

RIAU SONGKET: ESTABLISHING HARMONY WITH THE ENVIRONMENT USING LOCAL WISDOM VALUES

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Abstract

Riau Songket is a traditional fabric synonymous with the culture of the people in Riau, Indonesia. However, the practice of making this fabric has resulted in environmental damage due to human activities. This research explores the values of local wisdom in preserving the environment through the production of Riau Songket. The study used a qualitative critical discourse analysis approach and was conducted in Bandar Senapelan, the main production area of Riau Songket. Primary and secondary data were collected, and data analysis was conducted using in-depth interviews and content analysis. The results show that the production of Riau Songket can be done in harmony with the environment by implementing practices such as using natural dyes, reducing waste, and respecting the environment. This study concludes by recommending that the government and stakeholders promote local wisdom in preserving the environment in the production of Riau Songket. This will ensure the sustainability of the cultural heritage and the environment.

Keywords: *Riau Songket, Local Wisdom Values, Bandar Senapelan*

INTRODUCTION

Riau Songket is an internationally recognized cultural heritage site in Indonesia. Riau Songket is one-of-a-kind and exquisite, not just because of its themes but also the colors and materials utilized. However, how can Riau Songket continue to exist and flourish in the present? Cultural legacy, such as Riau Songket, is frequently damaged by the

impact of foreign cultures in the age of expanded globalization. Furthermore, ecologically harmful industrial methods are frequently overlooked in favor of higher profits (Asiah et al., 2022).

However, its existence, utilized as traditional apparel by the people of Riau on numerous occasions and religious rituals, provides community pride (Zhang et al., 2018; Suryati & Nggarang, 2020). Riau Songket is

also a protector of the Riau people's dignity and cultural identity. The people of Riau have begun to recognize the need to apply local wisdom values in developing harmony with the environment to ensure sustainability. This is accomplished using ecologically friendly materials and adhering to conventional manufacturing practices (Nurmila, 2021).

Various attempts have also been undertaken to promote Riau *Songket* to the people of Indonesia and the rest of the globe. Collaboration between the government and the community to present and promote Riau *Songket* through various events and festivals is critical to preserving Riau *Songket*'s existence and enriching the Indonesian country with its cultural richness (Syam et al., 2020; Suroyo et al., 2023).

We sometimes forget the ancient values that our forefathers passed down to us in this contemporary day—starting with everyday behaviors and progressing to environmental protection. However, some people continue to adhere to these principles. One of them is the Riau *Songket* artisans. They uphold the traditions and customs from generation to generation in producing *songket* textiles. They demonstrate living harmoniously with the environment by utilizing local knowledge values (Retno & Handayani, 2019). These artists do not use hazardous chemicals damaging the environment or their health (Wijaya et al., 2021; Ritonga et al., 2019; Wekke et al., 2018; Rizal et al., 2020).

They employ natural elements sparingly, such as *mangkakan* leaves and bark, to give the *songket* cloth its natural hue. Furthermore, when producing the cloth, they pay attention to the purity of the water. They do not dump rubbish into the river, which might harm the ecosystem, but instead use the leftover materials as organic fertilizer (Zuhri et al., 2018; Kusumastuti & Umanto, 2018; Suroyo, 2023). However, only some understand the significance of environmental balance. Some people continue to use toxic substances that contaminate the environment and threaten their health. They are unaware that their acts will affect future generations (Ghofur et al., 2021; Iqbal, 2020; Burhanuddin et al., 2023).

As a result, the question is how we can reinforce the principles of local knowledge in environmental protection and how we can make people aware of the need to keep harmony with the environment for mutual

development (Sedyastuti et al., 2021; El Badriati et al., 2022; Kartika et al., 2022). We should take a lesson from the Riau *Songket* artists, who have successfully presented a physical illustration of this (Rosyidin & Arifin, 2021).

