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# Makeup and Costumes in the Welcome Dance of Sri Maharaja Ligor

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#### Abstract

This research examines the makeup and costumes in the dance "Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor," a traditional dance originating from Indonesia. The aim of this study is to analyze the role of makeup and costumes in shaping the characteristics and meaning of the dance. The research method employed is qualitative research with data collection through direct observation and literature review. The findings reveal that makeup and costumes in the dance "Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor" play a crucial role in creating the identity of the characters, conveying the story, and reinforcing the expression of movements. Makeup includes the use of facial makeup, masks, and other accessories that visually depict the characters' traits and social status within the narrative. Meanwhile, costumes encompass the choice of colors, designs, and materials that reflect the cultural aspects and aesthetic values of the dance's place of origin. This study provides a deeper understanding of the cultural and artistic values inherent in the makeup and costumes of "Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor" dance, and offers insights for dancers, costume designers, and art researchers to comprehend and appreciate Indonesia's cultural richness.

Key Words: Makeup, Costumes, Dance, Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor Dance, Indonesia

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# **Introduction**

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According to Soedarsono (1991, p. 3), art is a manifestation of expression, work, and beauty that has meaning. In its development, art can change along with the times and the tastes of its connoisseurs. Like fashion, appreciation of art can change according to the conditions of the current era. In line with Benny (2012, p. 114), art focuses on the value of beauty that comes from a person's perception of elegance that can be felt through the sense of sight or hearing. Art is a real form of human creativity as a means to express the beauty of the human soul that is adapted according to the identity and culture of each region. From this study, it can be concluded that art is an aesthetic value that arises from the expression of the human soul towards beauty, produces creativity, and is presented in an interesting way that can be enjoyed by everyone who sees it. Java Island is one of the regions in Indonesia that has very high artistic potential, one of which is dance.

Amir (1986, p. 73) explains that dance is a rhythmic and graceful movement by paying attention to the elements of space and time, then producing an expression of the human soul. This is in line with the opinion of Jazuli (2008, p. 7) that dance is a form of beautiful movement, born from a moving body, following the rhythm, and having a soul that is in accordance with the intent and purpose of the dance itself. From several opinions, it is concluded that dance is a performing art that involves body movements and facial expressions combined with music and lyrics. Dance has an important role in culture because it can represent the values, traditions, and identities of a community. In Indonesia, there are various types of dances originating from various regions and communities, each with its own characteristics and uniqueness. One of the unique Indonesian dances is the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance. The Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance is a dance taken from the Ligor inscription. The word "Sri Maharaja" is taken from the contents of the Ligor

inscription which refers to a king named Wisnu Sri Maharaja. This dance is generally known as "Sri Maharaja" and functions as a welcoming dance for the king's office, and is currently also used to welcome presidents, governors, and other important figures. The makeup and costumes in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance are very important, because they can create a unique dance aesthetic and strengthen local cultural identity. Makeup and costumes, also known as costumes, play a very important role in every performance because they function as supporting elements that represent beauty and also become a medium for implementing the cultural identity of each region (Nurdin, 2018). The makeup and costumes in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance have a close relationship with local cultural identity (Nur Azizah et al., 2021). Nur Azizah et al. (2021) also explain that clothing is also one of the supporting elements in the beauty of dance art. The clothes used in this dance are inspired by traditional Palembang clothing, such as baju kurung, songket cloth, and scarves. The makeup used also refers to the customs and traditions of the Palembang people. Thus, make-up and costume play an important role in dance art. Based on the description of the problem, the purpose of this study is to describe the form and meaning of make-up and costume in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance. Due to the limited sources and written studies on make-up in this dance, this study was conducted to determine the characteristics of the make-up of the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance, as well as to recognize and preserve the culture in writing. Thus, readers will be able to gain an understanding of the form and meaning of make-up in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance through the results of this study.

### **Research Methods**

This study uses a qualitative descriptive research method. This study uses various methods to understand the facts about a phenomenon (Moleong Lexy, 2016, p. 6). This study aims to describe the makeup in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance with a focus on the form and meaning of the makeup and costumes used. In addition, the researcher also collected data on the form and meaning of the makeup and costumes in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance.

