

**THE MAIN IDEAS OF INDONESIAN FOLKLORES: *THE ONION*
AND THE GARLIC, THE MALIN KUNDANG AND THE GOLDEN
*CUCUMBER***

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Abstract

The research studies the main ideas by using qualitative descriptive method in Indonesian Folklore: The Onion And The Garlic, The Malin Kundang, And The Golden Cucumber. Indonesian Folklore is just the same as other stories, starting with an introduction, accompanied by a body of essay and ended by conclusion. The sequence of events that occur in the story is about the specific ideas of the folklore that begins by introducing the folklore. The Introduction of Indonesian folklore provides some general ideas related to the topic. The last paragraph of the folklore is the conclusion delivering some valuable moral lessons to take based on the ideas or meanings of the folklore. The main ideas of a story are the central themes or concepts that the writer wants the reader to understand or take away from the folklores. These ideas are often expressed through the plot, characters, and themes of the story. To identify the main ideas of a story, readers can ask questions such as "What is the story about?" and "What is the overall message or theme of the story?" Some stories may focus on more than one idea, while others may focus on a single idea. Understanding the main ideas of the Indonesian Folklores will make the readers to better understand and appreciate them.

Keywords: *Main Ideas, Indonesian Folklores*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengkaji ide utama dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dalam cerita rakyat Indonesia: The Onion And The Garlic, The Malin Kundang, And The Golden Cucumber. Cerita rakyat Indonesia adalah sama seperti cerita lainnya, dimulai dengan pendahuluan, disertai dengan bagian utama dan bagian akhir paragraf sebagai penutup cerita. Urutan peristiwa yang terjadi dalam cerita tentang ide-ide spesifik dari folklore dimulai dengan memperkenalkan folklore. Bagian pendahuluan cerita rakyat Indonesia memberikan beberapa ide umum. Paragraf penutup dari cerita rakyat Indonesia adalah kesimpulan yang memberikan pelajaran moral yang berharga berdasarkan ide atau makna ceritanya. Ide utama dari sebuah cerita adalah tema atau konsep sentral yang penulis ingin pembaca memahami atau mengambil hikmahnya. Ide-ide ini sering diungkapkan melalui plot, karakter, dan tema cerita. Untuk mengidentifikasi ide-ide utama dari sebuah cerita, pembaca dapat mengajukan pertanyaan seperti "Apa cerita tentang?" dan "Apakah pesan atau tema keseluruhan dari cerita?" Beberapa cerita bisa fokus pada lebih dari satu ide, sedangkan cerita lain bisa fokus pada satu gagasan. Memahami ide utama dari cerita rakyat Indonesia akan membuat para pembaca lebih memahami dan menghargai cerita rakyat Indonesia.

Kata kunci: *Cerita Rakyat Indonesia, Ide utama*

1. INTRODUCTION

This research aims to discuss the main ideas of Indonesian folklore research because it still exists in several countries in the world, especially in Asia and more specifically, in Indonesia. This research was conducted to reveal the main ideas in Indonesian children's folk tales from East Java Island and West Sumatra. According to Endraswara, (2013: 1) etymologically folk is a group of people who share physical, social and identifying characteristics culture. Folk is a group of people who share physical, social, and identifying characteristics culture, while lore is a folk tradition, namely part of the culture, which is passed down from generation to generation orally or through an example accompanied by gestures or reminder aids (mnemonic devices), Noviati (2022).

This research used literature to analyze the data obtained. The researcher chose to use a qualitative descriptive method so that the analysis process could be described completely. The main data used in this research were several children's folk tales originating from East Java Island, namely The Onion The Garlic, And The Golden Cucumber. From the west Sumatera namely, The Malin Kundang. This research finds that the main ideas of the folktale are a legacy passed down from our ancestors so they can continue to be read and are still relevant in the current era as stated by Tria (2024).

The Indonesian tale of The Onion And The Garlic is a timeless folklore rich in moral lessons. In this story, the onion and the garlic personify contrasting traits: humility and arrogance. The onion, humble yet essential, grows quietly in the ground, while the garlic, with its pungent aroma, boasts of its superiority. When a cook favors the garlic over the onion, praising its flavor and aroma, the onion feels overlooked and unappreciated. Seeking validation, the onion approaches the cook, only to be dismissed. Hurt and envious, the onion learns a valuable lesson about humility and self-worth. In a twist of fate, during the preparation of a meal, the cook realizes the importance of the onion's flavor and texture. Without the onion, the dish lacks depth and balance. The cook's acknowledgment of the onion's significance serves as a powerful reminder of the value of every individual, regardless of their outward appearance or recognition. Through the humble onion and the boastful garlic, the story imparts timeless wisdom about the consequences of arrogance and the virtues of modesty. It teaches us to appreciate our unique qualities and contributions, while also reminding us of the importance of humility and recognizing the worth of others.

The Indonesian tale of Malin Kundang is a poignant narrative that explores themes of family, betrayal, and karma. Malin Kundang, a young and ambitious man from a humble fishing village, sets out to seek his fortune at sea, leaving behind his mother.

After years of hard work, he becomes a wealthy merchant, forgetting his humble roots and the sacrifices of his mother. When Malin Kundang returns to his village, now accompanied .

