

**THE COMPARISON BETWEEN THE MEXICAN MYTH AND
JAVANESE MYTH ABOUT DEAD SPIRIT FOUND IN COCO 2017
MOVIE**

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Abstract

This paper aims to compare Indonesia's culture and Mexico's cultures and beliefs based on "Coco 2017" Movie. Mexican belief that someday people who died their soul could return to reality world. *Dia de los muertos* as a celebration of the dead people and becomes mandatory celebration in Mexico every year. In Indonesia also has the same belief and especially in some region. They believe that the dead people are still at home and will come back again. This study analyses and equates belief in Mexico's culture with Indonesia's culture. This paper is design using library research which analyse the data qualitatively and history comparison theory that compare to one or more other texts. This paper reveals the factors and historical story why they believe that and how that belief lives until now.

Keywords: myth, comparison, culture

Introduction

Nowadays, belief is the one that cannot be separated from us. Every people have different beliefs, because of this phenomenon it's creating many beliefs in this world. According to Hasan (2006: 288) Beliefs also has relation with the spirituality of human. It comes from the subjective experience which is relevant and existential for human. Beliefs are dealing with our heart and psychiatric rather than our physics or materials. Those beliefs become culture in many regions because of our ancestral life. That is why every region has different beliefs and culture although some of them are nearly same.

According to Tomasouw (1986) Culture is lifestyle of people and also people's belief of a value that created assumption which is developed in linguistic. Therefore, culture comes from people's belief. Both of them are connected because what we belief can be the culture of us and what our ancestral belief also become our culture unconsciously. Moreover, in the old time our ancestral trust with Animism and Dynamism, some of culture also contain a myth. It is something that we cannot know what the truly happened, but people trust that it is happened. Nevertheless, myth is nearly extinct in this era, but people still belief and some countries make it tradition.

This paper will reveal the comparison between Indonesian's culture and Mexican's culture which belief that the dead people is still life but in the different world. The object of this study is based on *Coco* 2017 Movie. *Coco* is an animated film with the background of the "*Dia de los muertos*" festival. This movie is telling about the life story of a 12-year-old boy named Miguel Rivera. Miguel grew up following his family's customs as a shoe crafter who hated music. However, the desire of a musician was reborn and flowed in Miguel's blood which made Miguel get lost in the land of death and had to get blessings from one of his family members who died to be able to return to the real life world within just one day. Miguel's goal was to find his great grandftaher, a famous musician who had died, so that Miguel would get the blessing to be able to return to the land of living. On "*Dia de los muertos*" festival, Mexican celebrate it with put up the photo of their family who already dead on their home with offerings on the table here, we found the similarity culture between Indonesian and Mexican which made us interest to reveal this phenomenon through *Coco* 2017 Movie with the history comparison theory.

Methodology

This research employed a descriptive qualitative method. According to Bogdan and Taylor (1975: 4), a qualitative method refers to research procedures, which produce descriptive data, people's own written or spoken words and observable behaviour. This research will describe the Mexican's and Indonesian's culture with history comparison theory. Descriptive qualitative approach was employed in describing the data in words or making interpretations on the findings.

In addition, we use history comparison theory which according to the finding of Taum (2011, 85-92) who analyze thousand folktales in the world, he collects it and clarify based on the type and motif. This research included in Religious tales. It Include the reward or god punishment, truth that materialized, paradise, ghost, and religious stories.

Discussion

Here, with history comparison theory we found and compare two cultures from Mexico and Indonesia which we have discuss in above.

Table.1 Comparison Culture

Indonesia	Mexico
Putting up offerings grave	Putting up offerings in grave and house
Becomes symbolic culture usually in Jum'at Kliwon (Javanese's Calendar)	Becomes a holiday
Just on the grave	Putting up the marigold on the road until home
Without ofrenda	Using Ofrenda
Just using jasmine and Rose flower with aim is fragrant	Using marigold flower to make their families' soul comes
Do not use any kind of mask	Wearing a skull mask

From the points above, it shows that the tradition of the day of death in Mexico is almost the same as the tradition in Indonesia. "*Dia de los muertos*" in Mexico celebrated each year on November 1-2, begins with putting up offerings and photos of people who have died and put in the traditional altars or ofrenda. Ofrenda or in Spanish "offering" is a collection of objects placed on a ritual and traditionally Mexican "*Dia*

de los Muertos" celebration. An ofrenda which may be quite large and elaborate. On ofrenda they put a picture of the loved one being remembered, also put out are food, alcohol offerings, candy, candles and burners that smoke with copal. In Indonesia, only put up offerings over graves.

"*Dia de los muertos*" is a mandatory celebration every year and is designated as a national day, even though it was called the day of death, that day was welcomed by Mexican because it was a day to gather, they believed that the border between the spirit world and the real world dissolve, during this period the souls of the dead people awaken and return the living world to feast, drink, dance and play music with their loved ones. Moreover, the main difference is in "*Dia de los Muertos*" the people are make up their face like a skull or even use a mask of skull. Different with Indonesian which celebrate it in the grave and usually wearing "Koko" for man. In Mexican they also made and eat sugar candy molded into the shape of skulls, they partied for a big meal the menu they serve includes spicy dark chocolate and corn-based liquor called atole. In Indonesia the tradition is carried out during Eid to pray and put flowers or on Friday kliwon (Javanese's calendar), they also believe that spirits are allowed to return to gather on Eid day to see their family. Indonesian not use kind of mask but

they just pray for their family to memorized them and pray for their happiness in besides god.

Flowers that used in their culture

Those culture use difference flowers. Mexican use Marigold and Indonesian use Jasmine and Rose flower. Marigolds represent fragility of life, some of the major Marigolds varieties which used in “*Dia de los Muertos*” celebration:

(1) African or American Marigolds (*Tagetes erecta*), these marigolds are tall, erect-growing plants up to three feet in height. The flowers are globe-shaped and large. Flowers may measure up to 5 inches across. African Marigolds are very good bedding plants. These flowers are yellow to orange.

(2) French Marigolds (*Tagetes patula*), marigolds cultivars in this group grow 5 inches to 18 inches high. The colors are red, orange and yellow, red and orange bicolor patterns are also found. Flowers are smaller (2 inches across).

Marigolds most commonly used in “*Dia de los Muertos*” celebration there are a few reasons for this; Marigolds guide the spirits to their altars using their vibrant colors and pungent scent, this flower will guide and pass the spirit to go home, no wonder if all the way from the house to the grave will be filled

with this flower, this flower itself is also often called the “*flor de muerto*” (flower of death). In Indonesia, there is a sowing of Jasmine and Rose which is mixed flowers above the grave, with the aim that the grave is fragrant. Jasmine flowers are used because this flower symbolize purity, and lasting fragrance. Roses used are generally red roses, and sometimes mixed with white roses. Each color has a different meaning, white roses symbolize purity, and spiritual while red roses symbolize eternal love and grief. People in Indonesia usually sowing the flowers with water for keeping the grave still wet and the fragrance of the flower remains long lasting and pervasive.

Altar that used in their culture

The family who celebrate “*Dia de los Muertos*” will make the Altar (*ofrenda*) with full of marigolds flowers that surrounding it. There also photos of the family that have been passed away, they put all photos from their ancestors to the next generations, no wonder there are some photos placed that look very outdated, and they believe that if one part of the body of the photo is lost or torn then, the spirit will not be able to return home. There also putting some favorite foods that they like.

Ofrenda is usually built in homes as a welcome zone for the

spirit of a the passed away family when returning from the land of death. Ofrenda is usually allocated in a special room, so families can focus on praying and introducing their families through photos to new family members (toddlers). According to Mexican beliefs in Schnurer (2013: 10). Ofrenda must also fulfill four elements, such as; earth, air, water and fire. The earth element described with the food, it is *pan de muerto* (sweet bread or better known as death bread). Air element is described by the installation of *Papel Picado* (colorful paper which cutted with a beautiful pattern) that fulling the ceiling. Water is represented by a normal water placed in an open container, it was served for the spirits that coming back is not thirsty after a long journey. The last element is fire, it is depicted with candles that always light up and guide the spirits who come to that house and also candles symbolize the souls of human.

Besides of those four elements, salt is also served in the ofrenda. It is placed in a plate or something that can be easily found by the spirits, salt is useful to purify the spirits, and if the spirits of their families have returned to their homes they will take out all the food, they rejoice with the typical music of Mexico.

Conclusion

Although this is modern era, but peoples' beliefs are dealing with heart and psychiatric rather than our physics or materials which become tradition of their citizen or maybe their country.

Here, based on our culture analyses in *Coco 2017* Movie with Indonesia culture, we found some differences from those culture about celebrating or even praying to their ancestral. The similarity of this culture is they still believe with the other world that not same with our world. Nevertheless, the way they celebrate it are different and that is why we interest to conduct his research.

With history comparison theory, we compare the differences between Indonesian and Mexican culture and we found some points that quite different from both cultures. Here, we found the offerings differences, the symbolic and holiday, until the ofrenda that Mexican used but nor Indonesia. As we know, ofrenda is the table that Mexican use for putting the offerings and photos. In addition, the main difference is "*Dia de los Muertos*" same as happy day which the people are make up their face like a skull or even use a mask of skull. Different with Indonesian which celebrate it in the grave and usually wearing "Koko" for man.

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