Riau *Songket* has rich local knowledge values as one of the traditional artworks that still exist today (Guslinda et al., 2019; Permata Sari et al., 2020). Prior research was undertaken to investigate these wisdom values and how Riau *Songket* can achieve harmony with its surroundings (Mohammad et al., 2018). However, the prior study did not go into depth on how the process of creating Riau *Songket* was carried out or what natural elements were employed in the process (Maulana et al., 2022; Bagas Tantawi et al., 2023; Indra et al., 2021). Furthermore, the study should have gone into depth on the essential role of Riau *Songket* artists in sustaining traditional art (Ulyana & Riyansyah, 2021; Hasan & Umiarso, 2023). Previous studies still need to address the most recent developments made available to Riau *Songket* to maintain their relevance today. How can more current technology and design be used to make Riau *Songket* so that it remains popular with the public? This is also a gap in past research that needs to be addressed (Kartika et al., 2022; Janpourtaher, 2019; Syamsuddin et al., 2023).

Furthermore, past studies should have detailed the economic costs and advantages of the Riau *Songket* business for the local community. How is the well-being of Riau *Songket* artisans and the surrounding community affected by the Riau *Songket* industry's existence? Can Riau *Songket* provide a long-term source of revenue for the local community? (Purwati et al., 2021; Leonardo, 2020).

More research is needed to fill gaps in earlier studies and better understand Riau *Songket* and its indigenous wisdom values. This can give a more thorough and comprehensive view of Riau *Songket*'s traditional art and its influence on the environment and nearby communities (Panjaitan et al., 2021).

This research is critical to ensuring environmental sustainability and conserving local culture. Riau *Songket* is well-known in Indonesia as a cultural product due to its beauty and individuality. However, the

production process contains several chemicals that might hurt the environment and human health. According to the findings of this study (Aryani, 2023; A. Ramadhanu et al., 2022), local wisdom may be used to produce sockets to avoid harmful environmental and human health implications. This is accomplished using ecologically friendly natural materials and studying ancient techniques *songket* artisans employ (S. Stefvany et al., 2021).

Overall, the Riau *Songket*: Establishing Harmony with the Environment Using Indigenous Wisdom Values research will contribute to environmental sustainability while conserving Indonesia's indigenous culture. This study aims to discover and evaluate the local wisdom values found in the manufacturing and usage of Riau *Songket* textiles and investigate the possible application of Riau *songket* fabrics in achieving environmental harmony.

The research problems in this study are summarized as follows: 1) What local wisdom values were discovered in the manufacture and usage of Riau *songket* cloth? 2) What is the possible application of Riau *songket* fabric in achieving environmental harmony? The research objectives include identifying local wisdom values contained in the production and use of Riau *Songket* fabric, analyzing the potential use of Riau *songket* fabric in establishing harmony with the environment, and making recommendations for the community's use of sustainable and environmentally friendly Riau *songket* fabric.

This research will help the community better grasp the local knowledge values included in the manufacturing and using Riau *Songket* textiles and maximize the potential use of Riau *Songket* fabrics in fostering environmental harmony.

Literature Review

Multidisciplinary studies that look at components of cultural studies, indigenous psychology, and sociology are some cultural theories that may be applied in this study.

Cultural Theory

Theory of Cultural Relativism

According to this view, each society and culture has a unique perspective on the world. As a result, contextual observations and analysis are required to comprehend Riau *Songket* culture.

Theory of Cultural Modernization

This notion suggests that a society's culture may change with the times. In this sense, efforts to preserve Riau *Songket* production's indigenous wisdom may be viewed as resistance to globalization and industrialization.

Theory of Cultural Structuralism

According to this idea, culture has a structure consisting of an interrelated system of values, symbols, and norms. The local wisdom values included in Riau *Songket* might be viewed from this perspective as part of a complex cultural system.

Social Psychology

Social psychology theory can explain how Riau people's culture contributes to their interactions with the surrounding environment, such as using natural materials to create *songket* motifs, using colors that match the surrounding nature, and other practices that respect the environment and aim to maintain harmony.

Furthermore, social psychology theory can explain how these local wisdom values may create individual and group identities and impact how individuals interact with society and their surroundings. In this example, awareness and knowledge of social psychology principles can help to create a clearer picture of how Riau people build harmony with their environment through local wisdom values.

