

Gesture Meaning of Tortor Used in Simalungun Wedding Ceremony

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Abstract:

This study discusses about the gesture meaning of tortor in Simalungun Wedding Ceremony. The theory used in this study is McNeill's theory. The data collection was conducted by real work methods it were interviews, documentation and literature study. The methods is used in this study is qualitative method and descriptive approach. The result of this study show that the meaning of tortor in simalungun wedding ceremony are showing happiness, respect, compassion, delighted. Each gesture of tortor also serves show a close sense of relationship between two families. In human life, God creates men and women who will have marital relationships and are called husband and wife. With the merging of two families with a marriage, the happiness of both families it show by tortor. Based on McNeill's theory gesture, tortor of Simalungun wedding ceremony included in the types of iconic gesture. This is because the gesture contains a formal relationship.

Keywords:

gesture meaning; tortor; wedding ceremony

I. Introduction

Wedding ceremony is the important event in every human life. Basically, a wedding is a rite of passage, an event that marks a person's transition from one life status (single) to another (married). It can be seen as these stages are reflected as the approach of life event. Ceremony is the kind of formal event, it certainly has different way to do in each ethnic. The popular part of Simalungun wedding ceremony is the tortor.

Tortor is a dance typical of the Batak tribe in north Sumatra. Tortor (dance) in a wedding ceremony begins with the entry of the bride into the building where adat na gok (full custom) is implemented. The wedding ceremony (full custom) is said to be the case if the custom procedure is carried out in accordance with the custom procedures implemented. (Diana, 2017)

In each movement in tortor have a meaning. This gesture meaning tortor is understandable and most of people don't know what actually the meaning of tortor in Simalungun wedding ceremony. Gesture is parts of body movements and position, including the use of legs, shoulders, hands, head and limbs. Furthermore, gesture is a movement of body utilized to communicate ideas, intention and feeling. These actions are performed primarily by using arms and hands; however the face and head are also used in gesturing. (Knapp and Hall in Farlanti, 2017).

Furthermore, Farlanti (2017) Analysis of Gesture Used by the Students of English Study Program in the Classroom Interaction at the University of Sembilan belas November, Kolaka, the results of this research concluded that, there were 29 kinds of the gesture which

used by the students in the classroom interaction. And the functions of gesture were used by the students was also variously. But the functions of gesture were used by the students almost all of them were same. It was to show the sign of the tough-minded and stubborn individual, the interest of the student in the conversation, the student was lacking in self-confidence, courtesy and good attitude, showed disagreement, showed self-controlling, authority when argue, the persons' habitual, the persons' forgetfulness, the person's shy nature, the person's confident, showed self, the person enthusiasm when respond something, showed the courtesy, to disguise nervousness, to illustrate numbers, to clarify, gave comment, to express kept the confidence, to express the student felt nervous and insecure.

Diana (2017) analysis The Meaning of Tortor Dance in the Traditional Ceremony of the Batak Toba Tribe Marriage Desa Batu District of Tampahan District Toba Samosir, North Sumatra Province. She concludes that this research shows that every hand gesture has a meaning and meaning in each tortor activity. Hand gestures have meaning: Maneanea means asking for blessing, mamasu-masu means giving a blessing, old mangido means asking for and receiving blessing and competing, which is respecting the parents of the wife. The results showed that most of Batak Toba people did not know what the meaning contained in the tortor dance in the Batak Toba wedding ceremony.

Based on the background of the problem described above, the writer is interested in conducting research with the title "Gesture Meaning of Tortor Used in Simalungun Wedding Ceremony".

II. Review of Literatures

2.1 Gesture

Gesture is parts of body movements and position, including the use of legs, shoulders, hands, head and limbs. Furthermore, gesture is a movement of body utilized to communicate ideas, intention and feeling. These actions are performed primarily by using arms and hands; however the face and head are also used in gesturing. (Knapp and Hall in Farlanti, 2017).

