

ART ECOSYSTEM OF THE HGATERI TRADITIONAL MUSIC GROUP IN JAYAPURA PAPUA

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ABSTRACT

This study looks at the world of traditional Papuan music, focusing on the Hgateri group. Hgateri is a traditional music group in Jayapura that keeps Wonti-Waropen music alive and is a symbol of efforts to preserve traditional music in Papua. This research aims to describe the traditional Papuan music ecosystem by studying the Hgateri group. Using a qualitative method, we gathered data through observations, interviews with the group leader, and documents. The results show that Hgateri has found new ways to introduce traditional music to young people. This study looks at how this group works in different areas: culture and society, where Hgateri helps keep their culture alive and brings the Wonti people closer together; economics, where the group has shown that traditional arts can make a steady income; education, where Hgateri helps young people grow and learn; laws, where the group understands the importance of being legal; and technology, where they combine old and new ways to create exciting performances. This research helps us better understand traditional Papuan music and how to keep it alive.

KEYWORDS

traditional Papuan music, Hgateri group, art ecosystem



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Introduction

An art ecosystem is a complex system consisting of multiple subjects that are interrelated. Within the art ecosystem, there are many topics that can be divided into various discussions to develop culture and for art practitioners [1]. A new perspective on the art ecosystem is expected to give birth to new ideas and methods that are more comprehensive in the sustainability of art in the economic and social aspects of people's lives [2]. Traditional music comes from the words music and traditional, where this understanding is launched from the Indonesian National Encyclopedia, it is stated that the word music comes from the Greek word mousike which is taken from the name of the Greek mythology god Mousa who leads art and science, while the word traditional comes from the Latin word traditio which means the customs of society that are hereditary. The understanding of traditional according to Sedyawati in the development of performing arts is the process of creating art in the life of society that connects the

human subject itself to the environment [3]. Thus, traditional music can be defined as a type of music that is born and develops from a particular regional culture that is inherited from generation to generation. Traditional music is also the original music of a region that grows due to the influence of customs, beliefs, and religion, so that regional music has its own characteristics that distinguish one region from another [4].

One concrete example of traditional music rich in cultural value is the Hgateri Group, founded by Simson Nussy. Simson Nussy is an artist from Waropen Regency, Papua who founded the Hgateri music and dance art group on October 10, 2023, in Jayapura. The name Hgateri is taken from the name of one of the sago villages in Wonti, Waropen Regency, which is considered sacred by the local people. The group has 18 members. With the spirit of preserving the cultural heritage of ancestors, Hgateri consistently presents various traditional dances such as the bird of paradise dance, war dance, and sapa dance, as well as typical Waropen songs. Through its performances, Hgateri not only entertains the public but also plays an important role in promoting tourism and raising awareness of Papua's rich culture[5].

In the increasingly intense context of globalization, the Hgateri group faces complex challenges in preserving traditional music. Competition from popular music, a lack of infrastructure support, and limited public appreciation for traditional music are major obstacles to cultural preservation efforts. This phenomenon demonstrates the vulnerability of traditional music in the face of modernization. As reported by papuabarat.tribunnews.com in an article titled "Papuan Traditional Musicians Echo Local Music, Dream of International Recognition [6]," Yose Papuana Mayor, Chairman of the Papua Traditional Music Community, stated that the rapid development of global music and the lack of public appreciation for traditional musical instruments and songs pose significant challenges to the development of traditional Papuan music. This is unfortunate, as traditional music is an essential part of Papua's cultural identity and has great potential for further development on the international stage.

The research on the Hgateri group is unique in that there have been no previous studies that comprehensively examine the relationship between Papuan music and various aspects of life, ranging from ecosystems to technology. Previous studies have tended to focus more on ethnomusicology or anthropological aspects of music without connecting them to a broader social, economic, and environmental context. This study fills a gap in the academic literature and offers a new perspective on understanding the role of music as a medium of expression, cultural identity, and social transformation in Papua. Papuan music has a very strong distinctiveness, closely tied to nature, mythology, and the social values of the community. Thus, this research makes an important contribution to understanding the complexity of Papuan culture and is expected to be an important reference for academics interested in interdisciplinary studies of music, culture, and environment.

