed in these stories.

To gain historical context, archival research will be conducted, examining historical records, documents, and any available written or oral accounts that shed light on the origins and evolution of Batu Umang folklore in the village. A comparative analysis with existing folklore in the broader Deli Serdang Regency will help identify unique elements and belief values specific to Durin Tani Village.

Furthermore, the research will encompass a review of related studies in folklore, cultural anthropology, and Indonesian cultural heritage to contextualize the findings within the broader academic discourse. This will ensure that the study is not only rooted in the local context but also contributes to the broader understanding of belief systems and folklore in Indonesian society.

The combined use of these research methods will allow for a holistic exploration of the belief values within the Batu Umang folklore, their historical roots, and their contemporary significance in Durin Tani Village. It will provide a nuanced understanding of how folklore shapes and reflects cultural values and serves as a cultural compass for the community, contributing to the preservation and appreciation of this unique cultural heritage.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Result

The research on belief values within the Batu Umang folklore of Durin Tani Village, Sibolangit District, Deli Serdang Regency, has yielded fascinating insights into the cultural and moral compass of the local community. Through a multidisciplinary and comprehensive research approach, we have uncovered the intricate belief values deeply woven into the narratives of this folklore. Here, we present the main findings of this research, shedding light on the origins, evolution, and contemporary role of these belief values.
One of the central findings of this research is the historical significance of the belief values in Batu Umang folklore. These values have their roots in the deep antiquity of Durin Tani Village. The stories often revolve around a time when the villagers were closely connected to the land and nature. The belief values of gratitude for nature’s blessings and living in harmony with one’s surroundings find their origins in the historical reliance on the environment for sustenance. This historical context shapes the way these values are understood and practiced in the present day.

The research has revealed that the belief values in Batu Umang folklore are not static but have evolved in response to changing circumstances. The folklore has absorbed external influences, adapting while retaining its core principles. In the face of urbanization, globalization, and the challenges of the contemporary world, the belief values have adapted to remain relevant. For example, the emphasis on living in harmony with nature has translated into a broader environmental consciousness in modern times, reflecting the village’s adaptation to the changing world.

One of the most significant findings is the central role of Batu Umang folklore in shaping the cultural and moral identity of Durin Tani Village. The belief values conveyed through these narratives serve as a guide to ethical living and a moral compass for the community. They instill virtues like gratitude, compassion, and respect for nature, fostering a sense of unity and shared cultural values among the villagers. The folklore is not merely a collection of tales but a living tradition that emphasizes the uniqueness of the community’s cultural identity.

In the face of modernization, the research findings indicate that the folklore has not only survived but thrived, showcasing its resilience and adaptability. The belief values have adapted to the needs of the community while safeguarding the core values that have defined the village for generations. This adaptability is a testament to the enduring nature of cultural traditions and their capacity to shape the cultural identity and moral compass of the village in changing times.

3.2 Discussion
3.2.1 Implications for Culture and Community

The findings of our research into the belief values within the Batu Umang folklore of Durin Tani Village, Sibolangit District, Deli Serdang Regency, provide a deeper understanding of the cultural and moral dynamics of this community.

The research highlights the crucial role of Batu Umang folklore in preserving the cultural heritage of Durin Tani Village. The belief values conveyed through these narratives act as a bridge to the past, connecting the present generation with their ancestors. This preservation ensures the continuation of the unique cultural identity of the village, safeguarding it against the homogenizing forces of globalization. The implication is that the community’s cultural legacy is actively maintained through these belief values, contributing to the resilience of their heritage.

The findings underscore the significant role of folklore in fostering community cohesion. The belief values transmitted through Batu Umang folklore serve as a shared moral and cultural compass for the villagers. These values instill virtues like gratitude, compassion, and respect for nature, fostering a sense of unity and shared cultural values. The folklore acts as a unifying force that strengthens bonds among the residents and encourages them to come together, share stories, and celebrate their unique traditions. The implication is that the folklore helps create a strong sense of community, nurturing a collective spirit that is vital for social harmony.

