Study of Cultural Landscape Character in Pekon Hujung, Lampung Barat

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Abstract. Lampung is a province on Sumatra Island, which has a variety of traditional settlement characteristics. One of the traditional settlements in Lampung is Pekon Hujung or “Ujung village”, located in Belalau District, West Lampung Regency. The houses in Pekon Hujung are still built from local wood materials and are referred to as ‘lamban’. Urban development that occurs quickly can shift the cultural values that exist in traditional settlement and its environment. Development will inevitably have an impact on the environment, both having a positive impact and a negative impact. One of the possible negative impacts is the loss of values and cultural characteristics that are unique to a traditional settlement area. This research was directed to identify the landscape elements that formed the landscape character so it can be used to determine the right conservation actions. This research was conducted using the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) approach to identify and to describe the elements and unique characteristics that formed the landscape. LCA method also can be used to make a significant contribution to environmental protection and sustainable development. The result shows that Pekon Hujung cultural landscape, as a traditional settlement is formed and depended on its natural resources and environment. Pekon Hujung still maintains tradition and culture in the form of settlement and the people activities.

Keywords : landscape character; cultural landscape; traditional settlement; Landscape Character Assessment; Cultural Heritage Landscape Assessment

1. Introduction

Lampung is one of the provinces on the Sumatra Island which has a variety of traditional settlements characteristics. One of the traditional settlements in Lampung is Pekon Hujung or “Ujung Village” which is located in Belalau District, West Lampung Regency. Pekon or rural area is a residential area with the main activity of agriculture, including natural resource management with the arrangement of the functions of the area as a place for rural settlements, government services, social services, and economic activities [1]. Pekon Hujung is located in Belalau District, West Lampung Regency, directly adjacent to South Oku, South Sumatra Province. Pekon Hujung has a population of around 6,000 people with 1300 heads of families, still using a typical house which is known as lamban (house) made with wooden material [2]. Rapid urban development can shift the cultural values that exist in traditional settlements and their environment. Development will inevitably have an impact on the environment, both positively and negatively. One of the possible negative impacts is the loss of values and cultural characteristics that are unique to a traditional settlement area. The importance of the cultural context in Pekon Hujung is the main part that wants to be explored so that the cultural character of Lampung can
be strengthened as the identity of its people. Within knowing the character, information about the relationship between human, nature, and culture can be known [3] as an information base for decision-making in landscape protection and management [4]. This research is aimed at identifying landscape elements that make up the character of the landscape so that they can be used to determine appropriate conservation actions.

2. Method

2.1 Study site and research period

This study was conducted in Pekon Hujung, West Lampung Regency (Figure 1). This research was conducted from August 2020 to September 2020.

2.2 Methodology

The characteristics identification of Pekon Hujung cultural landscape was conducted using the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) is an approach that can be used to describe and to identify the elements and unique characteristics that formed the landscape, which can be used as a tool for environmental management decisions [5]. The research was carried out in three stages, namely preparation, data collection, as well as data analysis and synthesis. The first stage, namely preparation is carried out by determining the object of research, research objectives, research scale, and the required data. The second stage, namely data collection was carried out by conducting literature studies, interviewing the traditional leaders in Pekon Hujung, and direct observation in the field. The cultural landscape characteristics identification referred to eleven landscape elements which are boundary demarcations, land use and activities, patterns of spatial organization, cultural traditions, responses to natural environment, building and structures, circulation networks, vegetation related to land use, small scale elements, clusters, and archeological sites [6]. The final stage, namely data analysis and synthesis, is carried out after all data has been collected, and is directed to determine the appropriate conservation management strategy based on the character of the cultural landscape.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Landscape Character Identification

3.1.1 Boundary demarcation. Administratively, Pekon Hujung is located at the end of Belalau District, and is directly adjacent to the Ogan Komering Ulu region of South Sumatra on the western part of the Pekon.

3.1.2 Land use and activities. The characters of land cover in Pekon Hujung include water bodies, residential areas (built spaces), and green open spaces (plantation and vacant land). Land uses and activities in Pekon Hujung are related to land outside the village. Most of the Pekon Hujung community activities in livelihoods were carried out outside the residential area. The communities coffee plantations are scattered in the hilly area outside Pekon Hujung.
3.1.3 Pattern of spatial organization. The pattern of spatial organization formed in Pekon Hujung is linear (Figure 2). Houses are built lined up along the road, with the main settlements are built centrally and surrounded by plantation land. Cluster pattern in Pekon Hujung was formed by six hamlets which is led by a Peratin (Pekon leadaer) , Ismet Liza (fist hamlet).

![Figure 2. Patterns of spatial organization](https://www.google.com/maps/)

3.1.4 Cultural tradition. People in Pekon Hujung are still carrying out cultural traditions in their daily life. Even though in its implementation there are modern elements that provide convenience, it does not shift the existing traditional values itself. Traditions are still being practiced in Pekon Hujung such as Sambatan in the context of starting the farming season; Betegak, a ceremony held when building a house; Ngumbai, a ceremony held during the harvest season; Begawi in the context of marriage celebration; and other ceremonies related to births, circumcisions, engagements, and deaths.

3.1.5 Responses to the natural environment. Traditional stilt houses in Pekon Hujung is a form of adaptation to the environment. Traditional houses or lamban are built using local wooden material. The lower part of the house or bah lamban was not initially used, it was a form of adaptation from wild animals [7]. For some occasions, temporary or permanent kitchen can be built inside the house to warm up the house (Figure 3).

