

# Songket Batu Bara: Functional Analysis and Meaning

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**Abstract:** This study aims to explain, the function and meaning of motifs which are contained in songket Batu Bara. Songket Batu Bara has a famous motif to overseas because it has a motive and material materials that are typical and specific. Motifs and colors on the songket Batu Bara describe the life and personality of the day people of Malay Batu Bara thick with customs that must be upheld. This study examines the functions and meanings that exist in the motif of songket Batu Bara by using Ferdinand de Saussure theory. The method used in this research is with qualitative approach with descriptive research type by using observation method, interview, and documentation. The results of this study indicate that the existence of motif songket Batu Bara very closely related to the surrounding natural in the district of Batu Bara for example, grow shoot bamboo shoots, manggis shoots, shoots betikam, diamonds, shoots pandanus, silver shoots, flowers, jasmine, cempaka and so forth. The meanings contained within each of these motifs depict ethnic Malay characteristics such as Pucuk rebung motifs depicting that ethnic Malay hold firm, floral motif, cempaka flower, jasmine flowers depicting politeness, ethnic Malay elegance.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Songket is a traditional Malay woven fabric. songket derived from the term sungkit meaningful mengait or mencungkil. This is related to the way of making that is by hooking and taking a dash of woven cloth and then tucking the gold thread. There are eight steps to be taken before becoming a woven fabric to the eight steps include menorou, wheezing, menoto, rubbing into Karab, insert into comb, raise to okik, picking (making motifs) and last weave. Batu Bara is regency located in North Sumatra is an area that produces a lot of Malay songket quality. Besides the good quality of songket Batu Bara is also known for its motive motif that attracts so many orders from abroad such as Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Thailand. Songket Malay Batu Bara is currently considered capable of expressing songket culture especially in Sumatra and Malay world generally. Songket is one of the handicrafts that play a role shows one identity as a characteristic of the Malay. Songket Malay Batu Bara rich with cultural treasures of which is very prominent motive motif is used in songket Batu Bara. Motifs that exist in songket Stone Coal is sourced from nature and favorite foods of the king like diamonds. Motif motifs earlier gave birth to the name of the motif in

accordance with the basic form of the object used as a motive. For example shoots pandan give birth to pandan shoot motifs, shoots bamboo shoots give birth to the name of shoot motif shoots and so forth. Motifs songket Coal has a pattern and contains the function and meaning of a particular meaning.

## 2 METHODS

The methodology used by researchers in this is descriptive method with a qualitative approach, that is making a description or description of the object to be researched and then described systematically the data encountered in the field.

## 3 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

*Semiotics* or semiology is a term that refers to the same science. Previous **Longmann Dictionary of Contemporary English** (1978) explains, semiotics is: ... .. *the study of sign in general, asp, as they related to language.* *Semiotics* comes from the Greek word *semeion*, meaning 'sign' or 'sign'. Thus,

semiotics means knowledge of signs (Zulkifli, 2007, Journal of fine arts, edition 2006.hal 25). This is reinforced by *Aart van Zoest*, Semiotics, derived from the Greek word 'Semeion' which means sign. So semiotics means the science of signs. Semiotics is a branch of science dealing with the assessment of signs and all things related to signs, such as sign systems and processes that apply to sign users. "*Semiotics, Overteken, hoe ze werken en wat we ermee doen*" 1993 ". In the same book Aart van Zoest adds that: Semiotics is a branch of science that studies the signs and everything associated with it, such as the signs and developmental systems that occur with respect to the use of such signs. From some of the above responses, it can be concluded that semiotics is a science of signs that lead to the development of signs, the use of signs and ideas as a general philosophical theory that systematically communicates the information or messages it contains.

#### 4 CONCLUSIONS

Motifs contained in songket Batu Bara motif on the songket coal reflects the identity of Melayudan people reflects the cultural sense of the nation that is rich in beauty and uniqueness, motive motifs made on songket Coal is generally taken from the surrounding nature, among other motifs growing plants and animal motifs and cake motifs Which was a favorite cake of the kings at the time. . Motif motive is categorized into two parts, among others (A) The basic motif or main motif is the basis of motif songket Batu Bara, the basic motive is usually placed and is the main decoration on songket.

