

Review of Cultural Preservation Theory in Cultural Heritage Sustainability Case Study of Peliatan Ubud Palace

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to review cultural preservation theory in the context of cultural heritage sustainability with a case study of Peliatan Palace in Ubud, Bali. The intended conservation theory is a theory by Sendjaja which consists of Culture Experience and Culture Knowledge. Peliatan Palace is one of the cultural heritage sites in Bali which is still preserved today and has high historical and cultural value. This research uses qualitative methods with a case study approach to reveal how cultural preservation is carried out at Peliatan Palace and the factors that influence the sustainability of this cultural heritage. The research results show that cultural preservation at Peliatan Palace is carried out through various efforts, including maintaining the traditional architecture of the castle, carrying out traditional ceremonies, and active involvement of local communities in cultural activities. Internal factors such as the commitment of the Palace family and external factors such as government support and tourism play an important role in maintaining cultural preservation at Peliatan Palace. Apart from that, adapting to current developments without eliminating traditional values is also the key to maintaining the cultural heritage of this castle. This research concludes that cultural preservation at Peliatan Palace is not only important for maintaining local cultural identity but also having a positive impact on community welfare and the promotion of Balinese culture on the international stage. Sustainable and adaptive preservation efforts to changing times are needed to ensure that future generations can enjoy this cultural heritage.

Keywords: cultural preservation theory; cultural heritage sustainability; peliatan palace.

INTRODUCTION

Cultural heritage is a relic from the past that we inherited, live with today, and will pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural resources are irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration. They are our stepping stones, our reference points, and our identity. Cultural heritage includes physical artifacts, cultural properties, and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from previous generations, maintained in the present, and passed on for the benefit of future generations.

According to UNESCO (1972: Article 1), cultural heritage includes monuments such as architectural works, statues, paintings, inscriptions, archaeological structures and cave dwellings; buildings such as groups of separate or connected buildings and their architecture, homogeneity or place in the landscape; as well as sites that are the result of human work or a combination of nature and humans. Cultural heritage must have outstanding universal value from a historical, architectural, commemorative, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological point of view.

Preserving cultural heritage is said to be an important effort to maintain the identity and noble values of a society in globalization. One of the cultural heritages that still survives today is the existence of palaces in Bali, which not only function as residences for the royal family, but also as centers of social, cultural and spiritual activities for the local community. Peliatan Palace in Ubud, Gianyar, Bali, is one of the palace that has been established since the 17th century and still maintains its existence today.

In efforts to preserve cultural heritage, Sendjaja's cultural preservation theory consisting of Culture Experience and Culture Knowledge will be used as an important basis in studying efforts to preserve

cultural heritage. Culture Experience emphasizes direct experience in cultural activities, while Culture Knowledge focuses on understanding and knowledge of cultural values. This research aims to analyze how cultural preservation theory is applied in efforts to maintain cultural heritage at Peliatan Ubud Palace, as well as identifying factors that influence the survival of this cultural heritage.

RESEARCH METHODS

Methods

This research uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. Case studies are chosen because they allow in-depth and detailed exploration of phenomena that occur in real life, especially when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are unclear (Yin, 2014). In this case, the case study allows researchers to comprehensively investigate how cultural preservation theory is applied in the specific context of Peliatan Ubud Palace.

Data collection was carried out through several methods to ensure triangulation and depth of information: (1) Participant Observation: Researchers were involved in various cultural activities at Peliatan Palace, such as traditional ceremonies and art performances, to gain direct understanding of the application of Culture Experience; (2) In-depth interviews were conducted with various stakeholders, including palace family members, community leaders, artists and tourists. Semi-structured interviews were used to allow flexibility in exploring topics that emerged during the conversation; and (3) Literature studies include studies of historical records of the palace, cultural preservation policy documents, and tourism promotion materials to understand aspects of Culture Knowledge.