McNeill (2011) define gesture as the movement of the body. It is quite constant that in every interaction, there will be a spontaneous moves. The movement often represents what someone thinks and not expressed verbally. McNeill also stated that the unconscious person's show and how in their minds to understand an event through gesture. This is due to think not merely appear in the head, but also through language and body. In this study, the authors use McNeill's theory in terms of McNeill's in Maldini (2017) states that gestures are divided into 4 types, namely:

a. Iconic Gesture

Iconic gesture the movement contains a formal relationship which is closely related to the content of what was discussed semantically, that aspect contained in the gesture also appeared on talk someone, resembles what is visually and concrete, commonly indicated by the shape and movement of the hand

b. Deictic Gesture

Deictic gesture is all motion used to designate an object or location to bring attention to the other person on the object in question. This behavior is used to determine how the subject interacts not only with objects, but also communicate ideas and conceptual aspects of the movement.

c. Regulators Gesture

Regulators gesture is all the movement that supports the interaction and communication between the transmitting and the receiving. This behavior is controlling the flow of conversation as nodding her head up and down to show agreement and as if signifying another to continue the conversation

d. Adapter Gesture

Adapter gesture is all the motions inadvertently used during communication or interaction.

2.2 Tortor

Tortor is a traditional dance by moving the entire body whose movements are in tune with the accompaniment of music that is guided or played with traditional musical instruments such as *gondang*, flute, and *ogung*, with the center of movement in the hands and fingers, feet and soles of the feet, back and shoulders. (Diana, 2017)

Furthermore Diana (2017) explain in the activities of the *manortor* many taboos are not allowed when the *manortor*, such as the dancer's hand, should not cross the shoulder level up, because if it is done the dancer is considered arrogant and disrespectful to all attendees and is considered to challenge shamanism and mysticism. Broadly speaking, there are four movements in Tortor. First is *Pangurdot*, the movements of the feet, heels and shoulders. The second is *Pangeal*, which is a movement performed by the waist, backbone to shoulders / *sasap*. Third is *Pandenggal*, which is the movement of his hands, palms and fingers. The fourth movement is *Siangkupn*

2.3 Simalungun

Simalungun is one of Batak tribes in North Sumatera. Sinaga (2014: 01) says that Simalungun has philosophy of culture namely *tolu sahundulan*, *lima saodoran*. It means that three person in the same position when have a sit and five person in the same way when walk. *Tolu Sahundulan* namely: *Sanina*, *Tondong*, *Boru*. Thus the third component that merges in “*Tolu Sahundulan*” that applied in a wedding ceremony, decorum guidelines for living the point of the philosophy that are: “*Sanina pangalopan riah*, *Tondong pangalopan podah*, *Boru pangalopan gogoh*”. Or in English means *Sanina* gives ideas, *Tondong* gives advises, *Boru* gives services. These third elements have to come and participate in Simalungun small custom ceremony.

Lima Saodoran consists of the third elements from *Tolu Sahundulan* and two more elements they are as follows: *Tondong*, *Sanina*, *Boru*, *Anak boru mintori*, and *Tondong ni tondong*. The third elements of *Tolu Sahundulan* have explained above, so the fourth is *Anak boru mintori* means a boy who marries with a girl. They have the same surname of mom, for example their mom surname is Saragih of course their “*Tulang*” or their mom's brother/uncle is Saragih too. So this boy will call *Tulang* to the girl's *Tulang* and the boy will be as *Anak boru mintori* in his wife's *Tulang* family. And the last the fifth is *Tondong ni tondong*.

The Simalungun tribe shows that carrying out a wedding ceremony with a traditional event is conducting a specific and important socio cultural and religious event for the Simalungun tribe. Socio culturally performing parties with traditional events aims to carry out customary duties and as a symbol that the bridegroom and his family are the people who have the right attitude. Religiously the aim is to receive the blessings of God who are believed to be conveyed by the parents of the bride and her family.

III. Research Methods

The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach the type of descriptive research. The aim is to describe the form of presentation and gesture meaning of Simalungun wedding ceremony Hancock (2007) stated that the qualitative research is concerned with developing explanations of social phenomena. The data taken from Video Simalungun wedding ceremony that has 2 hours duration. The items of this research were kinds and the functions gesture meaning in *tortor*. Throughout this research, there are two kinds of instruments used to collect relevant data. First video Simalungun wedding ceremony and Interview to Informants (customary leader).

