### Bolon House Pematang Purba Ornament: Semiotic Study

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#### Keywords: Ornament Rumah Bolon Pematang Purba.

Abstract: The bolon house ornament in Purba Subdistrict of Simalungun Regency has a very good culture and tends to know the character of family, traditional figure and Simalungun society. The purpose of this research is to find out the form, function and meaning of ornament of Pematang Purba as semiotic study. The benefit of this ornament is to find assumptions that can be developed for future generations as learning. Another benefit is beneficial to the Simalungun community, even the community of its environment in order to preserve the prevailing norms. This research method is done by library method, observation method and interview method. The theory used in this research is semiotic theory by Zoest and Peirce. From the result of this research, the ornament of bolon Pematang Purba is: bohi-bohi ornament (wajah), suleppat ornament (suleppat), hambing mardongan ornament (kambing berlaga), jombut uwou ornament, ipon-ipon ornament, morodor porkis ornament, bodat marsihutuhan ornament, hail putor ornament, pahu-paku patundal ornaments, bindu matoguh ornaments, gatip-gatip ornaments, andor ni tabu mangganupi desa ornaments, boras pati ornaments, rumbuk sinandei ornament, tanduk horbo ornament, silobur pinggan ornaments, appul-appul ornament, bunga sayur matua ornament, rumbuk-rumbuk sihala ornament, bunga hambili ornaments, palit ornament, tali simuor-muor ornaments, bunga bongbong ornament, bunga bongbong ornament, sisik ni tanggiling ornament, paria-paria ornament, harungguan ornament, simaronong-onong ornament, andor hadukka ornaments, bunga tarompet ornaments, sulih ni rotak ornaments, limut ni tao ornaments, horis ni hotala ornaments, bulung ni anduhur ornament, and gundur manggolapa ornaments.

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Simalungun Batak tribe is one of the sub ethnic Batak tribe who inhabit Simalungun Regency. Simalungun Batak tribe has a culture that makes it has its own uniqueness from various other tribes that exist in Indonesia. Umpasa, limbaga and several types of tor-tor still exist today, then woodcarving that makes Simalungun Regency still well known both inside and outside the country. The art of carving itself can still be found especially in Rumah Bolon Pematang Purba which is the palace of the ancient king at that time and until now still inhabited by the descendants of the ancient king.

Carving art is often referred to as ornaments are decorative that formed from the work of human beings that are formed in such a way and have their own meaning and symbols in each carving. Ornament itself is a form of cultural and ethnic symbols of Batak Simalungun presented by building bolon house as a physical form of the culture. Ornaments are symbols that have meaning and value very deep, in the view of life of its predecessor.

Bolon house building ornaments have certain shapes, functions and meanings. In terms of the variety of cultural ornaments have a symbol of certain beauty, this is in line with the notion of its own ornaments derived from the Greek ornare which means to decorate. Ornaments are closely related to culture, which is in line with its definition that culture is thought, reason and custom (Dictionary of Bahasa Indonesia, 2005). Ornaments also have functions and symbolic values or certain intentions both in the form of views and philosophy of life of the maker. De Boer (1920) also says the ornament is a sign of a highly valuable traditional design that is closely related to the original mysticism and beliefs, where the ornament has the meaning and happiness of its inhabitants.

The Bolon house located in Pematang Purba Kabupaten Simalungun has many specific ornaments for the study material. Bolon House is a typical Simalungun building that still has the physical elements of the original ornaments although the physical structure of the building has begun to break down. For this reason this research is done so that Batak society Simalungun in particular and the nation of Indonesia in general stick to the value of local culture that leads to a national culture that can eventually form a character to Indonesian.

Bolon House is located in Pematang Purba Kecamatan Purba Kabupaten Simalungun, occupies an area of  $\pm$  20,000 m<sup>2</sup> in the plateau surrounded by ravines and valleys at an altitude of 1200 m above sea level. It is astronomically located at coordinates 02° 54 '50 "LU - 98°40' 50" BT. The bolon house is the main building which is the palace. Inside the traditional house of Simalungun, this building is classified into horbou pinar type whose proportion is the building length 2, 5-3 times the width of the building, and the height 1, 5-2 times the width of the building. Horbou's pinar is always made facing toward the rising of the sun. The building is equipped with 2 doors, front (east) and rear (west). In general, traditional houses do not have windows. Instead of rhombic holes, cross, oval, triangle, and so on. (Sipayung, 1994; 1995).

