

## VALUES THE CHARACTER OF NATION'S LIFE : THE GATOTKACA PUPPET FIGURE

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### ABSTRAK

Wayang menjadi salah satu kebudayaan yang cukup melekat di beberapa daerah di Indonesia. Penelitian ini lebih lanjut menggali mengenai nilai-nilai karakter kebangsaan dalam kisah pewayangan Gatotkaca. Adapun tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengembangkan nilai-nilai kehidupan sebagai dimensi pembentuk karakter serta mendapatkan gambaran umum atau deskripsi tentang perwayangan. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dengan pendekatan analisis deskriptif, sehingga diharapkan dengan menggunakan metode ini mampu menggambarkan nilai kebangsaan dalam tokoh wayang Gatotkaca lebih mendalam. Melalui kajian yang telah dilakukan terdapat nilai-nilai karakter bangsa yang dapat diambil dari kisah pewayangan Gatotkaca antara lain: religius, nasionalisme dan memiliki semangat kebangsaan, mandiri dan kerja keras, bertanggung jawab serta menghargai prestasi. Internalisasi karakter bangsa yang dibawa oleh Gatotkaca dalam kehidupan merupakan pencapaian atas diri. Hingga pada akhirnya tercapai tujuan dimana mampu membangun peradaban bangsa yang bermartabat yang berlandaskan kecintaan terhadap budaya Indonesia.

**Kata kunci:** Karakter bangsa, wayang, Gatotkaca.

### ABSTRACT

*Wayang is a culture that is quite attached to several regions in Indonesia. This research further explores the values of national character in the wayang story of Gatotkaca. The purpose of this research is to develop the values of life as a character-forming dimension and to get a general picture or description of wayang. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method with a descriptive analysis approach, so it is hoped that using this method will be able to describe the national value in the Gatotkaca wayang character more deeply. Through the studies that have been carried out, there are values of national character that can be taken from the puppet story of Gatotkaca, including: religious, nationalism and having a national spirit, being independent and working hard, being responsible and appreciating achievements. achievement of self. Until finally the goal was reached which was to be able to build a dignified nation's civilization based on a love for Indonesian culture.*

**Keywords:** National character, wayang, Gatotkaca.

### INTRODUCTION

According to Law number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, it is stated that

national education functions to develop capabilities and form a dignified nation's civilization in

order to educate the nation's life. (Kholis, 2014). The purpose of national education is to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe and fear God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, capable, creative, independent and become democratic and responsible citizens. (Omeri, 2015). Judging from its objectives, the formulation of education focuses more on the quality of human life in Indonesia. Therefore, the formulation of the goals of National Education becomes the basis for developing cultural education and the characteristics of the nation.

Character education does not absolutely have to be done in schools and must be organized in a planned or using certain methods that have been learned (Fadhilah, N., 2016). Education can be carried out at home and in the surrounding environment, using various methods, media that are close to the community, and through any means that are able to convey moral messages, ethics, and values of the nation's character well (Nufus, M. L., Zulfani, A., Firdaus, A., Agustina, L., & Fadhilah, N., 2021)

One of the media that can be used in delivering character education is through stories, where everyone can learn directly through the characters who play a role in the story. (Dedy Herawan & Sudarsana, 2017). In addition to providing insight to educators on the importance of character values, storytelling can also be used as an effort to preserve Indonesian culture (Habsari, 2017).

Talking about Indonesian culture, one of the very close and iconic cultures for the Indonesian people is Wayang. Wayang is considered one of the pinnacles of Indonesian culture and art. This is because the art of wayang includes various disciplines such as acting, literature, sound art, music, speaking, painting, and sculpture. (Himami, 2017). Furthermore, the realm of wayang has various purposes, including as a medium of information, da'wah, education, entertainment, philosophical understanding, and enjoyment. (Setiawan, 2020). Wayang is a traditional Indonesian cultural art form that has developed over the last 1000 years (Purwanto, 2018).

Given that wayang stories have been in and known for so long. Puppets no longer sound foreign to the ear, moreover now puppet characters and stories are starting to be displayed in a modern way such as in poetry, comics, films, fiction and games. This situation shows that the discussion of wayang stories can develop and or be developed according to the times. This shows that wayang values still have significance and are relevant to today's life. Talking about wayang, one of the puppet characters who is known for his supernatural powers is Gatotkaca. In this study, the author will further explore the values of national character in the Gatotkaca wayang story. The purpose of this research is to develop the values of life as a character-forming dimension and to get a general picture or description of wayang. And with this research, it is also hoped that it can make a practical contribution through the relics of the previous people related to wayang as one of the teachings that contain national characteristic values.

