

Local wisdom representation in Usang Sungging folklore and cultural identity

Ahmad Azzikri Luthfi

Universitas Sriwijaya, Indonesia.

Silvi Marselina

Universitas Islam Negeri Raden Fatah, Indonesia.

Aedil Hersyah

Universitas Sriwijaya, Indonesia.

Erdy Nur Pratama

Universitas Sriwijaya, Indonesia.

Nurhumairo Azzahra

Universitas Sriwijaya, Indonesia.

Aliyah

Universitas Sriwijaya, Indonesia.

Corresponding Author: ahmad.azzikriluthfi@gmail.com

Abstract

The development of globalisation and modernisation poses challenges to preserving local culture, especially among younger generations who are increasingly distant from their regional oral traditions. This trend puts folklore, as part of local wisdom, at risk of declining and losing relevance in modern society. This study examines how the legend of Usang Sungging represents local cultural values and strengthens the community's cultural identity. This research uses a qualitative descriptive method with content analysis of the legend of Usang Sungging and other supporting sources. This study shows that the legend of Usang Sungging has cultural, social, and religious values integrated into society's system of cultural meaning. These values are reflected through characters, social practices, cultural skills, and people's relationships with local traditions and beliefs. The findings also show that legends function not only as entertainment but also as a medium for transmitting norms, shaping character, and preserving cultural traditions. The conclusion emphasises that revitalising legends is part of local wisdom and helps maintain the community's cultural traditions amid globalisation and ongoing social change.

Keywords: Local Wisdom, Folklore, A Taste of The Past, Cultural Identity, Character Education.

Introduction

Legends are part of oral traditions that have an important role in passing on cultural values and local wisdom to the next generation. In literary anthropology, folklore functions not only as entertainment but also as a medium for reflecting a society's outlook on life, value system, and cultural identity. Recent research shows that folklore can represent local wisdom and culture within society and serve as a means of transmitting local norms and knowledge from generation to generation (Widiono et al., 2026). Thus, folklore is an important instrument for maintaining cultural continuity amid changing times.

Local wisdom itself is a set of values, knowledge, and practices that develop in society and are inherited from generation to generation. From the perspective of local wisdom theory, these values include various dimensions such as knowledge, social norms, solidarity, and decision-making mechanisms in people's lives (Lika & Supratno, 2021). Local wisdom is also strongly embedded in people's lives as part of the collective identity that shapes their social outlook and behaviour (Aisy et al., 2024). Therefore, studying folklore is important for revealing how these values are represented in narrative form.

However, as globalisation and technology advance, the existence of folklore begins to shift. The younger generation is more familiar with global popular culture than with local traditions passed down orally. This creates a gap between the ideal morality of local culture and current social reality. Globalisation is even seen as a serious challenge to the sustainability of cultural identity, because it can erode the uniqueness and diversity of local culture if it is not balanced with preservation efforts (Amal et al., 2024). As a result, much folklore has been marginalised and is no longer deeply understood by the people who supported it.

Several previous studies have examined local wisdom in folklore, such as a study of folklore in East Nusa Tenggara, which shows that cultural values and literary social functions reflect the lives of local people (Aisy et al., 2024), and research on Lampung folklore that emphasises its role as a means of inheriting cultural values (Widiono et al., 2026). However, studies that specifically examine the representation of local wisdom in the legend of Usang Sungging are still limited. In fact, the story has great potential as a source of cultural value that can strengthen the local community's cultural identity.

Accordingly, this study examines how the legend of Usang Sungging represents local wisdom and explains its relevance to strengthening cultural identity. This research is expected to support the preservation of local culture and contribute to innovations in regional literature studies as a medium for strengthening identity in the modern era.

Methods

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive research design. This approach was chosen to reveal and explain the representation of local wisdom in the legend of Usang Sungging in a further and contextual manner.

The subject of this research is the text of the legend of Usang Sungging, obtained from written sources and/or documentation of transcribed oral stories. The research focuses on narrative elements that contain local wisdom values, such as the characters' actions, dialogues, the flow of events, and the cultural background that represents people's lives.

This research technique was carried out in several stages, namely: (1) data collection in the form of the text of the legend of Usang Sungging; (2) intensive reading to understand the entire content of the story; (3) marking (*coding*) of parts of the text that contain indications of local wisdom; (4) grouping of data based on the category of local wisdom value; and (5) interpretation of meaning to reveal the representation of these values in a cultural context.