There are 4 motifs that dominate every motif contained in songket Melayu Batu Bara, among others:

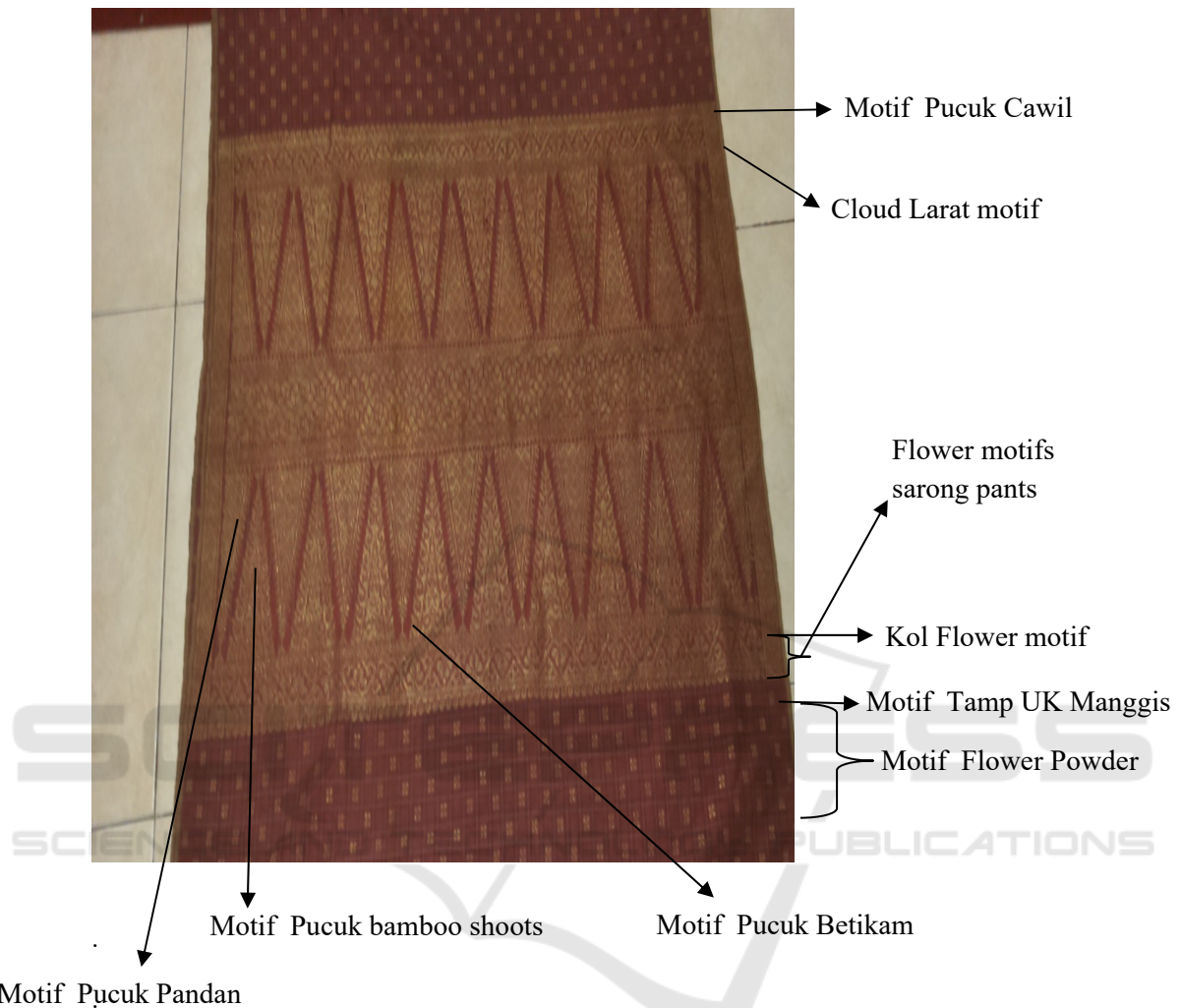
1. Flower Shoot Motif
2. The motif of silver shoots
3. Motif Pucan Pandan and
4. Motif Pucuk Caul

