Katoneng-Katoneng Cawir Metua: A Cultural Expression of Karo Society

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ABSTRAK


Kata kunci: katoneng-katoneng, cawir metua, sierjabaten, perkolong-kolong, sangkep nggeluh (rakut sitelu)

ABSTRACT

Katoneng-katoneng is a traditional Karo ethnic song in North Sumatra composed spontaneously using repetitive melody with different lyrics, which depends on the context and situation (strophic logogenic). Being used in various social and cultural activities of Karo society, one of them is for the cawir metua ritual (the death of a person who considered to meet the ideals and expectances of Karo society). This research studies the textual meaning of katoneng-katoneng as the cultural expression of the owner society by using the performing art theory, ethnomusicology, semiotic, and anthropology. Field data is collected through observation, interviews, and recording. Qualitative method is applied by defining key informants, including traditional figures, sierjabaten (musicians), perkolong-kolong (katoneng-katoneng singers) and member of society. The result shows that katoneng-katoneng is a phrase of various things: messages and advices, prayers, hopes, ideals, exemplaries, life persistence, values of mutual cooperation, purpose of life in the world, and others delivered by professional singers of perkolong-kolong who represents the died person and the elements of relatives sangkep nggeluh (rakut sitelu) by singing. The function and meaning of the text refer to the ideals and concepts of Karo culture.

Keywords: katoneng-katoneng, cawir metua, sierjabaten, perkolong-kolong, sangkep nggeluh (rakut sitelu)
INTRODUCTION

The Karo ethnic is one of the native ethnic groups in North Sumatra, which divides its cultural sphere into two categories, namely Karo Gugung, in which the territory is on the Bukit Barisan plateau, and Karo Jahe [Ka.ro Ja.hê] in the lower land area (east coast) of North Sumatra.

The Karo society has an instrumental music called *gendang* and vocal music known as *ende-enden*. Amongst Karo’s vocal music or songs, the most famous one is *katoneng-katoneng*.

*Katoneng-katoneng* [ka.to.nêng-ka.to.nêng] is a very distinctive singing with repetitive melody without a significant change through *rengget* (ornamentation) in certain parts. The verse or text is always spontaneously changed and created by the singer depends upon situations and social contexts (*strophic logogenic*). Functionally, the *katoneng-katoneng* is used in Karo for various socio-cultural activities; one of themisa *cawir metua* ceremony.

*Katoneng-katoneng* can be sung by anyone, but not everyone is able to sing well in terms of to arouse feelings of listeners so that messages are strongly delivered. Therefore, it needs a certain person as a renderer of *katoneng-katoneng* called *perkolong-kolong*.

*Perkolong-kolong* is a traditional Karo professional singer who serves those who need it. For this job, he gets some payments for his skills and professions.

*Katoneng-katoneng* is considered as a pattern (model) of Karo songs in general and is only well presented by *perkolong-kolong*. This means that someone who has technically mastered *katoneng-katoneng* singing will easily master other Karo traditional songs. For this reason, there are such criteria to be fulfilled by *perkolong-kolong* to be able to present *katoneng-katoneng* song properly:

1) Understand the language and literature of Karo.
2) Possess Karo vocabularies.
3) Have extensive knowledge of Karo customs.
4) Have high ability to memorize.
5) Comprehend Karo music well.
6) Have a good voice and able to produce *rengget* (ornamentation) perfectly.
7) Do not repeating the same poem at the same time.
8) Understand the *sarune* melody and able to adapt it to *katoneng-katoneng*.
9) Capable of presenting text using *anding-andingen*.
10) Have good manners in accordance with Karo customs.

