

## CHAPTER 4

### DATA ANALYSIS

In general, the culture of society places men at the top of the hierarchy, while women are second. This condition has become part of the lives of women and men who have been socialized from generation to generation, so that nowadays women are still marginalized. Men and women are biologically different, there are differences in reproductive organs in both sexes, but in the cultural context, the roles they carry are equal. However, culture has given privileges to men. And cultural realities do not accommodate equality and balance. In a culture a woman only as a tool to complete (Rochayati, 2017).

The patriarchy that has been embedded so far that is women are considered weak, the limits of work that can be done by women and the differences in rights between men and women. refusal does not mean demanding to replace positions but means that women and men are united to complement each other. For example, having rights and obligations without having to look at gender.

Tradition is hereditary that has been carried out by the community, each local tradition has an important part that needs to be preserved because it is part of the nation's wealth. Women have a role in every process of implementing traditions that exist in society, either directly or indirectly. Although sometimes the position of women in this tradition is increasingly seen that the public area is indeed more dominated by men, this does not close the possibility for women to continue survive in community.

It shows that as small as whatever the role of women in the area the public has contributed to the process of preserving tradition where the woman is there.

Based of viqueque community said that the presence of Bidu dance, can be seen from the meaning of the movement contained in a dance, the meaning itself is have a purpose to be conveyed, from this understanding that the meaning of the Bidu dance is always related with women.

Viqueque is a district which consists of various tribes and has a lot of cultural values. Dance is one of the cultural products that in life is always inseparable from society. In line with that opinion, culture can be grouped into two major parts, namely culture as a product and culture as the whole way of life of society. As a product, cultures include values, beliefs, norms, symbols, and ideologies, while as a way of life, a culture of human relations and human attitudes or behavior in relationships with others (Amarante 2013).

Based on the above description, it can be argued that the essence of culture with regard to the way of human life. Culture is complex in terms of knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, laws, customs, capabilities and other habits possessed by humans as members of society, this means that no single society lives without culture. In Bidu dance it is not physical pleasure, but inner pleasure that arises when we feel the meanings shown by dancers. One of the dances in the Viqueque district is the Bidu dance, which is the oldest dance and has a close relationship with all aspects in human life (Nur 2021).

Usually, people express their heart or feelings through movement. So, gestures are the oldest language used by humans to communicate with each other. based on the previous explanation, traditional language is the language used for traditional needs, for

example in ceremonies to welcome guests, weddings, and others. Languages are figures to understand the meaning contained in it. One of the elements of traditional dance that is still able to survive and be preserved is traditional dance. Culture is part of people's lives as a result of human creativity and then makes patterns of behavior in people's lives. It can be concluded that communication is not only done with language, but also can be done with movements in the form of dances that contain elements of rhythm (D.K. Bhattacharyya 2015).

In this chapter the writer would like to describe and discuss more about the gestures including the meanings in Bidu dance of the Viqueque community in East Timor. After finishing the observation in Dili for about 3 months, the writer completed the analysis based on the information and explanations from the interviewees.

In her research, the researcher has 6 respondents. They are people who are respected by the community because they have knowledge more in culture. The interviewees were men and women with the age range from 50 up to 70 years old. The interviewees were chosen by Viqueque people in Dili and have better knowledge about East Timor dances.

#### **4.1 The gestures in Bidu dance**

The Viqueque community still upholds the value of art and culture. Since ancient times we know that the community is familiar with the art form and that culture can complete human life and has a certain role in the community. The existence of dance in society is not just a creative activity or entertain in the community but also describes

women, which means that the bidu dance has a meaningful meaning to society as a medium (social relations) to create a balance of social life.

Dance is the art of expressing oneself through beautiful gestures and has a meaning with aesthetic value in it. So, in every gesture of the dancer which is performed following the musical rhythm there is meaning that represents local customs (Sawaludin and Salahudin 2018).

Dance also develops according to social needs and plays a higher function in people's lives. Therefore, the dance is a part of people's daily life because dance also takes part as entertainment, communication, education and religion. The Bidu dance is known as a unique traditional dance and it represents the local community from Viqueque district.

