

Sapta Cipta Rasa Tunggal Offering dance at the 51st Dies Natalis of ISI Surakarta

ABSTRACT

This research is a case study of the offering dance (Tari Sesaji) performance at the ISI Surakarta 51st Dies Natalis Ceremony (held on July 15th, 2015) by seven dancers. The seven dancers previously acted as leaders of the Senate procession. After the senate members sat in their seats, they danced to express the character of Bima so that the dance was part of the ceremonial event. The sesaji dance expresses Bima's character, which in Javanese collective knowledge is a complex system of symbols. The approach to this phenomenon through the constructivism paradigm is the interpretivism perspective. It has a methodological mission to elaborate reflective events. The research question posed is what constitutes a gift or alms in the Sapta Cipta Rasa Tunggal – title of that dance — as offering dance considering that offerings lexico-etymologically means giving donation or charity. Triangulation data as objects of observation are videos of dance performances via the YouTube platform, interviews with source persons, and library data. The conclusions drawn are as follows: 1) this Sesaji Dance is a form of mnemonic (kinetic mnemonic) in the form of motion as a reflective memory tool; 2) offering dance and imitation of the imaginary character in the kind of the Bima containing Doxa – knowledge that does not need to be verified – that the ethical attitudes humans should have are teteg, tatag, teguh, tanggon, and tanggap.