Weaving Emotions and Culture: The Success Story of Teh Botol Sosro’s Packaging on Indonesia’s 75th Independence Day West Java and DKI Jakarta Edition

Andri Setiawan¹, Supriatna², Enok Wartika³
¹Bandung College of Technology, ²Indonesian Institute of Arts and Culture
¹Soekarno Hatta Street No.378, Bandung, West Java,
²Buah Batu Street No.212, Bandung, West Java
¹Andrisetiawan808@gmail.com, ²ekosupriatna@yahoo.com, ³enok_wartika@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Teh Botol Sosro, the first ready-to-drink tea beverage in Indonesia, introduced a new packaging theme of “Independence and the Cultural Diversity of Indonesia” to celebrate Indonesia’s 75th Independence Day. The research aims to analyze the significant role of the concepts and themes of independence and Indonesia’s cultural diversity in building a solid emotional connection with consumers. The research methodology used qualitative analysis focusing on visual communication, gathering data through visual analysis and expert interviews. The research findings reveal that utilizing these elements, analyzed through Marc Gobe’s emotional branding concept, successfully establishes a solid emotional connection with consumers. This is reflected in a deeper understanding of national values and cultural diversity, as well as the introduction of a profound emotional dimension in the consumer experience. In conclusion, this research highlights the vital role of these concepts and themes in creating a significant emotional bond with consumers and enhancing the product’s appeal.

Keywords: teh botol sosro, 75th Indonesian independence day, packaging design, emotional branding.

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

The breadth of the current target market makes every producer must be able to compete to make the product attractive. Nowadays, product competition is not only at the level of quality or content of the product but also penetrates into the creative field in presenting the product so that it can reach consumers. Creative domains that were previously considered part of art are now starting to be taken into account in product business processes.

Packaging visualization is one of the parts touched by the creative sector, which is expected to help product development, increase sales, and become a medium of communication and information from producers to consumers. Along with this explanation (Sari, 2013) states that packaging is an essential element in building awareness, attractiveness and forming a product image.

Packaging is a result of the packaging process, which acts as a protector of a product. However, along with the rapid development of the trade industry, the advancement of material technology, and the presence of printing techniques, packaging, which was initially only a product container and facilitated the organization and distribution of products, is now starting to have a new function,
which plays an essential role as a medium of communication and information for a product. In line with that, according to Sari, the packaging is referred to as the *silent sales man or girl* (Sari, 2013), because a package that communicates and provides information can represent and show the advantages of a product without a server.

A great amount of similar products competing in the same segmentation and target market makes the product marketing process even more difficult. Therefore, manufacturers must be able to highlight their products; one way that can be done is to make packaging as attractive as possible without letting go of the existing market share. This can be the main attraction to provide a different position from similar products. Klimchuk and Krosavec stated that, four factors that improve packaging design, namely: Illustration (images, symbols, photos), color, structure or physical form, and typography (Klimchuk and Krasovec, 2007, p. 82).

The packaging design’s attractiveness can influence the target audience’s perception to be a differentiator from other products to provide positive results. In this case, consumers might buy these products. Meanwhile, as a product image or brand image, packaging visualization aims to provide information and communication with consumers through designs designed by manufacturers so that they can impress consumers. Supriatna believes “packaging design can provide a persuasive effect creating an effective relationship that causes closeness between products and consumers” (Supriatna, 2021 p. 39).

Illustration is one of the strategies used as visualization in packaging design. Soedarso stated that “illustration is a picture that is intended to describe a certain purpose” (Soedarso, 1990). Indirectly, illustration combines graphic elements to illustrate, communicate, and provide information.

Illustrations are not only part of a work of art but also act as a medium for product marketing. Interview with Achyard Riyadh he said illustration is part of the process of creating a corporate image on a product and as a medium to attract the attention of consumers. The point is that the illustrations are well-designed and aesthetic, but the primary purpose of it all is to advance the business, provide information, and appeal to consumers.