Cultural Sociology Theory

According to the sociological theory of social culture, culture is a complex system of values, symbols, and rules that guide human conduct in a society. Riau society has values and conventions, such as indigenous knowledge in *songket* creation. Because the Riau people treasure and maintain their traditional past, the Riau *Songket* has more cultural and social worth. By crafting Riau *Songket*, the people of Riau achieve harmony with their surroundings by employing natural materials. This demonstrates that the inhabitants of Riau recognize the significance of ecological equilibrium in human survival.

Riau *Songket* production demonstrates the social connection between *songket* makers and the surrounding community. They rely on one another for raw supplies, manufacturing tools,

and marketing products. According to the sociological theory of social culture, Riau *Songket*-making is tied to culture and local wisdom. However, it also has a beneficial social influence on the community by maintaining harmony with the surrounding environment and developing social interactions.

Conceptual framework

The study design used critical discourse qualitative analysis, qualitative research that seeks to learn more about the link between Riau *Songket*-making and environmental harmony. This qualitative study gathered data from local communities of Riau *Songket* artists and specialists in local wisdom and the environment. Interviews, observation, and recording were used as the data-collecting approaches. Then, the data were evaluated using critical discourse analysis approaches.

Critical discourse analysis is used to study narratives or stories regarding social, political, and environmental concerns. This project employed critical discourse analysis to investigate how local wisdom in Riau *Songket* creation preserves environmental balance. The study revealed the cause-and-effect link between local knowledge and environmental harmony in Riau *Songket* production.

The findings were presented as narratives about various aspects of local wisdom and environmental context and how these two aspects were interrelated and mutually beneficial. These findings can be used as input for Riau *Songket* artists, the government, and the community to protect the environment by utilizing local expertise in *songket* creation.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed the qualitative research approach with discourse analysis. This technique was utilized to comprehend the significance and social and cultural context of producing and consuming Riau *Songket* as a regional product. This research was conducted in Kampung Bandar Senapelan, one of Riau's culturally diverse and traditional places, including the art of *songket*. Kampung Bandar Senapelan was chosen because it reflects Riau's socioeconomic and cultural diversity.

In this study, primary data sources were those involved in creating and using

Riau *Songket*, such as *songket* makers, store owners, and *songket* consumers. Researchers collected accurate and trustworthy primary data through in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and documentation studies. Literature research, documentation, and data sources linked to Riau *Songket*, local culture, and its interaction with the environment were used as secondary data sources. In this project, researchers collected data from several sources to supplement and support the core data collected.

Interview guides, field notes, cameras for documentation, and other recording items required during data collection were employed as research instruments. Researchers used this equipment to collect data comprehensively and methodically. Data were collected by visiting Kampung Bandar Senapelan regularly. The researchers spoke with relevant informants, *observed the* *socket*-making process, monitored Riau *Songket*-related activities, and gathered additional supporting materials.

The data gathered were evaluated using discourse analysis. Researchers examined materials about Riau *Songket*, such as interviews, field notes, and associated documents, to comprehend the meaning, structure, and general social context of Riau *Songket* usage. The data were coded, thematized, and interpreted during this analytic phase. Researchers considered ethical issues as they undertook this research. Informant secrecy, privacy, consent, and the obligation to engage and protect informants from any dangers or harmful repercussions that may emerge were examples of these.

DISCUSSION

Identifying Local Wisdom Values Contained in The Production and Use of Riau Songket Fabric

Amidst the palm oil plantations and beautiful coastline, Riau holds an invaluable cultural heritage: *songket*. Riau *Songket* is not just any fabric; it embodies local wisdom passed down from generation to generation and practiced with great care and diligence. Every thread of Riau *Songket* contains noble values related to environmental conservation. From selecting raw materials, *songket* artisans use natural fibers such as silk and cotton grown and processed sustainably. Natural coloring is

also a hallmark of Riau *Songket*, where leaves, roots, and fruits are carefully processed to produce stunning colors.

The intricate and detailed process of *songket*-making reflects the artisans' patience and perseverance. Each *songket* motif has its meaning and philosophy, telling stories about the nature, culture, and traditions of the Riau people. More than just a beautiful woven fabric, the Riau *Songket* manifests local wisdom that should be preserved. Its values, such as environmental conservation, unity and integrity, and the spirit to live in harmony with nature remind the next generation to safeguard this precious cultural heritage.

