

# THE MEANING OF LOCAL CULTURAL VALUE OF NASI SERPONG IN PONOROGO

Agustina Ivonne Poli <sup>1</sup>, Pawennari Hijjang <sup>2</sup>, Nasikhatul Ulla Al Jamiliyati <sup>3</sup>,  
Muhammad Basir <sup>4</sup>, As. Rakhmad Idris <sup>5</sup> and Ade Irma Suryany <sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Political Science,  
Cenderawasih University, Jayapura, Papua.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Political Science, Hasanuddin University.  
<sup>3,5</sup> National Innovation Research Agency.

<sup>4</sup> Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Political Science, Hasanuddin University.

<sup>6</sup> Postgraduate Program, Cenderawasih University, Jayapura, Papua.

Email: <sup>1</sup>Poli\_ivonne@yahoo.com, <sup>2</sup>aweunhas@yahoo.com,

<sup>3</sup>Jamilyati.nasikhatul@unmer.ac.id, <sup>4</sup>muhammad.basir.unhas@gmail.com,

<sup>5</sup>as.rakhmad.idris@brin.go.id, <sup>6</sup>katharinaade14@gmail.com

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## Abstract

Nasi Serpong is a traditional dish from Ponorogo, Indonesia, which has important cultural value for the local community. The dish consists of rice served with various side dishes such as fried chicken, tempeh, tofu and chili sauce. Not just a meal but a representation of Ponorogo's local identity and cultural heritage. Ponorogo consists of various ethnic groups, each of which has its own unique customs, arts and culture and language, which are a source of creativity and growth. Based on. National identity is essentially the embodiment of cultural values that grow and develop in various aspects of life. Nasi Serpong in Ponorogo is more than just a traditional dish, it is a symbol of cultural identity, unity and creativity. Its local cultural value transcends culinary boundaries and is a source of inspiration for artistic endeavors that celebrate Ponorogo's rich heritage. The research approach used in this research is a qualitative approach. The focus of this research is Nasi Serpong as a cultural value. Based on the results of interviews with sources and literature studies, it can be concluded that the emphasis is on the culture or philosophy contained in traditional food in an area. Viewed from 4 stages, namely history, culture, geography and cooking methods. All of these stages are closely related to the background of a philosophy that has a role in people's lives and this is an identity of a region as a value or characteristic of Ponorogo culture that must be maintained and preserved for the future. Generation.

**Keywords:** Culture, Meaning, Values, Local.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Ponorogo Regency, this area is located between 92 and 2,563 meters above sea level with coordinates 111 °17' - 111 °52' East Longitude and 7 °49' - 8 °20' South Latitude from sea level. This district, which is located 220 kilometers southwest of Surabaya, the capital of East Java province, is directly connected to Central Java province to the west. The following are the borders of Ponorogo district: North: Madiun, Magetan and Nganjuk districts. Districts in the South: Trenggalek and Pacitan. West: Pacitan and Wonogiri Regency Provinces, Central Java. East: Trenggalek and Tulungagung Regencies ( <https://ponorogokab.bps.go.id/> ).

The tropical climate in Ponorogo Regency has two distinct seasons: dry and rainy. January, February and December have the most rainfall. July, August and September have the least rainfall. Ponorogo Regency experiences relative temperatures throughout the year between 32.2 °C, which is the highest temperature, to 23.9 °C, which is the lowest temperature. Ponorogo Regency consists of 21 sub-districts, which are further divided into 26 sub-districts and 279 villages. The distance is approximately

200 km northeast from the capital city of Ponorogo to the capital of East Java Province (Surabaya) and 800 km west of the capital city of Jakarta (<https://ponorogokab.bps.go.id/>).

Nasi Serpong is a traditional dish from Ponorogo, Indonesia, which has important cultural value for the local community. To understand the cultural significance of Nasi Serpong, we need to study various aspects such as history, preparation methods, ingredients, consumption patterns, and its role in social gatherings and ceremonies. The origins of Nasi Serpong can be traced back to Ponorogo's rich culinary heritage. It has been passed down from generation to generation, and each family adds a unique twist to the recipe. These dishes carry a sense of tradition and nostalgia, connecting people with their origins and ancestors, (Frow, 1995).