![Figure 3. Traditional kitchen inside the house](https://www.google.com/maps/)

3.1.6 Clusters. Pekon Hujung was formed from a cluster of houses that were built close together. From the beginning of the pekon formation, houses have been built together and surrounded by plantation land. The first settlement cluster in Pekon started from hamlet 1, which is around the Peratin house. Over time, houses began to be built behind and around hamlet 1. Pekon Hujung now has expanded to become 6 hamlets. The houses in Pekon Hujung were built close together and generally did not have real ownership boundaries from each other.
(Figure 4). This happens because most of the people in Pekon Hujung are family related. The boundaries of houses that are commonly found in Pekon are usually in the form of structural boundaries of building foundations, short shrubs, wooden or bamboo fences, and some are already fenced with concrete.

**Figure 4. Houses with no boundaries**

### 3.1.7 Building and structures.

Houses in Pekon Hujung or Lamban are stilt houses that have a variety of heights with poles made from wood. The houses in Pekon Hujung vary both in terms of building materials and shapes. The old houses that have existed since Pekon Hujung were founded generally still use wood or bamboo for the walls, and fibers for the roofs. Meanwhile, new houses or old houses that have been renovated generally use more modern materials, by combining wood and concrete materials and already using modern roofing materials (Figure 5). Spatial arrangements inside the house are influenced by kinship. The organization of vertical space is divided into three parts, namely the lower part of the house, the center part, and the higher part, which represent the legs, body, and head of the building (Figure 6).

**Figure 5. Old house (left) and renovated house (right)**

**Figure 6. Vertical space organization inside lamban [8]**
3.1.8 Circulation networks. The circulation pattern in Pekon Hujung is formed by following the village pattern. The types of road in Pekon Hujung are main roads, village roads, and pedestrian path (Figure 7). The village main roads connect dusun one to dusun six, with the houses are lined up in the village roads behind. The last type is in the form of pedestrian path, which usually connect one house to another via a small passage way in between houses.

![Figure 7. Circulation network in pekon hujung](image)

3.1.9 Vegetation related to land use. The characteristics of green open space in Pekon Hujung consists of: green spaces and local garden community, which are used for agricultural activities. Coffee plants are the main commodity in the community. Another form of green space in Pekon Hujung is pekarangan, which are consists of plants with certain function such as barrier, consumption, and decorative plants (Figure 8).

![Figure 8. Types of green spaces in Pekon Hujung](image)

3.1.10 Small scale elements. An important small-scale element commonly found in Pekoh Hujung is walai or rice barn, a small rectangular shaped building with stilts, used to keep the yields [9]. Walai that were built close together in a cluster, or a singe one can be found in nearly every corner of Pekon (Figure 9). These small-scale elements have important meanings and relationships with the life and activities of the Pekon Hujung community. For the people of Pekon Hujung, in addition to storing rice, walai is also used to store dry coffee beans.
Figure 9. Walai

3.1.11 Archaeological site. Even though it is not qualified enough to be classified as an archaeological object, there is one object that according to the Pekon Hujung customary leaders that is considered as a sacred object. This object is a large rock that has existed since the founding of Pekon Hujung, and is called the batu irau. Based on the narrative of the customary leaders, an attempt to remove stones was carried out during the opening of the village road, but the stone could not be moved so that in the end it were left in its original position until now. Currently, the stone is still located at the front of Pekon Hujung, right next to the house of the head of hamlet 2 (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Batu irau

Based on the landscape characteristics identification, the type of cultural landscape in Pekon Hujung is a traditional settlement that developed with a linear settlement pattern. The development of this settlement pattern began with the house of the main customary leader of Pekon Hujung, namely Peratin. A row of old houses can be found at the very front of Pekon Hujung (first hamlet). The general characteristics of Pekon Hujung was formed by three main segments, namely the core zone, the support zone and the buffer zone.

The core zone is the center of settlement and activities of the Pekon Hujung community. Settlements consisting of old and new houses can be found in this zone. In this zone all community activities related to culture are still carried out. The second zone is a support zone which includes settlement supporting facilities such as village officials' offices, places of worship, markets, and schools. The buffer zone is the outermost zone of Pekon Hujung which includes agricultural and plantation land as well as forest which is a protected area.

Pekon Hujung beautiful natural landscape at the foot of Mount Pesagi, supported by the cultural values of objects and objects owned by Pekon which have high potential to be developed. However, the incessant influence of modern culture that has entered Pekon has eroded the existing values. Preservation measures taken by the community to improve Pekon culture are by adding existing traditional buildings, upholding customary rules, and forming communities related to tourism. Another effort that can be done is to create a zoning system as a way of preserving important cultures, elements and cultural values in a traditional settlement [9]. Based on the landscape character integrity, this study proposes a zoning for conservation management, namely the core zone, the development zone and buffer zone.
4. Conclusion
The study shows that the landscape character of the traditional Pekon Hujung settlement was formed by the natural landscape environment around it and the centralized settlements built by the community. Based on the analysis using the LCA method, it can be concluded that the elements that have the greatest influence in shaping the character of the settlement landscape are cultural traditions, response to the natural environment, and elements that form settlements (buildings and small-scale elements).

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