METHOD

The data in this article is obtained in two ways, namely literature study and observations. Field data collection is done through direct observation towards the running event of *cawir metua* death ceremonies, interviews, and recording. Qualitative method is applied by selecting key informants, namely traditional figures, *sierjabanten* (musicians), *perkolong-kolong* (the singer of *katoneng-katoneng*), and the community member. The theory used is a multidisciplinary approach, which is a combination of art theory (performance art), ethnomusicology, semiotics, and anthropology.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Traditional Ceremony of Cawir Metua

In the Karo culture, *cawir metua* is considered as the most ideal form of death. Nevertheless, not every person could reach this stage of death. In this context, the level of Karo mortality is divided into three types: 1) *cawir metua* is someone who died at a very old age; 2) *tabah-tabah galuh*, namely the death of someone who has not yet reached an old age, but his children are already married (*sai utang*); 3) *mate nguda*, if someone dies at the early age.
The traditional death ceremony of cawir metua is generally called kerja cawir metua, kerja nurun or kerja simate-mate. This ceremony is the highest of all funerals in Karo society. A person can be called cawir metua if the late is already in a very old age, and has grandchildren from all his/her children. Such death is considered to be high and noble and becomes expectations of each Karo community.

The funeral is called nurun, which is accompanied by music (gendang), katoneng-katoneng, dance (landek) from descendants, relatives and all participants of the ceremony based on their respective positions and social functions.

The objective of the kerja cawir metua is as a tribute to the kalimbubu and to the late as well as a form of achievement and social prestige for their offspring. At this ceremony all the rights and obligations of the late will be paid to those who reserve the right receive it, especially to the kalimbubu.

The Course of Events

In Karo society, if a person dies, the first cultural activity is to bath the body, make a swivel on the forehead and cheek (yellow), on the big toe, and tie (kalaki). Then, sangkep nggeluh (sitellu shelves), especially senina, kalimbubu, and anak beru will be deliberated (runggu) concerning the implementation of traditional ceremonies, burial places, notices and invitations to the whole family, patong kerja (establishment of baban simate, foods and side dishes), gendang (music) and the use of perkolong-kolong, the procedure and other technical aspects.

In general, activities related to cawir metua ceremonies are held for three days. On the first day, a family with the nearest sitellu rakut will soon hold runggu (a customary deliberation) to plan various customs preparation for the deceased. The materials include: (a) time, place, and day of burial, (b) invited relatives and community members, (c) ceremonial details, (d) ceremonial equipments to be used, (e) ceremonial leaders (singerana) and other officers, and (f) all related needs for the ceremony.

The activity on the second day is to notify or to explain an invitation to all relatives. Another activity is to prepareceremonial equipments, including: traditional dress (ose) and supporting accessories, utang adat (some money), musical instruments, a coffin, foods, and a burial place. If the sukut belongs to a rich family, the perkolong-kolong is invited to complete the traditional music performance (gendang).

After preparation is completed, on the eve of the second day they hold a deliberation (runggu) involving wider kinship elements with members of the community, after dinner together.

After the runggu, gendang erjaga-jaga is played (it is intended to keep the family awake to look after the corpse). At this moment every person of relatives will dance (ngelandek) following their order and their position in the custom.

The third day is the peak of the ceremony, preceded by ngukati (breakfast together). Then, the corpse is moved from a house to the place of ceremony, namely jambur, losd, or village hall. Kalimbubu raises the head, the child of beru lifts the body and feet, while the sukut and other relatives participate in accompanying the procession of the corpse movement to jambur.

After the dead arrives at jambur and
placed in a certain position, the beru’s child will call participants to assemble in jambur. It is began by the sound of gendang (music) by sierjabaten (a musician) as a sign that the ceremony is about to begin. While a drum keeps ringing, a son of beru singerana (host) asks the sierjabatan to play the gendang rose and the gendang tudungen.²

After it is completed, one of the family members will deliver a speech and read the dead’s biography as the opening and notice to public, called pengalo-ngalo. Then, it is followed by a presentation of gendang pengalo-ngalo accompanying perkolong-kolong who sings katoneng-katoneng as a welcome greeting to relatives.

The next activity is the presentation of gendang adat to accompany the dances of senina, kalimbubu, and a son of beru parties. The gendang adat indicates that the customary event for the sukut (family of misfortune) has been carried out.

After the series of event above, the ceremony is followed by deliberation (runggu), specifically to discuss the repayment of traditional debts to kalimbubu called pedalen maneh-maneh. Then, gendang perang-perang is played following the dance of Kalimbubu together with puang kalimbubu. At that time, the kalimbubu brings dagangen (white cloth) from landek andcovers the dead. This section is concluded by a presentation of katoneng-katoneng by singing texts of pedah (advice) to the sukut.