Interestingly, the name Gatotkaca is used as the name of an

airplane made by the nation's son who is the pride of Indonesia. The N250 Gatotkaca aircraft is the first aircraft as a result of the Grand Strategy phase 3 launched by the third president of Indonesia B.J. Habibie (at that time served as Minister of Research and Technology) who started his maiden flight on August 10, 1995 at Husein Sastrabegara Airport, Bandung. Gatotkaca itself is the name given by President Soeharto for the first prototype N250. From this evidence, it is one of the reflections where puppet characters also have a role in national values in Indonesia itself. In addition, this evidence also makes the formulation of the problem to be discussed in the journal. This is something that is interesting for us to discuss because in wayang we can still play an active role in terms of national values in the country. There are many things and stories that of course we can take and apply in the life of the nation and state. This research uses descriptive qualitative method with descriptive analysis approach. This means that a research is conducted to get a general picture or description of wayang, as well as

about the values of the nation's character in the Gatotkaca wayang figure.

## **DISCUSSION**

The current condition of the character or character of the Indonesian nation seems to be experiencing an identity disorientation. Many of the nation's children do not have the "shame" and spirit of nationalism, moreover, many people are indifferent and even apathetic to the nation's moral state. Many parties have realized this setback so that there is a lot of hope and calls to improve and restore the character of the nation's children. That's why it is necessary to talk about national character education in order to revitalize the nation's resilience. Because the rise or fall of a nation depends on the quality of its human resources. Reorganization of national character education is needed not only because of the nation's, state, and social infrastructure that is prone to crisis, but also because of the dynamics of the world order that continues to change with the strengthening of globalization (human flows, capital, goods, services, information,

lifestyles, and values). Globalization, regional autonomy, limited availability of natural resources, environmental degradation, moral and intellectual degradation as well as potential conflicts between groups (race, ethnicity, religion) have created various multidimensional crises in complex contexts.

According to the Ministry of National Education (Nantara Didit, 2022) There are eighteen values of character education developed through education units. The implementation of character education in educational units has identified eighteen values originating from religion, Pancasila, culture, and national education goals. The eighteen values include: religious; honest; tolerance; discipline; hard work, creative; independent; democratic; curiosity; national spirit; love of the motherland; rewarding achievements; friendly/communicative; peaceful love; likes to read; care for the environment; social care; responsibilities (Fadhilah, N., 2016).

Instilling the quality of national character through culture. Character development. The original

texts of the Mahabharata and Ramayana were written in Sanskrit. After entering Java, the text was adapted and edited into Old Javanese (old Javanese), as well as added and adapted to the stories and legends that had been popular at that time, so the Javanese version of the Mahabharata and Ramayana stories became. However, since the arrival of wayang stories in Indonesia, it has never been revealed that the incident occurred in prehistoric times. Texts and or stories in Javanese then underwent many changes because they were modified and added to various stories. So that the existing stories continue to grow and develop into various languages such as Old Javanese, Central Java, New Java, and even today many are written in Indonesian and foreign languages. (Nurgiyantoro, 2011).



Gatotkaca is one of the shadow puppet characters. Gatotkaca was born from Bima's marriage to Dewi Arimbi, who had a giant family background. Gatotkaca was a champion of the gods since childhood (the breed of gods) (Pratiwi & Suwandi, 2021). Although born as a descendant of a giant Gatotkaca, different from giants in general because his mother was a giant nation from the Pringgadani kingdom, he was of good character. Since birth, Gatotkaca was abandoned by his father, then reappeared during the Bharatayudha war when he saved Abhimanyu from an heirloom attack. Kaurava warriors. The role and position of Ghatotkacha is only briefly described in the Indian version.

Gatotkaca was born as a giant and was known as Tetuka. In terms of mindset, in wayang performances, the character Tetuka has a sense of patriotism and chivalry. At the time of birth until the age of twelve months, the placenta (placenta) of Jabang Tetuka still cannot be cut off because of his magic. Until at the age

of one year, the placenta can be cut off using a gun holster, because it's called Kontana, but the scabbard goes into Tetuka's stomach and adds to his supernatural powers. (Saptodewo, 2015). At the age of one to seven years Tetuka has started his adventure to fight the giants that disturb heaven. In the Javanese wayang version, when Tetuka was already agile, he asked Bimasena to bring Tetuka to help the gods eradicate the wrath of King Kalapracona.