The main instrument in this study is the researcher himself (*human instrument*), assisted by a data analysis sheet in the form of a categorisation table of local wisdom values. The criteria used in identifying local wisdom include: (1) moral values, (2) social values, (3) cultural values, and (4) religious values reflected in actions and events in the story.

Data collection is carried out through documentation and watch-note techniques. The documentation technique is used to obtain folklore texts, while the listen-record technique is used to record important parts of the population who understand the legend of Usang Sungging and are relevant to the research focus.

Data analysis is carried out using content analysis techniques, through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion. The categorised data are then analysed to identify patterns in the representation of local wisdom and its relationship to strengthening the community's cultural identity. To maintain data validity, the study uses source triangulation by comparing several versions or references of relevant stories.

Findings and Discussion

Findings

Legends are a folklore function that represents local cultural norms in the community. Recent studies show that legends are not only entertaining stories but also tools for transmitting moral values, social norms, and culture that continue to be inherited. Passed down from generation to generation (Enda, 2024; Suryanto et al., 2024). In the current context, folklore faces challenges, including declining understanding of local values among younger generations due to the influence of globalisation and modern media (Suhardi, 2021). Therefore, analysing the legend of Usang Sungging is important to identify the forms of local wisdom it contains.

Based on data analysis, a number of representations of local wisdom were found that were reflected through the actions of the characters, events, and cultural heritage in the story. Table 1 summarises the findings.

Table 1. Representations and Meanings of Local Wisdom in the Story

No	Grade Categories	Text Data	The Meaning of Local Wisdom
1	Morals	The Sultan Continued to Tell the Truth Despite the Accusations of the Sultan	Upholding honesty and integrity
2	Morals	Refusing to return to the palace	Steadfastness of life
3	Social	Teaching skills to the community	Social solidarity
4	Social	Accepted by the local community	Social harmony
5	Culture	Inheritance of carpentry and carving skills	Local cultural identity
6	Culture	The tradition of weaving by Putri Pinang Masak	Cultural heritage

No	Grade Categories	Text Data	The Meaning of Local Wisdom
7	Religious	Spread of Islamic teachings	Spiritual value
8	Religious	The Oath of Allegiance to the Crown Prince	Belief in divine power
9	Philosophical	Beauty as a source of life's tests	Views of people's lives

Table 1 shows that cultural and social values are the most dominant categories in the story. This aligns with research findings that folklore contains cultural norms such as cooperation, honesty, and social bonds of togetherness as part of the community's local wisdom (Suhardi & Astuti, 2021). In addition, cultural values related to skills show that folklore also functions as a means of inheriting real people's life practices.

Discussion

Based on Table 1, the representation of local wisdom in the legend of Usang Sungging shows that moral, social, cultural, and religious values do not exist separately but are integrated into one another to form the community's system of cultural meaning. In this context, folklore functions not only as entertainment but also as a medium for transmitting values and reflecting on people's social lives. This aligns with research showing that folklore contains cultural values and character education that reflect the lives of the local community (Rahmaniyar, 2022). In addition, folklore represents the community's worldview and collective imagination, inherited from generation to generation.

Representation of Moral, Social, Cultural, and Religious Values

In terms of moral values, Sang Sungging represents integrity through honesty and steadfastness of principle in the face of the Sultan's accusations. This value shows that folklore functions as a medium of character education that instils honesty, responsibility, and consistency in action. Other research also confirms that moral values in folklore play an important role in shaping individual behaviour and guiding social life (Budiyawan et al., 2024). However, critics might argue that the moral representation in this story is idealistic and lacks moral complexity. The main character is portrayed as completely correct and unambiguous, whereas in modern reality, moral issues are often dilemmatic and not black-and-white. This shows that folklore still carries a simple and normative traditional narrative pattern.

In terms of social values, Sang Sungging's interaction with the community shows social integration through sharing skills and knowledge. Not only does it adapt, but it also becomes part of the community and makes a real contribution. This shows that local wisdom is not only a value, but also a social practice that lives in society. Research shows that folklore often reflects social systems that emphasise solidarity, togetherness, and collective relationships in society (Lika & Supratno, 2021). However, when analyzed critically, the story does not fully reflect the complex dynamics of social conflict, so social reality tends to be simplified into ideal harmony.

