

Understanding And Interpretation of Indonesian Museum Collections on Culture and People in The Archipelago

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Abstract

Museum Indonesia is one of the many museums contained in Taman Mini Indonesia Indah. This Indonesian Museum is an anthropology museum where in this museum there is knowledge about culture and humans, especially humans in the archipelago. Cultural tourism is part of tourism as a whole. Cultural tourism deals with a region's culture, lifestyle, history, art, architecture, religion and other elements that make up the way of life of residents in a geographical area. This article will discuss the understanding and interpretation of culture and humans in Nusantara, Indonesia.

Keywords: anthropology, museum, tourism, culture

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1. Introduction

Anthropology is the science of human beings. Anthropology comes from the Greek word which can be interpreted with humans or people, and logic is taken from the word logos which means discourse or etymologically, anthropology means the study of humans. There are many different ways for people to learn about humans and there are many things that can be learned from humans.

Culture is something that happens from generation to generation created by humans. Therefore, culture is very closely related to humans. Indonesia is a country rich in culture. Culture in one region with another is very different and has its uniqueness. We can see Indonesian culture from customs, various tribes, languages, traditional clothing, typical foods, traditional houses, and so on. Therefore, culture must be maintained, so that it can be passed on from generation to generation. Culture and culture are inseparable. Culture and culture are like spirits in life that must be maintained so that they have spiritual strength and must be empowered. (Aini,2019)

Museum Indonesia is one of the many museums contained in Taman Mini Indonesia Indah. This Indonesian Museum is an anthropology museum where in this museum there is knowledge about culture and humans, especially humans in the archipelago.

Cultural tourism is part of tourism as a whole. Cultural tourism deals with a region's culture, lifestyle, history, art, architecture, religion and other elements that make up the way of life of residents in a geographical area. Cultural tourism also includes urban areas, especially cities with historical relics and cultural facilities such as museums and theatres. Cultural tourism also includes rural life, traditions of pristine village communities, values and lifestyles. This type of tourism is increasingly popular not inferior to natural tourism or other types of tourism. (Nugraha, 2019)

Tourism is one of the fastest-growing industries. The tourism sector itself is one of the largest foreign exchange producers in Indonesia. Tourism in Indonesia is very advanced and superior because Indonesia has many places, customs, cultures and traditions that can be used as tourist attractions. (Pradini, Gagih, et al. 2022)

This article will discuss the understanding and interpretation of culture and humans in Nusantara, Indonesia.

Museum Indonesia is one of the many museums contained in Taman Mini Indonesia Indah, this museum concentrates on the art and culture of various ethnic groups that inhabit the archipelago and form the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia. Museum Indonesia was inaugurated right on the fifth anniversary of the establishment of Taman Mini Indonesia Indah in 1980. This museum is the brainchild of Tien Suharto's mother

1.1. Cultural and Human Understanding at the Indonesian Museum

Museum Indonesia exhibits artefacts, art, historical objects, and cultural relics from various tribes and regions of the archipelago. The exhibition helps visitors understand Indonesian history, traditions, art, and the lives of Indonesian people. The museum also serves as an informal education centre. They organize tours, workshops, seminars, and other educational programs to help visitors gain a deeper understanding of the archipelago's culture, history, and rich cultural heritage. Indonesian museums are often a source of information and data for researchers, academics, and scholars studying Indonesian culture. Provide access to a collection of artefacts that can be used for research and research on various aspects of culture.

Museums play an important role in the preservation of artefacts and cultural heritage. They utilize technology and preservation techniques to keep historical objects intact and preserved for future generations. Through exhibitions and other activities, Museum Indonesia contributes to promoting the richness of cultural identity and harmony of cultural diversity in the archipelago. This is important to strengthen the pride and unity of the Indonesian nation. Several museums have become popular cultural tourism destinations, helping to introduce Indonesian culture to domestic and international tourists. This means making an economic contribution to the region and expanding the understanding of Indonesian culture to the international community.

1.2. Indonesian Museum Collection

Museum Indonesia interprets Balinese buildings as their architecture, which is one of the cultures in Indonesia. In the Indonesian Museum, more precisely on the 2nd floor of the museum, they have a collection where the collection is knowledge about culture and humans

in Indonesia. Museum Indonesia is intended as a place that presents a long story of history, thoughts, ideals, messages, great works, glory and joy of the past.

This museum contains various objects from various regions and ethnic groups in Indonesia. The main exhibition of this museum is a diorama of a traditional Solo wedding ceremony attended by guests wearing traditional clothes from various regions in Indonesia. These dioramas are supposed to represent the unity of Indonesia, but they use mannequins

1.3. Interpretation of the Indonesian Museum collection

The interpretation of the Indonesian Museum's collection of the culture and people of the archipelago is very important to represent the diversity and richness of Indonesia's history. Interpretations in this collection are generally based on various sources, including: (1) Artifacts and Historical Objects: The collection of Indonesian museums consists of cultural artefacts, historical objects, works of art, textiles, traditional musical instruments, jewellery, and more. The interpretation of this collection means tracing its origins, functions, and cultural values, (2) Documentation and Research: The Museum carries out detailed documentation of its collections. It includes historical information, cultural background, and research data describing each artefact's use, manufacturing techniques, and symbolic meaning. This information is obtained through field surveys, interviews with experts, and relevant literature, (3) Collaboration with local communities: Museums often collaborate with local communities to better understand the culture and traditions contained in their collections. This can be done in the form of consultation with community leaders, cultural heritage groups, or cultural groups to gain a deeper understanding of how to interpret the collection, (4) Visual Exhibition and Interpretation: The museum uses creative exhibition techniques to interpret its collections. This includes the use of explanatory texts, audio recordings, videos, visual installations, and reconstructions of cultural environments to help visitors understand the context in which historical artefacts and objects are used, and (5) Publications and Educational Materials: The museum also produces publications, books, guides, and other educational materials that provide detailed information about its collections. It can be a valuable source of knowledge for researchers, students, and the general public to better understand the culture and society of the archipelago.