On August 17, 2020, Teh Botol Sosro launched a unique edition packaging design. Taking advantage of this momentum, Teh Botol Sosro presents the theme of Indonesian Independence by depicting the diversity of Indonesian culture through illustrations on 300 ml PET packaging. In this special edition, Teh Botol Sosro presents illustrations of various cultures represented in eight different packaging designs, one of which is the culture of West Java and DKI Jakarta, presented in one visual packaging.

![Figure 1. Visual of Teh Botol Sosro Packaging for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day, West Java and DKI Jakarta editions (Source: Instagram Teh Botol Sosro)](image-url)
The illustration Teh Botol Sosro Packaging for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day has many roles in its application. Not only as forming aesthetics but also as forming perceptions and emotional appeal to the product. Additionally, Supriatna explained, “packaging designs that are designed aesthetically and according to design principles can create perceptions, likes and adapt at an emotional level and create loyalty” (Supriatna, 2021, pp. 39-42). From this explanation, it can be concluded that Teh Botol does not sell its products but sells the emotions attached to the packaging design that is tailored to the themes, concepts, and feelings that arise in the minds of consumers.

Based on the background described above, the researcher intends to analyze the illustrations of Teh Botol Sosro Packaging for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day West Java and DKI Jakarta edition formulation:

1. Why did this theme and concept appear on the Teh Botol Sosro Packaging for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day, West Java, and DKI Jakarta editions?
2. What is the stage of establishing an emotional closeness between consumers and the visual packaging of the Teh Botol Sosro Packaging for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day, West Java and DKI Jakarta editions?

The aims of this research are as follows:
1. To explain the reasons for using theme and concept.
2. Analyze the stages of forming emotional closeness between products and consumers.

The theory used in this research is the theory of Emotional Branding described by Marc Gobe (2005). Gobe is a marketing expert and writer who developed the emotional concept of branding, which emphasizes the importance of emotions, experiences, and stories behind a story, which indirectly can build a stronger bond between products and consumers. According to Gobe, “emotional branding related to sensory experience, a design that can make consumers feel the product, a design that makes consumers buy the product (Gobe, 2005:10).

Branding is a series of strategic processes or ways to build a positive image in the eyes of consumers. This definition aligns with what was expressed by Achyar Riyadh: “Branding is the process of creating a brand or the whole process of forming a brand Image of products or companies that have the ultimate goal of increasing sales. The process of branding is an extensive, comprehensive and strategic approach to branding that involves the development off all brand related instruments with mature concept and idea,. including visual assets (graphic designs, concepts, themes, and all other instruments aimed at improving the product marketing process.

Nowadays, intense market competition makes the business atmosphere very different; every company is competing to create concepts and ideas within. The realm of branding become very broad, so a concept or idea is needed that can quickly enter the minds of consumers. Gobe, in his book argues that “in a very high market competition where goods cannot attract a new market or even retain existing clients, emotional branding could be the answer.

Therefore, in order to create a design that can touch the emotions of a product, it does not only sell the contents of the product but also experiences and stories that focuses on aspects of desire and satisfaction that affect consumers’ moods. Teh Botol Sosro has implemented this in the marketing process carried out in 2020 with a very different visual packaging. Packaging
is the process of delivering information and communicating between products and consumers. Meanwhile, according to Gobe, “Building the right emotions with consumers can be an important investment in product development” (Gobe, 2005, p. 32). Based on the results of this background, indirectly, the emotional stages-branding already done by Teh Botol Sosro on packaging design for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day editions of West Java and DKI Jakarta.

The limitations of this research are as follows:

1. Fundamentally analyze why the themes and concepts are used on the packaging editions.
2. Analyze the emotional branding on visual packaging for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day editions of West Java and DKI Jakarta.

By using deep theory in the research, the researcher can understand the broader context and produce a deeper understanding of the phenomenon being studied.