In terms of cultural values, the legend of Usang Sungging shows a very strong function as a source of legitimacy for cultural practices that still survive today. Skills such as carpentry, carving, and weaving not only appear in the story but also become the community's socio-economic reality. This shows that folklore links past narratives to present cultural practices. Recent research also confirms that local wisdom in folklore can strengthen cultural identity

and preserve traditions (Hartanto et al., 2022). In another study, it was stated that folklore can be a source of cultural value relevant to education and modern life (Hartati et al., 2024). However, not all cultural practices inherited through folklore can survive intact because social changes and modernisation can displace traditional values.

In terms of religious values, the spiritual dimension of the legend of Usang Sungging is evident in Abdul Hamid's efforts to spread Islamic teachings to the local community. In addition, his involvement in constructing the Al-Falah Mosque in Tanjung Batu shows that religiosity is not only a belief but also manifests in social and cultural practices. This aligns with studies that argue folklore functions as a medium for internalising religious values and shaping society's character through cultural narratives (Uswatun Khasanah et al., 2022).

Dominance of Values and Relevance in Socio-Cultural Contexts

Overall, the dominance of cultural and social values in the legend of Usang Sungging suggests that folklore emphasises aspects of collectivity and the sustainability of traditions. These values are reflected in interactions between the main characters and the community, especially through knowledge transfer in sculpting, building, and handicraft skills. This strengthens the view that local wisdom is a key foundation for maintaining the community's cultural identity (Mulyani Supriatin Pusat Riset Manuskrip et al., 2022). In the context of globalisation, folklore is important as a form of resistance to global cultural homogenization that can erode local identity (Aprinta, 2023).

In addition, the legend of Usang Sungging also carries a reflective dimension through the conflicts Abdul Hamid experiences. The Sultan's baseless accusations reflect injustice, patience, and the consequences of power. This shows that folklore not only contains moral messages but also represents social dynamics and power relations in society (Fathurohman et al., 2023).

Research Contributions and Implications

Compared with previous research that generally focused on identifying values in folklore, this study contributes by showing that these values relate to ongoing community social practices (Hak, 2022; Mahmud, 2022). Thus, the local wisdom in the legend of Usang Sungging is not only a narrative legacy, but also part of the cultural reality that lives in the community.

This research implies that the legend of Usang Sungging can serve as a source of culture-based learning, especially in character education and the preservation of local culture (Firdaus et al., 2023). In addition, the results show that local wisdom can be developed as part of an adaptive cultural identity amid changing times.

Analysis of Narrative Structure and Identity Dynamics

Beyond the community's cultural values, the narrative structure of the legend of Usang Sungging also plays an important role in building meaning and strengthening cultural representation. The storyline, which begins with the conflict between Abdul Hamid and the Sultan and then moves through exile and adaptation in a new environment, shows the typical pattern of the character's journey in the legend. This pattern is useful not only for storytelling but also for conveying life values, especially fortitude, adaptability, and the importance of maintaining one's integrity in unfavourable situations (Tausya & Zein, 2023).

The depiction of Abdul Hamid as an expert in various fields, such as sculpting,

painting, and designing buildings, shows that local wisdom exists not only as abstract values but also as practical skills. These skills are then transmitted to the local community, thus creating a sustainable cultural heritage process. In this context, local wisdom is understood not only as a legacy of the past but also as a living practice that continues to evolve and adapt to the community's needs (Aries, 2023).

Furthermore, the interaction between the main characters and the community in the Tanjung Batu area shows a harmonious and mutually beneficial social relationship. The presence of Sang Sungging is not only accepted but also makes a real contribution in improving the quality of people's lives through the transfer of knowledge and skills. This shows that the value of local wisdom is closely tied to the principles of togetherness, cooperation, and social solidarity, which form the foundation of life in traditional communities.

On the other hand, the conflict that occurred between Abdul Hamid and the Sultan can be interpreted as a representation of power relations in society. The baseless accusations show how power can be used disproportionately, while the main character's choice to avoid conflict reflects a wise response to injustice. This representation shows that folklore functions not only as entertainment but also as a medium of social reflection that criticises power structures and social dynamics (Nugroho & Yusriansyah, 2025).

