DISCOVERY OF STONE FROG DOLMEN RELICS IN KALIANYAR VILLAGE, BONDOWOSO REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

Death is the end of the journey of human life and burial activities as part of the death procession have been known since prehistoric times, which later developed as a tradition in our society. There are various ways in which people bring the dead into the spirit world, burials are carried out using dolmens and stone graves. This study aims to explain how the shape, technology, and distribution of dolmens and grave stones in Kalianyar. Another purpose is to explain the chronological framework of the use of dolmens and stone graves in Kalianyar and to explain the role of dolmens and stone graves in the social system and adaptation to their cultural environment. In this study, the author uses qualitative research, using a method that begins with library research, then collects data in the field by survey and excavation. In this series of activities, interviews were also conducted with informants who knew about dolmens and stone graves. Analysis of the data used, classification of forms, laboratory analysis and ethnographic analysis. The results of the research that have been obtained are the coverage of the distribution of the use of dolmens and stone graves so far in Bondowoso many megalitikum discoveries have been found.

Keywords: megalithic, rituals, site

ABSTRAK


Kata Kunci : megalitikum, ritual, situs

INTRODUCTION

Prehistoric times left a number of cultural traces, one of the cultures in question namely megalithic culture, the megalithic tradition in Indonesia is thought to have emerged in the epoch law. The results
of modern research suggest that the megalithic tradition in Indonesia thought to appear in the era of perundagian (+ around 500 BC). The result of this culture is rooted from the neolithic era, which means that the culture was supported by the Autronesians. (Soekmono, 1973). Megalithic tradition or culture is a form of human creation which is characterized by stone materials, especially stone materials made of large stones (Prasetyo dalam Simanjuntak & Widianto, 2012: 305). The existence of megalithic traditions is spread across various regions in Indonesia, such as on the island of Sumatra (North Sumatra, West Sumatra, Bengkulu, Jambi, South Sumatra and Lampung), then on the island of Java (West Java, Central Java, DIY and East Java), in Sulawesi, Bali, to Papua.

The Megalithic tradition has a living phenomenon that is growing rapidly and has its own uniqueness in each region which is adapted to the conditions and environment of each. Megalithic communities exist in various areas such as in Pasemah which is centered on the Pasemah plateau which is now part of the administrative area of Lahat, and Pagar Alam(Situs Purbakala Di Bondowoso | BONDOWOSO ONLINE MUSEUM, n.d.). Meanwhile, the Besuki megalithic community is in the Bondowoso area in East Java with a distribution that reaches out to the surrounding areas and there are many more megalithic communities in Indonesian territory. (Prasetyo dalam Simanjuntak & Widianto (ed), 2012:311-312). The author chose the object of his study in the city of Bondowoso because Bondowoso is an area that has very good potential, especially megalithic cultural heritage. This city is geographically located in the eastern part of East Java Province. The border of the city of Bondowoso, namely the north is directly adjacent to the city of Situbondo, the east is bordered by the city of Banyuwangi, while the south is directly adjacent to the city of Jember). (Badan Pusat Statistik Bondowoso, 2012)

This city has thousands of archaeological sites scattered in various regions. Since the colonial era, Bondowoso has been used as an object of cultural heritage research by foreign researchers such as W.J.A Willems who has conducted a lot of research in Indonesia, one of which is in the megalithic remains in Pekauman Bondowoso. The results of his research colored prehistoric developments in Indonesia, so he invited other researchers such as Van den Hoop, Robert von Heine Geldern and others (Simanjuntak, 2012:32-35). From this, prehistoric developments in Indonesia are growing. Bondowoso City until now has an administrative area which is divided into 23 sub-districts, 10 sub-districts and 209 villages. The sub-district has the potential for cultural heritage, especially during the megalithic era, so that the city of Bondowoso becomes a different attraction for tourists (kompas.com).

Cultural heritage in Bondowoso when viewed from a geographical aspect, the megalithic heritage is divided into two areas, namely the highlands and lowlands. Relics of sites that are classified as large, meaning that in these sites or remains there are many sites that are collected into one area (in one sub-district there are more than twenty cultural reserves) such as the Sucolor Megalithic site, the Pekauman Megalithic site, the Wringin site, while sites that are classified as small, only some of them
have the same sites as in Tamanan, namely people call them frog stones (dolmens) and many other small sites. The location of cultural heritage in terms of geomorphology can be grouped into three units: (1) 21 sites of megalithic sites located in the lowlands; (2) 12 megalithic sites located on plateau; and (3) 14 megalithic sites located in hilly areas (Kebudayaan, 2017).