(B) Additional Motif is a motive to add to the beauty of the motif songket motif and its position is not the same as the basic motive, additional motive position is at the bottom of which is placed horizontally and termed by the edges of chisel. Additional motive motif consists of several types of names of flowers and objects contained in the surroundings, among others: *motif bungan Tanjung, mangosteen*

*mangosteen clouds land, cempaka, jasmine, diamond (sweet rice)*

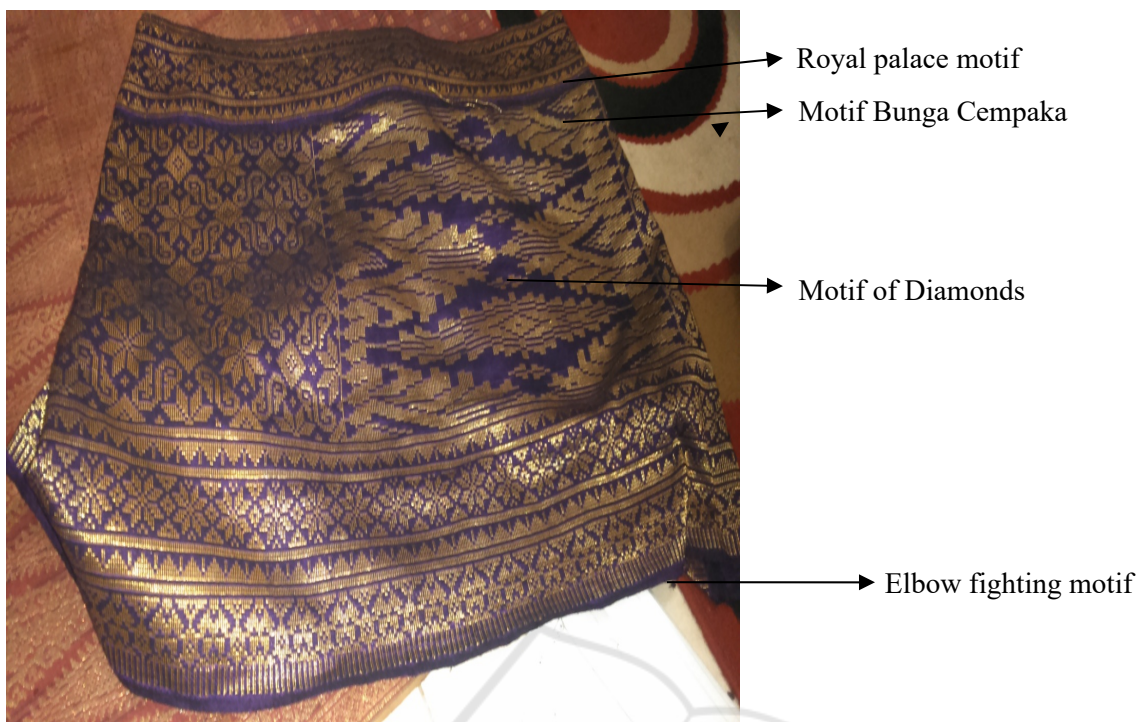
A songket consists of several motifs there are eight even up to ten motifs in each piece of songket Stone Coal, as in the image below songket found nine motifs that is a combination of basic motifs and additional motifs.

Motives include:



Description: Mention of motifs of mangosteen if only one motive but if it is a collection of motifs of mangosteen motifs name motifs motifs of flowers while sowing cow flower motif just the motive of mangosteen if it is a collection of several cherry blossom motifs called floral sarong motif because the shape is like Sarong as an ornament of lashes. Motif shoot borer is named if only one direction but when it is opposite is called shoot motif or puncture betikam.