#### **2** SEMIOTICS THEORY

Based on the title, background and problems in research, this study covers the cultural field of ornaments. Bolon House ornaments have many meanings and functions that can be studied with the science of semiotics. Semiotics comes from the Greek: semeion which means sign. Semiotics is the study of signs in human life. It means that all those present in our lives see as a sign, something that must be given meaning.

So semiotics means the science of signs. Semiotics is a branch of science dealing with the study of signs and all things associated with signs, such as sign systems and processes that apply to the use of signs (Zoest 1993).

According to Peirce the sign is what represents something for a person. Something that can be experience, thoughts, feelings, ideas and others. That can be a sign not just language, but things that can surround life. Signs can be forms of writing, art, literature, painting and sculpture. And based on its object, Peirce splits the icon (icon), index (index), and symbol (symbol).

1. Icons are a sign that the relationship between the marker and the signature are simultaneous natural forms. Or in other words, an icon is a relationship between sign and object or reference that are similar: for example, portrait and map.

- 2. Index is a sign that indicates a natural relationship between sign or marker that is causal or causal relationship, or a sign that directly refers to reality. The most obvious example is smoke as a sign of fire.
- 3. Symbols are signs that indicate a natural connection between the marker and its marker. Relationships are arbitrary or arbitrary, relationships based on conventions or (covenants) of society.

Ornaments as semiotic forms in symbols, such as symbols appear in a very diverse context and are used for various purposes. Symbols are a term in logic, mathematics, semantics, semiotics and epistomology. Just as the ornament has a symbol to represent an element in a work that has its own meaning. The motifs in Bolon House ornaments are symbols related to culture, the elements in the motif are described as priceless works. The purity of each engraving makes its creator an aesthetic and imaginary value that is seen as a reference in devoting a hidden mind, born of a work different from another.

In everyday life symbols, signs, and symbols are considered to have the same understanding, what objects or things that serve to represent something else. Symbol (*symballein*, Greek) means inserting, mixing and comparing together, so there is an analogy between objects and objects. No one can describe every symbol system completely. The problem can be solved that the symbols are very broad and diverse, used differently in human life. Throughout the history of the study of symbols (Noth, 1990), in general there are four main meanings, namely:

1. Essential meaning

The essential meaning presupposes the existence of a certain hidden meaning and must be sought which is contrasted with the meaning of the surface.

2. The Meaning of Vague

The ambiguous meaning also presupposes a hidden message to be searched for. The process of the seeker is done by way of interpretation.

3. Irrational Meaning

The irrational meaning is found in cultural anthropology as proposed by Frazer and Tylor. 4. Meaning of Unconsciousness

Meaning of Unconsciousness The meaning of unconscious exists in psychology, both as the unconscious of freudian ideas and collective consciousness.

Sometimes symbols also depend on collective agreements, while Geertz sees more symbols as conceptualizing reality. Symbols are also history and suitability between lifestyle and universal order and this is revealed in symbols. Relationship of the above symbol theory relates between the symbol and also the ornament, in the ornament there are symbols that have certain meanings in each carving. Noah Webster said the ornament is something that works to decorate the decor and jewelry. Ornaments can be formed by building elements although the basic form of the element is not a decorative form such as the standard board assemblies as the wall is not an ornament, but when the board is cut and shaped into certain patterns and has aesthetic value or looks beautiful then arrangement of the board into a decoration on the building.

It can be concluded that between the ornament and the decoration is identical or synonymous, because it has a certain philosophical meaning. The form of ornament with the concept of interrelated symbol theory both related to form the meaning of the sign intact. Every phenomenon of the birth of the ornament is inseparable from the symbolic trait which is the experience of the mind, knowledge, and requires the emotional interpretation of its creator. Meaning of symbols in ornaments facilitate the Batak Simalungun understand every form contained within each carving.

## **3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Bolon House located in Simalungun Regency is a traditional building that was built around the 15th century. Bolon House has many ornaments according to information from informant researchers that there are 52 pieces of ornaments that exist in the building of the house bolon. However, researchers only get 35 ornaments on the house bolon. The selection and placement of the ornament must be through a meeting or a horse, and after that newly taken to the experts. The ornaments contained in the Bolon House have a connection with the customs in the area and the whole ornament has matters relating to the symbol of meaningful customs.

