

# MYTH AND LEGENDS OF TELAGA WARNA IN WONOSOBO: A LITERARY TOURISM DESTINATION

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## **Abstract**

Oral literature holds a significant place in Indonesian culture, and legends are a prominent form of folklore. These tales often narrate the origins of places, often intertwined with myths. One such example is the legend of Telaga Warna ("Colorful Lake") in Wonosobo Regency, Java, Indonesia. Surrounded by various versions of its mythical formation, Telaga Warna has become deeply embedded in local beliefs. These myths often revolve around a palace-centric narrative, featuring princes, princesses, and even celestial beings. From a geographical perspective, Telaga Warna's unique hues are attributed to the presence of sulfur and sulfur within the lake, reflecting a spectrum of colors. Additionally, the lake's formation is believed to be the result of a former crater filled with water. This research aims to delve into the legend of Telaga Warna, exploring its myths and potential as a literary tourism destination. Telaga Warna's natural beauty, encompassing a serene lake, a small forest, and the backdrop of Mount Perahu, makes it a popular attraction for selfies and nature enthusiasts. The lake's literary significance lies in the potential for its legend and myths to be transformed into various art forms, such as traditional or modern drama, sinetron (Indonesian soap operas), films, and documentaries. This cultural transformation can enhance the lake's appeal as a literary tourism destination. Furthermore, Telaga Warna's status as a tourist destination can generate income for the Wonosobo local government and its community, while also providing creative opportunities for local artists. The research employed an observational method, utilizing interview and questionnaire techniques to gather data. The collected data was analyzed using literary and cultural theories, focusing on legends, myths, and their potential for transformation into various art forms. The research approach was qualitative and descriptive in nature.

**Keywords:** Legend, myth, transformation, tourism destination.

## **1 Introduction**

Tourism is a journey to a place with the aim of refreshing or resting to obtain certain satisfaction and happiness, also for tasks, sports and others. This activity is temporary, carried out individually or in groups in balance or harmony and happiness with the environment in social, cultural and scientific dimensions. [1]. Tourism can be divided into nature tourism and cultural tourism. Nature tourism includes mountains, forests, waterfalls, lakes and so on, cultural tourism includes buildings, customs, culinary, literature and so on [2].

In oral literary works, folklore is known to have fairy tales, legends and myths that are believed to exist in the lives of the society that believes them as if it were in the real world. The same is true of the Telaga Warna legend, which is known to the general public. This concept is known as literary tourism destinations. Oral stories are generally told subjectively by the narrator so that there are variations in stories and full of imagination [3].

## **2 Methodology**

This research uses a mixed methods approach [5], which combines two methods, namely quantitative research methods and qualitative research methods. This aims to complement each other's picture of the study results on tourism potential and business opportunities related to tourism destinations. This research is exploratory research aimed at describing the potential of natural and cultural tourism, as an opportunity to become a literary tourism destination in Wonosobo Regency, Dieng in a narrative manner. The instruments used were questionnaires distributed to tourists, tourist managers, and local communities. The questionnaire results will be tabulated and analyzed using an interactive data reduction model, data presentation, and drawing conclusions/verification, then combined with interviews, observations, and document studies; poured into a narrative. Furthermore, the results are discussed in the team and then compiled into a scientific report.

### **3 Results and Discussion**

#### **Natural Tourism and Innovation**

As a nature tourism destination, Telaga Warna has very beautiful scenery with a stretch of lake water, mountains, hills and forests. This lake has been packaged into a fun tourist spot with beautiful views for selfies and pampering visitors. Based on the questionnaire from respondents, Telaga Warna tourism stated that Telaga Warna tourism has been innovated by 57%. This indicates that there is seriousness from the tourism managers.

Tourism will develop and be attractive if innovation is carried out as a prerequisite for the sustainability of tourism destinations, especially in efforts to innovate the development of cultural tourism products from creative and dynamic human resources. In addition, facilities and infrastructure at tourist locations must be provided. Competent tour guides are needed who can provide satisfactory service to tourists.

#### **Cultural Tourism: Legends and Myths and Opportunities for Artistic Creativity**

One of the interesting tourist destinations in Wonosobo Regency, Dieng is Telaga Warna. In addition to its beautiful scenery, there are also legends and myths that are believed by the community. This form of tourism combines nature and cultural tourism. People come to visit here not only to be curious about the legend but also to see the place and the impression they want to get. The legendary story that is used as a tourist spot is known as tourism literature. Narrative stories or texts will become important because through narrative texts, readers, listeners can know the events that occur at the site or place which then become or will be popular among tourists. In the context of literary tourism, literary readers are invited to identify the potential of locations, events, traces that can be developed into tourist destinations, which consequently must prepare facilities and infrastructure for tourists [6].