The procedure for this research is at the research preparation stage, the steps taken by the researcher are to confirm with the dance studio owner and dance trainer to arrange interviews related to the topic of this research. The implementation of research and data processing were carried out simultaneously during the interview process with the informants. To verify the data obtained from the three informants, validation was carried out through source triangulation and method triangulation. Data analysis in this study is presented descriptively regarding the makeup and costumes in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance.

## Results

This study provides in-depth results regarding the analysis of the form and meaning of make-up in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance. Based on the title of this study, there are several data that are described, namely (1) an explanation of the form and meaning of make-up in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance, and (2) an explanation of the form and meaning of clothing in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance.

1. Form and meaning of make-up in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance

Make-up in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance has a distinctive form and meaning. This form of make-up includes the use of make-up, facial decoration, and hair styling which visually produces an impressive appearance. The meaning of this make- up

reflects the majesty, glory, and strength associated with the figure of Sri Maharaja Ligor as a respected king or leader. Through this make-up, the expression and characteristics of Sri Maharaja Ligor in this dance can be radiated beautifully and strongly, creating a stunning and captivating atmosphere for the audience. The following is a detailed explanation of the make-up in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance.

- a) Makeup Form:
- 1) Face: The dancer's face will be decorated with makeup that reflects elegance and strength. The use of even foundation, emphasis on the eyes with dramatic eyeshadow, and the use of lipstick with striking colors are generally part of the makeup.
- 2) Eyes: The dancer's eyes will be highlighted with the use of thick and bold eyeliner. Usually, eyeliner will be applied in a curved shape to create the effect of larger and sharper eyes.
- 3) Eyebrows: The dancer's eyebrows will be shaped in such a way as to provide a dramatic and expressive appearance. Curved eyebrows can clearly describe the strength and characteristics of Sri Maharaja Ligor.
- 4) Hair: The dancer's hair will be styled in an elaborate and complicated style. The use of hair ornaments such as crowns or buns decorated with luxurious and sparkling ornaments is often part of the hair makeup.
- b) Meaning of Makeup:
- 1) Majesty and Glory: Makeup that reflects elegance and glory through the use of dramatic makeup and luxurious decorations depicts the position of Sri Maharaja Ligor as a respected and noble figure in the context of this dance.
- 2) Strength and Characteristics: The makeup that emphasizes sharp eye expressions and strong eyebrows reflects the strength and characteristics of Sri Maharaja Ligor as an authoritative and tough leader.
- 3) Cultural Identity: This makeup also serves to strengthen the cultural identity and tradition in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance. Through distinctive makeup, dancers can express cultural values and enrich the audience's experience in understanding and appreciating this cultural heritage.

With the form and meaning of this detailed makeup, the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance becomes more alive and presents a deep experience for its audience.

2. Form and meaning of Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance costumes

Dance costumes have a very important role in the world of dance. More than just ordinary clothes, dance costumes play a crucial role in displaying the character, theme, and story that the dancer wants to convey to the audience. Dance costumes not only function to protect the dancer's body, but also as a medium of artistic expression that enriches the interpretation of the dance. Dance costumes consist of several parts that are carefully and detailedly designed to support the dancer's appearance and expression on stage. Each part of the costume has a unique role in creating visual harmony, strengthening the character, and depicting the atmosphere and emotions of the dance being performed. Dance costumes consist of several important parts to support the appearance and expression of the dancer, including: First, Basic Clothing, which is an essential part of a dance costume, provides comfort, and helps dancers feel more confident and focus on expressing movements. Before wearing the main clothing that emphasizes the character and theme of the dance, dancers use basic clothing as a foundation that provides comfort and flexibility in movement. One type of basic clothing that is commonly used is a corset. The corset helps provide support to the dancer's body, especially the waist and back, thus providing good posture and supporting dance movements. In addition, leggings are also popular basic clothing. Leggings made of elastic and flexible materials provide greater freedom of movement,

maintain warmth, and protect the dancer's legs. Tengtop is also included in the category of basic clothing in the form of a tight top that is used to cover the upper body, such as the chest and stomach. In addition, there are also various other types of basic clothing, such as underwear that is specifically designed for dance purposes.

