



The Effects of Technology Use in Keris Making on Social Change

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Abstract

Keris is a symbol of Malay identity and is one of the valuable Malay heritage. Like most legacies around the world, keris has undergone a renewal process which in line with current technological developments. This has affected the tools and techniques of keris making and has impacted the final result. Musang, a tool to blow wind has been replaced with blower and knockers are used to replace the mason assistants to depress iron. This study aims to find out the impact of technology use in the production of keris on social change which in line with technological developments. Field studies have been carried out in several areas in Kelantan involving experienced keris makers in Pasir Mas, Kota Bharu and Tumpat districts using observation methods and semi-structured interviews. The results showed that technology has affected the social change in keris making. But in the making of new keris, keris makers still maintain the original features of keris to preserve the identity of the Malay keris especially the basic design. It is due to the shift of keris functions from being just a normal weapon to defend oneself to become the collection of Malay heritage weapons.

Keywords: Technology Use, Social change, Keris

Introduction

Keris has become a symbol of power and greatness of the Malay kingdom. Generally, keris is the weapon of the traditional Malay. Keris has many forms, some long and some short, curved, straight, sharp and has a sheath (Kamarul Baharin bin Abdul Kassim, 1996). In ancient times, keris served as a weapon for defense, while in modern times keris was used as accessories in homes and offices because keris fans considered keris to have their own artistic value. In addition, keris is used as a complement of formal attire in official events such as royal ceremonies. Keris has been the pride of the Malays in the old days as keris has its own origins and history. There are various types of keris, such as Keris Alang, Keris Pandai Saras, Keris Tok Chu, Keris Beko, Keris Charita, Keris Sepukal, Keris Unduk-Unduk and Keris Malela.

However, in each keris creation, there are three main things that are formulated: philosophy, manners and secrets. Malay is a race that is very unique, with its rich culture and full of philosophy, culture and secrets (Email Bahari, 2009). According to Mahyudin Al-Mudra (2009), keris philosophy was created initially not as a killing weapon. However, when the owner is exposed to danger, keris will be the weapon to protect the owner. Thus, keris is made for self-defense and becomes the unique weapons compared to the other Malay weapons such as swords, spears and machetes.

Literature Review

The technique of keris making develops over time. In the early stages, there are prohibitions that a keris maker must follow when producing a keris. However, today, new keris makers do not follow the taboo (Noordin bin Abdul Hamid, 2019). According to Zamri Ahmad (2015), the keris blade is made of iron or a mixture of several different types of iron to make the metal stronger and more durable. They are then moulded to form the final blade. The blades are usually trimmed to harden the blade. Each type of blade will be fitted with the appropriate type of head and cover. Good keris are made from the moulding process by mixing several types of iron. Modern keris are made since the 20th century by using nickel metal. Good old keris have a meteorite with high titanium content, nickel, silver, white lead, chromium, antimonium, and copper. The most famous meteorite is the Prambanan meteorite, which collapsed in the 19th century at the Prambanan Candian Complex (Harsrisukmo, 2004).

Modernization is a term used to describe the progress experienced by the world today. Modernization encompasses all aspects of human life which are more focused on one form of Western life and can indirectly influence a society in several aspects, including cultural, social, way of life and others (Sinai I.R., 1964).

Modernization Theory is a term used to refer to the progress or process of change that is happening today. These changes include many aspects of life in society. The result is to create two categories of society, traditional and modern. Additionally, modernization cannot be separated from transformation term where modernization will not exist without transformation taking place. Therefore, these are the reasons why Modernization Theory is only applicable to developing countries. Developing countries require a direct process of change (Iurve carla, 2011).

According to Shamsul Amri bin Baharuddin, Mohamad Fauzi bin Sukimi, and Azmi bin Aziz (2005), modernization is a process of transformation or change in all aspects of people's lives and is something that should be met by all nations. Modernization in Malaysia is very much related to the formation of a nation of many ethnic groups and races. They argue that the implementation of each of these policies cannot be measured as a measure of the rate of economic growth. Therefore, this subjective nature has often invited doubt, criticism and alternative views on modernization projects undertaken in Malaysia on ethnic relations and racial unity.

