



Comparative Study of Ramayana Legend Story Performance as a Tourist Attraction in Prambanan, Purawisata, and Uluwatu

Delfyan Intan Nurmala Fadin

Universitas Gadjah Mada, DIY, Indonesia, email: delfyan_01@gmail.com

Abstract. The Ramayana Legend Show is one of the popular tourist attractions in Indonesia. This study will present a comparison of the presentation of the Ramayana Legend Story performance at Prambanan Temple, Purawisata Jogja and Uluwatu Bali. The purpose of this study is to understand the difference between the two tourist attractions. The method used in this study is qualitative descriptive with comparative studies. Data collection is carried out through observation, interviews, and literature studies. The results showed that there were differences in appearance, acculturation with local culture, quality of performance, and overall experience for tourists at Prambanan Temple, Purawisata and Ulu Watu Bali. Attractions use the open stage of Prambanan Temple, Mandira Baruga in Purawisata and Ardha Candra Cultural Park in Ulu Watu, Attractions in Prambanan Temple use gamelan with modern lighting, Purawisata uses gamelan combination technology and background lights, while in Uluwatu the sound is only from the voice of the Cak-cak-cak Dancer and clarified by the voice of a Dalang.

Keywords: Attractions, Ballet, Ramayana, Prambanan Temple, Purawisata, Uluwatu

INTRODUCTION

Ballet is a blend of art, drama, and dance performed simultaneously on stage or in front of a crowd. In ballet there are elements of drama and dance. So ballet can also be called the art of drama or stories that are presented in the form of dance without dialogue, usually accompanied by music (gamelan). Ballet in Java is growing rapidly, especially in Yogyakarta province. This is because in the area there are many relics of Hinduism and Buddhism in the form of temples. These heritage temples store stories of heroism (epics) stored as carvings or reliefs on the temple walls. The reliefs on the temple walls tell the stories of puppetry. For example, Prambanan temple tells the Ramayana story on the reliefs of its temple walls.

In 1961, Gusti Pangeran Haria Djatikusuma, who was the son of Susuhunan Pakubuwono X. was the chairman of tourism along with Doctor Soharso led a team to plan a large theater in front of Roro Jonggrang temple in central Java. In Bali a small version of ballet is also made. Ballet develops along with the many interests of people who admire it. People like ballet because they can enjoy the stories presented by visualizing dance moves and accompanied by music. In 1965 I Wayan Barata once made ballet without using a play. At that point, the dancer fully uses

her body language to describe the characters in this story. The same is the case with the story. Although this ballet is performed without a puppeteer, the audience can still understand the meaning of the ballet performance and can follow the course of the performance.

In the 1980s ballet developed by adding the role of a puppeteer. This is done because the language of motion expressions is felt to be less able to touch the audience. For this reason, a puppeteer is needed to add narrative to the dance performance. A popular ballet in Indonesia is the Ramayana ballet.

LITERATURE

Ramayana stories have become part of the art of Indonesian society, in addition to various other arts such as literature and fine arts. The story of Rama and Sinta, presented as a hero that combines dance and drama without dialogue, but prioritizes strong dancers' movements and expressions in lieu of dialogue. The performance of Ramayana stories adapted to the cultural background and language of different audiences, Ramayana Ballet was first staged on the open stage of Prambanan Temple with the background of temple reliefs on July 26, 1961 initiated by Lieutenant General of the TNI GPH Djati Kusumo. The open stage was designed by Harsoyo from UGM with a size of 50x12 square meters with a capacity of 3,000 spectators. The choreographer of Ramayana ballet by Soerjohamidjojo and Soeharso involved 865,000 people consisting of gamelan drummers, dancers and fashion designers.