In relation to strengthening cultural identity, the values in the legend of Usang Sungging remain highly relevant to modern society. Amid globalisation, local cultural identities often face challenges from shifting values and lifestyles. However, through reinterpreting folklore, people can rediscover their cultural roots. The legend of Usang Sungging represents a way to connect the past with the present, helping maintain the continuity of cultural identity (Aprinta, 2023).

The representation of local wisdom in the legend of Usang Sungging is found not only in the cultural norms it contains, but also in how people revive these values in their lives. Folklore is no longer understood simply as traditional heritage, but as a source of knowledge and reflection relevant to the dynamics of the times. The results show that local wisdom has adaptive properties, so it can remain useful for certain cultural characteristics amid ongoing social change (Aprinta, 2023).

Further examination shows that the legend of Usang Sungging not only represents local wisdom in the form of social values and practices but also shows the transformation of the main character's identity. Abdul Hamid's shift from court servant to an important figure in the rural community reflects an identity change shaped by new social and environmental experiences. This transformation shows that identity is not something static, but dynamic and continues to be shaped through social interactions and life experiences (Nugroho & Yusriansyah, 2025).

The main character's journey can also be interpreted as a symbol of the human adaptation process in facing change. The condition of alienation experienced at first became the starting point for the formation of new social relations. In this case, Abdul Hamid's ability to adapt and contribute through his expertise is the main factor that helps the community accept him. This shows that local wisdom is not only about inherited values, but also about individuals' ability to adapt to their social environment (Zulfan Ramadani, 2022).

On the other hand, Putri Nafisah's character also adds another dimension to the representation of local wisdom. Putri Nafisah is described as a figure skilled in crafts who plays

a role in fostering her community. This shows that women's roles in folklore are not always passive, but also active in cultural preservation and community empowerment. This representation matters because it shows that local wisdom also includes values of equal roles in social life.

More deeply, the meeting between Abdul Hamid and Putri Nafisah can be interpreted as a symbol of two different local knowledge systems meeting and complementing each other. Abdul Hamid brings expertise in architecture and carving, while Putri Nafisah has skills in handicrafts. This interaction results in synergies that enrich the lives of the local community. Thus, this story not only describes the individual but also the process of cultural collaboration, which is an important part of societal development.

In a contemporary context, the representation of local wisdom in the legend of Usang Sungging can be understood as an alternative form of knowledge that can address the challenges of modernity. During a period of global cultural dominance that tends to be uniform, local wisdom offers a more contextual perspective rooted in people's experiences. Therefore, re-excavating values in folklore is important for maintaining cultural diversity while strengthening local identity (Aprinta, 2023).

In addition, the legend of Usang Sungging can also be seen as a form of cultural legitimacy for social practices that develop in society, such as carpentry skills, carving arts, and religious activities. The figure of Sang Sungging as a respected figure shows that society values individuals who make real contributions to social life. This shows that local wisdom is not only understood as symbolic value, but also as a social standard that people recognise and use as a guideline in their lives (Amanda & Safitri, 2025).

Thus, reading the legend of Usang Sungging not only stops at identifying local wisdom values but also opens a wider space for understanding identity dynamics, social relations, and the process of cultural adaptation. This shows that folklore has a depth of meaning that can continue to be studied and interpreted as times change, so it remains relevant as a source of knowledge and cultural reflection.

Practical Implications in Education and Cultural Preservation

The findings of this study show that the legend of Usang Sungging is not only valuable as a heritage of local wisdom but also has strong potential for implementation in education, especially character education based on local culture. Values such as honesty, responsibility, perseverance, and the spirit of sharing knowledge reflected in the character of Sang Sungging can serve as a source of contextual learning that aligns with students' world. In this context, legends can serve as pedagogical media that not only provide knowledge but also convey implicit local cultural teachings through narratives.

In practice, folklore can be used as teaching material through various approaches, such as learning from literary texts, critical discussions, and creative activities such as dramatisation and rewriting stories. This approach allows learners not only to understand the content of the story, but also to internalise the values it contains. In addition, using local legends such as Usang Sungging can increase students' emotional closeness to the learning material because the stories come from a cultural environment they are familiar with.