IV. Results and Discussion

Based on the research and the results of the researchers' interviews with the informants the gesture meaning of *Tortor* in Simalungun wedding ceremony show in the table 1:

Table 1. Gesture Meaning of Tortor

No	Kinds of <i>Tortor</i>	Types of Gesture	The Meaning
1	<i>Tortor mamasu-masu</i> is done by extending the fingers in front, and swinging them down. In the Simalungun wedding ceremony, this movement was carried out by <i>tondong</i> and <i>boru</i>	Based on McNeill's theory of <i>tortor mamasu-masu</i> included in the type of iconic gesture. This is because the movement contains a formal relationship between <i>tondong</i> and <i>boru</i> ,	The meaning of <i>tortor mamasu-masu</i> is done in the sense of <i>tondong</i> giving prayers or blessing <i>boru</i> to be healthy and cheap. And then the aspects contained in the <i>tortor mamasu-masu</i> also appeared on talk, resembled what is visually and concrete, then indicated by the shape and movement of the hand.
2	<i>Tortor manombah</i> is a gesture that <i>boru</i> performs to <i>tondong</i> , where this gesture is carried out with both hands holding a plate containing a <i>batu demban</i> which is given to <i>tondong</i>	<i>Tortor Manombah</i> is also included in the type of iconic gesture. Because in this position the formal relationship is still clearly visible.	The meaning of <i>Tortor Manombah</i> shows high respect for <i>tondong</i> . In the custom order of Simalungun <i>Tolu Sahundulan Lima Sodoran</i> , <i>Tondong</i> is a person who is highly respected by the <i>boru</i> . <i>Boru</i> is expecting prayers and blessings from <i>tondong</i> . <i>boru</i> makes a gesture to worship <i>tondong</i> with the meaning of respecting <i>tondong</i> with a deep sense of bowing their head.
3	<i>Tortor Mangalo-alo</i> is the gesture of the two hands pressed together, then moved up and carried away. This movement is done by <i>tondong</i> to <i>subut</i> (host).	<i>Tortor mangalo-alo</i> is also included in the iconic gesture, it can be seen that the <i>tortor</i> movement is still entered into a formal movement in mutual respect for <i>subut</i> and <i>tondong</i>	The meaning of this gesture is to greet each other and respect in the sense of happiness. Besides that the dominant aspect of motion is carried out by the two hands which are united to show mutual respect for others.

4.	<p><i>Tortor malas ni uhur</i> is a movement performed by both hands by swinging the fingers counterclockwise to the right and left.</p>	<p><i>Tortor malas ni uhur</i> also includes type of iconic gesture. The pleasure in the heart that is applied by the hand movements</p>	<p>The meaning of this movement shows a sense of joy or happiness in this marriage moment all the family rejoices. The pleasure in the heart that is applied by the hand movements that swing and follow the strains of music means that the counselor feels a deep happiness in the existing atmosphere.</p>
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In simalungun wedding ceremony every participant must be followed in accordance with the provisions of the leader. *Tortor* has different function.

The function of the *tortor mamasu-masu* is to show affection from *tondong* to *boru*. In the kinship of the Simalungun *tolu sandululan lima saodoran*, *tondong* is a highly respected party but *tondong* is also love *boru*, *suhut* and *sanina* by show in gesture of *tortor mamasu-masu*.



Figure 1. *Tortor Mamasu-masu*

Tor-tor sombah in Batak Simalungun tribes are interrelated. The relationship between *Tortor Sombah* with Batak Simalungun tribe community is related to activities at traditional wedding ceremonies, while the function of the *tortor sombah* is to show respect of *boru* towards *tondong*.



Figure 2. *Tortor manombah*

The function of the *tortor mangalo-alo* at a Simalungun wedding ceremony is for communication between *tondong* and *subut bolon* and their family to show the relationship between the two parties. Kinship in the form of a loving relationship. Relationships do good to convey rights and kindness and reject evil. Kinship occurs because of marital relations, sibling relationships.



Figure 3. *Tortor mangalo-alo*

In the Simalungun community, marriage is one of the traditional ceremonies which in its implementation are bound by a kinship system. The function of *tortor malas ni uhur* is to show the happiness of family because it has been a sacred event. In human life, God created men and women who will have marital relationships and are called husband and wife. With the merging of two families with a marriage, the happiness of both parties is shown by the gesture of *tortor malas ni uhur*.



Figure 4. *Tortor malas ni Uhur*

V. Conclusion

Based on the results of the discussion above, it can be concluded that the meaning of *tortor* in Simalungun wedding ceremony are showing happiness, respect, compassion, and delighted. Every movement of *tortor* also serves show a close sense of kinship between the two families. In human life, God creates men and women who will have merited relationships and are called husband and wife. With the merging of two families with a marriage, the happiness of both families it shows by *tortor*. Based on McNeill's theory gesture, *tortor* of Simalungun wedding ceremony included in the types of iconic gesture. This is because the gesture contains a formal relationship.

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