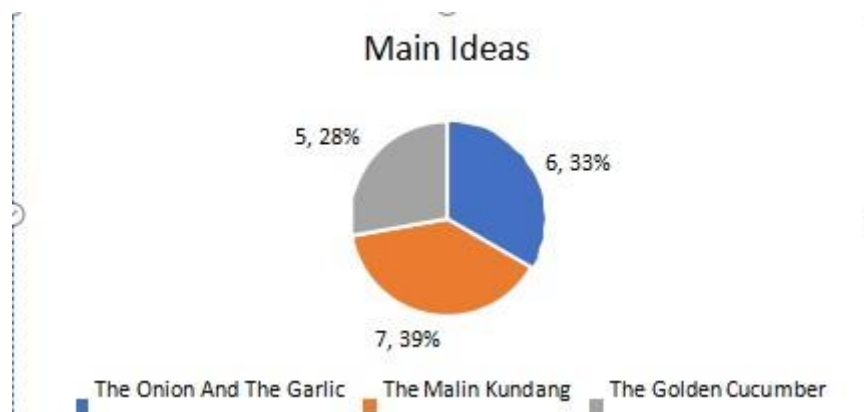
2. METHODOLOGY

The research about Indonesian Folklores; The Onion And The Garlic, The Malin Kundang, And The Golden Cucumber used qualitative descriptive methods that represented the writing of the folklores based on the fact data accurately with the main ideas. The main ideas are analyzed paragraph by paragraph and also in the other stories.

3. FINDINGS AND DISUSSIONS

Based on the analysis, the findings are as follows:

No.	Indonesian Folklores	Percentage
1	The Malin Kundang	7.39 %
2	The Onion And The Garlic	6.33 %
3	The Golden Cucumber	5.28 %



The folklore *The Onion and the Garlic* has some main ideas that the first main idea telling about a place, a character of the story. She was a beautiful girl named Garlic whose father had passed away. Therefore then she lived with her stepmother and stepsisters. Then the story told garlic’s sadness with all her problems and conflicts in her life with her step mom and step sister and finally arrived to closing when she met an old woman that helped her.

The Onion and The Garlic	Main Ideas
Paragraph 1	Once upon a time, in East Java, lived a beautiful girl named Garlic. Her father had passed away, and she lived with her stepmother and stepsister.
Paragraph 2	One morning, Garlic was washing some clothes in a river. Accidentally, her sister's clothes were washed away by the river

Paragraph 3	Garlic was so sad.
Paragraph 4	Garlic thanked the old woman then went home.
Paragraph 5	Onion immediately went to the river.
Paragraph 6	The old woman came and help garlic.

After the folklore *The Onion and the Garlic*, the next one is the Malin Kundang. The story is started with the introduction of the setting time and place and the main characters. It introduces once upon a time on the north coast of Sumatera there was a poor woman with his son. The next event is Malin Kundang left her mother so that she waited for his arrival back home everyday. When it was the time of his arrival, he acted like a stranger and refused her. She was very sad and dissappointed of him. As the last idea or closing, the consequence of hiscruel acts to his mother, a storm came and he was suddenly changed to be a stone.

The Malin Kundang	Main Ideas
Paragraph 1	Once upon a time, on the north coast of Sumatra lived a poor woman and his son.
Paragraph 2	The next morning, Malin Kundang was ready to go.
Paragraph 3	It had been three months since Malin Kundang left his mother.
Paragraph 4	After several years of waiting without any news, Malin Kundang’s mother was suddenly surprised by the arrival of a big ship on the pier where she usually stood to wait for her son.
Paragraph 5	Malin Kundang’s mother quickly went to see her beloved son.
Paragraph 6	Malin Kundang’s mother took a step back, “Malin...You don’t recognize me? I’m your mother!” she said sadly.
Paragraph 7	In the quiet sea, suddenly the wind blew so hard and a thunderstorm came.

The Folklore *The Golden Cucumber* has some main ideas, the first main idea introducing a poor widow named Mbok Srini alone in a jungle. Then the story continued telling her daily activity to plant cucumber seeds. Next another character Buta Ijo came and made of an agreement with her for the existence of a child named Timun Mas. The next event was he wanted her to keep her promise to give him back of Timun Mas. He chased Timun Mas but she was able to escape with some strategies given to her. Her successful escape from him is as the solution of the conflict ideas or problems told in the folklore and aslo as the closing of the story.

<i>The Golden Cucumber</i>	Main Ideas
Paragraph 1	Once upon a time in Java, a poor widow named Mbok Sринi lived alone on the edge of a jungle.
Paragraph 2	Then, Mbok Sринi returned to her shack and planted the cucumber seed in an orchard behind her house.
Paragraph 3	Just a week before Timun Mas' 17th birthday, Buta Ijo appeared in Mbok Sринi's dream to remind her about their agreement.
Paragraph 4	Buta Ijo then appeared at Mbok Sринi's shack as promised to take and devour Timun Mas.
Paragraph 5	Timun Mas then opened her third bag and spread salts behind.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analysis, the three folklores ‘The Onion and The Garlic, Malin Kundang and The Golden Cucumber’ have some main ideas that started with introduction, body and closing. The main ideas of the story are started with the introduction that introduces when and where the story takes place (setting time and place) and who the main character is. The next idea is the events told one by one that comes to some problems or conflicts that the main character faces. Then the idea of the solution of the story as the closing or conclusion of the folklore.

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