Table 1. Type of *Songket*

<i>Songket</i>	function
<i>Mas lepus</i> and colorful yarn <i>songket</i> fabric	It has colorful yarn, normally for weddings and other ceremonies
Regular <i>mas lepus</i> yarn <i>songket</i> fabric	It is mono color, normally for the wedding event
<i>Jando baraes</i> (green, red, and yellow) <i>mas lepus</i> yarn <i>songket</i> fabric	It is mono color. A woman (the wife of the governor or someone who has a high position in government) uses this for Malay events such as traditional opening and wedding ceremony
Fabric <i>songket</i> yarn <i>jando penganten</i> (green and red)	Like <i>Jando baraes</i> , but in green and red color. A regular woman who has no position wear this during the ceremony such as weddings and others
Gold thread <i>songket</i> cloth <i>bungo inten</i>	Only the sultan and sultana, people with high positions such as the governor and others will wear this, which is gold and luxurious in color. People wear it for sacred ceremonies and opening ceremonies.
Gold thread <i>songket</i> cloth <i>tretes midar</i> or <i>bidar</i>	Similar to gold, but with different yarn.
Blue <i>pulir</i> gold thread <i>songket</i> fabric	Blue indicates that the wearer must be a regular person. Normally, Malay people wear this color for wedding ceremonies.
Green elbow flower gold thread <i>songket</i> cloth	Green indicates that the wearer must be a regular person. Normally, Malay people wear this color for wedding ceremonies.
Gold thread <i>songket</i> fabric <i>bungo cino</i>	Old women with high reputations will wear this. Moreover, most of them are married.

<i>Songket</i> cloth with <i>pacik</i> thread	An old woman with a middle will wear this. Moreover, most of them are married.
Gold thread <i>songket</i> <i>cukitan</i>	Old women will use this. Most of them are married. Normally, people wear this during Malay ceremonies.

Source: Data Observation and Documentation 2023

Riau *Songket* is a traditional cloth with strong local knowledge values. This cloth is commonly used for formal occasions such as weddings and other major parties. There are several qualities of local wisdom incorporated in the manufacturing and use of Riau *Songket* fabric, including:

Family and social values

Traditional occasions such as weddings frequently include Riau *Songket* fabric. This demonstrates the significance of kinship and togetherness in Riau rituals. They feel that holding a joyous wedding and using Riau *Songket* fabric as a bridal dress is one method to reinforce the link between brothers.

Religious significance

The manufacturing of Riau *Songket* fabric has religious significance. This may be observed in selecting fabrics, giving themes, and embroidering Riau *Songket* cloth, all carried out by praying to God Almighty.

Environmental considerations

Environmental considerations are upheld in the production of Riau *Songket* fabric. This fabric is constructed from natural resources such as cotton and silk threads, making it more ecologically friendly than textiles manufactured from synthetic materials that are difficult to degrade.

There are also significant qualities of local wisdom in using Riau *Songket* fabric. Riau *Songket* fabric is required during traditional gatherings, demonstrating respect for long-standing norms. Furthermore, using the Riau *Songket* fabric represents the importance of civility, sociability, and environmental awareness.

Analyzing The Potential Use of Riau Songket Fabric in Establishing Harmony with the Environment

An intriguing issue to investigate is the possible application of Riau *Songket* cloth in keeping harmony with the natural environment. Riau *Songket* cloth has significant historical and cultural importance as a product of Riau. Aside from that, the Riau *Songket* cloth offers various characteristics that can aid in constructing environmental harmony. One of the benefits of the Riau *Songket* cloth is its fundamental substance, which is made of natural fibers that dissolve readily in the environment. Cotton and silk fibers, natural resources that dissolve in the soil, are the primary components of Riau *Songket*. This undoubtedly contributes to building environmental harmony because it does not produce environmental pollution concerns.