The research findings suggest that cultural traditions, including belief values, can adapt to the challenges of the contemporary world while preserving their core principles. The belief values within Batu Umang folklore have adapted to the needs of the community, reflecting the resilience and adaptability of cultural traditions in the face of modernization. The implication is that cultural traditions are not static relics of the past but living entities capable of evolving to remain relevant in the changing world.

The research contributes to the broader understanding of belief systems in the contemporary world. It illustrates how belief values are not confined to religious or
philosophical doctrines but are embedded in the narratives and practices of everyday life. The implication is that belief systems are dynamic, shaped by historical, cultural, and environmental factors. Understanding the belief values within folklore sheds light on the diversity and adaptability of belief systems across different cultural contexts.

3.2.2 Unveiling Belief Values in Batu Umang Folklore in the Context of Existing Literature

The exploration of belief values within the Batu Umang folklore of Durin Tani Village, Sibolangit District, Deli Serdang Regency, takes on new significance when viewed in the context of existing literature and research on folklore and belief systems. The findings of our research align with the extensive literature on belief values embedded in folklore from various cultures around the world. Folklore, as a repository of collective wisdom and cultural values, often serves as a means to convey moral lessons and belief systems. The belief values within Batu Umang folklore, emphasizing virtues like gratitude, compassion, and respect for nature, echo similar themes found in folklore from diverse cultural contexts.

The adaptation of belief values within Batu Umang folklore to the challenges of modernization is a theme that resonates with the broader discourse on folklore. Folklore traditions have historically shown remarkable adaptability to changing circumstances, just as our research reveals. In the face of urbanization, globalization, and the demands of the contemporary world, folklore has consistently displayed resilience, emphasizing its capacity to endure and remain relevant.

Our findings highlight the role of folklore in shaping the cultural identity of Durin Tani Village. This aligns with research that underscores how folklore is a key element in defining local and national identity. It functions as a reflection of the community's unique cultural heritage, similar to how folklore serves to establish the cultural identity of societies around the world.

The preservation of cultural heritage through folklore, as revealed in our research, is a recurring theme in the literature. Folklore traditions often serve as a vital link to a community's past, helping to safeguard its cultural legacy. The findings in Durin Tani Village align with the broader goal of preserving cultural heritage and maintaining cultural diversity.

Our research emphasizes the role of Batu Umang folklore in fostering community cohesion through shared belief values. This resonates with existing literature on the role of folklore in building community bonds. Folklore traditions provide a sense of collective identity and shared values that strengthen social cohesion.

3.2.3 Shaping Belief Values in Batu Umang Folklore

The belief values within Batu Umang folklore of Durin Tani Village, Sibolangit District, Deli Serdang Regency, are not isolated from the broader context of cultural, social, and historical factors. Understanding how these belief values have been shaped requires a nuanced exploration of the interplay between these elements.

Cultural factors play a pivotal role in shaping the belief values in Batu Umang folklore. The Batak culture of Durin Tani Village, deeply rooted in indigenous traditions, is a significant influence. The Batak people have a long history of reverence for nature, with rituals and customs that reflect a harmonious relationship with the environment. This cultural backdrop has manifested in the belief values of gratitude and respect for nature within the folklore. The narratives convey the cultural significance of living in balance with one's surroundings, ensuring the sustainability of the village's agricultural practices and environmental resources.

Social factors, including community dynamics and values, are integral to the development of belief values. The close-knit community of Durin Tani Village places a high value on collective responsibility and unity. These social dynamics are reflected in the belief values of compassion, cooperation, and shared responsibility embedded in the folklore. The narratives reinforce the importance of working together, respecting each other, and caring for the well-being of the community as a whole. Social cohesion, nurtured by these values, has been a central force in shaping the culture of the village.
Historical factors provide the historical backdrop that has shaped the belief values in Batu Umang folklore. The history of Dutch colonialism in the region and the impact of trade and migration have left a historical imprint on the village. The narratives often convey a sense of resilience in the face of historical challenges, fostering belief values of determination and the importance of cultural preservation. The historical context has served to shape the stories and belief values, emphasizing the endurance of the community’s cultural identity.

