

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Based on the research that has done, *slametan* ritual for building a new house is one of the Javanese cultures that exist since long time ago. The essence of *slametan* ritual is to pray together and ask for safety from God. The existence of *sesajen* or offerings in the *slametan* ritual for building a new house is a symbol of hope for the owner of a new house. *Sesajen* or the offerings are different from one place to the other place, most probably depends on the availability of the materials in that region.

The existence of *sesajen* or offerings in the *slametan* ceremony building a new house is a symbol of hope for the owner of a new house. The offerings are *tebu, pari, gedang, beras, kembang setaman, bendera, selendang, alang-alang, tanduran opo-opo, godong kluwih, klopo sak tangkep, kendi, ingkung*. The offerings mentioned are provided in *slametan* ceremony for building a new house of Mr. Supangat's family who resides in Sendang Guwo Semarang. The owner of a new house has an aim to get welfare in life. Beside the offerings, praying together is also the owner of a new house's aim to get safety for the family who will live in it. Without the offerings, *slametan* for building a new house lacks of 'something' as each offering prepared has symbolic meaning for Javanese people.

Another purpose of *slametan* ritual for building a new house is to express gratitude to God. The owner holds *slametan* as an expression to God that the owner is able of build a new house. While *slametan* ceremony is held, there is a session when the owner of a new house shares food. Food shared to the neighbours and the participants of the ritual symbolizes gratitude to God.

Javanese people's belief in *sesajen* is part of folklore. Sims & Stephens (2011) mentioned that "material folklore had two different forms. Some of it "permanent," such as architectural structures or functional tools, and some of it ephemeral, such as food, body painting or paper ornaments." Based on the explanation of *sesajen* as part of folklore. Javanese people believe *sesajen* as gratitude and asking for safety to God thus it is ephemeral.

The writer concludes that in giving meaning to the offerings, Javanese people use *kreta basa* or pun. Pun also called paronomasia is a form of wordplay which suggests two or more meanings of words or of similar-sounding words, for an intended humorous or rhetorical effect (Merriam Webster, 1828). The way Javanese people describe the meaning of *sesajen* is closely related to paronomasia. For example, *alang-alang* the ending *-lang* interpret as *halangan* in English is obstacles. The owner of a new house hopes that there is no obstacle in life. *Godong kluwih*, *kluwih* means *kaluwihan* interprets as *kelebihan* in Indonesia language. *Kelebihan* means getting more. The owner of a new house hopes that every daily needs can be fulfilled.

Therefore, *sesajen* used in *slametan* for building a new house has a symbolic meaning.

5.2 Suggestion

The data and information of the *slametan* ritual and the offerings that the researcher explains in this thesis are taken from the informants, mostly from Mr. Po and Mr. Supangat's family who held *slametan* ceremony in Sendang Guwo Semarang. Some informants cannot describe in detail the offerings and their meaning because they cannot remember clearly the meaning behind the offerings used in *slametan* for building a new house. The researcher also had difficulty to find *slametan* ritual for building a new house in Semarang, because people who build a new house do not do the ritual anymore as they do not believe in it anymore.

Therefore, here are some suggestions for further research. Here are some suggestions for further research. First, this present research has a small number of informants. Therefore, the future research can try to find more informants. Second, almost all of Indonesian regions have their own ritual for building a new house, therefore, future research may study the ritual existed in other regions especially in the village where the ritual is easy to find.