**B. Literature Review**

Literature review is a study conducted on previous research that aims to find gaps or differences from previous research and can be used as a reference in conducting this research. Based on the results of the literature review conducted, several previous studies related to this research were obtained, as for the previous research as follows:

The results of the first study entitled “Visual Review of The Botol Sosro Packaging Special Edition for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day” were carried out by Yana Erlyana and Bestymoria in an article published by the Visual Arts and Media Visual Communication Design Journal Vol.1, No.3, November 2020, p. 173-183, Bunda Mulia University. This study describes illustration as one of the visual elements used in designing the packaging for the Teh Botol Sosro special edition for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day. This study discusses only the cultural symbols found within each illustration can form information that can be digested accurately. Moreover, the illustration relates to the lives of individual Indonesians whose voice is collected based on nationality. Equity, knowledge, culture, and history. Discusses the visual appearance of bottles without any meaning or use of signs that are studied in more depth. The use and selection of objects as symbols in each illustration is quite good.

The research conducted by Erlyana and Bestimorla (2021) have similarities in the object of research; it is just that the research conducted by Erlyana and Bestimorla was carried out on the entire packaging of the 75th Indonesian Independence Day, which totaled approximately eight packages, while the one carried out in this study totaling one package with two visualizations of different regions, namely West Java and DKI Jakarta. Furthermore, in previous studies, the discussion was only carried out on visual displays without discussing the more profound role of illustration.

The second research, “Visual Elements of Packaging as a Product Communication Strategy,” was conducted by Ni Luh Desi In Diana Sari and was published in the Prophetic Journal Vol. 6, No. 1, April 2013, p. 43-52. This study explains that the visual elements on the packaging are constructed as a means of product communication in the market. The visual elements on the principal display panel (PDU) consist of primary and secondary designs. This study discusses the visual elements of whatever is on the visual display (PDU) in the package. In this study,
Willbur Schramm’s communication theory describes the communication process of packaging elements as a primary stimulus to attract the audience’s attention.

The research conducted by Sari (2013) can be used as a reference for ongoing research; this is related to how visual elements, especially illustrations, can become the main attraction in the product interaction process with consumers. However, there will still be differences between the previous and current research. In addition to product differences, the visual communication process flow discussed will also differ. Introducing Sundanese figures, coloring illustrations can help train fine motor skills in children because, at that age, well-stimulated motor development can develop more rapidly.

Research conducted by Riyadh et al. (2022) discusses how an illustration can play a role in reintroducing the Sundanese cultural character, namely the Punakawan to children aged 4-6 years. With an approach, Proper illustrations can also help develop a child’s sensory motor skills. This previous research is used as a reference by researchers in analyzing the wider role of illustrations in product packaging.

The research conducted by Lestari, et al. (2022) with the title “The Role of Indonesian-Themed Illustrations in Beverage Products on Consumer Emotional Responses” in this study discusses how an Indonesian-themed illustration and local packaging can influence consumer emotions. The method in this study uses a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods where literature and questionnaires are used for the data collection process. The use of packaging design theory, as well as Rolan Barthez’s semiotics, is used for consumer interpretation of related illustrations.

The research by Lestari et al, there are similarities regarding how illustration can play a role in the attractiveness of consumers seeing a product. However, the object of this study is different; previous research was conducted on good coffee packaging, while this study used the Teh Botol Sosro drink object. In addition, there are different methods and theories, so there are still gaps or differences in this study. Through the results of previous research, the author will analyze the visual packaging of the Teh Botol Sosro Packaging for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day, West Java and DKI Jakarta editions describes what visuals are designed in the packaging and knows the process branding on the packaging.

C. Research Methods

The research method is a procedure used to find data supporting scientific research. This study used qualitative methods. Qualitative research aims to describe and interpret the object under study according to the actual situation. According to Sugiyono, “Qualitative research can be regarded as naturalistic research because the research is conducted in natural conditions (Natural setting)” (Sugiyono, 2016, p. 8). A natural setting means the researcher does not manipulate the object under study. Qualitative research is more descriptive, namely research emphasizing the data collected. The data collected does not have a numerical load.

To facilitate the visual analysis of the Teh Botol Sosro packaging, a visual communication methodology approach by Soewardikoen (2019) is used consisting of four stages to be carried out:

1. Description identifies seeks information from works without interpretation and opinion.
2. The analysis discusses the visual elements displayed with opinions and arguments.
3. Interpretation of the process supported by the first two stages to strengthen arguments and accuracy in interpreting the work.
4. Assessment at this stage how a work can have its uniqueness and privileges in the eyes of consumers or audiences.