Nasi Serpong is usually made by cooking rice with various herbs and spices which give it a distinctive taste and aroma. The dish often contains ingredients such as lemongrass, kaffir lime leaves, galangal, turmeric, and coconut milk. The meticulous preparation process involves grinding fresh spices and boiling them with rice to produce a rich taste (Lestari et al., 2020). Nasi Serpong has a special place in the hearts of the people of Ponorogo because it symbolizes unity, hospitality and sharing experiences. This is not just a banquet but a representation of community values and traditions (Masduki, 2015). This dish is often served on important occasions such as weddings, religious ceremonies, and festivals, bringing people together in celebration.

In Ponorogo, Nasi Serpong is more than just food, it is a symbol of togetherness and family. Families come together to prepare and enjoy meals during celebratory events, strengthening bonds and fostering a sense of belonging. The act of sharing Nasi Serpong strengthens social bonds and creates lasting memories for all involved. Nasi Serpong embodies Ponorogo's local cultural values by acting as an expression of culinary traditions, community spirit and shared heritage (Sugianto, 2016). The meaning is more than just sustenance; it is a reflection of the identity and belonging of those who value it.

Cultural values (Ida Agustina Puspita Sari, 2015) that are present in society and grow with it. Because the foundation of ideal or customary culture is cultural values. Cultural values comprise a most unrecognized stratum, and there is plenty of room. Therefore, cultural values have a big influence and become a reference or guideline for a certain group of people.

Since time immemorial, Indonesian civilization has been rich in culinary diversity and cooking methods, as well as history, culture and eating customs. This even extends to the mythology and philosophy surrounding food. Culinary arts have not yet developed into a distinctive national character that differentiates Indonesia from other countries (Sartini, 2004). One example of cultural product identity that is passed down from generation to generation in a particular collective is Indonesian cuisine.

In a literature review on the meaning of local cultural values of Serpong rice in Ponorogo as follows (Utami, 2017):

#### a) Historical Significance

Nasi Serpong has been a staple food in Ponorogo for generations, with its origins dating back to ancient times. The dish is not only a source of sustenance but also carries historical significance, reflecting the culinary traditions and practices of the local community.

#### b) Cultural Symbolism

Nasi Serpong is more than just a meal; it embodies cultural symbolism that resonates with the people of Ponorogo. The ingredients used, the way it is prepared, and even the occasions on which it is served all contribute to its symbolic value within the local culture.

#### c) Social Importance

Beyond its culinary and symbolic value, Nasi Serpong plays a crucial role in social gatherings and events in Ponorogo. It serves as a unifying element that brings people together, fostering a sense of community and shared identity among residents.

#### d) Economic Impact

The production and consumption of Nasi Serpong also have economic implications for the region. Local businesses involved in its preparation and sale contribute to the economic vitality of Ponorogo, making it not just a cultural icon but also an economic driver.

#### e) Preservation Efforts

As traditional dishes like Nasi Serpong face challenges from modernization and changing dietary preferences, there are ongoing efforts in Ponorogo to preserve and promote these cultural treasures. Initiatives aimed at safeguarding traditional recipes and cooking methods help ensure that Nasi Serpong continues to be celebrated for generations to come. In conclusion, Nasi Serpong holds immense cultural value in Ponorogo, representing a blend of history, tradition, symbolism, social cohesion, and economic activity that enriches the local community's identity.

## 2. METHODS

Understanding the local cultural value of Nasi Serpong in Ponorogo usually involves ethnographic research (Siddiq, M., & Salama, H. (2019), which includes: field work. Researchers need to spend time in Ponorogo to observe and interact with local people, especially those who involved in the preparation and consumption of Nasi Serpong. This will provide direct insight into the cultural practices surrounding this dish. Interviews in terms of talking to local residents, chefs, traders and other stakeholders who are knowledgeable about Nasi Serpong can provide valuable information about the history, meaning, ingredients, cooking techniques, and their role in local traditions (Estiyardi & Andriyanto, 2021).