After the kalimbubu ngelandek (performing a traditional dance), the next event is given to the child of beru to ngelandek with the anak beru menteri. When they perform ngelandek, anak beru and anak beru menteri also bring white cloth (dagangen) from their landek to be blanketed on the dead. At this moment, perkolong-kolong plays his role to offer the verses with full of cultural values and Karo culture through the katoneng-katoneng song.

The culmination of this ceremony is the presentation of gendang sirang-sirang by sierjabaten to accompany katoneng-katoneng as a mark of separation and closing of the whole series of ceremonies. Further, the sukut and other close family member wipe water that has been mixed with a lime, to the surface of finger nails of the dead’s legs, which means as a sign of separation. Finally, the corpse is taken to be buried.

Katoneng-Katoneng

Katoneng-katoneng [ka.to.nêng-ka.to.nêng] is the Karo’s traditional song, which contains: advices, prayers, hopes, and so on. Derived from the word toneng, katoneng-katoneng means quiet or peaceful. In other words, katoneng-katoneng is a type of song that is expected to provide tranquility and peace for a grieving family. The text contains custom values, spanning norms and social systems, kinship, religious system, advice, prayer, and historical aspects. Therefore, katoneng-
katoneng can be considered as a traditional song functions as a medium of a social control to the Karo community.

Katoneng-katoneng is a topical song which is fairly complex and complicated, and can only be served well by perkolong-kolong (Karo’s professional singer) specializing in that task. Katoneng-katoneng is usually displayed in a ceremony cawir metua (death), mengket rumah mbaru ceremony (entering a new house), guro-guro aron (annual work), as well as other custom events. Thus, the katoneng-katoneng is used widely in the Karo culture events.

However, in a social reality, the presence of perkolong-kolong especially in ceremonies is not a necessity. It depends on economic considerations; as to bring perkolong-kolong is costly. Besides the economic factor, another reason is a customary consideration, because bringing perkolong-kolong will involve large family member and relatives.

In its presentation, perkolong-kolong has freedom to put texts on the melody of katoneng-katoneng, which is already standardized based on his expertise. Despite having this freedom, the song of the katoneng-katoneng in general has been structured, consists of: (1) opening to introduce the position of perkolong-kolong in the ceremony, (2) content, namely the evocative messages from katoneng-katoneng according to the relatives he represents. This part is a very dramatic part as it is the core of the entire song of the katoneng-katoneng. In this part, a particular group of traditional community member (especially close relatives) can be broken to tears. Perkolong-kolong sometimes positions himself as a died person, as if being delivered advice to his descendants, family and other relatives, and (3) closing, contains an apology of perkolong-kolong to whom he represented and to whom the song is delivered to.

Karo language used in the song of the katoneng-katoneng is cakap lumat (a polite language). The spoken words do not entirely contain the true meaning (denotative), but also the meaning of figurative language (connotative). In the katoneng-katoneng song, it is often used majas in the form of figurative language to refine its meaning.

In Karo vocal music, ornaments (rengget) play an important role. The quality of presentation of Karo vocal music depends on several aspects, and rengget is the most prominent one. A good Karo singer must master the ornaments and put them in the right position to achieve the desired aesthetic aspect. For example, when he terminates the song phrase, or when it is used with the gong ringing simultaneously. The perkolong-kolong might not sure where an ornament used in a song. So, the ornaments are an intrinsic part of the song and its singer, but not apart from the melody itself.

Therefore, the creative process of katoneng-katoneng is based on two things, namely a melody and text. The text is created spontaneously depends upon the message content and melodies that tend to be repetitive. Thus, the song is included into the category of strophic logogenic. In this type of music, the relationship of the music (gendang) with language and literature become very important especially to customize any plot of texts and words on the melody played.
The Singer of Katoneng-Katoneng

Katoneng-katoneng can be performed by anyone. But not everyone who sings can evoke his/her audience’s feelings through the message in the song. Therefore, it is necessary to have a singer with specific skills named perkolong-kolong.