Elements of Ballet

The performance of ballet involves many elements. These elements include:

- Text or story is an important element in the performance of ballet performance. The stories that are often used as plays or stories in the ballet that are performed are the Ramayana and Mahabharata stories. In addition, folklore originating from regions in Indonesia can also be used as a source of stories.
- Dance Dance is part of ballet dance. In ballet cannot be separated from the existence of dance, because ballet is a combination of art, drama, and dance. It is through dance that the message or dialogue that you want to convey to the audience can be known.
- Music or gamelan Music or gamelan is also no less important than the elements that support ballet. With the accompaniment of music or gamelan, the dancers can dance according to the storyline that has been read by the puppeteer. Whether it's a dance that reflects joy, sadness, or anger.

- Tandak Tandak is a chant performed by a puppeteer to initiate or interrupt a particular dialogue in a particular situation. It means a sign as a depiction or reinforcement of a story that will or is unfolding by singing. According to the mastermind, tandak is also used to avoid dialogue gaps. The gap occurs in war scenes and travel scenes, among others.
- Sendon Sendon are songs sung by artisans or sendons. Sendon material usually comes from quotes taken from geguritan.

Ballet performance

Yogya and Solo versions of ballet performance. The creation of the ballet involved a choreographer, namely Raden Tumenggung Kusuma Kesawah, a gamelan player. Meanwhile, the composers are Raden Lurah Martopangrawit from Surakarta, Kanjeng Raden Tumenggung Wasitodipuro from Yogyakarta and Kusnadi as the designer. Initially, ballet was made for tourism performances more than 150 dancers were recruited from Yogyakarta, Surakarta, and Prambanan to perform in the show. Yogyakarta and Surakarta dance styles are combined. New movements are made to suit the setting and audience.

Performance quality

The quality of the show is determined by the presence of a puppeteer. Since the role of a mastermind, the ballet performance has become more interesting. The quality of the ballet no longer depends on the dance, but rather on the quality of the puppeteer who also has a big hand in the ballet performance. The latest development of ballet is to use decoration sets, with various creative tricks. The appeal of a ballet no longer lies in the dance, puppeteer or narrative alone, but also in the play of props, set decorations, and the use of other spectacle elements. At this time, there are many ballet that use big screens, star figures (in the form of barong), the use of smoke, flames, including fireworks and mercon eruptions

This is very different from the first ballet where every depiction of the atmosphere is done imaginatively using dance movements. Ballet must always follow the development and advancement of technology so as not to be empty of spectators. The development of Ramayana ballet itself can be said to be quite interesting because it essentially combines elements of traditional culture with modern technology, such as lighting and spatial planning. This phenomenon shows that the existence of the Ramayana Ballet itself cannot be separated from the global element attached to it. This is reasonable considering that Ramayana Ballet also seeks to make tourists from foreign countries as its market share so that "international packaging" becomes an inseparable part of the event (Akbar, 2016).

Traveller experience

Tourist experience is the feeling or emotion that tourists feel after enjoying a tourist destination. A tourist experience is a subjective mental state perceived by travelers as an individual's subjective evaluation of events that include affective, cognitive and behavioral aspects. The travel experience begins before arrival at the destination and ends with the memory of the experience and plans to make a visit in the past. The key to profiting in the tourism industry is to create meaningful, unique and memorable travel experiences that can elicit traveller retention. The intention to revisit tourists is influenced by complex factors including trust, satisfaction and experience (Prakoso et al., 2020).

METHOD

The method used in this study is qualitative descriptive with comparative studies. Data collection is carried out through observation, interviews, and literature studies. The method used in this study is qualitative descriptive with a comparative study approach. The qualitative descriptive approach aims to understand the phenomenon under study by exploring information in depth about the characteristics, context, and related subjective aspects. Comparative studies, on the other hand, involve comparisons between two or more groups or cases to identify differences, similarities, or emerging patterns.