In this research the writer describes and discusses more about the gestures including the hand smooth gesture, leg move gesture and body twisting gestures. Each gesture has its own meaning related to women. The beauty of this dance can be seen from the gestures made by the dancer when they performed.

Bidu dance is the result of physical culture that contains a lot of meaning relevant to life. In addition, the bidu dance is also used to be performed during the tourist visit as a symbol in welcoming and also attracting the visitors.

Based on the information from the interviews, there are some permanent and outstanding gestures in Bidu dance:

1. The hand smooth gestures
2. The leg moves gestures
3. The body twisting gestures



**Figure 4.1 The female dancers**

According to the result of an interview conducted in Dili, it was concluded that in the past Bidu dance only functioned as a welcoming guest but after the current development, the Viqueque people continue to maintain and preserve this dance as a heritage from their ancestors. However, Bidu dance is often performed to welcome the guest not only in Viqueque but also can be performed welcoming guests in Dili.

An interview with Mr. Joao as a chief of the tribe reveals that Bidu dance can also change not only in the form of dance but also change everything that exists in the community. One of them is changing existing culture, and has an impact on granting more rights to women compared to women in the past. He said that men and women

have the same rights in a culture, where women have a great value and must be considered and respected in the community.

In another interview with Mr. Carlos, as a Viqueque person who lives in Dili, states that every tradition in East Timor still upholds the value of women in their culture that if there are no women no men will be born and there are no more women, human life will not exist. Because God gave life to men through women, namely mother and women are considered as the source of human survival in the world. (Interview with Mr. Joao and Mr. Carlos on October 8, 2021 in Dili).

#### **4.2 The Meanings of Gestures in Bidu Dance**

In interpreting the gestures and meanings of the culture that exists in society, especially in Bidu dance, it actually still has its own place and has become the most important part of human life. It is also based on every reflected gesture in a culture full of meanings. Gesture will only mean when interpreted, and the meanings that exist will only apply in society or the culture that owns the gesture. There are also some other additional gestures which are different in each group, but the permanent gestures are the focus in my research.

The gestures made by the dancer could be the composite between permanent and additional movement patterns (gestures). For the additional gestures, the dancer should understand what kind of gestures they show to the audience. However, it should still follow the theme of the gestures and the leader's command. The writer finds and explore the meaning of each gesture below:

#### 4.2.1 Leg moves gestures



**Figure 4.2 Leg Move forward Gesture**

According to Mr. Pedro, Bidu dance has various meanings based on the old Viqueque people who say that Bidu represent value to describe the meaning, reality and identity of women in cultural life. The value of goodness that can be seen in this Bidu dance that women are not always behind men, or they are stronger than men, but women can be equal with men fill and coexist in society as taught by the ancestors, that life is still respect others to maintain the culture and values that have been born in the tradition.

Based on the variety of gestures above, the meaning of responsibility means: have the ability to be an entrusted person, or have the ability to deal with difficulties with how to control the situation (Amarante 2013). A responsibility is always related to the trust given. For example, a person who has a sense of responsibility has the characteristics; Trustworthy and can rely on, can be accountable for all needs, take action and can be trusted.



**Figure 4.3 Leg move backward gesture**

The foot gesture of a female in the Bidu dance has the meaning of the attitude of a careful woman, to make a decision in life. Seen from the gesture of the dancer feet when step forward and backward with slowly, very careful and follow the rhythm are those who realize that social life has a binding rule, especially in customary law of Viqueque people are really respect the customs or traditions that apply in social life, so that they have to be careful, in behaving, how to convey something, because their behavior reflects to a customary of Viqueque people.

In the past, women were taught to be very careful in making decisions, because women's decisions were highly respected by their families, and they did not want the decisions to have a bad impact in future. The gestures of the feet forward and backward in the Bidu dance are interpreted as strength. Strength is not defined as more power, but interpreted by the power of women in her life. Gives strength to the heart against things that have been accepted by a woman. Because life has many challenges, both good and bad, women are taught to be strong to face endless trials.

On the other side the writer also does an interview with Mrs. Auxilia and points out that another meaning of power has the meaning of the role of women in married



life. In the past, women were only seen in the house, but now women who organize and create balance in all aspects are responsible for taking care of children and the household. She argues that the marriage life is determined by a tough and strong woman, who has strength of heart and strength physically.