Second, Footwear, serves to provide protection, comfort, and safety to the dancer's feet. Consisting of long or short pants, socks, and specially designed dance shoes with a variety of types to suit the movements and needs of the performance. In addition, equipment such as ankles, shields, or straps can add stability and protect the joints and muscles of the legs. Choosing the right footwear is not only important for comfort, but also helps dancers perform confidently and present an aesthetic touch according to the character of the dance being performed.

Third, Bodywear, namely the main clothing used by dancers and covers the part from the chest to the hips. This clothing plays an important role in displaying the character and theme of the dance being performed. Some examples of commonly used bodywear include torso, kace, lotus, belt, and various other types of costumes. Each type of bodywear has a unique design and details, which reflect the characteristics and nuances of the dance that the dancer wants to display. Through this bodywear, dancers can strengthen the expression of movement and give a strong visual impression to the audience.

Fourth, Headwear is part of the dance costume worn on the dancer's head. This clothing includes a variety of head accessories that give a special touch to the appearance. Some examples of headdresses that are often used in dance include the bun, unduk gunungan, crown, and various other head accessories. The bun, which is a traditional hairstyle in several types of dance, gives an elegant and graceful impression to the dancer's appearance. The unduk gunungan, which is usually made of materials such as cloth or paper that are folded artistically, provides an interesting visual dimension and enriches the character of the dance. The crown, as a symbol of majesty and power, is often used in dances with a royal or mythological theme. In addition, there are also various other head accessories such as pins, head coverings, or hair ornaments that provide a decorative touch and complement the overall dance costume. This headdress not only adds a stunning visual element, but also helps highlight the character and theme of the dance, as well as giving a majestic and distinctive impression to the dancer's appearance.

In addition, there are additional equipment or accessories that complement the four parts of the clothing above. These accessories aim to create a decorative effect and support the character carried by the dancer, such as jewelry bracelets, earrings, necklaces, and various other accessories.

The costume in this dance is known as "luxury liswa," meaning the luxury of a blend of Thai and Sriwijaya ligor. Thus, various kinds of clothing are used as costumes for the Sri Maharaja Ligor dance, reflecting the richness of culture and tradition that is lived through this dance. The costumes become an integral part of the dancers' appearance in presenting beauty and charm in every dance performance.

Overall, dance costumes are the result of the creativity of costume designers and dancers who work together to create an attractive, stunning appearance and bring the characters and stories of the dance to life. By using the right costume, dancers can express themselves maximally, depict a strong story, and provide an unforgettable visual experience for the audience.

The following are the various types of clothing used in the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance presented in Table .

Costume Design for the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor Dance



Costume Design for the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor Dance

#### **Discussion**

In the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance, make-up and costumes play an important role in creating an attractive visual impression and strengthening the character and theme of the dance. The costumes used in this dance consist of traditional Palembang clothes made of songket cloth with bright colors and distinctive motifs. These costumes reflect the beauty and majesty of the Srivijaya kingdom which is the theme of the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance. In addition, the make-up used in this dance also reflects the beauty and majesty of the Srivijaya and Thailand kingdoms. The female dancers use distinctive make-up with the use of white powder, red lipstick, and beautiful hair accessories. This make-up helps strengthen the character and theme of the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance and creates an attractive visual impression for the audience.

Harymawan (1993, p. 127) states that costumes in art can be a visual representation of a character or figure, giving a strong first impression when first seen by the audience. This is in line with Murgiyanto (1983, p. 99) that dance costumes have the ability to reflect the identity of a region, change the appearance of the dancer into a different character, and support the expression of the wearer. Research by Nur Azizah et al. (2021) shows that the costumes and make-up used in traditional dances can influence the dancer's expression and strengthen the character and theme of the dance. Costumes and make-up that match the theme and character of the dance can help dancers to more easily interpret the movements and expressions required in the dance.

#### **Conclusion**

Make-up and costumes play an important role in creating an attractive visual impression and strengthening the character and theme of traditional dance. In the Sambut Sri Maharaja Ligor dance, the costumes used reflect the beauty and majesty of the Srivijaya kingdom which is the theme of the dance. In addition, the make-up used also reflects the beauty and majesty of the Srivijaya kingdom. Costumes and make-up that match the theme and character of the dance can help dancers to more easily interpret the movements and expressions required in the dance.

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