Folklore as oral literature often brings up legends and myths. Legends are folk tales from ancient times that have something to do with history. Stories that are not true are full of imagination [3].

Some of the legends and myths about the color change of Telaga Warna in Wonosobo Regency, Dieng are:

1. It happened because the clothes of the Queen and Princess were blown by strong winds and fell into the Lake, making the lake colorful. This story shows that everything that is attached to the queen
2. It happened because a sacred ring of a noble fell into the lake and turned it colorful. Talking about nobles means talking about blue-blooded people, royalty. Something owned by nobles seems to be an amulet and a fantastic power
3. It happened because the Princess refused her father's necklace and was thrown into the lake, turning it colorful. Even in the Princess's bad behavior, there is an extraordinary power, the lake water can change its color
4. It happened because there were fairies from heaven who bathed in the lake, their scarves were left in the lake and turned it colorful; the belief in fairies from heaven is also exploited as if these beautiful fairies have fantastic power to change the color of the lake they visit
5. It happened due to the cultural acculturation of the Ramayana story from India which seemed to happen in Indonesia. The struggle for the cupu manik astagina which was thrown into the lake and turned it colorful [7] and interviews with P Slamet and Farid Tour Guides/Tourist Drivers [8]. The struggle for the cupu manik astagina has a didactic value that fighting is not a good behavior like monkeys. In the story, Hanoman's mother Anjani, Sugriwo and Subali's uncle are all turned into monkeys after fighting for the cupu in Telaga Warna. This myth is also told in Telaga Menjer and so on.

These myths are passed down from mouth to mouth. In general, legendary stories characterize traditional literary works, namely telling stories centered on the palace about kings, queens, princes, princesses who have extraordinary abilities, fall in love, about gods and goddesses, and unreasonable events. Legends and myths live in the local culture of the local community. These stories are fictional and can develop anywhere according to the storyteller's taste. In fact, the colors in Telaga Warna are scientifically caused by the high sulfur content, which will turn colorful when exposed to sunlight [9].

Based on the questionnaire, the following information was obtained about the legend: 55.9% do not know, 44.1% know; 76.5% do not know the myth, 23.5% know. Seeing this data, it is necessary for tourism managers to innovate by utilizing legends and myths by transforming them into performances of sendratari, ketoprak, soap operas, holding festivals, etc. which can be done by local artists or collaborating with other artists. Adaptation or screenization is a literary work that has the potential to be in the form of other arts. Tourism means seeking recreational effects and getting impressions of what is obtained during a visit to a tourist location.

### **Visitors**

Based on the Central Statistics Agency of Wonosobo Regency [10], the number of visitors to recreational places in Wonosobo Regency, Dieng in 2024 Domestic tourists 1,742,434; Foreign tourists 616 total number 1,742,050 with various tourist attractions.

According to the results of interviews and questionnaires, 88.9% admitted that they knew the Telaga Warna tourist destination; and 4.8% aim to photograph the scenery. Knowing Telaga Warna tourism 94.4%; know through friends 57%, relatives 25.7%, Youtube 11.4%;

Therefore, it needs to be promoted better by providing facilities and infrastructure services; maximizing the existing potential. Tourism attractions as a development and improvement of tourism can utilize the potential of nature, flora, fauna, human works, and culture [11]; tourism together: family 60%, groups 27.3%, friends 12.1%

### **Economic Impact and Development**

Tourism can have a positive impact on residents' economies by offering local products and typical culinary delights. Starting from the emergence of cafes and restaurants, homestays and hotels, tour guides, transportation, travel agents, local souvenirs. There are lots of options if you visit Telaga Warna Wonosobo. Facilities and infrastructure to tourist locations are prepared according to tourism needs. The role of the manager must be active, creative, and needs to develop existing infrastructure so that tourism can live and be

liked so that many local and foreign tourists come and bring a positive impression.

#### **4 Conclusion**

Tourism will develop and be attractive if innovation is carried out as a prerequisite for the sustainability of tourism destinations, especially in efforts to innovate the development of cultural tourism products from creative and dynamic human resources. Local cultural heritage is not only a matter of pride but needs to be revitalized to increase economic benefits and sustainability. To achieve the target number of tourists, it is necessary to provide leading objects. For this reason, managers or owners of cultural heritage need to make efforts to innovate products such as packaging oral traditions, legends into the form of adaptations. If innovation and revitalization are successful, the impact of cultural tourism will be better, economically advantageous and can contribute to the sustainability of local culture.

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