Data Analysis

Data analysis used a thematic approach (Braun & Clarke, 2006) with the following steps: (1) Data Familiarization: Reading repeatedly interview transcripts, observation notes, and collected documents; (2) Coding: Identifying and labeling meaning units relevant to the research question; (3) Theme Search: Grouping related codes into potential themes; (4) Theme review: Checking the coherence of identified themes with the overall data; (5) Defining and Naming Themes: clarifying the essence of each theme and how these themes are interconnected; (6) Report Writing: Integrate thematic analysis into a coherent narrative, supported by relevant data citations.

To ensure the credibility of the data and the reliability of the findings, several strategies were implemented: Method Triangulation, namely using various data collection methods to verify findings, Member Checking, namely involving participants in checking data interpretation to ensure accuracy, and Audit Trail, namely keeping detailed records about the data collection and analysis process. With this comprehensive methodological approach, the research aims to provide an in-depth understanding of how the theories of Culture Experience and Culture Knowledge are applied in the context of cultural heritage preservation at Peliatan Ubud palace, as well as identifying factors that contribute to the survival of this cultural heritage.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the data that was collected, the following are the results of research that was carried out at Peliatan Ubud Palace. The discussion will be differentiated based on Sendjaja's Theory of Cultural Preservation.

Implementation of Culture Experience at Puri Peliatan

Puri Peliatan implements Culture Experience through various cultural activities that directly involve the community and tourists. Some forms of application include:

- a) Traditional Arts Performances: Puri Peliatan regularly holds traditional Balinese dance and music performances which can be watched by the public and tourists. One of the most famous performances is the Kecak Fire Dance Show which is held in the courtyard of Puri Peliatan. This performance is not only entertainment, but also a means to introduce and preserve traditional Balinese art.



Figure 1. Kecak Fire Dance Show held in the grounds of Peliatan Palace

Source: <https://www.traveloka.com/id-id/activities/indonesia/product/ubud-kecak-fire-dance-show-at-puri-peliatan-ubud-4046532823497>

- b) Involvement in Traditional Ceremonies: The public and tourists are allowed to observe and even participate in traditional ceremonies held at the castle. This gives visitors a first-hand experience of Balinese traditions and rituals.



Figure 2. Peliatan Palace Ngaben Ceremony (left) and Wedding Ceremony of Penglingsir the Peliatan Palace, Tjokorda Putra Nindya (right) Source:

<https://www.antarafoto.com/id/view/124142/ngaben-raja-peliatan>;
<https://www.nusabali.com/berita/10286/prosesi-cok-nindia-ngambil-istri-khidmat>

The two pictures above show that Peliatan palace involves family, relatives and the surrounding community in holding traditional ceremonies and does not rule out the possibility of tourists also witnessing the solemnity of the ceremony taking place.

- c) Arts Workshop: Peliatan palace holds workshops on making traditional crafts and learning Balinese dance for tourists and the general public. These activities not only provide a cultural experience, but also help preserve traditional skills.

The implementation of this Culture Experience not only preserves cultural heritage, but also provides a positive economic impact for the community around the castle through the development of cultural tourism.

Implementation of Culture Knowledge at Puri Peliatan

Based on the data that has been collected, Culture Knowledge is implemented through the following efforts:

- a) Maintenance of Palace Traditional Architecture: Peliatan palace maintains traditional Balinese architecture as a form of preserving cultural knowledge. The palace building still follows traditional Balinese philosophy and layout, such as the *Catuspatha*, *Tri Mandala* and *Sanga Mandala* concepts.



Figure 3. The layout of Peliatan Palace which until now still maintains the concepts of *Catus Patha*, *Tri Mandala*, and *Sanga Mandala* Source: Salain, NRP (2023)

Figure 3 above shows that the *palebahan* arrangement at Peliatan palace still maintains the concepts of Traditional Balinese Architecture including the *catuspatha*, *Tri Mandala* and *Sanga Mandala* patterns. This can be seen in the layout of the *palace* on the *catuspatha* which has not changed, the hierarchical arrangement of *palebahans* is based on function and value which adapts the concepts of *Tri Mandala* and *Sanga Mandala*. The higher the value of purity and privacy, the *Palebahan* will be in the *Kaja* area, conversely, the more profane the *Palebahan* value will be in the *Kelod* area.