Figure 1. Design and Motif of Riau Malay *Songket* “Mas Lepus and colorful yarn *songket* fabric”



Source: Data Observation and Documentation 2023

Riau *Songket* textiles also offer natural dyed colors and designs. These natural colors are made from organic resources such as teak leaves, bark, and other plants. Natural colors

are more ecologically friendly than synthetic dyes, which may contaminate the environment. Riau *Songket* cloth also has a high aesthetic value; therefore, it may be used as an alternative to synthetic textiles, which are often ecologically harmful. It will raise public knowledge about environmental protection and regional economic growth by encouraging using Riau *Songket* textiles as ecologically friendly goods.

However, while Riau *Songket* cloth offers several advantages, certain challenges must be solved before its usage can be expanded. One of these barriers is the restricted availability of Riau *Songket* cloth, which means that many people still need to identify it or find it difficult to purchase. Another barrier is the substantial price gap between Riau *Songket* and synthetic materials.

Figure 2. Author Tried to Make *Songket* with Traditional Weaving Machine



Source: Data Observation and Documentation 2023

The process of making Riau *Songket* is very complicated and requires very high hand skills. Several techniques are used in making Riau *Songket*, including 1) the selection of quality fabrics, 2) The use of traditional looms by hand, 3) the selection of the right color, and 4) creative design modifications. The Islamic philosophy in Riau *Songket* is about Islamic values, which are reflected in the process of making Riau *Songket*. This shows that Islam highly values hard work, thoroughness, beauty, and piety, which are part of the life of a Muslim.

Riau *Songket* has value in Islam, and *songket* craft can also be a charity field by practicing hard work and tenacity to achieve perfection. This aligns with Islamic teachings about the importance of hard work and

sacrifice in achieving goals. Therefore, steps to continue to preserve the *Riau Songket* craft and cultivate it are very important for cultural sustainability and as a form of respect for local wisdom values and the Islamic religion. A group of craftsmen usually make *Riau Songket*. They work together to produce fabrics of good quality. As the Qur'an explains, this teaches the value of togetherness and solidarity in Muslim society.

The Local Wisdom Values Discovered in The Manufacture and Usage of Riau Songket Cloth

Riau Songket textile is a cultural treasure with distinct qualities and beauty. *Songket* fabric, in addition to traditional clothing, is important as a symbol of social position and the grandeur of the Riau people's culture. Several local knowledge values may be discovered in the manufacturing and use of *Riau songket* fabric, including:

Spiritual Importance

The inhabitants of Riau see the creation of *songket* fabric as a holy activity linked to religious beliefs and ceremonies. They think all steps of manufacturing *songket* cloth must be done with thankfulness and prayer to obtain God's blessings. This spiritual value makes the *Riau Songket* fabric appealing and distinctive, and the community reveres it as an expression of indigenous wisdom.

Value of Creativity

Making *Riau Songket* fabric necessitates ability, precision, and originality in processing returned or embossed threads, as well as giving distinctive and unique colours and designs. The use of excellent materials and traditional *songket* weaving machinery demonstrate creativity in the creation of *Riau Songket*. This makes *Riau songket* cloth particularly appealing to many Indonesians and people worldwide.

The Importance of Precision

The phases of manufacturing *Riau Songket* fabric involve accuracy in every step, from selecting the yarn to precisely weaving the thread. This accuracy is essential in making high-quality *Riau Songket* textiles. The expertise and perseverance of *Riau Songket* cloth artisans firmly highlight the importance of local wisdom in the fabric-making process.

The Importance of Environmental Concerns

Artisans must pay attention to environmental circumstances when crafting *Riau Songket* fabric, such as resources that must be acquired from nature and production techniques that do not harm the environment—making colors without toxic chemicals, for example, or cleansing trash from ecologically friendly manufacturing operations. This demonstrates that the *Riau Songket* artisans care for the environment and serve as a local knowledge value that unifies them in producing the cloth.

Cultural Importance.

Riau Songket is an emblem of the Riau people's culture. This cloth has symbolic and aesthetic meanings enhanced by the Riau people's traditional and cultural values. The different designs or patterns on the *Riau Songket* cloth symbolize the Riau people's distinctiveness and identity. *Riau Songket* cloth is another manifestation of communal pride in their culture.