In general, perkolong-kolong is a term (a predicate) given to an expert who is engaged in music and singing Karo traditions. Furthermore, perkolong-kolong is a professional singer and dancer of traditional Karo. This means that perkolong-kolong is an artist serves for those who need it. For this task he/she gets some payments for his/her skills and professions.

At the time of singing katoneng-katoneng, perkolong-kolong stands up while he dances along with deceased relatives or families or just singing in standing position. Dance moves are accustomed to the rhythm of gendang (music).

The gesture of dancing in singing katoneng-katoneng is a symbol and a reflection of respect and also it means penasu-masun (a blessing). In the traditional ceremony of cawir metua is never found a perkolong-kolong who singing katoneng-katoneng in a sitting position. It proves that the elements of dance movements (landek) are very important in supporting katoneng-katoneng.

The Learning Process of Perkolong-kolong

The learning process to be perkolong-kolong can be started from listening directly to the song of katoneng-katoneng when the customary ceremonies are held. Besides, one can be perkolong-kolong when he is the descendant of Karo traditional music artist who has an interest and talent.

However, there is also a candidate for perkolong-kolong which only learn from his senior informally. He just follows performances in various situations and places. This method is called imitative that is mimicking katoneng-katoneng carried out by perkolong-kolong senior (oral tradition). Perkolong-kolong candidate tries hard, and at a certain moment, he asks the seniors and Karo music experts for guidance and correction.

The creation and implementation of the katoneng-katoneng texts are done spontaneously and topically to be customized with its context. There are several stages in a creation and an implementation of the texts:

1) The first stage: a perkolong-kolong needs to know the kind of ceremony he attends, the genealogy of the family as well as the family condition completed with its sangkep nggeluh. Such information is obtained both through the messenger and in invitation accepted.

2) The second stage: a perkolong-kolong has to find out the condition of sukut and sangkep nggeluh at the execution in details. Because of this reason, the singers will immerse themselves with ceremony or obtaining information through master of ceremony (singerana) at kerja.

Even so, the creation and implementation of a real text is committed by perkolong-kolong spontaneously at the time of presenting the katoneng-katoneng in public. For this, one should have a good memory, ability and knowledge of the customs, as well as a qualified creativity and improvisation.
The Meaning of The Katoneng-Katoneng Song

The following is an analysis of the text of the katoneng-katoneng as a cultural expression of the Karo community in daily social activities. As an example, it is taken from the Cawir Metua ceremony of Njoreken br Ginting (+) the wife of Ray Tangsin Karo-karo Kaban (+) from the Pernantin village, Juhar, Karo Regency in July 2016. Katoneng-katoneng was sung by perkolong-kolong, Jenny Br. Sembiring.

The Meaning of The Pengalo-ngalo Sukut Text (a greeting from the family to all relatives)

Nande..nande Iting..enda enggo tampak kami kerina Karo mergana ndai, rikutken tenah permendu ganchi sambarrdu ei, ija wari sisekalien da erteha kam nandangi sangkepta nggeluh, kata tenahndu e kata tenah la erpudun nande iting...

[Madame beru Ginting [the late], we, all of Karo-karo clan (senina) are currently present due to the invitation of your daughter-in-law who becomes your successor. Today you invite all relatives through the sudden invitation without planning ....]

In the tradition of Karo, when a family member dies, all of clan (senina) immediately gather to make a planning and preparation for ceremony of the dead. The presence of senina is at invitations and notifications (tenah) of the deceased children. However, even if the work is done by the children of the deceased, as a homage, it’s never revealed in public, but rather addressed to the daughter-in-law (permendu ganchi sambarrdu). This is a tribute to show that the most grieving and concerned over the death is her daughter-in-law.

Bagem anakku turang nandena, teman bibina, wari sekaleda enggo me kam karina kutading-ken, teran sorangku, maka belas-belas kena e me belas-belasku, alo-alo kerina bekasku pepulung-ken e, enggo malem kal ate tendingku anakku, berkata aku ndahi bapandu ndube, malem me ate tendingku, kudahi me seninandu...

[Today I leave you, you can not hear my voice again, so what they say is represent-

ing my saying, greet all relatives who I invited, to make my heart happy, my son. Now I will find your father [her husband dead formerly], not abysmal misses and excited my heart that later I can meet him.]