The meaning of social modernization, from the perspective of the Malaysian nation, is the renewal of aspects of education, living, relationships and so on. From social aspect, since colonial times, each race was separated by place of residence where the Malays lived in villages and suburban areas, the Chinese in urban areas, and the Indians on the plantations. Therefore, this trend continues in China where most people still live in large cities, and only a small minority of Malay and Indian communities live in big cities. Most of the community is still living in the small towns and rural areas, due to economic factors (Hasnah binti Hussin, 2009).

Modernization can also lead to ethnic competition (Robert H. Bates, 1977). Modernization can also give an impact on the growth of nationalism. Factors such as industrialization, literacy, the education system, the development of the modern communication system, secularism and capitalism have affected the people's struggle and the spirit of nationalism. According to Karl. Deutsch (2000), one of the most important components of modernization is social mobilization, which consists of two processes, the first is a process that involves the whole traditional social system, the economic system and the psychological commitment of collapse or erosion and the society is more accepting of new things in their lives in terms of socialization and behavior. Some philosophers, scientists, social scientists and planners tend to interpret developments with social structures taking place in highly developed countries in the industrial, education, science and technology sectors (Hasnah binti Hussin, 2009).

Modernization and social change are two things that are interrelated. Modernization is in fact a multi-faceted field. Therefore, areas which will be given priority for a society to perform depends on the wisdom of the leader who leads the community (Restu Septiawan, 2018). Horkheimer and Adorno (2018), state that the theory of modernization is a series of processes that acts as a prerequisite to move from traditional society to modern society. The process of change includes industrialization, urbanization, rationalization, bureaucracy, and democracy. Practically, the process can be seen from the development of infrastructure in all areas, transport and communications systems that encourage the community to move forward. It is being developed by social institutions such as daily schools and the mass media which are powerful channels for disseminating information. According to Iwan Ismi Febriyanto (2012), the founders of modernization theory have stated that society will change in a linear manner, which is a consistent, harmonious and balanced change from the smallest element of society to the great social change and from traditional to modern society.

Traditional people are still a strong community with local customs held since the time of their ancestors. Traditional communities have always been associated with the rural community, though not all rural communities are traditional because some are already looking at competition and technology. In traditional societies, individuals cannot be separated from their community because their relationships are open. In traditional societies, generally social culture is dominated by tradition, customary beliefs, and they are not required to obey the laws made by the government (Nani Febrilini, 2018).

Modern society is a society that is more inclined towards the advancement of science and technology and they are more open and aware of new things. According to Nani Febrilini (2018), modern society usually involves urban people, although not all urban communities are modern. However, modern society strives for the members of their community to have a high level of education. People with higher levels of education can help themselves, society, country to compete with other developing countries.

Social change is a living phenomenon experienced by every society in the world. Every human being must experience changes in various aspects of life. This occurs during interactions between individuals and between communities within their environment. When you compare your current life with the past few decades, you are sure to notice the changes (M. Tahir Kasnawi & Solomon Solomon 2014).

Every form of society, whether traditional or modern, is constantly undergoing constant changes. By using his mind, humans are constantly making changes that have created various technologies to overcome all the problems they face in order to improve the standard of human life.

Social change is a process that applies in every group of people. The process of change is usually caused by factors of social change. This should be adapted from community to the behavior or internal conditions experienced in a community. However, not all of these social phenomena can cause social change.

According to Janu Murdiyatmoko (2017), in his book entitled 'Sociology: Understanding Society', he explained that such changes can be regarded as social change if they have the characteristics of social change in them as they can happen everywhere, intentionally made, ongoing, imitative, temporary organized, causal relationships and controversial.

The meaning of social change in general is a change that occurs in society related to patterns of thought, social attitudes, norms, values, and various patterns of human behavior in society. According to Soerjono Soekanto (2009), every human being in his life must undergo changes. Changes apply to social values and norms, patterns of organizational behavior, the composition of social institutions, layers of society, power, social interaction and so on. Changes that occur in society today are normal symptoms. It will influence quickly throughout the world with modern communication.

Therefore, every individual or society must experience continuous change. This is because every individual and member of a society has the mind and ability to grow over time in all aspects. According to Ogburn (1964), social change is a change that encompasses both material and non-material cultural elements which have great influence of material cultural elements on non-material elements.