The Possible Application of Riau Songket Fabric in Achieving Environmental Harmony

Riau Songket fabric has great potential to be applied to achieve environmental harmony. *Riau Songket* is generally made from natural fibers such as silk and cotton, which are biodegradable raw materials that do not pollute the environment. These motifs remind us of the importance of preserving nature. The colors used in *Riau Songket* also have meanings related to balance and harmony. Thus, *Riau Songket* can be an example of an environmentally friendly product that can be used in everyday life. Using *Riau Songket* can encourage people to prefer other environmentally friendly products. This education can increase public awareness about the importance of preserving nature.

Purchasing and using *Riau Songket* can help improve the local artisans' economy. This can encourage them to continue preserving the tradition of making environmentally friendly *Riau Songket*, a symbol of sustainability and environmental harmony. Using *Riau Songket* can raise public awareness about the importance of maintaining the balance of nature for future generations. *Riau Songket* fabric has great potential to be applied in various efforts to achieve

environmental harmony. Using the local wisdom values, Riau *Songket* can be an educational tool that promotes environmentally friendly products and supports the local economy. Applying Riau *Songket* can significantly help realize a more sustainable and harmonious environment.

Nonetheless, using Riau *Songket* fibers to establish environmental harmony requires more work. This involves enhancing the quality and manufacture of ecologically friendly Riau *Songket* textiles and educating the public on the value of and usage of sustainable traditional fabrics. As a result, the usage of Riau *Songket* cloth will grow, creating a more balanced and sustainable environment.

Design and Motif of Malay Riau Songket Within Islamic Philosophy

The existence of Islam in Riau has had a major influence on its art and culture, including in the manufacture of *songket* cloth. The motifs and patterns used in the Riau *Songket* are considered to depict strong Islamic symbols. Therefore, Riau *Songket* is considered proof of the local wisdom of the Islamic community in Riau. In Malay culture, *songket* cloth signifies pride and social status. This is in line with Islamic teachings, which instruct us always to maintain dignity and respect others. The philosophy contained in the Riau *Songket* is as follows:

Social status symbol –Since ancient times, nobles and kings have used the Riau *Songket* to show their social status. This is because the *songket* is made with expensive ingredients and takes a long time and hard work. Therefore, having a Riau *Songket* symbolizes high social status.

Symbol of natural beauty –Many motifs found in Riau *Songket* are inspired by the natural surroundings. There are floral, leaf, bird, and dragon motifs, and many more. This shows that the Riau people appreciate the beauty of nature and take inspiration from nature in their creations.

Symbol of courage and strength –The dragon motif on the Riau *Songket* symbolizes courage and strength. Dragons are mythological creatures that have magical powers and are respected by society. The Riau people want to inspire courage and strength in

their daily lives through the dragon motif on the Riau *Songket*.

Symbol of harmony and togetherness –In ancient times, the community made Riau *Songket* collectively. This shows harmony and togetherness in Riau society. It is hoped that the strength of collaboration and cooperation in making Riau *songket* can also be applied in everyday life.

The Riau *songket* motif originally came from the animistic beliefs of the Malay community in ancient times. Various animal and plant motifs are a source of inspiration in making Riau *Songket*.

The Meaning of The Riau Songket Colour Symbol in The View of Islamic Philosophy and Its Relation to Islam

The Riau *Songket* color symbol has a meaning and meaning in the view of Islamic philosophy. The following is a symbol of the Riau *Songket* color and its relation to Islam:

White color symbolizes purity, purity, and cleanliness. In Islam, it also symbolizes simplicity and piety to God. In the context of Riau *Songket*, white is often used as a background, which makes the other colors look more vibrant and shinier.

Black color symbolizes firmness, strength, and immortality. In Islam, it also represents sadness and a warning of death. In the context of Riau *Songket*, black is often used as an accent to give a dramatic impression to *songket* designs.

Red color symbolizes courage, passion, and greed. In Islam, it also represents the fires of hell and anger. However, in the context of Riau *Songket*, red is often used as a symbol of joy and happiness.