- b) Historical and Family Genealogy Documentation: Peliatan palace records and documents the history and genealogy of the royal family to preserve cultural knowledge. This is important to maintain the identity and legitimacy of the palace as a cultural institution
- c) Cultural Education: Peliatan palace collaborates with educational institutions to provide education about the history and cultural values of Bali to the younger generation. This includes educational programs on Balinese philosophy, ethics and traditions.
- d) Preservation of Traditional Arts: Peliatan palace is a center for the preservation and development of traditional Balinese arts, including dance, music and fine arts. Palace has art studios that actively teach various forms of Balinese art to the younger generation.

Factors that influence the sustainability of cultural heritage

The survival of Peliatan Ubud Palace is influenced by several factors, including:

- a) Royal Family Commitment: The Peliatan palace family has a strong commitment to preserving their cultural heritage. This can be seen from the active involvement of family members in various cultural activities and conservation efforts.
- b) Community Support: The community around the palace plays an active role in maintaining and preserving cultural traditions. Community involvement in traditional ceremonies and artistic activities at the palace is an important factor in preserving cultural heritage.
- c) Cultural Tourism Development: Peliatan palace has succeeded in integrating cultural preservation with tourism development, thereby providing economic benefits for the surrounding community. This creates an economic incentive to preserve cultural heritage.
- d) Adaptation to the Times: Peliatan palace is able to adapt to the times without eliminating traditional values. For example, the use of modern technology in palace management and promotion of cultural activities.
- e) Government Policy: Government support through cultural preservation policies and the development of cultural tourism plays a role in preserving the cultural heritage at Peliatan palace.

- f) Collaboration with Educational and Cultural Institutions: Peliatan palace collaborates with various institutions for research, documentation and development of cultural preservation programs.

Peliatan palace has succeeded in combining cultural heritage preservation with modern development, making it a reference in maintaining the sustainability of cultural heritage in the era of globalization.

CONCLUSION

This research has explored the application of cultural preservation theory, especially the concepts of Culture Experience and Culture Knowledge, in the context of cultural heritage preservation at Peliatan Ubud palace, Bali. Through a qualitative approach with a case study design, this research reveals several significant findings that contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of cultural heritage preservation in the era of globalization. The research results show that Peliatan palace has succeeded in implementing an effective cultural preservation strategy through the integration of Culture Experience and Culture Knowledge. The application of Culture Experience, which includes traditional art performances, involvement in traditional ceremonies, and art workshops, has proven capable of creating authentic and meaningful cultural experiences. Meanwhile, the implementation of Culture Knowledge, which includes maintaining traditional architecture, historical documentation, and cultural education programs, plays an important role in transmitting knowledge and Balinese cultural values between generations. Analysis of the factors that influence the survival of cultural heritage Peliatan palace reveals the importance of a holistic and collaborative approach. Strong commitment from the royal family, active participation of local communities, integration between cultural preservation and tourism development, adaptability to current developments, support for government policies, and collaboration with educational and cultural institutions are key elements in the success of preservation efforts. The findings of this research strengthen the argument that cultural heritage preservation is not just a static conservation effort, but rather a dynamic process involving continuous negotiation between tradition and modernity. Peliatan's palace success in maintaining its cultural relevance amidst globalization shows the importance of an adaptive approach that remains rooted in local values. The theoretical implication of this research is the need to reconceptualize cultural heritage preservation as a dynamic and contextual process. Meanwhile, from a practical perspective, this research highlights the urgency of multi-stakeholder collaboration in efforts to preserve cultural heritage. Although this research provides valuable insights, the limitations of focusing on a single case study need to be acknowledged. Comparative research with other cultural heritage sites is needed to broaden the generalizability of the findings. In addition, longitudinal studies can provide a deeper understanding of the long-term impact of cultural heritage preservation strategies on cultural identity and community well-being. In conclusion, Peliatan palace offers a promising model of how cultural heritage can be preserved and revitalized in the contemporary era. This success emphasizes the importance of striking a balance between preserving traditional values and adapting to global change, and highlights the potential of cultural heritage as a resource for sustainable development.

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