Data collection in this study involves three methods, namely:

- **Observation:** Observation is carried out to directly observe the phenomenon under study. The researcher will record events, behaviors, or interactions that are relevant to the purpose of the study. Observations can be made directly in the field or through video or audio observations.
- **Interviews:** Interviews are used to obtain information directly from research participants. The researcher will ask a series of structured or semi-structured questions to the individuals or groups involved in the study. Interviews can be conducted face-to-face or by phone or online communication.
- **Literature study:** Literature study involves searching and analyzing literature, publications, or sources of information relevant to the research topic. Researchers will collect and analyze the information found to support and enrich their understanding of the phenomenon under study.
- Using qualitative descriptive methods and comparative study approaches, researchers can gain a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under study, identify

differences or similarities between groups or cases being compared, and provide an in-depth picture of the research topic.

DISCUSSION

Prambanan Ramayana Ballet is a performance that combines dance and drama without dialogue, based on the Ramayana story and performed near Prambanan Temple on Java Island, Indonesia. Prambanan Ramayana Ballet is the most routine Ramayana Ballet since 1961. Ramayana stories based on Hindu epics adapted to Javanese culture make the Ramayana Ballet a unique dance. More than 200 professional dancers and local musicians participated in the Ramayana Ballet which took place on an open-air stage with Prambanan Temple as a backdrop. Ramayana Ballet is also told in relief on Shiva Temple. The Ramayana story is Rama's journey in rescuing his wife Sita (in Java commonly called Sinta) who was kidnapped by the king of the Alengka State, Ravana.

Prambanan Ramayana Ballet is usually held every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, performances on the open stage (Open Stage) only in the dry month (May-October), outside of that performances are held on the closed stage (Trimurti Stage) in January-April & November-December. Prambanan Ramayana Ballet is the most routine Ramayana dance since 1961. The open stage of Prambanan Temple which was previously made in the first performance in 1961 is still included in the Prambanan Temple complex, so then a stage was made located on the southwest side of the temple. Open-air stage shows can only be held during the dry season from May – October which is open from 7:30 to 21:30 depending on weather conditions. The performance in the closed building is presented in full story format from the time Rama joins the competition until Rama's reunion with Sinta.

Ramayana Purawisata Ballet has been held since 1976 at the Purawisata (Mandira Baruga) open stage, Yogyakarta. The open stage at Purawisata can accommodate up to 600 spectators, the stage is held every night starting at 20:00 – 21:30 WIB. Ramayana Ballet in Bali appeared in 1965 at the celebration of the 5th anniversary of Kokar Bali (now SMK Negeri Sukawati) with performance art by I Wayan Beratha. Since then students of Kokar Bali and students of ASTI (now ISI) Denpasar began to often perform Ramayana Ballet which was also accompanied by karawitan and puppeteer stories. The Bali Arts Festival which began to be held since 1979 began the performance of Ramayana Ballet in a colossal form, its performance on the open stage of Ardha Candra Taman Budaya. Dozens of shirtless men formed a circle formation. Shouting the word "Cak! Cak! Cak! simultaneously.

Behind them, the sun descended slowly. Sinking gracefully reflects the golden orange. The wind hit the face gently, making me drift away in a magical moment. The setting is a steep beach and sea. A total of about 50 men entered the stage, sitting in a circle formation. Before dancing, there is a priest who prays for them and sprinkles holy water. The kecak dance then begins. The thunderous sound of "Cak-Cak!" gave the audience a magical impression.

The comparison of Ramayana ballet art performances at Prambanan Temple, Purawisata and Uluwatu Bali is different in the setting, technology, stage management which is colored by culture and tourists who are present as spectators. Ballets in Prambanan and Purawisata Temples use modern (global) technology in the form of audio-visual systems (sound and lighting), while in Uluwatu using the mouths of dancers.