This research aims to comprehensively understand the ecosystem of traditional Papuan music, encompassing cultural, social, economic, educational, legal, and technological aspects, as well as the specific contributions of the Hgateri group within this ecosystem. The analysis includes both internal and external dynamics, the challenges faced, and the specific contributions of the Hgateri group in preserving and developing traditional music. Additionally, this research identifies effective strategies to sustain the art ecosystem and the role of the younger generation in the preservation of traditional Papuan music.

The urgency of this research is underscored by the increasingly complex threats faced by traditional Papuan music due to globalization, urbanization, and modernization. Cultural acculturation, a lack of interest among younger generations, and limited support for traditional artists are major challenges in preserving this music. Traditional Papuan music is an invaluable cultural heritage and an integral part of the Papuan people's identity. ¹ By gaining a deep understanding of the traditional music art ecosystem, this research can make a significant contribution to ensuring its sustainability and strengthening Papua's cultural identity. The findings of this research are expected to serve as a basis for developing more effective traditional music preservation programs. Additionally, this research can contribute to the development of culture-based tourism and community empowerment in Papua. By involving the younger generation in the research and preservation process, it is hoped that awareness of the importance of preserving traditional music as part of the nation's cultural heritage will grow. This will foster the regeneration of traditional artists and ensure the survival of Papuan music in the future.

Method

Research methodology is a scientific approach to obtaining data for specific purposes and uses. A scientific approach means that research activities are based on the characteristics of science, namely rationality, empiricism, and systematicness [7]. According to Saryono [8], qualitative research is used to investigate, discover, describe, and explain the quality or characteristics of social influences that cannot be explained, measured, or described through a quantitative approach. This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach with the aim of deeply understanding how the traditional music group Hgateri adapts and contributes to the preservation of traditional music amidst

changing times. Through in-depth interviews and document studies, this research will analyze the dynamics of the art ecosystem, including cultural, social, economic, educational, legal, and technological aspects that influence the sustainability and development of traditional Papuan music.

The theory used to discuss the data is hermeneutics. According to Ricoeur, hermeneutics is a theory about how understanding works in interpreting texts. Furthermore, Ricoeur explains that there are two main focuses in hermeneutic studies: first, the event of understanding a text, and second, the issue that is more oriented towards understanding and interpretation. This indirectly explains that the main idea in hermeneutics is "understanding of the text" [9].

Discussion

1. The Hgateri Group Profile and Activities

The name Hgateri is taken from the sago village of Hgateri in Wonti, Waropen Regency, a place considered sacred by the local community. The group consists of 18 members, including its founder, Simson Nussy. Hgateri's performance repertoire includes various traditional Wonti dances, such as the War Dance depicting the fighting spirit of the people, the Bird of Paradise Dance symbolizing nature conservation, and the Greeting Dance which is a form of welcoming guests. In addition to dance, the group also performs traditional songs of the Wonti Tribe, Waropen. Members of the Hgateri Group include Anace Nussy, Andreas Nussy, Aser Nussy, Jhoi Nussy, Roni Bubui, Tomas Samori, Lukas Samori, Theo Samori, Eduard Maniagasi, Roni Mandosir, Oge Mandisir, Nakorande Opada, Yefta Samber, Qhiba Mansawan, Imanuel Waromi, Mei Osok, and Vita Faidiban.

The Hgateri Group regularly holds training sessions for all its members on Wednesdays and Fridays from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM WIT to maintain the preservation and quality of their performances. This training focuses on improving dance techniques, mastering traditional musical instruments, and deepening the lyrics and meaning of local songs. Through continuous training, the Hgateri group is not only able to maintain the uniqueness of traditional Papuan art but also continues to innovate in creating works of art that are relevant to the times.

The Hgateri Group is active in introducing Papuan arts and culture to various stages. In addition to performing regularly at local events, the group has also achieved achievements at the national and international levels. For example, at the Cenderawasih University Anniversary celebration in 2023, Hgateri won first place in the Folk Song competition. Not only that, in 2024, the group also successfully held a performance tour in several cities in the Netherlands, captivating the audience with the beauty of Papuan traditional dance and music. Through these performances, Hgateri not only entertains but also plays an important role in promoting the richness of Papuan culture to the world.



