ABSTRACT

THE GAMOLAN MUSIC INSTRUMENT AS A TRADITIONAL COMMUNICATION MEDIUM

By

Zilfint Rinata

The background of this research is that gamolan traditional music instrument from Lampung Barat is less known by the society especially the youth of Lampung barat. The researcher wants to know the function of gamolan for Lampung Barat society. The problem statements in this research are: “what are functions of gamolan traditional music instruments as a traditional communication medium, and how does the understanding of Lampung Barat youth to gamolan as a traditional communication medium.

The research objectives are to find out the function of gamolan as a traditional communication medium and to find out the understanding of Lampung Barat youth to the function of gamolan as a traditional communication medium.

This is a descriptive qualitative research. The location was in Sukabumi, Kembahang, and Kenali villages in Lampung Barat regency. Informants are selected using purposive sampling. They are traditional public figures from Sukabumi, Kembahang, and Kenali villages, the youth of Sukabumi village, and a previous gamolan researcher. Data are collected using interview, observation, and documentation.

The results are as follows. Gamolan instrument music as a traditional communication medium is used in Saibatin Lampung traditional marriage called nayyuh, and in bachelor and maid event called nyambai: an event of dancing and mutual response nursery rhyme. In dances, gamolan functions as accompanying music in Batin and Sembah dances. In religious events, gamolan is seldom used because it is not suitable for such events. In religious events, Lampung Barat society uses rebana music instruments. In vocal instruments, gamolan is used to accompany segata and pepacukh rhyme.

There are differences in understanding amongst Lampung Barat youth. The youth in Sukabumi and Kembahang loves gamolan; even though some of the youth has traveling outside for making life. They are also able to play and make gamolan music instrument with the proper tone. The youth in Kenali village of Belalau
district cannot play gamolan and they do not understand the function and meaning of gamolan.

The researcher suggests that gamolan should be conserved. Lampung province government together with Lampung Barat society should concern and conserve gamolan traditional music instrument as the regional culture identity of Lampung barat, the regional traditional music existence should be continually developed, so that the next generation will recognize and love their traditional music.