Figure 1. Ballet Stage Lighting at Prambanan Temple



Source: Ekowati 2013

Figure 2. Ramayana Ballet Performance at Purawisata Jogja



Source: Java Heritage Tour (2023)

Figure 3. Ramayana Ballet Performance at Ulu Watu Bali



Source: Kompas.com

When comparing the performance of Ramayana ballet in Prambanan temple, Purawisata, and Uluwatu Bali, there are several factors that can be used to distinguish it. These factors include backdrops, technological aspects, stage direction, and the impression of the audience present as observers. The Ramayana ballet performance at Prambanan Temple takes place near the vast Hindu temple complex in Indonesia. The stunning natural environment and significant historical background of the temple create a deep and mesmerizing atmosphere for the spectators. Usually, Ramayana ballet performances at Purawisata take place in specially built theaters or designated performance spaces.

These places are specially designed to enhance the overall atmosphere in harmony with the Ramayana narrative. The stage backdrop and decorations are meticulously crafted to immerse the audience in the setting of the story. The Ramayana ballet performance at Uluwatu Bali takes place in a wide open venue offering stunning views of the sea and cliffs. The grandeur of the natural environment significantly enhances the overall experience for the audience. Prambanan and Purawisata temples are two locations that utilize contemporary technology through the incorporation of audio-visual systems, including advanced sound and lighting systems. These innovative additions greatly enhance the viewer experience, providing more captivating and interactive encounters.

Performances at Uluwatu follow traditional practices, using the dancers' mouths as a means of communication. Notably, the show does not rely on any form of audiovisual technology. The role of stage management is decisive in the world of theatrical productions. It involves coordinating and organizing various aspects of production, ensuring that everything goes smoothly and according to plan. The stage manager is responsible for overseeing rehearsals, managing the backstage area during performances, and communicating important information to the cast and crew. They work closely with the director, designers, and technical crew to ensure the production vision is realized. In addition, stage managers are skilled problem solvers, adept at solving any problems that may arise during the production process.

They play an important role in the overall success of theatrical productions. Production at Prambanan Temple is organized by individuals affiliated with the temple administration. The show has a significant cultural influence as it is closely linked to historical heritage and religious beliefs. Purawisata is a famous tourist destination that offers a unique blend of performing arts and entertainment. Tailor-made to meet the needs of visitors, Purawisata features captivating Ramayana ballet performances that integrate cultural elements with commercial appeal. Usually, performances in Uluwatu are arranged by local artists or community organizations.

This entity is responsible for upholding the longstanding Ramayana ballet tradition, a cultural practice that has been preserved and passed down from generation to generation. Watching Ramayana ballet performance at Prambanan Temple provides a more cultural and spiritual experience because the audience is in a place that has high historical and religious value. The experience at Purawisata provides a combination of entertainment and culture. The audience can enjoy the show with good production quality and also enjoy the facilities and services provided at the tourist spot. The show at Uluwatu offers a closer experience to Balinese culture and natural beauty.

Spectators can enjoy the show against a stunning backdrop of coral cliffs and oceans. Overall, although all three venues feature Ramayana ballet performances, they have differences in terms of setting, technology, stage management, and tourist experience. Prambanan Temple offers a more cultural and spiritual experience, Purawisata combines cultural and commercial elements, while Uluwatu provides a closer experience to Balinese culture and natural beauty.

CONCLUSION

The difference in the performance of the story of the Ramayana Legend as a tourist attraction in Purawisata Jogja and Uluwatu Bali can be seen from history, directors, artists. The setting in Prambanan is a temple with modern lighting technology, in Purawisata the open stage with modern technology firecrackers and light, while in Ulu Watu in the form of a beach with steep cliffs and the sea at dusk with fire lighting. Costumes and management differ according to local culture. Globalization can be said to be like a double-edged knife, where one side has the potential to become a threat, especially for developing countries.

Indonesia is one of the countries in the world that tries to develop glocalization as a strategy to compete in the midst of the wave of globalization that swept the world with its Ramayana ballet. The idea of Ramayana itself emerged inseparably from Indonesia's contact with the global world. Ramayana Ballet as a manifestation of Indonesia's glocalization strategy can still be increased in added value. One of these improvements can be done by synergizing stakeholders who have been successful in the implementation of the Ramayana Ballet.

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