Observation is the process of observing the object of research directly. In line with this Sugiono stated, Observation has specific characteristics, namely direct observation of spaciousness, not limited to people but also including other natural objects, and supported by facts from interviews (Sugiyono, 2016, p. 203). Observations in this study were carried out on the packaging object that focuses on visualization of Teh Botol Sosro packaging for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day editions of West Java and DKI Jakarta.

Literature Study is a way of collecting data by studying the problems studied through scientific papers, books, and reports that can support the course of research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Momentum of Independence

The euphoria of Indonesian independence is an emotional and social experience that every individual in the Indonesian nation can feel. Indirectly, euphoria refers to feelings of joy, positive enthusiasm and pride (pride to be Indonesian, pride in Indonesia’s natural wealth, and pride in Indonesia’s diverse culture). Not only do individuals celebrate this momentum, but companies have the right to participate in this kind of celebration.

On August 17, 2020, several products took part in celebrating independence. In addition, the momentum of independence can be well integrated as a strategy branding by creating special edition packaging that can attract attention and create a powerful emotional bond. Some of the products that come with
special edition; 1. Secret Key packaging for the batik edition as a form of pride in being an Indonesian woman.

In addition, it also coincided with Indonesia’s Independence Day. BI (Bank Indonesian) issued a special edition of money with a nominal value of seventy-five thousand rupiahs. According to BI Governor Perry Warjiyo in the Kompas article, “Indonesia’s 75-year momentum we must grow independence to build optimism and enthusiasm in achieving independence.

More than fifty years is a very long time for products and companies to develop and survive amidst the onslaught of similar products circulating in the market. Quality must be maintained, take advantage of every opportunity, and be flexible towards change. One thing that was done through this momentum was that Teh Botol Sosro presented a different packaging. According to Sabrina Kharisanti, Chief Marketing Officer of PT. Sinar Sosro said, “The packaging for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day edition is an expression of gratitude, a sense of gratitude to the nation and people of Indonesia, a sense of pride in Indonesian culture”.

Taking advantage of every moment as an opportunity is essential for any business, Here are a few reasons why this is important:
1. Special edition packaging adds value to product aesthetics.
2. Strengthens emotional connections with consumers.
3. Shows product and company commitment to national values.
4. Create a new image related to the product or the company from Teh Botol Sosro.

In the end, the community or consumers not only enjoy the drink from Teh Botol Sosro but can also feel the trust and generate loyalty to the product.

B. Visual culture in the Packaging Special Editions Teh Botol Sosro

Apart from the independence momentum, which was used as the big theme on the day the product was launched with the Republic of 75th Indonesia Anniversary edition packaging, Teh Botol Sosro was able to see opportunities and phenomena of the visual culture of Indonesian independence, which became creative concepts in the process branding. Visual culture is created from visual-based information and communication media (through the senses of the eye) and can impact the audience who sees it. According to Dr. Setyo Budi, M.Sn (2021), in line with this explanation. “Visual culture is a new culture born from awareness "Psycho Visual Aesthetic". Budi explained an example in the presentation of the subject: when someone sees, reads or watches something without realizing that the spectacle permeates their subconscious and lives in that subconscious. Indirectly, from this explanation, it can be said that everyone has an imagination in the subconscious, and there is an emotional connection in their hearts through what they have seen so far.

The progress of civilization and technology is developing very rapidly, making much reading and viewing and entering foreign cultures; these cultures enter through television, the internet, social media, comics and other visual media. Indirectly, it can erode local culture in Indonesia. In line with this explanation, Harmoko et al argue that “the entry of foreign cultures into the country is a negative impact of easy access to technology and can reduce the sense of nationalism of the younger generation” (Harmoko et al, 2022).