Figure 1. Performance at the Cenderawasih University Anniversary
[Source: <https://www.instagram.com/officialhgateriakustik/p/CzalrtxPisd/>]



Figure 2. Performance in the Netherlands
[Sourceh : https://www.instagram.com/andynussy_/p/C63aWCHLccu/?img_index=5]



Figure 3. Performance at the Missie Museum Steyl, Venlo, Netherlands
[Source: https://www.instagram.com/andynussy_/p/C63aWCHLccu/?img_index=2]

2. Cultural Ecosystem Analysis

A cultural ecosystem, in the context of arts and culture, is a complex system composed of multiple subjects that are interrelated [2]. Cultural ecosystems play a crucial role in society. Artwork, as a reflection of the collective soul, mirrors the values, traditions, and history of a society. Additionally, art plays a significant role in shaping personal identity. Through art, individuals can explore themselves, find meaning in life, and build connections with others. Moreover, cultural ecosystems serve as a social glue. Artwork can be a medium for building communities, promoting tolerance, and strengthening a sense of unity. Thus, cultural heritage is not only a legacy to be preserved but also a force that can enrich human life.

The Hgateri group, with its deep roots in the sago village of Wonti, Waropen Regency, is more than just a music and dance group. They are guardians and disseminators of the Wonti people's cultural heritage. The significant cultural aspect of the name "Hgateri," derived from the sacred sago village of Wonti, demonstrates a deep respect for ancestors

and the environment. This affirms a strong cultural identity and deep roots in the homeland. The group's composition, primarily consisting of members from the same family, reveals the strong social and cultural bonds within the group. This also indicates the generational transmission of traditions. The repertoire of songs and dances originating from Waropen, specifically the Wonti tribe, showcases Hgateri's commitment to preserving local cultural wealth.

3. Social Ecosystem Analysis

A social ecosystem refers to the relationships and interactions between individuals and groups within a society. The social ecosystem encompasses various social components such as family, school, community, and government, which are interconnected and influence each other. Within the social ecosystem, there are various social roles and structures that shape the dynamics of social life within a society. This aligns with Soekanto's [10] statement that social interaction is the social basis that refers to dynamic social relationships. The Hgateri group is not merely an art performer but also a catalyst for significant social ecosystem transformation. Through their music, rich in meaning, the Hgateri group not only reflects the social identity of the Waropen community but also serves as a bridge connecting generations. Hgateri's works, laden with noble values and local wisdom, have successfully strengthened social cohesion and promoted humanitarian values. As a dynamic manifestation of aesthetics, the Hgateri group's performances are not only entertaining but also inspiring and educating. By uniting the past and the future, they have successfully maintained the continuity of tradition while stimulating the creativity of the younger generation. Moreover, the

Hgateri group has shown that art is not merely entertainment but also a force that can drive positive change and build a better society.

4. Economic Ecosystem Analysis

The art ecosystem is a unique economic system where cultural and social values are on par with its economic value. Unlike other commodity products, the value of a work of art is highly fluctuating and influenced by various factors, including market trends and the artist's reputation. In addition to economic value, the art ecosystem also generates significant positive externalities for society, such as improving quality of life and developing cultural identity. Therefore, the art ecosystem is not merely a market but also a complex and dynamic ecosystem that requires support from various parties, including the government and society.

The traditional music and dance group Hgateri has been able to generate income for the community through performances at various events and festivals. Among them are the first prize winner of the Folk Song competition at the Cenderawasih University Anniversary on October 18, 2023, and a tour to Missie Museum Venlo Steyl, Rotterdam, Museum Sophia Hof Maastricht, Zaanse Schans Museum, and the city of Olst in the Netherlands from April 25 to May 8, 2024. The income earned from performances has improved the economic welfare of the group members. The production of costumes, props, and traditional musical instruments for Hgateri performances has created jobs for local artisans and stimulated the growth of the creative economy in the region. The Hgateri group has successfully transformed traditional art into a sustainable creative economic enterprise through quality production, training, and performances.

5. Educational Ecosystem Analysis

An educational ecosystem is a network of interconnected and harmonious relationships among various educational components or communities that can support the achievement of educational goals. These include families, schools, communities, mosques, social media, the workplace, the natural environment, and various stakeholders, especially the community and government as educational stakeholders [10].