The sites in Bondowoso district, according to the latest research conducted by Yogyakarta archeology in 2004, almost all sites have cultural heritage, such as stone statues, dolmens, sarcophagi (pandhusa), stone chamber graves, kenong stones, dakon stones, stone mortars, menhirs. All these existing objects function as a means of burial as well as a means of worship. Cultural heritage objects that function as burial facilities are sarcophagi, dolmens and stone chambers, while as a means of worship are terraced terraces, menhirs and statues. (Hidayat, 2007)

(Prasetyo, n.d.) also classifies the megaliths found in Bondowoso into eight forms: (1) Dolmen, (2) Sarcophagus (sarcophagi), (3) Monolith (monolith), (4) Batu Kenong (kenong stone), (5) Lumpang stone (stone mortar), (6) Menhirs, (7) Stone statues (statues), (8) Stone chambers (stone chambers). The Bondowoso Regency Disparporahub (2016) classifies megalithic findings in Bondowoso into nine forms: (1) Dolmen which includes frog stone dolmens, (2) Terrace graves, (2) Menhirs, (3) Sarcophagi, (4) Chambers stone, (5) stone kenong, (6) pelinggih or stone chair, (7) stone statue, (8) stone mortar, (9) stone mortar; Gemstone bracelet (stone circle), (11) Picture stone/drum stone, and Dakon stone (Swastika dan Sumarjono, tth: 4).

There are 1220 megalithic findings in the Bondowoso area (dinas pendidikan dan kebudayan kabupaten Bondowoso tahun 2017). All megalithic objects were found at various sites such as the Glingseran site, Wringin site, Pekauman site, Tlogosari site, Sucolor site, Maesan site and so on. The distribution of megalithic sites is found in various regions or districts in Bondowoso. (Situs Purbakala Di Bondowoso | BONDOWOSO ONLINE MUSEUM, n.d.)

In Tamanan sub-district, precisely in Kalianyar village, a stone frog dolmen was found. Dolmen is generally described as a stone table, namely a large stone that is either worked or not that functions as a roof or table, supported by a number of stones that function as its legs. (Usrifah, 2018) The subtype of dolmen in Bondowoso is characterized by the presence of floor and walls made of stone planks that support large, half-cylindrical boulders at the top. Commonly called the Pandhusa grave in the Bondowoso area. (Dinartkj, n.d.)

With this research, it aims to examine and analyze the general description of cultural heritage in Kalianyar village, Bondowoso district and to examine and analyze the actions or efforts taken to preserve cultural heritage in Kalianyar, Tamanan sub-district, Bondowoso district.

**METHODE**

This research is a qualitative research using a strategy of combining archaeological and
anthropological (ethnoarchaeological) methods. Archaeological methods are used to study material objects in the form of dolmens and stone tombs, as well as their natural environment. Community behavior in interacting with megalithic sites uses an anthropological approach, namely topic-oriented ethnography, by describing community activities in the use of dolmens or grave stones. This research was carried out using a qualitative descriptive method which aims to describe, explain, explain and answer in more detail the problem to be studied or an incident, because the researcher feels that the phenomenon being studied requires a deep understanding. The results of this study are expected to be able to clearly describe the effectiveness of educational technology, the use of various Google features in the learning media of the History Education Study Program. The location of this research is precisely in the Kalianyar area. This was chosen by the researcher so that the researcher can go deeper in digging up information, so that the data obtained is more accurate and in accordance with the research objectives. The selected research respondents were conducted using interview techniques, which included people who knew the origins of the city of Situbondo. The criteria for the subject of this study are: local people who use speaking techniques and use browsers on the internet and take citations in journals. In addition, with the two sides of the respondents being collected, the results of this study are easier to understand not only by researchers but also readers, and it is hoped that the results of this research can be information for students and lecturers in carrying out online learning with Google media features for the better.

This research method is also carried out through library data collection, or research where the object of research is explored through various library information (books, encyclopedias, scientific journals, newspapers, magazines, and documents). This scientific writing is carried out to find various theories, laws, propositions, principles, or ideas that are used to analyze and solve a problem.

DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH RESULTS

Dolmen Frog Stone (BATU KATAK)

In Kalianyar Village, Bondowoso Regency

Bondowoso is a city in the northern part of East Java. The city has many very interesting and beautiful tourist objects for local and foreign tourists to visit. Bondowoso Regency has natural tourism objects, water tourism, mountain tourism and tours of Megalithic ancient sites. In general, Bondowoso Regency has more than 1,000 ancient sites that you can visit. As in Tamanan sub-district, Kalianyar village, to be precise, has a unique ancient site.

Tamanan is a sub-district in Bondowoso Regency which consists of several villages. In one of the villages in Kalianyar Village, a unique megalithic relic, namely the dolmen frog stone or commonly called frog stone, has been found, where this frog stone is located in the middle of a rice
field. Dolmens are generally stones used for worship in the megalithic era. Whereas the dolmens found in Kalianyar village are not like dolmens in general, but the dolmens are shaped like frogs, so the dolmens are called frog stones or other terms frog stone.

The frog stone dolmen is known to be a relic of the megalithic era. The distance from Jl. Tamanan about 100 m. This type of dolmen stone is thought to be the former eruption of the Ijen crater 70,000 years ago. Remains of a stone frog dolmen were also found in the center of the megalith in Grujugan. The shape of the dolmen is almost the same. The shape of this stone frog is complete with both right and left legs. According to the local community, the two legs may have been formed complete with a steep slope so that it is not dangerous and it is safe to ride it.

The stone frog dolmen is a table made of stone that serves as a place to place offerings for worship. The corpse is placed under the dolmen or between the legs of the dolmen so that the corpse is not eaten by wild animals, the two legs are made tight. Frog stone dolmens are used to place corpses by giving special treatment to ancestors who are considered to continue to live which are expected to provide blessings, peace, fertility (land and animals) and welfare to families and communities. The stone frog dolmen is in the middle of the rice fields, facing towards the mountain, maybe because to the east are Mount Ijen, Raung and to the west, Mount Argopuro, if observed at that time the people adhered to animistic and dynamism belief systems. At that time, people thought that the mountain was a place where ancestral spirits resided. Geographically Bondowoso is flanked by these 2 mountains. According to the people around the stone frog dolmens, they have children beside them, which increases every year. The community has never found the reason for this frog stone dolmen. The frog stone dolmen is surrounded by small boulders, people think that it is the child of the frog stone dolmen.

The stone frog dolmens are a relic of prehistoric times, namely megaliths, not even the slightest writing was found as a marker because at that time they did not yet recognize writing or praaksara called Nirleka (Nir means nothing and is writing). Objects that have been found are pottery objects, bronze metal and beads (jewelry). Because at the beginning of its development, the stone frog dolmen was used as a ritual ceremony, namely the worship of ancestral spirits by placing offerings on stones or dolmens, and under the feet of the dolmens they were used as graves or stone graves. The community has also found bones that have helped.

The stone frog dolmen was made into a cultural heritage in the megalithic era by the Bondowoso Education and Culture Office, because it was considered to have educational value for the local community and tourist visitors who came from outside. In addition to the village of Kalianyar, the discovery of a stone frog dolmen is also found at a site in the village of Pekauman, Bondowoso Regency.
Research Results

Among the several megalithic heritage stones in Bondowoso, this is the dolmen stone. The stone used as a table for worship during the megalithic era was found in a rice field in Kalianyar village, district. Tamanan about 17km south of Bondowoso town. Local residents often call this stone the frog stone because if we observe carefully the location of this stone is indeed similar to a frog. Frog stone dolmens are used to place corpses by giving special treatment to ancestors who are considered to continue to live which are expected to provide blessings, peace, fertility (land and animals) and welfare to families and communities. The stone frog dolmen is a table made of stone that serves as a place to place offerings for worship. The corpse is placed under the dolmen or between the legs of the dolmen so that the corpse is not eaten by wild animals, the two legs are made tight.

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CONCLUSION

In the village of Kalianyar, a unique megalithic relic has been found, namely the dolmen frog stone or commonly called frog stone, the location of this frog stone is in the middle of rice fields. Dolmens are generally stones used for worship in the megalithic era. Whereas the dolmens found in Kalianyar village are not like that dolmens in general, but the dolmens are shaped like frogs, so the dolmens are called frog stones or other terms frog stone.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY
