

# Indonesian Cultural Insight: Exploring Yogyakarta's Heritage 'A Deeply Rooted Cultural Legacy'

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# Lesson/Session Outline

- **What Is Culture?**
- **Javanese Language: A Rich Linguistic Heritage**
- **Javanese Culture: Gamelan, Batik, Dance**



# What is Culture

A culture believed to be part of a particular tribe represents all aspects of people's lives, including the way of life that becomes shared beliefs, traditions, and actions of this specific community.

Culture also shapes individual behavior, perception, and interaction that influence how the speaker of a particular language and culture interprets the world around them (Lakawa et al., 2023).

People must be fluent in culture to conduct their daily routine. Cultural fluency (Krajnik et al., 2022) includes the ability (1) to grasp the underlying cultural context, (2) to use idiomatic expressions accurately, (3) to use nonverbal cues significantly, and (4) to comprehend gestures and body language appropriately.

This then affects or influences the communities reside in a particular region.



## SOME DEFINITIONS

1. A culture is a way of life of a group of people--the behaviors, beliefs, values, and symbols that they accept, generally without thinking about them, and are passed along by communication and imitation from one generation to the next.
2. Culture is a symbolic communication. Some of its symbols include a group's skills, knowledge, attitudes, values, and motives. The symbols of meaning are learned and deliberately perpetuated in a society through its institutions.
3. Culture is the learned behavior of a group of people that are generally considered to be the tradition of that people and are transmitted from generation to generation.
4. Culture is a collective programming of the mind that distinguishes the members of one group or category of people from another.



# Some Cultural Indicators Affecting Way of Live

## ETHNICITY

Groupings of people that have a shared culture, a shared biological ancestry or a shared origin place that can bring together a mutual understanding among the members of the specific ethnic group.

## LANGUAGE

A communication system that has meaning to a group of people through speech as a sign of differences from other tribes.

## ARTS

Activities and creations, typically involving skill and imagination, that express ideas and emotions through various media, such as painting, sculpture, music, theatre, and literature.





# Javanese Language: A Rich Linguistic Heritage

## JAVANESE LANGUAGE

- The most widely spoken regional language in Indonesia
- Encapsulates deep philosophical cultural values
- The language is characterized by three levels of speech: *ngoko*, *madya*, and *krama* which reflects politeness and respect in social interactions.
- Representing Javanese emphasis on harmony and mutual respect.

## MODERN JAVANESE ERA

- The Javanese language continues to thrive through various media
- Beyond daily conversation, it is preserved in literary arts, such as wayang performances (shadow puppet).
- This shadow puppet can also be performed on digital platforms such as apps and social media content.



### 1. AUSTRONESIAN ROOTS:

Javanese belongs to the Malayo-Polynesian branch of the Austronesian Language family, along with languages like Sundanese and Malay.

### 2. SANSKRIT INFLUENCE:

Javanese has a long history of interaction with Sanskrit, particularly in its literary form, due to the historical influence of Hinduism and Buddhism. This Sanskrit influence is evident in Loan Words and Compound structures, reflecting both the borrowing of Sanskrit words and the integration of Sanskrit elements into Javanese Grammar.

### 3. LEVELS OF SPEECH:

Javanese uses levels of speech (Ngoko, Madya, Krama) to indicate social status and politeness. Ngoko is the informal level, Krama is the formal level, and Madya is the Middle Ground.

#### 4. HISTORICAL SCRIPTS:

Historically, Javanese was written using the Brahmi script (Hanacaraka or Caraka) and the Pegon script (Arabic-derived). After Indonesian independence, the Latin alphabet was adopted for writing Javanese.

#### 5. DIALECTS:

Javanese has numerous dialects, reflecting variations across different regions of Java. Examples include Sologudig-an, which is a dialect in Probolinggo.

#### 6. CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Javanese language is deeply intertwined with Javanese culture, serving as a vehicle for expressing cultural values, norms, and traditions. It is integral to various art forms, including wayang kulit (shadow puppetry), gamelan music, and batik textile design.



# Javanese Culture

## BATIK

- The art of decorating fabric, which UNESCO has recognized as an intangible cultural heritage
- Patterns: kawung, mega mendung not only reflect aesthetic beauty but also profound philosophical meanings.

## GAMELAN

- Gamelan has become a global symbol of Javanese artistry.
- The melodic sound of gamelan instrument is integral to ceremonies, artistic performances and religious rituals.

## DANCES

- Javanese traditional dance encompasses a variety of forms, from the sacred ritual dances of the royal courts include the Bedhaya, Srimpi, and Gambyong dances
- Javanese dance also includes the dances of Javanese commoners and villagers, such as Ronggeng, Tayub, Reog, and Jaran Kepang.



- BATIK PANAS

- Batik is a dyeing technique using wax resist.
- The term is also used to describe patterned textiles created with that technique.
- Batik is made by drawing or stamping wax on a cloth to prevent colour absorption during the dyeing process.
- This creates a patterned negative when the wax is removed from the dyed cloth.
- Batik is a unique and valuable art form that has been passed down through generations.
  - It reflects the rich cultural heritage and artistic traditions of Indonesia.
- The process of creating batik is a labor of love, requiring skill, patience, and a deep appreciation for the craft.







# BATIK DINGIN

Batik dingin is a batik technique that utilizes a cold wax, usually made from natural materials like rice flour or starch. How it works:

The cold wax is applied to the fabric, creating a pattern that resists dye penetration. After the fabric is dyed, the wax is removed to reveal the patterned design.

## Benefits:

Batik dingin is considered more eco-friendly and accessible because it doesn't require heating the wax, making it safer for beginners and children. It can also be used on a wider range of fabrics and even pre-made garments.

## Difference from traditional batik:

Traditional batik uses hot wax, which is applied with a heated canting tool. Batik dingin, on the other hand, uses a cold wax and can be applied with a variety of tools, including a stencil.

## Purpose:

The main purpose of both batik techniques is to create intricate and colorful patterns on fabric, often using natural dyes.







## GAMELAN JAWA

- Gamelan Jawa is a Javanese musical ensemble characterized by its unique sound and instruments, primarily featuring metallophones, xylophones, drums, and gongs.
- The music is known for its gentle and harmonious quality, reflecting Javanese values of harmony and balance.
- Gamelan is used in various cultural and religious contexts, including weddings, ceremonies, and temple rituals

















# TRADITIONAL JAVANESE DANCE

Traditional Javanese dance encompasses a rich and diverse array of styles, including classical court dances, folk dances, and religious dances. These dances are often performed with elaborate costumes and musical accompaniment, and can be used to tell stories, express emotions, or celebrate cultural events.







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# Summary

## CULTURE CAN BE...

- Inherited or grown through diffusion or coming together of different cultures.
- Defined by different aspects such as ethnicity, language, and arts.
- Shared by a group of people in the same area or by bigger groups across different areas.



# Learning Outcomes

- Can you describe how culture can affect people way of life?
- Why do you have to understand different kinds of cultural heritage?
- Can you identify and explain the cultural markers of your area?
- Can you give example of cultural heritage from your context which include ethnicity, language, and arts?







## References

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Some definitions and additional materials are retrieved from various internet resources related to culture, language, and arts, especially those in line with Javanese heritage.

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