The phenomenon of the development of a visual culture has developed and entered all levels of society. Various kinds of brands utilize many opportunities in making the marketing process, forming positioning of a product or company in the minds of consumers. In line with this, Klimchuk and Krasovec argue that “changes in packaging design are a strategy used to reposition in attracting new target markets without losing previous target markets” (Klimchuk & Krasovec, 2008, p. 44).

Whether realizing it or not, the visual culture poured into product packaging strengthens the emotional bond between the product and the consumer. The following products have used the strategy of branding utilizing issues and phenomena of visual culture in society.

1. Rokok Djarum Coklat Anugerah Alam Indonesia - raises environmental issues and tourism in Indonesia and targets a new market segment, namely young people.
2. Indomie Tempoe Doeloe - generates memories or memories that exist in consumers.
3. Silverqueen Valentine edition - form that chocolate is an expression of affection
4. McDonald BTS Meals - targeting the fanaticism of K-pop fans in Indonesia.
5. Teh Botol Sosro Packaging for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day – proud of the diversity of Indonesian culture.
Each product has its aims and objectives in presenting visual culture in its packaging. Including Teh Botol Sosro Packaging for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day West Java and DKI Jakarta editions, presenting cultural elements and symbols of Indonesian independence in the illustrations. According to Dewa, “the several forms of Indonesian cultural diversity described are as follows: Cepot, Megamendung Batik, Monas, Betawi mask dance, drums from Sundanesse”, in the line this according to Supriatna, “In Indonesian archipelago packaging design, as a product, it must be able to bring out the uniqueness, characteristics and identity of the area” (Supriatna, 2021, p. 49).

Based on the identification results above, there are reasons why the theme of independence and the concept of Indonesian cultural diversity were implemented in the first stages. These stages are not only aimed at seeking profits for the company. Still, they are also expected to be able to contribute to the heritage of Indonesian cultural values in a more modern and creative way so that the people of Indonesia can easily accept them. Second, the strengthening of national identity through the unique encapsulation of images, concepts and themes, namely the development and strengthening of national identity.

Teh Botol Sosro, as a product that integrates national symbols, flags, and local cultural elements in packaging design, can help build a sense of unity and nationalism. Third, the themes and concepts featured in Teh Botol Sosro respect critical historical events. The fourth is the level of emotional connection, at this level, Teh Botol Sosro strives to form a connection with the product through the spirit of independence and cultural diversity of Indonesia, as well as developing deeper values through these values.

C. Branding Emotional Stage

To create campaigns that can touch emotions and understand consumer’s emotional needs and desires. Producers or products must be able to take strategic steps that can build solid interactions and bonds. According to Gobe, emotional branding forms closeness to the five senses’ imagination and experience (Gobe, 2005, p. 18). Teh Botol Sosro also forms a bond between products and consumers through illustrations of various Indonesian cultures in its packaging design. There are four stages in emotional analysis carried out by Teh Botol Sosro, namely:

1. Relationship (Connection)

At this stage, is it related to the values or identity of West Java and DKI Jakarta connected with the packaging design? By carrying out the content analysis stage on the packaging design in-depth, it is found that visually the packaging design has ties and cultural values highlighted through the icons and symbols. The following is an illustration of the relationship between packaging design and the culture of West Java and DKI Jakarta:

a. The values and culture of West Java are represented by:

Cepot

Figure 2. The Cepot icon in the West Java and DKI Jakarta editions of the 75th Indonesian Independence Day
(Source: Instagram potr___ July 10, 2023)
b. Cultural Values of DKI Jakarta are represented by:

*Monas Landmark*

Through illustrations in the form of icons, landmarks and symbols from West Java and DKI Jakarta, Teh Botol Sosro presents a different appeal in establishing relationships and communicating with consumers. The following are the stages of packaging design that can be connected:
Wrapped in various cultures, especially West Java and DKI Jakarta. The illustration becomes a touch point, which illustrates the difference between the Teh Botol Sosro product and competitors of similar tea drinks. Klimchuk and Korasovec argued that “touch point is a linking brand strategy with consumers and visually easy to identify” (Klimchuk & Korasovec, 2007, p. 121).