Motif other motifs on songket Batu Bara among others



### Function of Motifs on Songket Coal

The function of songket motif of Batu Bara is not only to give a distinctive identity for the tribe and Malay culture but also as a decoration to beautify the appearance, songket motif function also able to make it as a communication media to convey the purpose of certain intent to the person who see it. Fungsi motif songket not only To show the uniqueness of Malay clothing but also at that time indicate the social status which basically motive certain songket motif only owned by certain party only and not used by just anyone. Songket function when it was sacral, but lately the use of songket has shifted on all levels of society because to obtain songket today is very easy to get it.

Songket function lately not only to cover the body and beauty but now the songket function has been shifted and functioned for various purposes of household appliance such as for pillowcase, tablecloth, refrigerator cover and so forth.

### Meaning of Motif Songket Batu Bara

Each motif contained in the songket has meaning and philosophy that refers to the habit or culture, the belief of the local community. Agama also gives a lot of influence on the meaning of the motives of the songket motif, for example before the introduction of the motive motives songket, some taken from the

animal motif For example Naga Besaung motif but after the inclusion of religion motif such motives are abandoned because according to religion smells shirk. The meaning of each motif songket Batu Bara, among others:

1. *Rebung shoots is a young shoot that grows from the roots of bamboo.* Shaped tapered up, the base of the big and increasingly smaller upwards. The surface is surrounded by young leaves triangular and the tip is tapered like a sword's edge. The picture of the tip of the bamboo shoot and the tip of the bamboo shoot is called the shoot bamboo shoot. The meaning that can be taken from this shoot bamboo motif to be an example of how to educate the Malay children, such as the expression of Malay: Kalo nak flex bamboo tu mudo time, meaning that if you want to educate children from childhood, From small teranjak factoring is carried large carry,
2. *Motif Tampuk Pinang*, the areca nut that extends like a connecting rope connects dimaknai sustenance always come and do not break up if we always try.
3. *Motif Wajik (sweet rice)* meeting and difficult to be separated form that defines the Malay community in the life of society live in an atmosphere of togetherness

4. *Larat Cloud motif*, this motif is taken from a cloud in the sky that moves when blown by the wind. This motif shaped roots, leaves and flowers. The meaning of this motif is to symbolize healthy longevity or immortality
5. *Flower Motif Tabur*, floral motif is a collection or a combination of motifs mangosteen dimaknai that everything if done with togetherness will feel light and fast in accordance with the parent's philosophy of the nature of mutual assistance which is still attached to the Malay tribe.
6. *Motif Buds Betikam*, this motif is a blend or meeting motif shoots bamboo shoots are opposite position and between the end of one with the other others meet. This motif is understood by the nature of the ethnic Malays who are friendly and greet each other when met.
7. *Jasmine flower motif, cempaka flower, flower cape, pandanus* shoot is a very beautiful flower, fragrant. This motif is interpreted that the Malay people are very good at mingling and friends or relatives of other tribes will lose or feel deficiency if the Malay people are absent or present in a meeting

## 5 CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

### 5.1 Conclusion

The study of motif songket Batu Bara produced several conclusions, among others:

1. Motif contained in the songket Coal taken from the motive of flora, fauna and nature
2. Motifs are found motifs shoots bamboo shoots, motifs Tampuk Pinang Motif
3. Motif Wajik (sweet rice) Motif Cloud Larat Motif Flower Tabur Motif Pucuk Betikam Motif jasmine, cempaka flower, flower cape, shoot Pandan Motif Pebuk Rebung, motif elbow keluang, cauliflower motif
4. Each motif has its own meaning

### 5.2 Suggestions

1. Batik songket craft which is a special cloth of Melayu Batu Bara lately more popular not only by the tribe of Malay but other ethnic tribes that are not tribe of Malay have been widely used especially for the party therefore it needs

coaching from the Government of Batu Bara to continue to nurture the Songket craftsmen for the quality continues to be improved

2. The need for District Government to include local curriculum weave in SMU so that artisans songket remain sustainable
3. The need for cooperation with the District Government to continue to conduct research on the cloth songket Batu Bara, as well as invite unsure elements SKPD existing in the Government of Batu Bara to preserve the songket of Batu Bara with his routine use at least once a week for our nation's culture, especially Malay culture extinct

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