However, the degree of change in one community group differs from another group. There are changes that happen quickly but there are also processes that change slowly. This will depend on the awareness and action taken by members of the community. According to Fadhli Rahmat (2015), society is influenced by the attitude and behavior of members of the society. Such behavior reflects the decisions made by individuals, given the environment they face. Thus, as technology changes, social change in society will change as well (Greenwood, 2008).

As human development in terms of quantity or quality (science and technology) has made a profound change in society, in sociological studies, these changes are seen as dynamic and non-linear and occur at all levels of society (Sztompka, 2014). Society cannot be imagined as a fixed state of affairs, but as a process, not as a rigid object but as a continuous stream of events. Social change is the change in behavior patterns, social relationships, institutions, and social structure at any given time. Social change is considered as a change in or within the social system. Therefore, there are differences between the condition of the system in different time periods (Indraddin & M.Si.Irwan, 2002).

Social change is a continuous change of society and never ceases as there is no society in this world has stopped at a certain point all the time. Sociologists classify societies into two groups, namely static and dynamic societies. Therefore, the static community is a society that is changing very slowly. On the other hand, the meaning of dynamic society is that society is changing rapidly. These changes occur in accordance with the nature of human beings who always want to make changes, because humans have a tendency to be dissatisfied with what has been achieved (Nur Djazifah ER, 2012).

Today's society wants to find something new to change things to be better than before. The strength of humans lies in their own thinking, that is, as a potential in humans that are not possessed by other creatures. It is due to the ability of a human being to think for finding better change in themselves and society. The ability to think is used by humans to solve problems faced in life (Nur Djazifah ER, 2012). According to Mac Iver (1986) in the journal of Renova Reza (2019),

the notion of social change is changes that occur in social relations in a society or changes in the equilibrium of social relations.

According to Durkheim in 1958 in the module of M. Tahir Kasnawi and Sulaiman Asang (2014), each society was bound by a shared value, later known as the concept of solidarity. In a society where its development is still relatively modest, the solidarity in society is still dominated by the emotional factors of a very high degree of kinship among fellow citizens. Therefore, the citizens of the community involved have the same view. They are tied to one another by the soul or the conscience. The problems that arise between them will be viewed as a shared problem. Moreover, the division of labor is only distinguished by age and gender differences. Older people are placed as leaders or as advisors.

According to Gillin and Gillin (1948) a change is a variation of a well-accepted lifestyle due to changes in geographical conditions, material culture, population composition and ideology or the discovery of new discoveries in society. Nurul Mutmainnah (2017) points out three factors that cause human progress, namely boredom, in which human beings are always imperfect if they do not use their minds to innovate, second is human age, she considers age to increase the conservatism whereby when one's age increases, the instinct will become stronger. Thirdly is the demographic factors which will also cause people to create new things.

There are various forms of change that apply in society today, but not all of them can be categorized as social change. According to Janu Murdiyatmoko (2017), written in his book entitled 'Sociology: Understanding Society' explains change can be said to be social change if it has characteristics of social change in it such as:

- i. Changes take place everywhere

Social change can happen everywhere, even though the degree of change that exists varies from place to place. People who still hold to traditional principles usually have a relatively slow social change. The material culture aspect will change much faster than the non-material culture. For example, mobile phones are changing and evolving very quickly over time, but their usage ethics are slow to change. Therefore, you may often find some people using mobile phones for unethical purposes (Janu Murdiyatmoko, 2017).

- ii. Intentionally made

Sometimes social changes are made on purpose. But it happens more often when no planning is made. For example, the creators of motor vehicles intentionally built high-speed vehicles aimed at accelerating movement. But they do not think these findings can cause environmental damage as a result of vehicle smoke and are also contributing to the increased fatality rate caused by road accidents (Janu Murdiyatmoko, 2017).

- iii. Ongoing

Another feature of social change is the nature of ongoing social change. Every community will always have a change, whether they happen sooner or later. Social change is a fundamental consequence of human as a social being who will continue to evolve (Janu Murdiyatmoko, 2017).