- Revive local identity, with the cepot icons, the satay building, the Betawi mask dance, and monas being symbols of the regions of West Java and DKI Jakarta. Through these elements on the packaging will make consumers feel close to the culture and heritage of the area.

- As the Actualization of History and Tradition. The cepot is a character in traditional Sundanese art, which has a rich history and artistic roots. The Betawi mask dance has indirectly been eroded by civilization and modernization, reducing public interest in seeing the dance. With that, Teh Botol Sosro wants to revive history and traditions, which can attract local people to at least find out about this culture.

- Introducing an iconic location—through the cultural icons and symbols constructed on the packaging can increase a sense of pride in the area.

- Generating a sense of care for local culture - through icons and symbols of local culture, people who still need to learn about the richness of Indonesian culture, especially West Java and DKI Jakarta, are expected to care more about local culture. In comparison, people who already know are expected to be able to contribute to developing and preservation of the existing culture. So that cultural diversity can be maintained.

2. Sensory experience (sensation)

Packaging is a communication medium based on visual senses as an effort to attract consumer interest. Teh Botol Sosro currently does not only sell packaged tea drinks but also provides a sensory experience to consumers by displaying unique edition designs.

In addition to illustrations, colour can be used as a packaging communication medium. Colour is a visual aspect that the human eye sees and is closely related to light. In visual communication, colour has an important role; Color can produce emotions and a person’s perception of the object he sees. As Humphrey wrote in Klimchuck and Krasovec, “the human ability to see colour indirectly continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs of his life” (Klimchuck and Krasovec, 2007, p.106). The visualization of the Sosro Bottle Tea packaging for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day editions of West Java and DKI Jakarta is dominated by Orange,
Red and Brown colours. This is interesting to identify because, psychologically, colour can affect consumer perceptions of the Sosro Bottle Tea product. In line with this, Wicaksono, Marindra, and Kristianto stated that “colour can change feelings, influence perspectives, affect the atmosphere and provide identity” (Wicaksono et al., 2013).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Color psychology</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Strength, Energy, Warmth, Leadership, Respect,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Warmth, Passion, Balance, Storytelling, Enthusiasm, Interesting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Land, Earth, Tradition, Wealth, Depth, Calm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Psychologically, it can be concluded that these colours are implemented in the Teh Botol Sosro packaging. From the theme of independence, the red colour indirectly represents Indonesian independence.

3. **Imagination**

At this stage, communicating through imagination is how the ability of a brand brings creativity and a different appearance to attract consumers. The West Java and DKI Jakarta editions of the Teh Botol Sosro Indonesian Independence Day give imagination through the illustration style. The use of this illustration is in line with the trend in 2020, where the technique used is to enlarge certain parts so that they do not match the original proportions. Apart from following trends, this is also done as part of a design contribution to triggering consumers’ imaginations and can also generate curiosity about these characters.

4. **Interaction**

Vision is one of the factors for product success in the long term, and this factor is supported by the company’s tools, which help maintain consumer emotional resonance for the Teh Botol Sosro product, especially the West Java and DKI Jakarta editions. In this case, Teh Botol Sosro not only invites the public to enjoy the packaging designs displayed, but until now, Teh Botol Sosro invites consumers to be directly involved in preserving culture and being proud of the nation’s culture through its campaign, namely #Localunite. This is done so that consumers’ emotional closeness to the product can continue and not just stop at the packaging of the 75th Indonesian Independence Day.

**CONCLUSION**

In this study, the authors have analyzed the concepts and themes in the visual packaging of Teh Botol Sosro for the 75th Indonesian Independence Day editions of West Java and DKI Jakarta. Using the right concepts and themes in a branding strategy can help increase product sales and create an image following what the company wants for consumers. Therefore, a theme and concept are essential in the current market competition.

Teh Botol Sosro applies the theme of independence and Indonesian cultural diversity in creating a solid emotional bond between products and consumers. Using icons, cultural symbols and the spirit of independence can inspire a sense of nationalism and community pride. This approach increases product appeal, strengthens product identity, and builds deeper community relationships. Attractive packaging visualization plays an important role the formation of lasting bonds between brands and consumers.

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