When Jabang Tetuka arrived in heaven, there was an immediate battle between Jabang Tetuka and Kala Pracona. However, because he was still small and had no weapons, Jabang Tetuka was unable to defeat the giant. Kala Pracona was happy to see the helpless Tetuka. On the instructions of Hyang Shiva, (Ardiyasa, 2021) Tetuka is inserted into the Candradimuka crater. There is a time difference between inside the Candradimuka crater and outside the crater. Tetuka will be prepared to become a young knight with a leadership spirit. By the will of the Gods, Jabang Tetuka was put into the crater and filled with supernatural

powers; Because of that, Tetuka (Gatatkaca) is depicted as having wire veins, iron bones, bleeding profusely, able to fly in the clouds and sit on transverse clouds. (Saptodewo, 2017). Batara Guru, the king of heaven, presented a set of heirloom clothes to Tetuka, namely Caping Basunanda, Kotang Antrakusuma, and Pandakacarma's oak for Tetuka to wear. Since then, Tetuka's name has been changed to Gatatkaca. By using the heirloom clothes, Gatatkaca was able to fly as fast as lightning to the Trabelasuket Kingdom and kill Kalapracona (Saptodewo, 2015). With the magic and heirlooms that he has obtained, Gatatkaca easily defeats Kala Pracona. This story is the story of one big part of the story of Ghatatkacha. Apart from this story there are several other stories about Gatatkaca's marriage; the conflict that occurred Gatatkaca became King in Pringgadani and the Batarayuda war which became the end of Gatatkaca's life

Judging from the stories of Gatatkaca, there are several values of national characteristics that are reflected in them. Each value that

exists does not stand alone and develops dynamically, but interacts with each other to produce personal wholeness. Of the eighteen values of character education that exist in the Ministry of National Education, which is reflected in the puppet character Gatotkaca, among others, is Religious. Gatotkaca's principle of religiosity is reflected in his belief in his teachers and parents. Gatotkaca also shows his devotion to the gods, which is manifested in his duties as a knight, by carrying out his duties.

The value of nationalism and the spirit of nationalism. Gatotkaca has a strong sense of patriotism. The spirit of nationalism is expressed in the attitude of defending and siding with the truth of the gods from the Kala Pracona attack. In carrying out his duties as a knight, Gatotkaca prioritizes the safety of the people. The incident of Gatotkaca's death in the Baratayuda war illustrates how he has a high national spirit. Even though he received news from God that he would soon meet his death, he still thought about his duty as a knight. He advised God that his body could be used to kill enemies (Prasetyawan, 2011).

Ghatotkacha is a fierce and valiant knight in wayang stories. He had proven himself to be unafraid of fighting great giants from a young age. Next, he dared to enter the Candradimuka crater, which was a crater filled with intense fire. In the end, he was given the nickname Gatotkaca, which means "iron bone". Ghatotkacha is always brave and willing to learn and adapt to new situations, from childhood to adulthood. This indicates that Gatotkaca has the attitude and values of independent character and hard work. From this story we can find a deep meaning that in achieving success there needs to be sacrifices made. The existence of pain and discomfort can change us into a more mature and mature person. Another value is also reflected in the figure of Gatotkaca, namely responsibility. Ghatotkacha fulfills his responsibility as the son of a knight to protect humanity and other living things. Gatotkaca is willing to undergo rigorous training in the Candradimuka crater to find the best course of action in dealing with the biggest threat, namely Kala Pracona. When Tetuka was in the

Candradimuka crater, it was a learning process until he finally came out of the crater with magic and virtuous character. This needs to be instilled in the younger generation so that they are not used to something fast food.

Gatatkaca has three weapons that he got from God, namely Caping Basunanda, Kotang Antrakusuma, and Pandakacarma's tumble. Caping Basunanda is a head covering that can keep Gatatkaca from getting too hot when it's hot and not getting wet even when it's raining. The Anthrakusuma box is a shirt that allows Gatatkaca to fly very fast without wings. Meanwhile, Pandakarma's spill. It is footwear that can protect Ghatotkacha from the influence of the places he passes through (Fidelia & Pratama, 2018). Even though he was gifted with a powerful weapon from God, Ghatotkacha did not even use it but for virtue. Ghatotkacha is able to appreciate the gift that has been given to him. At the same time, it becomes a character trait of the nation's values where Gatotkaca can appreciate achievements.

The noble values contained in the character of Ghatotkacha make it not just a performance. The spirit of every value that can be internalized in words, actions, and thoughts can be understood as self-achievement. This has an impact on the spirit of nationalism which is built on a love for Indonesian culture.

## **CONCLUSION**

The values of life as the dimensions of forming the nation's character that can be taken from the puppet story of Gatotkaca include: religious, nationalism and having a national spirit, being independent and working hard, being responsible and appreciating achievements. The internalization of the national character brought by Gatotkaca in life is an achievement for oneself. So that in the end the goal is achieved which is to be able to build a dignified nation's civilization on the love of Indonesian culture

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