- iv. Imitative

Social change has an imitative nature, which means that all changes in one community group will continue to be followed by another community. This is because each group affects each other and cannot isolate itself from all changes. Examples of changes in home design, fashion changes, hairstyles and more. These changes will be widely replicated by other communities (Janu Murdiyatmoko, 2017).

v. Temporary Organized

Social changes, especially those that are fast-paced, will of course lead to temporary organization. Disorganization is a chaotic situation due to the adaptation of some societies to social change in society. However, restructuring is usually followed by restructuring and strengthening the adoption of new norms and accepted cultures (Janu Murdiyatkoko, 2017).

vi. Causal Relationship

Social change is not limited to the material and non-material fields. Social change is also possible because both material and non-material aspects have reciprocal relationships. This means that every single thing that happens must be reciprocal (Janu Murdiyatkoko, 2017).

vii. Controversial

Social change is often controversial. For example, the use of sophisticated machines to increase the quantity of product production is increasingly being selected by entrepreneurs. This is because of lower production costs. However, this is opposed by the workers because of the reduction in labor. Therefore, it is the cause of the social conflict that is happening in society (Janu Murdiyatkoko, 2017).

Methodology

Methodology is important to answer the research questions that are formulated in the study by the researcher. The effective method for data collection depends on the form of research questions and objectives set out in this study. This study is a descriptive study which is aimed in understanding the retention and change of keris design in Kelantan. According to Bohn (2002), the study design should be based on three elements:

- i. Who is the informant involved in the study?
- ii. What is the purpose of the study?
- iii. What research questions need to be answered?

Research methods refer to systematic methods or procedures used in a particular study or research. The design of the study also depends on the research objectives and research questions (Maxwell, 2005). In this study, the researcher selected a qualitative case study design to gain in-depth knowledge and understanding to analyze the impact of technology use in keris making on social change. Qualitative method is the best method for this study because it is descriptive and can solve research problems and provide a clearer and better picture of the external environment of this study.

Respondents

According to Kamarul Azmi Jasmi (2012), researchers are encouraged to interview informants who are in the know of the topics to be asked. It is important to vary the person you want to interview so that the researcher can express the overall view of the subject. Therefore, this point is considered to be achieved when additional informants do not have new knowledge (saturated). Table 1.1 shows the criteria for selecting an informant.

Table 1.1 Criteria for Informants Selection

No.	Characteristics of Informants
1	Experienced in the field of keris making (5 years and above).
2	He is a collector of keris and has a large and various collection of keris.
3	Has been a judge in keris competition
4	Have knowledge in distinguishing types of keris

Study sample was determined based on the research question by identifying potential research informants gathered from selected individuals as samples. In this qualitative study, there were no issues regarding the exact number of informants in each interview. In other words, there are no specific rules used to determine the sample size to be interviewed (Patton, 2002). The most important part in qualitative studies is that once researchers have achieved sufficient data or the information is saturated, it is enough to answer the research question.

Figure 1.1 shows a flowchart in studying the impact of technology use in keris making on social change. It starts with primary and secondary data to start this study in search for important information. Interview and observation methods are used to obtain the data source.

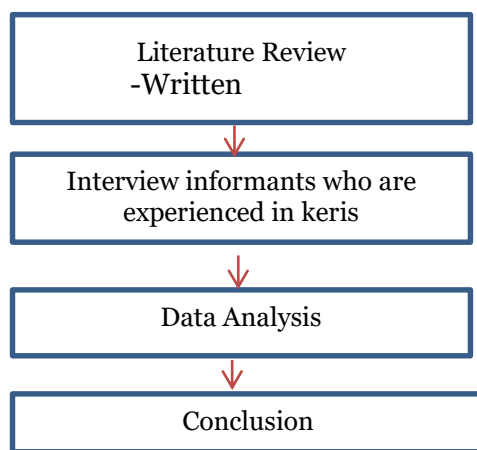


Figure 1.1: Flow chart

Results and Discussion

1. Changes take place everywhere

Changes in the design of the keris can happen everywhere. Therefore, the findings show that the design of the keris will change depending on the place of manufacture. The changes that occur exist in various degrees from one place to another. Hence, there are many variations of the keris produced in terms of the structure of the blade, the flower and the elephant's trunk.