The above text indicates that the sons (turang nandena) and daughter-in-law (friend of bibina) who becomes a surrogate and bearers of responsibility that had been run by the dead. This is in accordance with the system and lineage of Karo society which are patrilineal (their old bloodlines father) who was succeeded to the sons.

Similarly, the death of cawir metua is the ideals and hopes of the Karo people. The death in the world, therefore, is only the movement of places and situations. For the dead, he/she also has the joy of meeting with the loved ones who had already died (malem me ate tendingku, kudahi me seninandu).

Ola morah-morah turang nandena, teman bibina. Ibas kami penggurundu enggeluh e lanai i rumah, kam me pepagi jadi bapa anakku, kena nge pagi jadi nande teman bibina, inganna pu-lung beru karo enterem e kutadingken anakku, sada perarih sada perukuren kam pagi kerina kutadingken e.

[Don’t be sad my son, my daughter-in-law, and you, my son, will become a successor of your father, you, my daughter-in-law, will become a surrogate of me, a gathering place of all my daughters. After my death, all of you should get along well and peaceful]

This text determines that all sons (turang nandena) become successors of their father and all daughter-in-law (teman bibina) are the surrogates of mother-in-law to carry out social rights and obligations of social custom. They, therefore, must become guardians for the dead’s daughters. This shows that the daughters who have become part of other family after their marriage, and have no material rights in their father’s family should be properly cared and treated, living in peace and harmony (sada perarih, sada perukuren).
Enterem anak dilaki enterem anak diberu, maka ersada arilindu ersada ukurdu kerina kaladingken, malemkal ate tendingku anakku sikeleng-keleng kamu kerina. Ngaupi paipi ngerakut kini ersadan ras sangkep nggeluhtu kerinana.

[All my son and daughter should become one heart one thought after I left, I am glad my children; all of you love one to another. You should strengthen the brotherhood with all relatives]

This text is a message explaining that beside the harmony and peace among relatives, also must maintain the relationship and friendship ties with all them (ngerakut kini ersadan ras sangkep nggeluha kerinana).


[Similarly to all anak beru kami, anak beru minteri, anak beru sipemeren, anak beru singukuri [the Group of relatives that sets up tasks and works in ceremony]. Support and implement all our programmes, so that all goes well and smoothly]

This text shows that the daughters and the rest of the group (anak beru) who are the main support as workers in charge of preparing everything in the ceremony, especially for foods and accommodation to make sure whether food supply is sufficient or not. This is the responsibility of beru.

Bage pe kam Sembuyak, Senina, Sipemeren, Siparibanen, Sipengalon, Sendalanen, Kam kap kerina teman kami arih ngarak-ngarak sangkep enggeluh e, tegu-tegu kami Karo margana e gelah ngekap kami ndalankan simehulina, ibas kite pulung sada wari ngambur-ngambur iluh e sembuyak kami kerina.

[Similarly our sembuyak, senina, sipemeren, siparibanen, sipengalon, sendalanen [a group of relatives who hold rites]. All of you, our friends take care of our relatives; support us, in order to be able to run the customs smoothly. We gather on this day with tears in sorrow]

Good or bad and smoothness of the ceremony is inseparable from the role and responsibilities of wider relatives of the clan in conveying good suggestions (tegu-tegu).

Although only tied by bonds of the clan, in terms of sorrow they have the same feelings and responsibilities, the same suffers (sada wari ngambur-ngambur iluh).

Nandangi sangkepta enggeluh karina, maka malem kari ate kami, Sada perarih sada perukuren kam kerina ngarak-ngarak dahine. Maka mechiho kari perdaline nande beru Ginting bertkat ku Dibata, Kita pe mechiho kerina perukuren-tena itadingken nande beru Ginting.

[To all relatives, we are very happy because all of you are one mind to carry out these custom activities, may the journey ibu beru Ginting towards God be smoothly, and all of us who are abandoned remain healthy and prosperous].

The text above is as an expression of sympathy to all relatives who attend and supports over the retreat of their mother to the Lord and prays for health and prosperity for the rest of the dead family.


