

Mekotekan or Interlocking Tradition as a Concept in Ready-To-Wear Fashion Design

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Abstract: Mekotekan, or interlocking in English, comes from the word "kotek" which means sound that results from contact between Pulet logs when the mekotek tradition takes place. The Mekotekan tradition is believed by the people of the village of Munggu as a tradition of exorcism as personal protection from epidemics and deaths. Appearance displayed in a collection of fashion is classic. The materials used are luxurious, using colors that tend to be natural, motifs tend to be plain and geometric. The triggering idea of the embodiment of the work is taken from Pulet wood which has cones and which is piled up when the mekotek tradition takes place. Pulet wood color has four colors, namely: Off white, cream, light brown and dark brown. The creation of women's ready-to-wear clothing was inspired by the concept of Mekotek. The stages of fashion work used are the triggering idea, determination of keywords, design development, and the producing process of the clothing.

Keywords: Mekotek, Pulet wood, classics

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I. INTRODUCTION

Today's fashion developments are very rapid, this can be seen from the designs of fashion made by designers that vary greatly. Today's fashion trend is to return to nature and culture, the colors chosen are natural colors such as brown, green, red and yellow. Indonesia, which has various cultures, has its own unique fashion by utilizing local wisdom combined with technological developments that will produce a unique and modern fashion design.

Tradition is a habit carried out from generation to generation. Bali has many traditions, one of which is the tradition of *mekotek*. The *mekotek* tradition is one of the traditions that is still practiced today in Munggu Village, Badung, Bali. The *mekotek* tradition is a tradition of exorcism that is believed to protect the public from disease outbreaks, constant death as well as to pray for well being.

The *mekotek* tradition was originally carried out to welcome the arrival of the Mengwi royal soldiers who came to bring victory over the Blambangan kingdom on Java and later became a tradition. *Mekotek* is carried out every 6 months, 210 days (based on the Hindu calendar) or every *saniscara kliwon wuku kuningan (tumpek kuningan)*. The *mekotek* tradition is carried out by every adult man who is a native of Munggu. Before the *mekotek* tradition was held, the participants walked around the Munggu village area. Every time crossing the intersection of the road and the temple, the participants of the *mekotek* gathered and circled and combined the wood to make cone shaped like pyramid. The meaning contained in *mekotek* tradition is intimacy, cooperation and mutual cooperation.

In the current era of globalization there are many changes, not far from the tradition of *mekotek* in the village of Munggu. The changes seen are in the clothes used. In the 1942 colonial era, the *mekotek* only wore batik sarong and headband, but now the *mekotek* uses traditional clothing, namely wearing white clothes, *kamen*, polo shirts and wearing footwear (shoes). Likewise, the weapons used, formerly it used the spear guns, now the tradition uses Pulet wood as a spear symbol (interview with Ida Pedanda Gede Pemaron, April 15, 2017).

The concept used in this study is the tradition of *mekotek* with the triggering idea of being together, Pulet wood, white, cream, light brown and dark brown colors which match the wood color of Pulet. This *mekotek* concept is applied in ready-to-wear fashion designs. The reason for choosing this concept is to preserve the unique tradition of *mekotek*, namely the use of Pulet wood as the main means. The collection of Pulet wood is put together so that it looks like a pyramid. Through this explanation, this research will discuss the application of the concept of *mekotek* in the design of the ready-to-wear clothing.

II. DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Data collection methods are steps taken to obtain complete data in a study. In the design of ready-to-wear clothing with the concept of *mekotek* study, the method used is by means of interview, that is, ways of obtaining data are done by dealing directly, conversing, both between individuals and individuals as well as between individuals and groups. Generally interviews are conducted after observation (Ratna, 2010, 222). Observation method is one of the most widely used techniques in research. The most important factor in observation techniques is the observer and the observed person functions as an information giver, namely the informant (Ratna, 2010, 217). The document method is the research data that is ready to be used as a complement to observation and interview data. The document serves as giving references on various doubts in the research process (Ratna, 2010: 236). Data can be in the form of books, magazines, journals, newspaper news, photos and so forth.

III. DESIGN PHASE

In fashion designs, several used methods are discussed as follows.

3.1 The Triggering Idea / Brief Designs

The more developed and high the needs of the community for services are - especially in the fashion world - the more capable designer designers who are able to understand the needs of many people, is needed. The realization of a quality work, requires an idea to be held accountable. The fashion products made are women's ready-to-wear clothing inspired by the *mekotek* tradition. In the following, the concept list for designing ready-to-wear clothes are explained.