2. Research Methods

2.1 Research Objects

This research method uses a descriptive qualitative approach, which is research whose purpose is to provide an overview of a problem, symptoms, facts, events, and reality broadly and deeply that relies on data in the form of text. Where specifically researchers are involved in it and establish relationships with others.

3. Results and Discussion

Anthropology as a scientific discipline that studies humans in various aspects, including culture, is an important foundation in explaining and understanding the people of the archipelago. Museum Indonesia, as an anthropology museum in Taman Mini Indonesia Indah, has a strategic role in displaying and preserving knowledge about Indonesian culture and society. Interpretation and understanding of the culture and people of the archipelago is important to preserve cultural heritage and disseminate knowledge about Indonesia's cultural

richness to the public. Museum collections, both artefacts, art objects, and historical objects, are the main source of understanding the history, traditions, and life of the Indonesian people.

It's evident from your statement that anthropology plays a crucial role in comprehending and explaining various aspects of human existence, particularly in the context of the archipelago. By focusing on culture, anthropology provides a lens through which we can better understand the people of Indonesia.

The Museum Indonesia, located in Taman Mini Indonesia Indah, assumes a pivotal role in this regard. As an anthropology museum, it serves as a repository of knowledge, displaying and preserving the diverse aspects of Indonesian culture and society. This institution becomes a bridge between the past and the present, facilitating the interpretation and understanding of the archipelago's culture.

Preservation of cultural heritage is a significant outcome of the museum's efforts. By showcasing a wide array of collections, including artefacts, art objects, and historical items, the museum becomes a reservoir of information about the history, traditions, and daily life of the Indonesian people. These collections act as tangible connections to the past, allowing present and future generations to appreciate and learn from the rich cultural tapestry of Indonesia.

Moreover, the museum plays a crucial role in disseminating knowledge to the public. Through exhibitions, educational programs, and various outreach activities, it contributes to raising awareness about the cultural richness of Indonesia. This not only fosters a sense of pride and identity among the local population but also helps in promoting cultural understanding among visitors and the broader public.

Certainly, let's delve deeper into the role of anthropology and the Museum of Indonesia in preserving and understanding the cultural heritage of the Indonesian archipelago. Anthropology as a Scientific Discipline: Anthropology, as a scientific discipline, encompasses a holistic study of humans, examining their biological, cultural, linguistic, and social aspects. In the context of Indonesia, this field is crucial for unravelling the complexities of the archipelago's diverse societies, each with its unique cultural practices, languages, and histories. Anthropologists engage in fieldwork, conducting participant observation and ethnographic studies to grasp the intricacies of local customs, rituals, and social structures.

Cultural Understanding and Preservation: Understanding the culture of the Indonesian archipelago is paramount for preserving its rich heritage. Anthropologists contribute by documenting and analyzing cultural practices, beliefs, and traditions. By doing so, they not only help preserve disappearing cultural elements but also facilitate intergenerational transmission of knowledge. This cultural understanding is not merely an academic pursuit; it serves as a foundation for fostering respect and appreciation for the diversity that characterizes Indonesia.

Museum Indonesia as a Cultural Repository: The Museum Indonesia, situated in Taman Mini Indonesia Indah, acts as a custodian of this wealth of anthropological knowledge. Its strategic location within the cultural park provides a centralized space for the public to engage with Indonesia's diverse heritage. The museum's role extends beyond being a static repository; it serves as a dynamic institution that curates exhibitions, educational programs, and events to bring the cultural narrative to life.

Collections as Windows into History: The museum's collections, comprising artefacts, art objects, and historical items, function as tangible windows into the past. Each item tells a story

– whether it's a traditional piece of clothing, a ceremonial mask, or a historical document. Anthropologists collaborate with curators to contextualize these items, providing a nuanced understanding of their cultural significance. The meticulous preservation of these collections ensures that future generations can access and learn from this rich tapestry of history.

Cultural Heritage and Identity: Preserving cultural heritage is not just about the past; it's about shaping contemporary identity and fostering a sense of continuity. The museum's efforts contribute to the ongoing dialogue about what it means to be Indonesian, acknowledging the interplay between tradition and modernity. By showcasing the diverse cultures within the archipelago, the museum becomes a space where individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole can reflect on their roots and shared history.

Public Engagement and Education: The museum plays a vital role in public engagement and education. Through curated exhibits, workshops, and outreach programs, it actively involves the public in the exploration of Indonesia's cultural mosaic. This educational aspect extends to schools, universities, and community groups, fostering a sense of cultural responsibility and pride.

4. Conclusion

Anthropology and the Museum Indonesia collaborate to not only document and preserve the past but also to actively engage with the present and shape the future. This multidimensional approach ensures that the cultural richness of the Indonesian archipelago remains a living, evolving entity that continues to inspire and educate generations to come.

In summary, the Museum Indonesia, as an anthropology museum, serves as a cornerstone in the preservation and dissemination of knowledge about the culture and people of the Indonesian archipelago. Its collections and activities contribute to the appreciation and understanding of Indonesia's cultural heritage, fostering a deeper connection between the past and the present.

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