Furthermore, in the context of cultural preservation, folklore plays an important role as a medium of documentation and a way to pass on local cultural teachings from generation

to generation. As globalisation brought waves of cultural homogenization, folklore became a form of resistance against the loss of local identity. By integrating folklore into the education system, cultural preservation efforts are carried out not only symbolically but also practically through a continuous learning process.

However, using folklore in education also faces challenges, especially regarding the relevance and adaptation of traditional values in the modern context. Not all values in folklore can be interpreted directly without reinterpretation. Therefore, studying and teaching folklore requires a critical approach so the selected values align with the needs and conditions of today's society.

In addition, educators play an important role in packaging folklore so it remains interesting and relevant for the younger generation. Digital media, such as videos, animations, and interactive learning platforms, can help revive folklore in a more modern form. Thus, folklore not only survives as a traditional text but also develops as a learning medium that adapts to the times.

Considering these aspects, the legend of Usang Sungging has significant potential for use in education and cultural preservation. Proper implementation will not only strengthen cultural identity but also shape the character of the younger generation rooted in local values.

The Relevance of Local Wisdom in the Digital Era and Globalisation

In the era of globalisation and digitalisation, local wisdom faces increasingly complex challenges. The rapid, massive flow of information shifts people's values and lifestyles, especially among the younger generation. In this context, folklore such as the legend of Usang Sungging plays a strategic role as a source of values that can help maintain a balance between modernity and tradition (Supriatin et al., 2022; Anam et al., 2025).

The local wisdom contained in folklore not only serves as a legacy of the past but also as a guideline for navigating social change. Values such as cooperation, solidarity, and appreciation for local skills remain relevant in modern life, which is increasingly individualistic. Therefore, re-strengthening these values through folklore is important in building a strong cultural identity.

On the other hand, digital technology also opens new opportunities for preserving and disseminating folklore. Digitising folklore as e-books, podcasts, animated videos, and social media allows these stories to reach a wider audience. This shows that local wisdom does not have to be trapped in traditional forms, but can transform according to technological developments (Aprinta, 2023)

The local wisdom contained in folklore not only serves as a legacy of the past, but also as a guide for navigating social change. Values such as cooperation, solidarity, and respect for local skills remain relevant in an increasingly individualistic modern life. Therefore, re-strengthening these values through folklore is important for building a solid cultural identity.

On the other hand, digital technology also opens new opportunities for preserving and disseminating folklore. Digitisation of folklore in the form of e-books, podcasts, animated videos, and social media allows these stories to reach a wider audience. This shows that local wisdom does not have to remain stuck in traditional forms but can adapt to technological developments.

However, digitalisation also carries risks, especially around the reduction of meaning and the commercialisation of culture. Folktales presented in digital formats are often

simplified, so the local cultural teachings they contain are not conveyed in their entirety. Therefore, we need to balance innovation and preservation to preserve the essence of local wisdom. In addition, it is important to involve the younger generation in preserving folklore. The active participation of the younger generation will not only strengthen cultural sustainability but also encourage new interpretations that are more relevant to the contemporary context. In this case, folklore is not only an object of preservation, but also a space for creativity and cultural innovation.

Furthermore, local wisdom can also be positioned as part of adaptive cultural identity. This means the local cultural norms contained in old prose, especially legends, do not have to be rigidly maintained; they can be adapted to the times without losing their basic meaning. This approach keeps local wisdom alive and relevant while allowing it to compete with global cultures.

Thus, the legend of Usang Sungging not only contains a historical message, but also has strong relevance in the modern context. Used properly in education and digital media, folklore can effectively strengthen cultural identity while facing the challenges of globalization.

The Historical Context and Cultural Genealogy of the Obsolete Legend of the Sun

Old prose such as the legend of Usang Sungging cannot be separated from the historical and cultural context of the people of the Sultanate of Palembang, which is the background for its appearance. Abdul Hamid's presence as a palace servant with expertise in art and construction shows a close relationship between the power structure and the era's cultural development. In this context, folklore serves not only as an imaginative narrative, but also as a symbolic representation of the social and cultural conditions that develop in society.

The relationship between the palace and the community in this story reflects a clear social stratification. The sultan, as the holder of power, is described as having full authority, even to determine the fate of others. The allegations against Abdul Hamid show how authorities can act unilaterally without a fair verification process. However, the story also implicitly criticizes this power through the portrayal of the main character, who remains firm in the truth.