Yellow color symbolizes wealth, wisdom, and nobility. In Islam, it also represents wisdom and intelligence. In the context of Riau *Songket*, yellow is often used to symbolize splendor and beauty.

Green color symbolizes fertility, life, and serenity. In Islam, it also symbolizes faith and piety. In the context of Riau *Songket*, green is often used as a symbol of beautiful and fertile nature.

In view of the Islamic religion, the way to dress for men and women has guidelines explained in the Al-Quran and the hadith of the Prophet, including regarding the provisions of genitalia. This dress code is polite and according to local customs.

The local wisdom in Riau *Songket* can be related to the verse in the Al-Quran Surah Al-A'raf verse 26:

يَا بَنِي آدَمَ قَدْ أَنْزَلْنَا عَلَيْكُمْ لِبَاسًا يُورِي سَوَاتِكُمْ
وَرِيثًا وَلِبَاسُ التَّقْوَىٰ ذَٰلِكَ خَيْرٌ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ لَعَلَّهُمْ
يَذَكَّرُونَ

"O son of Adam, indeed we have sent your clothes to cover your nakedness, beautiful clothes for your jewelry, and better clothes of piety."

Dressed in Malay culture, *songket* covers the parts of the genitals recommended by Islam, namely all parts of a woman's body except for the two palms and face, and for men, it is from the center to the knees of the feet. The Riau *Songket* motif is one of the most valued and respected Malay cultural heritages. Riau *Songket* is a traditional woven cloth that is usually used for formal attire and is often combined with a yellow or Malay dress. The Islamic philosophy contained in the Riau *Songket* motif is the unity and oneness of the Muslim community.

Motives which generally consist of geometric and symmetrical patterns reflect the meaning of harmony, as in the verse of the Al-Quran Surah Al-Hujurat verse 13:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ
شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ
أَتْقَىٰكُمْ ۖ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

"O people! Verily, We created you from a male and a female and made you nations—nations and tribes—so that you can get to know each other. Indeed, the most noble among you in the sight of Allah is the most pious among you. Verily, Allah is All-Knowing."

The Islamic philosophy in the Riau *Songket* motif is the meaning of fortitude against temptation and test, as in the verse of Al-Baqarah verse 214: "Do people think that they are left alone because they say: "We have faith", while they are not being tested again? ". The patterns consisting of longitudinal branching and rotating lines reflect the meaning of fortitude against the temptations and trials that always confront human life. In addition, the motifs on the Riau *Songket* also contain the meaning of simplicity and a return to human nature, as in the verses of the Al-Quran Surah Al-Mu'minun verses 12-14:

وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ مِنْ سُلَالَةٍ مِنْ طِينٍ ۚ (12)
ثُمَّ جَعَلْنَاهُ نُطْفَةً فِي قَرَارٍ مَكِينٍ (13)

ثُمَّ خَلَقْنَا النَّطْفَةَ عَلَقَةً فَخَلَقْنَا الْعَلَقَةَ مُضْغَةً (14)
فَخَلَقْنَا الْمُضْغَةَ عِظًا فَكَسَوْنَا الْعِظَ لَحْمًا ثُمَّ أَنْشَأْنَاهُ
خَلْقًا آخَرَ ۚ فَتَبَارَكَ اللَّهُ أَحْسَنُ الْخَالِقِينَ

"And indeed, we created man from the essence (derived) of the ground. Then We made him semen in a place that is contained (womb). Then We made water. The semen became a clot of blood. Then We made the clot a lump of flesh, and the lump of flesh We made bones, and We covered the bones with flesh. Then We made him a different (form) creature. So, Glory be to Allah, the Creator the Best."

Riau Malay *Songket* designs are generally inspired by nature and Islamic culture. Geometric shapes such as lines, triangles, and rhombuses dominate *songket* motifs, symbolizing the oneness and perfection of Allah SWT. Bright colours such as red, yellow, and green are also loaded with meaning, symbolizing joy, vitality, and fertility. Riau Malay *Songket* motifs are diverse, and each has its meaning and philosophy. The noble values of Islam are embedded in every aspect of making and using Riau Malay *Songket*. The artisans' patience, perseverance, and thoroughness in weaving thread by thread reflect the value of patience and perseverance in worshipping Allah SWT. Using natural materials and environmentally friendly dyes shows concern for preserving nature, which aligns with Islamic teachings to maintain the balance of nature.