[Here’s our foreword while we are dancing together, be happy the spirit and soul of beru Ginting, go to your proper place, and even more pleased our hearts and souls after you left]

This text proves that during the katoneng-katoneng are presented, all the family members who are involved in this section will listen and ponder to the messages while dancing (landek ralo-alo).

The Meaning of The Text of Katoneng-Katoneng Sukut

Enterem kami gancih sambarna tadingkenna tading i rumah. Maka ngaku nge kami sembuyak senina kami, maka ngaku nge kami gancih sambarna temannu ariri. Ōla kami paipi matah ajar ol a matah kata nandangi kami karinana.

Gelah ngekap kami ngelebas-lebasisa ibas ta dingken beru Ginting ei.

[After her leaving, we as her successor promise to all of you sembuyak and senina, will remain a friend in exchange ideas. Don’t get tired to give learning and advice so that we are capable of doing the best to all of you]

The text above is a demeanor and statements from the children of the dead for Panggung Vol. 27 No. 3, September 2017
continuing the mandate of the dead during her lifetime to keep and take care of the relationship, brothertie of senina, as well as being friends of discusiton. It is emphasized again in the text below.

...maka ula pagi teridah kerna nande beru Ginting lanai i runah jadi penggurunta enggeluh

[...there will be no change in the future, although our life’s teacher [nande beru Ginting, beru Ginting’s mother] has left all of us]

...Maka ibas lanai gia ersumekah Ginting margana. Babah beru Sembiring e nge babahna sui tap ngalo-ngalo kepulungendu.

[... Although no Ginting clan say any single word, but this beru Sembiring will be her successor]

The verse above proves that beru Sembiring (perkolong-kolong) who becomes representative of relatives to deliver the custom messages and advice.

**The Meaning of The Text of Katoneng-Katoneng Kalimbubu**


[this time our parents the Ginting clan are here. They are happy because your children, do not forget to deliver reverence to those who are in the village of Munthe and also in Pernantin Village]

This poem is an expression of the relatives of the late over the respect given to the kalimbubu, both originated from the late origin village (Munthe village) as well as those domiciled in the village where the late was dead (Pernantin Village).

Maka erpengarapen Ginting margana ija ibas silakokendu turi-turin peradaten. Ola ngataken kesirangen Karo margana, tapi endalah pepagi jadi pengerakut. Gehal tetap pagi kekelengendu nandangi kerina Ginting margana, gelah malem pagi ate kami kininu, sebab juah-juahen Karo margana ras beru Karo kerina. Gelah malem ate kami Karo margana, erdoang erdiong me kami nandangi anakndo sianak perana denga kinina, gelah keke pagi kerina mulih Karo beru Ginting Munthe ndai itengah-tengah jabundu.

[The clan of Ginting hopes, the implementation of this ceremony is not as a sign of separation, but the sign to the ties, so that compassion of the Karo-karo clan to the clan of Ginting remain sincere. We are joy because all of you are healthy and resilient. We hope that there will be a son of yours who remarry back girls the daughter of beru Ginting]

The treatment and respect received by parents and relatives of the dead during her lifetime and from the bereaved family at that time became a good appreciation (erdiong erdiong) for the Ginting family. This is proved through hopes that the family relationship is reconnected through marriage between descendants of the dead and the daughter of Ginting (gelah keke morning kerina mulih Karo beru Ginting Munthe).

Berkat aku Ginting margana kudahi Karo margana suruh-suruhendu silanai borek ndai. Malem kel ateku erbibi erbengkila, maka gan-cih sambar ku e. E me pagi man ajar-ajarendu, e me pagi si ngulihi-ngulihi kam kutadingken, Nindu nande Iting.