Abdul Hamid's escape from the centre of power to the interior can also be interpreted as a symbol of a shift in the cultural centre. If culture first developed in the palace, this story shows how cultural knowledge and skills are transferred to local communities in the suburbs. This shows that culture is not only monopolised by the elite but can also develop dynamically in society.

Furthermore, Abdul Hamid's adaptation to a new environment shows how culture can undergo acculturation. The interaction between the main characters and the local community produced new cultural practices that combined palace knowledge with local wisdom. In this case, the legend of Usang Sungging can be understood as a representation of a dynamic, open process of cultural formation.

The cultural genealogy in this story can also be traced through the skills that the main character inherits from the community. Craftsmanship in carpentry, carving, and handicrafts not only becomes an individual identity, but also develops into a collective identity of society. This is evident in how people in the Tanjung Batu area still maintain this tradition as part of

their livelihood.

In addition, the connection between folklore and cultural sites, such as the Al-Falah Mosque of Tanjung Batu, suggests that these stories have a strong historical basis. The cultural artefacts associated with the characters reinforce the legitimacy of folklore as part of local history. Thus, the legend of Obsolete Sungging serves not only as an oral narrative but also as part of a collective memory connected to a specific space and time.

More broadly, folklore such as the legend of Usang Sungging can be understood as an alternative form of historiography that records society's experience from a perspective different from official history. If formal history often focuses on major events and elite figures, then folklore presents individual and community experiences as part of the historical narrative. This makes folklore an important resource for understanding society's social and cultural dynamics in the past.

Thus, an analysis of the historical context and cultural genealogy of the legend of Usang Sungging shows that local wisdom did not emerge suddenly, but developed through a long historical process. Understanding this aspect helps us see local wisdom not only as cultural norms, but also as cultural products with strong historical roots.

Local Wisdom as a Local Knowledge System

Local wisdom in the legend of Usang Sungging can be understood not only as a collection of moral values, but also as a local knowledge system that develops in society. This knowledge system includes several life values, ranging from behavioral skills and social interaction to understanding the environment and the realities of life.

Abdul Hamid's character represents individuals with multidisciplinary knowledge, from carving and building construction to planning. This knowledge is not only theoretical, but also practical and applicable in daily life. When he interacts with the community, he transmits that knowledge through hands-on practice, creating an experiential learning process.

In this context, local wisdom can be understood as a form of knowledge that is contextual, namely knowledge that develops according to the needs and conditions of the community's environment. In contrast, modern knowledge tends to be universal and abstract, while local wisdom emphasises practical usefulness and relevance to everyday life.

In addition, the local knowledge system in this story is also evident in how people develop skills based on the resources available in their environment. Weaving crafts, carpentry, and carving are forms of community adaptation to natural conditions and sustainable economic resources. This shows that local wisdom has a strong ecological dimension because it relates to the wise use of resources.

The process of transmitting knowledge in the legend of Usang Sungging is also social and collective. Knowledge is not stored exclusively by a particular individual but is shared with the community through shared interaction and practice. This reflects the value of togetherness and cooperation that is characteristic of traditional society. Thus, local wisdom belongs not only to the individual but also becomes part of the community's collective identity.

Furthermore, local knowledge systems also include aspects of values and ethics. The main character does not use this knowledge as a matter of course, but to help the community and improve quality of life together. This shows that, in local cultural heritage, knowledge is always accompanied by social and moral responsibility.

In the modern context, local knowledge systems are often marginalised by the dominance of global knowledge, which is considered more scientific and rational. However, folklore such as the legend of Usang Sungging shows that local knowledge has equal value, especially in terms of sustainability and relevance to local conditions. Therefore, recognizing local wisdom as a knowledge system is important in efforts to build a sustainable society (Aprinta, 2023).

In addition, integrating local and modern knowledge is both a challenge and an opportunity. Local wisdom can serve as a basis for culturally based innovations, resulting in more contextual and sustainable solutions. In this case, legends are not only useful for the root of values, but also as a source of inspiration for the development of knowledge and technology.

Thus, analyzing local wisdom as a system of knowledge in the legend of Usang Sungging shows that the norms in this legend extend beyond cultural norms. Local wisdom is a form of knowledge that lives, develops, and continues to adapt to changing times, so it remains relevant in modern society.