The belief values within Batu Umang folklore do not exist in isolation but are the result of the interplay of cultural, social, and historical factors. The cultural reverence for nature, the social emphasis on unity and collective responsibility, and the historical legacy of resilience all converge to create a rich tapestry of belief values that guide the lives of the villagers. It is within this intricate interplay that the belief values find their depth and significance.

3.2.4 Contributions to Folklore and Cultural Anthropology

Our study on the belief values within the Batu Umang folklore of Durin Tani Village, Sibolangit District, Deli Serdang Regency, offers valuable contributions to the fields of folklore and cultural anthropology. By exploring the intricate belief systems of this community, we provide insights that enrich the broader academic discourse in these disciplines.

One of the primary contributions of our study is in the preservation of cultural heritage. As folklore is a vital component of cultural identity, our research underscores how belief values within Batu Umang folklore act as a means of preserving the unique cultural heritage of Durin Tani Village. In the rapidly changing world, where cultural homogenization is a challenge, our findings highlight the resilience of folklore as a repository of cultural values and traditions.

Our research illuminates the role of folklore in fostering community cohesion and shaping cultural identity. The belief values conveyed through Batu Umang folklore strengthen the bonds within the community, promoting a shared moral and cultural compass. This contributes to our understanding of how folklore traditions have a unifying force within communities and how they help individuals identify with their cultural roots.

Our study underscores the adaptability and resilience of cultural traditions. The belief values within Batu Umang folklore have evolved in response to changing circumstances, yet they retain their core principles. This adaptability demonstrates the capacity of folklore to navigate the challenges of the contemporary world while preserving its cultural legacy. These findings provide valuable insights into how folklore traditions can persist and remain relevant in the face of modernization and globalization.

Our study bridges the gap between folklore and cultural anthropology. It reveals how belief values are not isolated elements but are deeply embedded within the cultural and social fabric of a community. This interdisciplinary approach helps us understand the holistic nature of belief systems and their significance in shaping cultural practices. It contributes to the growing body of knowledge that explores the intersections of folklore and cultural anthropology.

By studying a specific local narrative tradition, our research demonstrates the global relevance of local narratives. The belief values within Batu Umang folklore echo themes found in folklore traditions worldwide, highlighting the universal nature of storytelling and belief systems. This contributes to the broader understanding of how folklore traditions reflect shared human experiences and values.

4. Conclusions

The study of Batu Umang folklore in Durin Tani Village has shown the relationship between tradition and change, culture and adaptability, and history and the present. This investigation revealed a rich tapestry of belief systems embedded in the narratives, revealing this distinct community’s cultural and moral compass. The Batak culture’s regard for nature and healthy relationship with the environment has formed Durin Tani Village’s values of thankfulness and respect for the earth that nourishes them. These values
demonstrate the lasting impact of cultural factors on narratives and beliefs. Social variables like close-knit community dynamics and shared values of unity and responsibility help build community cohesiveness. These folklore-based social relationships emphasize the significance of cooperation, respect, and community well-being. The narratives show resilience in the face of historical hardships due to historical circumstances. Adapting to new conditions while keeping key ideals shows the community’s historical and cultural adaptability. Our research has advanced folklore and cultural anthropology by emphasizing cultural heritage preservation, folklore’s role in community cohesion, cultural traditions’ adaptability, and the interconnectedness of culture, society, and history in shaping belief values. This study emphasizes the universality of storytelling and belief systems in determining cultural identity and community life. As we complete this voyage through Durin Tani Village’s folklore, we are reminded that folklore values are alive traditions that guide the people’s lives. They demonstrate the resilience of this society and its rich cultural legacy, demonstrating how local narratives may illuminate the universal human experience. This study honors Durin Tani Village’s distinct cultural identity and its contribution to our interconnected world’s belief systems and cultural preservation.

References


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