Conference Paper

Identification of Catur Gatra Tunggal Concept at Alun-Alun Malang Today’s

Wiwik Dwi Susanti1*, Dyan Agustin1

1Universitas Pembangunan Nasional “Veteran” Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia

Abstract

Catur gatra tunggal is an important part of the alun-alun traditional concept on the Java island. When observed that the alun-alun traditional does not stand alone but is supported by the surrounding building. The function of the surrounding building are the palace, mosque, and market. The concept is the embodiment of the concept of catur gatra tunggal. The meaning of catur gatra tunggal is the four elements into one unity. Alun-alun here serves as the center as well as supporting all three activities in surrounding buildings. So the alun-alun itself is divided into three major zones of cosmos, culture and power. Today alun-alun Malang and surrounding buildings have many changes. Changes that occur in the form of physical and nonphysical aspects. So the existence of the concept of catur gatra tunggal as an important part of the alun-alun is still questionable. In this study attempted to identify the concept of a catur gatra tunggal on the alun-alun of the present. The process of identification is not only done by the method of observation but also the understanding of the concept of catur gatra tunggal as a whole. The hope of knowing the quality of catur gatra tunggal and the surrounding environment can provide an understanding that there is a shift in the concept of the alun-alun traditional into ordinary public space without meaning.

Keywords: Alun-alun, Catur Gatra Tunggal, cosmos, culture, power

INTRODUCTION

Alun-alun is an important part of the traditional city in Java Island. The existence of the alun-alun at this time also remains an important part in the structure of the city. Although it has the same function but the physical formation of the alun-alun of Malang at this time has friction in a shape. Physical changes that occur in the alun-alun is currently accompanied by changes in the environment around the alun-alun. Environment around the alun-alun also serves as a supporter of the activities of the alun-alun. Collaboration between the alun-alun with the surrounding environment is the embodiment of the concept of Catur Gatra Tunggal. The concept of Catur Gatra Tunggal is a concept that combines four functions into one function. The alun-alun has a function as a fastener of four other functions of the palace, mosque and market. The concept of Catur Gatra Tunggal on the alun-alun in Java Island closely related to the values of philosophy and cosmology. Along with the development of the city the concept of Catur Gatra Tunggal has friction. The alun-alun functions as a fastener at

* Corresponding author
Email addres: wiwikds.ar@upnjatim.ac.id

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this time has changed as a public space without meaning while the building around the alun-alun has also experienced a shift in meaning.

Malang city as one of the cities that have alun-alun concept on the Java island. At this time alun-alun Malang have many change. The change is more on physical and non-physical factors. The alun-alun become a center on the concept of a Catur Gatra Tunggal. The function of the milieu around the alun-alun as the center of government, places of worship and market. In this research trying to identify the quality of the concept of Catur Gatra Tunggal on alun-alun Malang. The hope of understanding the quality of Catur Gatra Tunggal hence can be done assessment of the changes that occur in the city of Malang today.

METHODS

The research method used is descriptive method which is part of qualitative research. Descriptive method is a method used to describe or analyze the results of research but not used to make wider conclusions. Data collection in this study consists of primary and secondary data (Sugiyono, 2005). Primary data in the form of scientific work from various sources such as books, journals and article. Scientific work used as a study material about the concept of Catur Gatra Tunggal. Then collaborated with public space theory proposed by Carr. So by doing interpretation means already done reading, understanding and explanation. By using this theory it is expected that the analysis can be done carefully and in detail.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Alun-alun

Alun-alun is one part of the city center has a function as a community center and central government. It should be a government center, which is a meeting of the municipal council, and the workplace of government officials. The central government has one composition according to the characteristics of a city (Antariksa, 2007).

In addition, according to Jo Santoso in Architecture of Java City: Cosmos, Culture & Power (2008), alun-alun has a very important role for a region, because it contains several aspects. First, that alun-alun symbolizes the system of power over a particular region, as well as describes the purpose of harmonization between the real world (microcosm) and the universe (macrocosm). Second, alun-alun can be functioned as a place of ritual or religious celebration. And thirdly, the alun-alun is used as a place of demonstrating military power that is profane and an instrument of power in practicing the sacred power of the ruler.

The concept of Catur Gatra Tunggal as part of traditional architecture

The concept of Catur Gatra Tunggal is part of traditional architecture. The meaning of a Catur Gatra Tunggal is in the integrity of “gatra”, or “body” which can also be called complementary “patterns”, as well as affect the behavior and activities of society in the spatial environment and the region. The means of the concept Catur Gatra Tunggal, that every actor involved in the four elements of the city, namely: Palace, Grand Mosque, Great market, and North alun-alun.