Conclusion

This research shows that the legend of Usang Sungging represents local wisdom integrated into moral, social, cultural, and religious values that form a system of cultural meaning. These legacies are not only present as narrative elements but also reflect ways of life, life patterns, and social practices passed down from generation to generation. Sang Sungging represents integrity and moral steadfastness, while his interactions with the community reflect the value of togetherness and knowledge transfer. In addition, cultural practices such as carpentry, carving, and weaving in the story show continuity between the narrative of the past and the reality of people's lives today. Thus, the findings align with the initial goal: to show that folklore is not only symbolic but also strengthens cultural identity.

This study also confirms that old prose, such as the legend of Usang Sungging, has a high potential to become a culture-based educational medium, especially for enriching character education and preserving local wisdom amid globalisation. However, this study's limitation is its narrow focus on one folklore, so it does not provide a comprehensive picture of the diversity of local wisdom in other regions. Therefore, further research is recommended to comparatively analyse the variety of existing folklore and examine how local wisdom values transform in modern and digital contexts. With this approach, the study of folklore is expected to be not only descriptive, but also able to make a more contextual and relevant contribution to the development of science and cultural preservation.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank Silvi Marselina, Aedil Hersyah, Erdy Nur Pratama, Nurhumairo Azzahra, and Aliyah for the help, support, and contributions given during the process of compiling this article. Their assistance through discussions, idea exchange, and input was very helpful in completing this research. The author also thanks various parties who indirectly supported the research and preparation of this article. It is hoped that this article can contribute to developing the field of literature and efforts to maintain local culture through legends.

References

- Aisy, R., Fauziyah, T., & Hakim, W. A. (2024). Representasi kearifan lokal pada cerita rakyat Leil Ninn Hat Siing pendekatan sosiologi. *Literature Research Journal*, 2(2), 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.51817/lrj.v2i2.884>
- Amanda, R., & Safitri, U. (2025). Peran kebudayaan dalam membentuk persepsi dan orientasi masyarakat terhadap hukum di Indonesia: Studi tentang Nilai Lokal, Legitimasi, dan Praktik Sosial. In *Journal of Law and Social Change Review (JLSCR)*: iv (Number 1).
- Anam, A., Ade Agustinova, D., Alwiyah, N., & Haqqi Firmansyah, N. (2025). Pesantren dan pergeseran paradigma epistemologi: dari humanisme menuju era post-humanisme. *Santri: Journal of Pesantren and Fiqh Sosial*, 6(1), 59–80. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.35878/santri.v6i1.1684>
- Aprinta, G. (2023). Globalisasi budaya, homogenisasi dan pengaruhnya terhadap identitas budaya lokal. In *Jurnal Janaloka* (Vol. 1, Number 2).
- Aries, A. M. (2023). Implementasi proyek penguatan profil pancasila tema kearifan lokal dengan kontekstualisasi permainan tradisional. *Jurnal Sinektik*, 6(2), 136–146. <https://doi.org/10.33061/js.v6i2.8177>
- Budiyawan, H., Sukmana, E., & Kuswara, K. (2024). Nilai-nilai kearifan lokal silih asih silih asah silih asuh pada cerita rakyat “telaga warna.” *Metafora: Jurnal Pembelajaran Bahasa Dan Sastra*, 11(2), 247. <https://doi.org/10.30595/mtf.v11i2.22809>
- Fathurohman, I., Kanzunnudin, M., Hariyadi, A., Fatkhur Rohmah, I., Dewi Maria Th. (2025). *Nilai Sosial dan Nilai Moral dalam Cerita Bulusan Kudus Sebagai Penguatan Karakter Bangsa*.
- Firdaus, M. K., Fajrie, N., & Purbasari, I. (2023). Pembelajaran berbasis budaya melalui kegiatan ekstrakurikuler. *Jurnal Educatio FKIP UNMA*, 9(1), 402–412. <https://doi.org/10.31949/educatio.v9i1.4595>
- Hak, I. (2022). Tradisi Riolo sebagai resiliensi komunitas: praktik sosial masyarakat adat pada masa pandemi covid-19 di Dataran Tinggi, Gowa. *Vox Populi* 5(2), 266–285.
- Hartanto, B. H., Trisnasari, W. D., Goziyah, G., Rochmah, E. C., & Fauzan, M. D. (2022). Kearifan lokal dalam cerita rakyat provinsi banten sebagai upaya mengembangkan sejarah kebudayaan Banten. *Jurnal Bastrindo*, 3(1), 14–27. <https://doi.org/10.29303/jb.v3i1.261>
- Hartati, L., Liana, L., & Rozani, M. (2024). Kearifan lokal masyarakat bangka belitung dalam cerita rakyat “Batu Balai”: kajian pendidikan karakter. *Stilistika: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Dan Sastra*, 17(1), 1–10. <https://doi.org/10.30651/st.v17i1.20971>
- Khair Amal, B., Iskandar Psr, W. V, Baru, K., Sei Tuan, P., Lestari Samosir, S., & Riri Moktar, M. (2024). Revisitng the cultural identity of nyadran in the globalization era: qualitative anthropology perspective.
- Mahmud, A. (2022). *Kearifan Lokal dan Perilaku Sosial dalam Ritual Adat Nakeso Suku Kaili*.
- Mulyani Supriatin Pusat Riset Manuskrip, Y. (2022). Tradisi lisan badan riset dan inovasi nasional, dan, & riset manuskrip, p. *Kearifan Lokal Masyarakat Adat Sinar Resmi sebagai Identitas Bangsa*. 1(2).
- Nugroho, B. A., & Yusriansyah, E. (2025). Representasi politik Dayak: kajian ideologi dan

