

SYMBOLS AND MEANINGS IN TRADITIONAL HOUSE IN LOLI, WEST SUMBA

ABSTRACT

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This study was conducted to explore the meanings and symbols found in traditional houses in Loli, West Sumba. The research was carried out in Jagangara village, Weekarou sub-district, Loli district, West Sumba regency, involving four informants who are native speakers of the Loli language and have a deep understanding of the culture and structure of local traditional houses. Data was collected through interviews. The results of the study show that each part of a traditional Loli house contains symbols and meanings related to human relationships, nature, ancestors, and the social order of the community. The tower roof "*Toko Umma*" symbolizes the vertical relationship between humans and ancestral spirits, considered to be the path connecting the human world and the supernatural world. The central room "*Taruonga Umma*" represents the center of family life, a place for daily activities as well as a sacred space for communicating with ancestors. The four main pillars "*Pata Pari'i Tillu*" symbolize social balance, depicting the roles of men and women and cultural continuity between generations. The right side of the room "*Mbali Katuonga*" is understood as a masculine space representing strength, authority, and spiritual preparation. Conversely, the left side of the room "*Kerepadalu*" symbolizes feminine roles related to life, fertility, and family continuity. Other symbols such as the main door "*Mbinna*" serve as a protective barrier between the outside space and the family space; bale-bale "*Mbaga Kalada*" symbolize harmony in life and leadership within the family; the space under the house "*Salikabunga*" marks the relationship between humans and nature, symbolizing the source of life, prosperity, and the underworld in Sumba cosmology. Outside the house, buffalo horns and pig jaws "*Kadu Karabbo Monno Ngiengi Wawi*" show traces of sacrifice in traditional ceremonies, symbolizing honor, social status, and the reciprocal relationship between the family and their ancestors. Overall, the traditional Loli house is not just a place to live, but a complete representation of the spirituality, social structure, and cultural identity of the people of West Sumba. This study provides a comprehensive picture of how every shape, space, and object has a meaning that has been passed down from generation to generation through the customs and beliefs of the community.

Keywords: Loli Traditional House, Symbol, Meaning, Traditional Architecture of Sumba, *Marapu*, Spatial Structure

SIMBOL DAN MAKNA PADA RUMAH TRADISIONAL DI LOLI, SUMBA BARAT

ABSTRAK

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Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menggali makna dan simbol yang terdapat pada rumah tradisional di Loli, Sumba Barat. Penelitian dilaksanakan di kampung Jagangara, Desa Weekarou, Kecamatan Loli, Kabupaten Sumba Barat, dengan melibatkan empat narasumber yang merupakan penutur asli bahasa Loli serta memiliki pemahaman mendalam mengenai budaya dan struktur rumah adat setempat. Data dikumpulkan melalui wawancara. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa setiap bagian rumah tradisional Loli mengandung simbol dan makna yang berkaitan dengan hubungan manusia, alam, leluhur, serta tatanan sosial masyarakat. Atap menara "*Toko Umma*" melambangkan hubungan vertikal antara manusia dan roh leluhur, dianggap sebagai jalur yang menghubungkan dunia manusia dan dunia adikodrati. Ruangan tengah "*Taruonga Umma*" memaknai pusat kehidupan keluarga, tempat aktivitas sehari-hari sekaligus ruang sakral untuk berkomunikasi dengan leluhur. Empat tiang utama "*Pata Pari'i Tillu*" merupakan simbol keseimbangan sosial, yang menggambarkan peran laki-laki dan perempuan serta kesinambungan budaya antar generasi. Sisi kanan ruangan "*Mbali Katuonga*" dipahami sebagai ruang maskulin yang merepresentasikan kekuatan, otoritas, dan persiapan spiritual. Sebaliknya, sisi kiri ruangan "*Kerepadalu*" melambangkan peran feminin yang berkaitan dengan kehidupan, kesuburan, dan keberlangsungan keluarga. Simbol lainnya seperti pintu utama "*Mbinna*" menjadi batas perlindungan antara ruang luar dan ruang keluarga; bale-bale "*Mbaga Kalada*" melambangkan keharmonisan hidup dan kepemimpinan dalam keluarga; ruang bawah rumah "*Salikabunga*" menandai hubungan manusia dengan alam, sebagai lambang sumber kehidupan, kemakmuran, dan dunia bawah dalam kosmologi Sumba. Di bagian luar rumah, tanduk kerbau dan rahang babi "*Kadu Karabbo Monno Ngiengi Wawi*" menunjukkan jejak pengorbanan dalam upacara adat, melambangkan kehormatan, status sosial, serta hubungan timbal balik antara keluarga dan leluhur. Secara keseluruhan, rumah tradisional Loli bukan sekadar tempat tinggal, tetapi merupakan representasi utuh mengenai spiritualitas, struktur sosial, dan identitas budaya masyarakat Sumba Barat. Penelitian ini memberikan gambaran menyeluruh tentang bagaimana setiap bentuk, ruang, dan benda memiliki makna yang diwariskan secara turun-temurun melalui praktik adat dan keyakinan masyarakat.

Kata kunci: Rumah Adat Loli, Simbol, Makna, Arsitektur Tradisional Sumba, *Marapu*, Struktur Ruang.