Even though it is only seen on the inside, actually the responsibility that is carried by a woman is quite a heavy balance in life, the proverb says that behind the successful man there is a strong woman who accompanies him. (Interview with Mr. Pedro and Mrs. Auxilia on October 8 in Dili 2021).

#### **4.2.2 Twist body gesture**

Dance is an art form, seen as the identity of community groups, a window for understanding the views of that society. The body is the main foundation in dance. The human body expresses the meaning of the dance that it performs (Judith Lynne). There are certain parts of the human body, which can support the formation of a gesture that has aesthetic value, such as the head, neck, body, hands, and feet. A dancer must be able express their feelings so that they give the appropriate impression to the audience (as cited in Judith Lynne, p.10 2021).



**Figure 4.4 Body firm gesture**

According to Sir Abilio as an old Viqueque people explain that all dance gesture has their meanings of the values of life, holiness, justice, humanity, responsibility sacrifice and courage in defending and maintaining self-determination in accordance to customary orders as a symbol of the firm personal steadfastness of the ancestor.

Body gesture is a sign of the initial position and is a movement with the purpose of respect. In a dance performed to honor the guests who have been present to witness the performance of the Bidu dance, besides that body gestures are interpreted to pay homage to the ancestors so that the dancers can complete this dance well and without any disturbance.



**Figure 4.5 Body twisting gesture**

The female dancers in Bidu dance are interpreted as women with discipline and tolerance. The position of female dancers in Bidu dance standing with a firm body forward has a meaning that the dancer welcomes the guest and shows their discipline especially to the guest and the people around. Discipline is the main part that exists in humans, where discipline reaches success, for example through discipline we can adapt to new things that can make us grow. The tolerant attitude of female dancers in Bidu dance was friendly to everyone who watched. For example, tolerance can be seen

through the value of opinion from other people, helping each other regardless of race, religion and ethnic. These body gestures have an advice that we do not find fault with others, but to find and think about the faults that exist in ourselves too.

#### **4.2.3 Hand smooth gesture**

Hand gestures are the most important types of gestures because human hands are the most flexible parts of the body and can transfer most meaning. Hand gesture is one element that is always present in every cultural form. Hand Gesture is also a part of human life and legacy from generation to generation which is a reflection of human personality itself in order to maintain and preserve that culture.



**Figure 4.6 Hand smooth gesture**

From the information obtained through the interview with Mr. Basilio explains the deep meaning is to bring humans into a peaceful and inner atmosphere, reflecting people mind to communicate with the spirit of ancestors who have preceded, hope people who seem and think that the ritual communication they are doing is asking for presumption protection that is the main goal in every ceremonial process present the Bidu dance in it.

In the past, the presence of this dance is about the personality of the Viqueque, especially in women, how they maintain politeness, how she behaves. It can be said that this is a simple dance that has gentle movement and does not drain the energy of the dancers.

Hand movement forward and backward has the meaning of freedom in women, it can be seen from the movement inspired by an eagle bird flying in the air, the right and left wings of an eagle are like the female hand that seems to move freely forward and backward. The meaning of freedom meant the absence prohibition for women in self-expression that every human being has the right of freedom to determine what he wants to choose in life.

Likewise, a woman is not only asked to take care of the household, but has the right freedom in work and develops her own potential. The interviewees believe that the community of Viqueque and also the dancers have the spirit of the ancestor. They even believe that the spirit itself guides them in daily life and also keeps them safe where they are. That part is where they can express themselves to do their capability in order to connect with the spirit of their ancestors when they perform.

The gestures in Bidu dance are interpreted as an honor which means the opening for paying respects to guests. The characteristic of this dance has gentle movements, the movements that we often see in this Bidu dance are the hand smooth, stepping left and right leg forward and backward then twisting the body following the rhythm.

According to the interviewees, basically all the gestures in Bidu dance are not permanent and can be changed according to the theme of the event. Based on what has been presented above, it can be said that East Timor is rich in culture. Bidu dance is one of the rich cultures. Knowing the meanings and philosophy behind the gestures and movements of the dance is one way to promote this culture to the world.