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS

From the results of research ornaments found in the home of bolon Pematang Purba that can be collected are as follows: *bohi-bohi* ornament (wajah), *suleppat* 

ornament (suleppat), hambing mardongan ornament (kambing berlaga), jombut uwou ornament, iponipon ornament, morodor porkis ornament, bodat marsihutuhan ornament, hail putor ornament, pahupaku patundal ornaments, bindu matoguh ornaments, gatip-gatip ornaments, andor ni tabu mangganupi desa ornaments, boras pati ornaments, rumbuk sinandei ornament, tanduk horbo ornament, silobur pinggan ornaments, appul-appul ornament, bunga sayur matua ornament, rumbuk-rumbuk sihala ornament, bunga hambili ornaments, palit ornament, tali simuor-muor ornaments, bunga bongbong ornament, bunga bongbong ornament, sisik ni tanggiling ornament, paria-paria ornament, harungguan ornament, simaronongonong ornament, andor hadukka ornaments, bunga tarompet ornaments, sulih ni rotak ornaments, limut ni tao ornaments, horis ni hotala ornaments, bulung ni anduhur ornament, and gundur manggolapa ornaments

The ornaments mentioned above in general have and have a very concrete meaning seen from the character of a human who is still traditional. Ornaments that have the function and meaning shows an easy impression in the general community, especially in the bolon house as a traditional means. The ornaments show a harmonious sense of kinship, keeping each family member to love one another, and keeping each other's family members in order to avoid disturbing their tranquility.

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# APPENDIX

List of supplementary data in this study presented in tables is provided as following:

Bohi-bohi Ornaments (Face)		The function of this ornament is to keep the homeowner away from calamity and keep the evil spirits that can disturb their peace at rest. The people of Simalungun believe in the forces of evil spirits when they are in a state of fun. Evil people are not happy to see people who are rejoicing. For this reason the people of Simalungun make a belief in the form of faces that can resemble human heads.	The meaning of this bohi- ornament is to have the community keep a sense of harmony between one tribe with another tribe. Because the character of the Simalungun tribe has a good-tempered face between the fellow. This ornament is also meaningful to keep members of society to avoid the intentions of bad people.
Scient Sullepat Ornaments (Sullepat)	<ul> <li>The shape of this ornament on the side (wall) house bolon elbow-shaped hands are interconnected between the middle part of the square-shaped flowers are black, white and red. This ornament has the power to maintain the survival of the people of Simalungun in a nature far from where people live.</li> <li>The shape of this ornament can also feel life between one nature with another. This suleppat ornament of Simalungun society believes that the evil intentions can disturb the sense of tranquility who lives in the area.</li> </ul>	The function of this ornament is to reject the plans of bad people who can disturb the sense of tranquility that lives in the house of the bolon. In ancient times the people of Simalungun and other tribes are still a lot of envy when people are happy. So, the Simalungun people make ornaments that they can trust can dispel all sorts of evil intentions	The meaning of this ornament to unite the family in order to maintain a harmonious kinship relationship. Maintain the security of the nation and state of the unity of Indonesia, in order to avoid divisions between ethnicity, race and custom. Suleppat ornaments can also protect from the intentions of bad people. Usually the evil person's intentions are invisible, he is like a wind that can infiltrate in what direction is determined. That is the power of evil people's intentions can destroy and destroy the whole house bolon it. The way the wicked person's intentions could have the family members in the bolon's house become unbroken, so there was a great fight. With the existence of this suleppat ornaments Simalungun tribe beliefs are able to dispel the plans of their evil intentions.

Table 1: The Ornament Design, Function, and Meaning



















Simaronong -onong Ornament	The shape of this ornament is like a leaf of lush plants.	The function of this ornament is to maintain harmony in order to keep growing and established good cooperation.	The meaning of this ornament is to keep each other peace and prosperity to avoid all the problems that will be found.
Andor Hadukka Ornament	The shape of this ornament is like vines that propagate like sweet potatoes. The position of this ornament is on the pole bolon.	The function of this ornament is to declare fertility in doing activities while farming.	The meaning of this ornament is to symbolize the results of farming that can bring fortune.
Bunga Tarompet Ornament	The shape of this ornament is found on the pole of the bolon house which describes like a trumpet flower that can be sounded.	The function of this ornament is to give a mark either in the form of sound or in the form of code or requirement.	The meaning of this ornament is to symbolize a head must be able to lead and direct members to do something to show the results.



Bulung ni Anduhur Ornament	The shape of this ornament is positioned on the pole part of the bolon house adjacent to the other ornaments.	The function of this ornament is to make a bond of promise to the person determining the deal.	The meaning of this ornament is to establish relationships among fellow who have determined the bond of promise.
Gundur Manggolapa Ornament	The shape of this ornament is contained inside the traditional house entering the door of the holon house, carved and carved so it looks more beautiful and beautiful.	The function of this ornament is to signify fertility, beauty and prosperity for the people of Simalungun	The meaning of this ornament is for the people of Simalungun prosperous at the time of taking the harvest that has been done.