The first component is the palace as the center of government, which becomes the king’s residence and the king’s power center in carrying out the governmental function. Alun-alun as the center of community activity, making the king can directly interact with the people. The three mosques as a center of worship symbolize the element of religion that is strongly attached to the rule of the palace. The four centers of the economy are the market.

Application of the concept Catur Gatra Tunggal

The issue of exploiting public space at this time is emphasized on the fulfillment of the public space physically. The theory and design of the public space is more to the westernized, though Indonesia has a lot of
traditional architecture theory and ready to learn. The traditional architecture is a form of character and identity of the Indonesian nation. So that its compatibility with the character of the community is better than the western architecture.

One of part the traditional architecture is the concept of *Catur Gatra Tunggal*. This concept is one of the concept in designing public space with urban scale. When examined in depth the history and value of philosophy then very closely with the meaning of humans in navigating a life. The concept of the world and the Hereafter is explicitly and implicitly in this concept. Macrocosms and microcosms are represented by four functions of worship, markets, government and unified by the *alun-alun*.

**Alun-alun as part of concept *Catur Gatra Tunggal***

*Alun-alun* on the concept of a *Catur Gatra Tunggal* as a binder with the other three functions. So *alun-alun* is not only a public space, but it has a function to supporting the existence of buildings around the *alun-alun*. To support the existence of the three functions of the buildings around it, *alun-alun* itself is divided into three important aspects namely the cosmos, culture and power (Santoso, 2008).

1. Cosmos symbolizes the system of power over a particular region, as well as describes the purpose of harmonization between the real world (macro-cosmos) and the *universum* (micro-cosmos). This function is related to divine values. This function usually supports the activities of the place of worship so that the location is also adjacent to the place of worship (Figure 1).

![Figure 1. Segmentation of public open space utilization (Cosmos)](image)

2. Culture as a place of ritual or religious celebration. This function is closely related to social relations between communities. This area of culture is usually adjacent to the center of the economy. The form of culture is a market or entertainment place (Figure 2).

![Figure 2. Segmentation of public open space utilization (Culture)](image)
3. The power that is the place to display the military power that is profane and an instrument in practicing the power of the ruler. In this case power relates to the kingdom and government. The form of applying the power is an open field that is located right in front of the district office (Figure 3).

![Figure 3. Segmentation of public open space utilization (Power)](image)

**The application of the palace to the concept of Catur Gatra Tunggal today**

Keraton associated with the ruler and power. The king’s house is furnished with his servants. *Alun-alun* Malang in the present existence of the palace on the concept of a *Catur Gatra Tunggal* replaced by the office of the Regent on the East side. The district office still stands firmly. In general, the concept of a *Catur Gatra Tunggal* from the aspect of power is still fulfilled, although not fulfilled ideally (Figure 4).

![Figure 4. Schematic relationship between public space and power functions](image)

**The Jami Masjid’s adapted to the concept of a Catur Gatra Tunggal present day**

Place of worship on the concept of *Catur Gatra Tunggal* is in the form of Jami ‘mosque. Ancient Mataram made the Jami mosque ‘an important part of the concept. The influence of Dutch colonialism when colonizing Indonesia gave a big influence on the concept of *Catur Gatra Tunggal* that is by entering the church as a place of worship side by side with the Jami mosque.

The mosque is located adjacent to the public space. It is one form of a *Catur Gatra Tunggal* concept. The purpose of the proximity of these two functions as a place to dialogue. Dialogue from both the architectural aspect, the function etc. At certain times the worship activities require a larger place to accommodate these activities, then the public space as an answer to accommodate the activity (Figure 5).
The application of the market to the concept of present-day Catur Gatra Tunggal

The economy is an important part of the concept of Catur Gatra Tunggal. In the concept of economy is a traditional market that is able to accommodate the economic activities of local residents (Figure 6).

CONCLUSION

A Catur Gatra Tunggal is part of the concept of traditional city space in Java Island. Alun-alun as a part of the public space of the city whose function as a binder of the existence of other functions. Based on the analysis of the concept of Catur Gatra Tunggal on the alun-alun of Malang city, it is concluded that the concept of Catur Gatra Tunggal still exist but with a slightly different physical formation.

Alun-alun Malang in some parts has changed cont: existence of banyan tree at edge. In addition to aspects of non-physical aspects of physical aspects also changed. Some activities have been lost but some new activity has appeared example: trial activities etc. Because the function of the alun-alun in the concept of a Catur Gatra Tunggal as a binder then there is activity in the grid that supports the activity around the environment.
The function of the cosmos on the *alun-alun* is actually to support religious activities in mosque Jami. The function of power in the form of a vast expanse of grass is also an effort to support activities in Malang district office. Cultural function on the concept of *Catur Gatra Tunggal* in the form of traditional market, at this time the traditional market is not there but its existence replaced with mall.

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