Historical analysis by studying the historical context of Nasi Serpong in Ponorogo can explain how this dish developed over time and why Nasi Serpong has become an integral part of local culture. Culinary Exploration by exploring the culinary aspects of Nasi Serpong, such as the taste profile, presentation, serving customs, and moments when the rice is usually eaten, can provide insight into its cultural value. Comparative studies comparing Nasi Serpong with other traditional dishes from Java or surrounding areas can help highlight the uniqueness and significance of Nasi Serpong in the local cultural landscape (Fifi A. Elimanafe et.al, 2023). By using this methodological approach, researchers can gain a comprehensive understanding of the local cultural value of Nasi Serpong in Ponorogo and its wider implications for community identity and heritage.

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 1) Results

Understanding the local cultural value of Nasi Serpong in Ponorogo, it is important to study the historical, social and culinary aspects that contribute to its significance in society. Nasi Serpong has a special place in the culinary history of Ponorogo, a district located in East Java, Indonesia (Buana & Arisona, 2022). This dish has been passed down from generation to generation, with each iteration reflecting the traditions and customs of the region. Understanding the historical context of Nasi Serpong can provide insight into its cultural value and how it has developed over time (Dewi, 2019)

The preparation and consumption of Nasi Serpong is deeply rooted in Ponorogo's culinary traditions. The ingredients used, the cooking methods used, and the serving rituals all play a role in shaping the cultural meaning of this dish. By examining these culinary practices, we can gain a better understanding of why Nasi Serpong is so important to the local community (Yuliani, 2018). Apart from its culinary aspect, Nasi Serpong also carries social meaning in Ponorogo. The act of sharing this dish with family and friends during gatherings or special occasions fosters a sense of togetherness and togetherness. The communal nature of enjoying Nasi Serpong emphasizes its role as more than just a meal but as a symbol of unity and shared heritage. The local cultural value of Nasi Serpong in Ponorogo has many aspects, including historical, culinary and social dimensions that collectively contribute to its significance in society (Nisa, 2017). By exploring these various aspects, we can appreciate more deeply the role of traditional culinary delights in preserving and celebrating Ponorogo's cultural identity.

#### 2) Discussion

##### a) Introduction to Nasi Serpong in Ponorogo

Nasi Serpong is a traditional dish that has important cultural value in Ponorogo, Indonesia. To understand the local cultural meaning of Nasi Serpong, an ethnographic

approach can be used (Nisa, 2017). Ethnography involves the systematic study of society and culture through fieldwork, observation, interviews, and immersion in communities of interest. In studying the cultural value of Nasi Serpong in Ponorogo using ethnography, researchers usually carry out participant observation by actively participating in daily activities surrounding the preparation and consumption of Nasi Serpong. This method allows researchers to gain direct insight into the cultural practices, beliefs, and values associated with this traditional dish (Absari & Andriyanto, 2021).

##### b) The Cultural Meaning of Nasi Serpong

Nasi Serpong is not just a culinary dish but is also a symbol of identity and heritage of the people of Ponorogo. Through ethnographic research, one can reveal how Nasi Serpong is closely related to social gatherings, religious ceremonies and family traditions in the local community. The preparation method, ingredients used, serving rituals, and the story behind Nasi Serpong all contribute to its cultural meaning (Priambadi & Nurcahyo, 2018).

### c) Symbolism and Ritual

The act of preparing and sharing Nasi Serpong can carry symbolic meanings related to unity, hospitality, respect for elders, or even spiritual beliefs (Harsono, 2020). By delving into the context of Nasi Serpong consumption, ethnographers can decipher the symbols and rituals embedded in the community's culinary practices.

### d) Social Interaction and Dynamics

Through ethnographic observations and interviews with community members, researchers can explore how the consumption of Nasi Serpong fosters social interaction, strengthens interpersonal relationships, and strengthens cultural norms in Ponorogo society. (Beautiful et al., 2024). Understanding these dynamics is critical to understanding the deeper cultural values attached to these traditional dishes.

## 4. CONCLUSION

The use of an ethnographic approach to study the local cultural values of Nasi Serpong in Ponorogo offers diverse insights into the complex relationship between food, culture, tradition and identity in Indonesian communities. The local cultural value of Nasi Serpong in Ponorogo includes historical significance, culinary heritage, social importance, economic impact, and potential symbolism in community traditions. This dish serves as more than just food; this represents a real connection to Ponorogo's cultural identity and heritage.

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