Riau Malay *Songket* is a beautiful woven fabric that manifests Islamic culture and traditions held dear by the Riau Malay community. The harmonious combination of designs, motifs, and Islamic philosophy in *songket* is evidence of the richness of Islamic culture and traditions in Riau that should be preserved and passed on to the next generation.

News Embroidery Motif, Bukit Barisan Motif, *Thickipuh* Motif, and *Sinar Suria* Motif. Riau *Songket* cloth contains many symbols and deep meanings regarding aesthetics, culture, and the Islamic religion. The following are some of the symbols and meanings in Riau *Songket* according to Islamic views:

Jasmine Flower Motif –Symbolizes purity, cleanliness, and sincerity in Islam. Jasmine flowers are often used in Muslim wedding ceremonies as a symbol of cleanliness of the

heart and a request for blessings from Allah SWT.

Kenanga Flower Motif –Symbolizes affection in Islam. It is the "flower of love" often presented at wedding ceremonies.

Star motif: Symbolizes the infinite greatness of Allah SWT, as seen in a sky full of stars.

Calligraphy: Symbolizes the art of Arabic writing, which is used to write verses of the holy Qur'an. Apart from showing the beauty of art, calligraphy also reminds us of the importance of the holy verses in Muslims' daily lives.

Dragon motif: Symbolizes protection from danger or distress. In Islamic teachings, Allah SWT's protection is important to maintaining human security and welfare.

Siamese Banana Motif: Symbolizes obedience and piety in adhering to religious teachings.

Sunflower Motif: Symbolizes eternity, in which the sun continues to shine and never goes out. This illustrates the hope that faith and prayer in the Islamic religion will provide eternal happiness in heaven.

In its development, *Riau Songket* is now produced with various colors according to consumer desires. The colors are even more varied, making the *Riau Songket* very attractive. As one of the most valuable cultures, this *Riau Songket* must continue to be preserved and maintained.

Riau Songket in Acculturation of Culture in Islam

Riau Songket represents the beauty of traditional woven fabrics and has become an important part of cultural acculturation in Islam. Cultural acculturation in Islam occurred when the Malays embraced Islam and began to combine elements of their culture with Islamic teachings. In this context, *Riau Songket* is also used to strengthen Malay-Islamic identity. This *songket* cloth is often used in ceremonies, religious events, or other traditional ceremonies involving Malay-Islamic people. Apart from that, this *songket* cloth is often given as a gift or memento with aesthetic and religious meanings and values.

CLOSING

In conclusion, the production and use of *Riau Songket* fabrics contain high local wisdom values such as social and family values, aesthetics and art, religion, and the environment. Therefore, *Riau Songket* fabric is one of the cultural products that must be

preserved and appreciated to become a valuable cultural heritage for the younger generation. The analysis of the potential use of *Riau Songket* fabric in maintaining harmony with the environment shows that *Riau Songket* fabric has various advantages that can support the creation of harmony with the environment.

However, efforts are still needed to expand the accessibility of *Riau Songket* fabric and resolve the high price constraints. Thus, using *Riau Songket* fabric as an environmentally friendly product can be further enhanced to support regional economic development. The local wisdom values in making and using *Riau Songket* cloth are spiritual, creative, rigour, environmental and cultural concerns. All these values combine to produce quality *Riau Songket* fabrics with distinctive beauty. *Riau Songket* cloth is not just a traditional garment but also a manifestation of the local wisdom and culture of the Riau people.

Moreover, *Riau Songket* fabric can be an alternative to environmentally friendly materials. Its beauty can make it an option for fulfilling fashion needs as a substitute for synthetic fabrics. However, further efforts are still needed to produce *songket* fabrics in an environmentally friendly way and educate the public about the importance of maintaining environmental harmony. Thus, *Riau Songket* fabric can be a means to create a sustainable environment for future generations.

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