Concept List

• Death	• Stacked
• Sound	• Conical
• Batik	• Red
• Spear Symbol	• Fire
• Sharp	• Rigid
• Pulet wood	• Poleng (black and white checkered textile)
• Off white	• Kuningan Holiday
• Cream	• Light Brown

3.2 Keyword Determination

The keywords are chosen to make a design work that can reflect the concept raised for the creation of the work. As for keyword those that have been selected include:

- a) Rigid, seen from Pulet wood as the main means and the most important thing when the *mekotek* tradition is carried out.
- b) Sharp, taken from the shape of a spear used during the tradition of *mekotek* before the spear was replaced by Kayu Pulet.
- c) Stacked, taken because a large amount of Pulet wood is piled into one.
- d) Off white, is the color of Pulet wood as the main means during the *mekotek* tradition. Off white is the color of wood that is not smoked.
- e) Cream, Pulet wood color, the wood color becomes cream because the wood is smoked by fire twice.
- f) Light brown, is the color of Pulet wood, this color is also due to being smoked by fire up to four times.
- g) Dark brown, is the oldest Pulet wood color, it happens when it is smoked many times.
- h) Red, taken from the history of *Mekotek*, namely war. The red color is a symbol of the blood as a result of struggle of the Munggu village people who won the war.
- i) Fire, chosen as a keyword because fire causes Pulet wood to have various colors; however, if not smoked, Pulet wood will not have a different color.
- j) Conical, chosen because the shape of Pulet wood has a conical shape when the *mekotek* tradition takes place.

3.3 Design Development

At this stage, design development is carried out by making two alternative designs. Most of the colors used are off white, cream, light brown, dark brown as a symbol of Pulet wood used in the *mekotek* tradition .



The design chosen is the second alternative design. The reason for the selection is the second alternative design symbolizes the *mekotek* tradition, a full stacked accents in the skirt with a pointed shape that is a symbol of the spear used for warfare made with silhouette A. On the blouse the color red is used, the color of the blood of Munggu villagers while fighting seen from history tradition. Piled accents are colored off white, cream, light brown and dark brown that are the color of Pulet wood as a means during the mekotek tradition.

3.4 The Fashion Making Process

The ready-to-wear clothing of this design uses over 90% sewing machine in the making process, while the rest are done by hand sewing. The following are the stages of making this read-to-wear clothing.

1. Making the more detailed design image of this ready-to-wear clothing.
2. Selecting the materials that will be used to make this ready-to-wear clothing. The material chosen is a *duchess* satin fabric and plain woven *endek* with cream, off white, light brown and dark brown colors.
3. Determining the size for the ready-to-wear clothing, the size used is size M, the standard of Asian women.
4. The pattern in this ready-to-wear clothing has two parts, namely the top and bottom. The upper part is a body pattern that is broken down on the neck to have a rectangular neckline as well as a long upper pattern to the bottom of the breast. The bottom of this ready-to-wear clothing is a skirt with a silhouette A and a skirt length above the knee and a pattern on a stacked accent section made with a rectangular shape, pointed at the bottom.
5. After the pattern is broken, the next process is to cut the fabric on the main material. Cutting the cloth according to the shape of the pattern that has been made. Cutting on dress patterns and pentagon patterns for stacked access. Cutting the dress section that is using *duchess* satin and on the stack accent, *endek* cloth without motives is used. For furring materials, they are cut similar to the main materials.
6. After the cutting is finished, the next stage is to attach a cotton cloth to the rectangular piece with the goal of getting a more rigid result.
7. The dress pieces and the results of attaching to the plain *endek* plain are then sewn using a sewing machine. The top of the dress is first sewn on the neck, front and back, then on the neck and armpits. The stacked



Figure 6 Fashion machine sewing technic



Figure 7 Fashion hand sewing technic

8. The sewing stage in the furring section is the same as the sewing stage of the main material, except that the furring is not sewn on the zipper but is folded on the zipper and sewn inside the dress to make it look neater. Furring attachment to the main material is sewn to the neck and armpit.
9. After the sewing process is complete, the next stage is the fitting process, this process aims to fit the body user, thus the dress looks more fitting when being wear.
10. The next stage is a stacked accent sewn by hand, that is, by using the bare technique.

11. The next process is the finishing process that is done to install sequins as well as ironing on the stack accent and painting the fire motif with prada paint.
12. And finally, the ready-to-wear clothing is finished.



Figure 8. Results of ready-to-wear design clothing with *mekotek* concept

IV. CONCLUSION

The conclusions that can be taken based on the previous description and discussion as well as the process of creating women's clothing with the concept of *mekotek* as inspiration are as follows:

1. Women's clothing designs inspired by the *mekotek* tradition are seen from the shape, color, and philosophy of the *mekotek* tradition which then create the triggering idea to produce a unique fashion work.
2. The process of creating women's fashion collections inspired by the *mekotek* tradition are done through several stages of creation. Starting from data collection, research and to locate the source of the application of concepts in fashion design, prototypes and construction, selected designs, work processes.

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