Hgateri's artwork contains high moral values such as mutual cooperation, environmental conservation, and respect for ancestors. These values indirectly guide the audience to adopt positive behaviors. The performance and training activities carried out by Hgateri provide a platform for instilling moral values in members, as well as the younger generation, so that they grow into individuals of character. Hgateri's artwork serves as a guide for the community to understand and appreciate the nation's cultural heritage, and also guides the younger generation to learn and preserve traditional Papuan arts. Hgateri's artwork is the result of a long creative process, involving various activities

such as practice, research, and production. This process teaches the values of hard work, discipline, and innovation. The activities carried out by the Hgateri group, such as practice, performance, and training, are forms of non-formal education that are very effective. Through these activities, members not only learn about art but also develop various skills such as communication, cooperation, and leadership.

6. Legal Ecosystem Analysis

The regulation governing the legality of art studios is stipulated in the Indonesian Minister of Culture and Tourism Regulation No. 21 of 2015 concerning Art Studio Business Standards. An art studio is a place or facility for art activities such as dance, painting, crafts, or acting. Art studios can also serve as organized non-formal educational institutions outside the formal school system. Registering an art community as an art studio is a strategic step to develop the community and have a greater impact on society. With a clear status and access to various resources, art studios can contribute to the preservation and development of Indonesian arts and culture.

The Hgateri Group, like any other organization or group, requires a strong legal framework to operate legally and be recognized. This legality encompasses various aspects, ranging from legal entity registration, performance permits, to copyright protection for the works produced. The existence of clear legality will provide greater legitimacy and credibility to the Hgateri Group, both in the eyes of the government and the public. Several points related to the legality of the Hgateri Group, such as permits and certificates of recognition, are still in the process of being processed at the Papua Provincial Culture Office. This process often takes a considerable amount of time and involves complex administrative requirements. This poses a significant challenge for the Hgateri Group in carrying out its activities optimally. The incomplete legality of the Hgateri Group can hinder the development and growth of this group. Without clear legality, the Hgateri Group will find it difficult to access resources, establish partnerships with other parties, and obtain financial support. Therefore, completing the process of legalizing the Hgateri Group is a very important step. With complete legality, the Hgateri Group will be able to carry out its activities more effectively and efficiently, and make a greater contribution to the preservation of Papuan culture.

7. Technology Ecosystem Analysis

The technology ecosystem in art is a complex and interconnected environment where technology serves as a tool, medium, and even inspiration for artists in creating works of art. In this ecosystem, technology not only serves as a tool but also shapes the way we perceive, create, and appreciate art. Components of the technology ecosystem in art include technology, artists, digital platforms, art institutions, and audiences.

Technology has become a strategic partner for the Hgateri group in developing and promoting traditional arts. By utilizing high-quality recording equipment, music and video editing software, and modern musical instruments such as keyboards, Hgateri is able to create innovative and stunning works. The integration of modern elements in traditional performances, such as contemporary choreography and visual effects, makes their art more relevant to the younger generation. Social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, TikTok, and YouTube have become effective channels for promoting performance schedules, selling tickets, and building closer relationships with fans. Through interactive features such as live streaming and Q&A, Hgateri can build a solid community and interact directly with fans. By utilizing data analytics, the group can measure the effectiveness of their promotional campaigns, identify emerging trends, and adjust their strategies to be more effective. By optimally utilizing technology, Hgateri not only preserves traditions but also paves the way for the development of more dynamic and sustainable cultural arts and expands their audience reach globally.

Conclusion

The Hgateri Group has become an inspiring example for other traditional art groups. Hgateri has successfully combined tradition with innovation, so that traditional arts remain relevant and attractive to the younger generation. Through the use of technology, they are able to reach a wider audience and build a solid fan base. In addition, Hgateri has also shown that traditional arts can be a sustainable source of income and contribute to the development of the creative economy. The success of Hgateri proves that with good management, creativity, and technology support, traditional arts can continue to develop and survive in the midst of modernization.

The results of this study show that the Hgateri group has a very important role in maintaining the sustainability of traditional music and inspiring the younger generation to be actively involved in cultural preservation. In addition, this study has also identified a number of strategies that can be applied to strengthen the ecosystem of traditional music arts in Papua. The findings of this study are expected to make a significant contribution to the development of policies and cultural preservation programs at the local, national, and international levels."

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