

CULTURAL APPROACH TO REDUCED TRAFFIC ACCIDENT IN BALI

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Abstract

Safety on traveling is needed by all travelers. Safety on traveling is determined by many factors such as the drivers, vehicles, road, environment and it relation each other. Balinese culture which influence by Hinduism, believe that traffics accidents occurred as a result of not harmonize the relation between human as a driver to vehicle or car, human to the god and human to the environment. So in Balinese daily of life there is an effort to harmonize the relation of all components using cultural approach. In doing that many activities such as doing an offering to the new or after reparation of car, to offer *sajen* in the car everyday during traveler, every 210 days during “*tumpek landep* day” after cleaning the car offer *sajen*, ring the bell or offer *sajen* during passing the sacral place or temple, offer *sajen* and look after during night where the accident were happen, offer *sajen (mlaspas)* the new road, forbidden to travel during wedding ceremony or get family died. These activities mean to making the tools more humane so that the tools harmonize to the user, forgive to the magic spirit around the road. By practicing the cultural approach the traffic accident at many places can be reduced. One taxi company shown that annually maintenance cost lower compared than the same company in Java.

Key word : Safety, cultural approach, accident.

INTRODUCTION

Safety on traveling is needed by all travelers. Safety on traveling is determined by many factors such as the drivers, vehicles, road, environment and its relation to each other. Balinese culture, which is influenced by Hinduism, believes that traffic accidents occur as a result of not harmonizing the relation between human as a driver to vehicle or car, human to the god and human to the environment. So in Balinese daily life there is an effort to harmonize the relation of all components using a cultural approach. In doing that many activities in relation to the culture in daily life were done as well as to the car, to the environment, to the place or temple where they were often passed over, or to the new road. These cultural activities were meant to harmonize between human, vehicle, environment or magic spirit. Using a cultural approach the Balinese believe traffic accidents can be reduced. So the safety of the traveler is not disturbed during traveling.

For that purpose in this paper many cultural activities related to transportation that have been done by Balinese in particular Hinduism in effort to reduce traffic accidents.

Material and method

Material:

- vehicle or car
- place or temple where the accident often happens
- road where the accident often happens
- new road

Method:

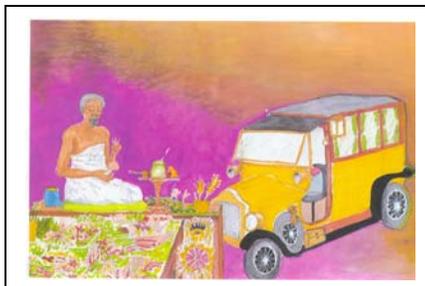
- observation
- interview to the police, drivers and community

Result and discussion :

From observation and interview to the priest, and many people around the place where the accident often happens as follows:

1. The new car must be offered first before use. It means to humanize the car to create a harmonized relation between human as a driver and the car as a tool. In these relations the car exactly helped the driver to achieve their goal and the driver must be pious to the car (Djelantik, 2005)(Figure 1).

Fig. 1 New car offering before use



2. Every day the car offer sesajen to the god and to hope to guide the driver safety during on traveling until arrive to home again (Figure 2).



Fig.2 Offer sesajen every day on the car

3. On *tumpek landep day*, every 210 days the Balinese car owner or driver cleaning and offering the car (Fig.3). It means car as an equipment or tools can be good usability and long life span and safety during on traveling



Fig.3 On *Tumpek Landep day* offering the car

4. After reparation (painting or reparation of engine) the car must be offering again to purify the car from filthy that are believe easy to create the accident
5. If the traveler pass to the place which are believe lived by magic spirit, must be ring the bell to inform the magic spirit which are accidentally stayed there forgive during passing that place without disturb. Beside that some drivers offer sesajen (brad, cigarette, peppermint, etc) to the magic spirit.



A



B

Fig.4 The travelers stop a moment to offering at the temple with a bilievd toke safety during traveling. A.The driver and B the pasangers

6. If the car often getting accident although the offering had been done, the car must be sale because it is believe that car is not good.
7. At the place where the accident were happen whenever bloody or dead, at that place must be offer *sesajen* or to unite the ghost to the body (*ngulapin*) and look after over night for three days. To hope they didn't have accident again.
8. If anybody had family died or had wedding ceremony before three days or before offer *sesajen* (*mesayut*) it call *sebel* and forbidden to traveling. If traveling it is believe very easy got accident. In reality the accident were often happen, got by anybody during their wedding ceremony or got family death.
9. The new road before used it must be offering (*mecaru and mlaspas*) (Fig 5). Without effort the offering it is believe the rate of accident were high.



Fig. 5 Offering (*mecaru*) new road at Jalan I.B.Mantra, on August 31, 2005

From many information of accident data from the policemen and connected to the believe of Balinese people there are found as follow:

1. The new road Bypass Kediri to Pesiapan southern of Tabanan Regency, before offering were doing the rate of traffics accident were more tha 20 time annually, and after offering were done the accident were decrease lower than 15 time annually.
2. The new road Bypass Prof I.B.Mantra from Padang galak to Kusamba, the offering not yet done, the rate of traffics accident still high.
3. Human resources of one taxi company in Denpasar reported that the maintenance cost annually lower than the same company in java, because in Bali the car take care by Balinese driver and every 210 days (*tumpek landep* days) the cars were offering.

Conclusion

The Balinese believe that traffics accident often happen as a result not harmonize between the human as a driver to the god, to the car as a tools, to the road or the environment. Through cultural approach the Balinese efforts to harmonize between human to the god, to the car and to the environment. Many offering were done to overcome these effort such as offering to the new or after reparation of car, offer *sesajen* to the car in every day life, to offering every *tumpek landep* day which are come every

210 days, to offer *sesajen* at the place of accident, to ring the bell or offer *sesajen* if passing the sacral place, offering to the new road before use. With cultural approach its believe traffics accident can be reduced. At many new road after offering traffics accident were reduced but the road that are the offering not yet done traffics accident still high. One of taxi company the maintenance cost annually lower than the same company at Java.

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