[I, Ginting, go to meet Karo margana, the son of your beru (who died). My happiness is in the relationship of erbibi erbengkila (kalinbubu relationship with beru), therefore teach and lead them, because they are who taking care of you guys after I leave, that’s your mother’s advices]

In the tradition of Karo’s belief, if the husband dies earlier than the wife, it was believed that the wife will meet her husband in afterlife. An expression of the joy of the dead towards her daughter-in-law delivered through the above text (naelem kel ateku erbibi erbengkila). This is in accordance with the concept of Karo community that put a wife (ndehara), daughter-in-law (teman bibi, permaen) as a home of life for each family member.
The Meaning of The Text of Katoneng-Katoneng Puang Kalimbubu

Adi sekalenda labo lolo kudalani dalam simbelin e. Malem me ate tendingku ndahi Karo mergana ndube. Jumpa bibi ras bengkila, jumpa me aku ernande erbapa, erturang ras ersenina. Maka kam pe kerina kuladingken siapul-apulen karinana.

[On the day I drove my own path. Meet with both my parents in-laws (the late), and meet my late mother and father (late), and also meet my brother and sister (late). You don’t need to be sad and keep loving and respectful]

From the text of katoneng-katoneng above, it can be seen that father-in-law, father and mother, and brothers and sisters of the dead have already died earlier. Death in this tradition concept is a way to bring together those who have died in a natural immortal, therefore it does not need to be mourned.


[Don’t be sad, don’t be cry. These are circumstances we receive, our mother said. Mercedes Ginting, after our mother leaving, presumably all of you are healthy so that in future could lead and guide all of us]

The clan of Ginting as kalimbubu in the concept of Karo culture is like dibata ni idah (the visible form of God) as a giver of blessing, guidance for the children behave in berunja (in this case is the family of the late) in the world.


Madam beru Ginting, eventhough you set out to live your destiny but your soul will still be with us. After your body is delivered to the grave back to the ground, and your spirit goes to a new place, a pleasant house, may we, the people you left, stay healthy).

That is the hope of the family, that only the body will be buried in the ground while the spirit (tendi) will leave for a new place into a pleasant home. Therefore, the death in the status of cawir metua is a wish and an ideal for Karo people.

Thus, in general, theme and core of katoneng-katoneng are:

a) messages and hopes of the dead to his offspring always to get along and help each other (sada perarih, sada perukuren).

b) delegation and submission of social responsibility, customary obligations to be continued by their children and descendants.

c) the sincerity of the whole family for the separation with death is simply a migration to afterlife to meet other relatives who had already died.

d) messages and hopes that good relations with all relatives especially Kalimbubu should be maintained.

e) advices from relatives to the late family.

CONCLUSION

Mate cawir metua is the death state in Karo society this is only given to people who died in old age, in which all children have married and have offspring. Traditional ceremony for this is called the kerja cawir metua, performed royally, invite all relatives (sangkep nggeluh, rakut sitelu) by presenting gendang (music) and katoneng-katoneng (customary singing) presented by perkolong-kolong (katoneng-katoneng singer) as medium of conveying noble sayings to the sukut (executor of ceremonies) the accompaniment of series of events.

The textual meanings contained in the katoneng-katoneng emphasize the advices, prayers, hopes, well-maintained kinship between sangkep nggeluh (rakut sitelu) and sukut (host), and gratefulness of the ceremony implementation, both in receiving and paying traditional debts to functional kinship elements who attending and participating in the ceremony.
In the presentation, *katoneng-katoneng* is singing using a language style (a figurative language), which is motivated by the concepts of Karo culture. The Karo language used is included into the subtle (*cakap luma*) language, which is commonly used in customary activities.

The presentation of *katoneng-katoneng* prioritizes a spontaneously created cultural expression using repeated melodies. Thus, this kind of song can be categorized to *strofic logogenic* which means that the text is created by the singer (*perkolong-kolong*) spontaneously with a contextual situation in similar melody. Its melody and music strengthen and reinforce the meaning of the text.

**End Note**

1. The musical instruments of *gendang lima sendalanen* consists of: 1 piece of *sarune*, 1 piece of *singduk* shield (a parent), 1 piece drum (child), 1 piece *penganak* (small gong) and 1 piece *gung* (large gong). It is called five *sendalanen* because there are five pieces of musical instruments that play hand in hand together (*sendalanen*).

2. *Gendang Rose* is used to accompany the dance (*landek*) of all members of the family, while the *gendang tudungen* is used to accompany the dancing singers *singuda-nguda* (the youth).

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