2. Intentionally made.

Social change sometimes happens on purpose. Usually it happens by accident. For example, the invention of a motor vehicle, it is done intentionally to create a vehicle. This is to speed up the movement of vehicles. However, they did not consider the positive and negative effects of the findings. This type of change often occurs in society today, which happens unintentionally. In this case, social change occurs if the change is made on purpose. For example, the innovation in the blade of the keris in terms of its pattern are now being made according to current demands.

3. Ongoing

Another feature of social change is the nature of ongoing social change. It means that every society will usually change, whether sooner or later. Social change is the basic consequence of which human nature is a social being and such changes occur continuously and evolve over time. Social change among the keris makers in Kelantan happens when they try to produce a keris which is similar to the original one. However, the new keris makers will produce keris which is different so that they can compete with other keris makers.

4. Imitative

Social change has an imitative nature, which means that all changes within one community will continue to be followed by another group of people. This is due to the fact that each group is influencing each other and not being able to stay away from any changes that occur over time. Examples of house design changes, hairstyles and many more. These changes will be widely followed by other communities. The influence of the Malay community in keeping keris is then realized by Chinese society whereby some of them have made keris as their collections.

5. Temporary Organized

Social changes, especially those that occur quickly, will of course lead to temporary organization. Disorganization is a chaotic situation due to the adaptation of some societies to social change in society. Nonetheless, structuring is usually followed by restructuring and strengthening the adoption of new norms and accepted cultures. Thus, the view of those who oppose the changes made to the keris blade is that its design cannot be rebranded because it will affect the original identity of the Malay keris. Therefore, if the changes made without limitation, the original features of keris will be lost.

6. Causal Relationship

Social change is not limited to the material and non-material fields. Social change is also possible because both material and non-material aspects have reciprocal relationships. This means that every single thing that happens must be reciprocal.

Reciprocal relationships are usually take place in the manufacturing of keris, where they exist when the keris maker produces a good and high quality keris. Consequently, customers will continue to order the next keris. In addition, keris maker are always looking for new and best equipment in producing keris. Therefore, when they found the right equipment, which is a tool that can simplify the work, improve the quality and speed up the process of keris making, they will continue to use the equipment.

7. Controversial

Social change is often controversial. For example, the use of sophisticated machines to increase the quantity of production is increasingly being selected by entrepreneurs. This is because of lower production costs. However, this is opposed by the workers because of the reduction in labor. This, in turn, is the cause of the social conflicts that occur in society.

The results of the study show that the keris maker nowadays use a new tool in producing keris because of the low number of keris makers. Therefore, they take this step to speed up the process

of making keris. The use of new equipment can increase the production of keris produced in line with the high demand from the customers.

The use of machines basically costs a lot to get. However, it will help the keris maker in saving the money to pay the assistant's salary. For example, the use of knockout machine. Eventhough it is costly, but the keris maker can produce up to 10 keris in a day. In contrast, the keris maker has to pay the helper daily and the helper will be able to produce at least two keris in a day without the help of any tool. Consequently, with the application of the machine, the helper will lose the job or they need to become the keris maker to earn a living.

Therefore, the cause of conflict is the conflict of social symptoms that is common in social life. Social conflicts occur due to differences in opinion among the people which eventually lead to conflict. In addition, conflict is not just caused by differences of opinion, there are several other factors that cause conflicts.

Conclusion

Social change towards a society that still holds to traditional principles will often lead to slow social change. However, the study shows that keris makers over the age of 50 still maintain the use of traditional equipment in the keris making. This is because they believe that they can produce good quality of keris which is similar to the antique one eventhough without using the new technology. Despite the use of traditional tools in keris making, changes still take place due to environmental factors. This means that the design of the keris is greatly influenced by the location of the keris maker. According to Manan bin Embong (2004), in the manufacturing of keris, changes will happen in terms of the shape, physical, the current situation, local, use, change of customs and life in the Malay community.

Thus, the heritage and culture of keris making in Kelantan are still preserved with such arts like its uniqueness and the main features of the old keris despite the use of modern technology. Tradition is maintained with the support from those who still emphasize efforts and ways to preserve the shape of the keris. In conclusion, although using different types of techniques and equipment according to the suitability and the comfort of keris makers, the original shape of the keris must be maintained. This is a unique and special weapon of Malay community. If changes were made by the keris makers in the present day, it will ruin the original features of the keris.

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