- kekuasaan dalam cerita rakyat Kalimantan Timur. *CaLLs (Journal of Culture, Arts, Literature, and Linguistics)*, 11, 71. <https://doi.org/10.30872/calls.v11i0.22568>
- Nur Enda, T. (2024). Nilai-nilai kearifan lokal pada lakon baruklinting dalam Wayang Timplong sebagai norma bermasyarakat. *International Journal of Educational Resources*.
- R Lika, F. A., & Supratno, H. (2021). *Kearifan Lokal dalam Cerita Rakyat Sumba Timur*.
- Rahmaniyar, A. (2022). Kearifan lokal dalam cerita rakyat Kabupaten Bangka sebagai bentuk nilai budaya dan pendidikan karakter. *Tawshiyah: Jurnal Sosial Keagamaan Dan Pendidikan Islam*, 17(1), 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.32923/taw.v17i01.2283>
- Suhardi, S. (2021). Sosialisasi nilai-nilai kearifan lokal folklore di Kelurahan Sei Lekop. *International Journal of Community Service Learning*, 5(1). <https://doi.org/10.23887/ijcsl.v5i1.30635>
- Suhardi, S., & Astuti, I. P. (2021). Nilai kearifan lokal folklore pada masyarakat Kabupaten Lingga. *Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa Dan Sastra*, 21(1), 147–156. https://doi.org/10.17509/bs_jpbsp.v21i1.36668
- Suryanto, E., Sumarwati, S., Anindyarini, A., & Hadiyah, H. (2024). Cerita rakyat sebagai sarana berliterasi kearifan lokal: pendekatan ekologi sastra. *Indonesian Language Education and Literature*, 9(2), 328. <https://doi.org/10.24235/ileal.v9i2.14802>
- Tausya, R. S., & Zein, T. T. (2023). Struktur naratif vladimir propp dalam cerita rakyat Batu Menangis. *Deiksis*, 15(3), 303. <https://doi.org/10.30998/deiksis.v15i3.17464>
- Uswatun Khasanah, Fathurohman, I., & Setiawan, D. (2022). Pendidikan karakter dalam cerita rakyat Genuk Kemiri. *Jurnal Educatio FKIP UNMA*, 8(1), 60–64. <https://doi.org/10.31949/educatio.v8i1.1611>
- Widiono, A., Kurniati, L., & Fitriati, S. (2026). Representasi Nilai Budaya dalam Cerita Rakyat Lampung: Kajian Antropologi Sastra. VI(1).
- Zulfan Ramadani, H. (2022). Adaptasi sosial dalam masyarakat multikultural era keterbukaan informasi. *Adaptasi Sosial Dalam Masyarakat Multikultural Era Keterbukaan Informasi. Reformasi: Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Sosial Dan Ilmu Politik*, 12(1), 82. <https://doi.org/10.33366/rfr.v%vi%i.3128>