

Study the Meaning Of Ciliwung River for Communities : Case Study (Communities at Srengseng Sawah, South Jakarta)

Prima Yustitia Nurul Islami¹, Romli, Nada Arina²

Universitas Negeri Jakarta, Indonesia ^{1,2}

Abstract: Rivers were a source of food and transportation in the past, but nowadays rivers are experiencing a shift in role during the influence of economic growth and urban modernization. The change in function of the river into a residential area and a place for household final disposal has an impact on various social, health and environmental problem. Changes in the role and function of rivers are important in this study to be analyzed related to rivers as a social space formed by various factors including economic, politic and cultural. Rivers are placed as changing entities and have an impact on the communities around them. This research used a qualitative approach with a case study method that focuses on people living in the central part of the Ciliwung River Basin. There are 5 key informants in this study such as local government, community, and local organization in Ciliwung River Basin area. Primary data was obtained through in depth interviews and field observation and secondary data was obtained through literature study. This research was conducted from February to May 2022 in Ciliwung watershed area at Tebet, South Jakarta.. The results showed that significant changes river's meaning along with development of technology and modernization city of Jakarta. The people who live around the Ciliwung river are next generation from the previous generation which have a close relationship. Although, the role of the river is currently only limited as a water flow which is partly used for landfills. The Ciliwung watershed area is a place for growth and development that cannot be separated from the existence of the surrounding community. The existence of the river as a social space in this case sees the changes in the role and function of the river that cannot be separated from policies of the Jakarta government..

Keywords: river basin area, meaning, social space, community

¹ Correspondent Author E-Mail: primayustitia@unj.ac.id

Introduction

The development of land use in the watershed (DAS) that flows from the highlands to the lowlands, especially in the DKI Jakarta area, has undergone significant changes. River flows that flow into the DKI Jakarta area, especially in the *Jabotabek* and Bogor areas including Puncak and Cianjur experience changes in the frequency of water flow, water discharge, and even water volume which causes flooding events which generally inundate downstream areas such as settlements and roads in watershed areas. river (Pawitan, 2002). Rivers are one of the natural resources that are formed from the hydrological cycle that flows water from the run-off results from higher locations to lower locations to the sea (Pane et al., 2002). River water that flows from upstream to downstream passes through various locations ranging from mountainous areas, slopes, agriculture, settlements, urban areas, industries to downstream rivers in the sea (Pane et al, 2002). The length of the river that stretches from upstream to downstream has an important role starting from the location of storing and providing unlimited amounts of water, transportation media, food sources if managed properly. However, the existence of the important role of this river has decreased with technological developments where the river is currently only used as a dumping ground for both household waste and factory waste (Pane et al, 2002).

The Ciliwung Watershed (DAS) is located astronomically at 6o 05' south latitude to 6o40 east longitude. The Ciliwung watershed is one of the main rivers that empties into Jakarta Bay with a total watershed area of 347 km² and the length of the main river 117 km. The area of the Upper Ciliwung watershed has an area of 146 km² consisting of 10 tributaries which are divided into several sub-watersheds, namely Tugu, Cisarua, Cibogo, Cisukabirus, Ciesek, Ciseuseupan and Katulampa. The central part of the Ciliwung watershed has an area of 94 km² and has two tributaries, namely the Cikumpay and Ciluar rivers which empties into the Ciliwung river (Pawitan, 2002). The downstream Ciliwung watershed has an area of 82 km² until it empties into the Jakarta Bay (Pawitan, 2002).

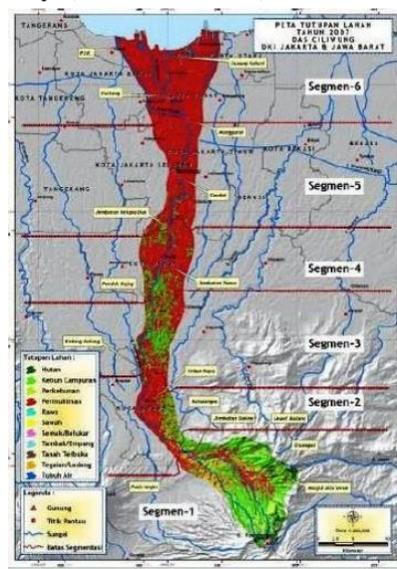


Figure 1. Map Of Ciliwung Watershed (Usman, 2021)

Judging from the total area of the Ciliwung watershed reaching 38,610 hectares consisting of the Ciliwung Hilir watershed covering an area of 6,295 hectares located in the DKI Jakarta Province, the Central Ciliwung watershed has an area of 16,706 hectares covering Bogor Regency, Bogor City, Depok City, and Bekasi City and the Ciliwung Hulu watershed has area of 15,252 consisting of Bogor Regency and Bogor City (Usman, 2021). The Ciliwung watershed area is bordered to the west by the Cisadane watershed and to the east by the Citarum watershed. The Ciliwung watershed has interesting characteristics with a narrow flow in the downstream and wide in the upstream (Figure 1). The flow of water comes from the south to the north of Jakarta. The downstream area of the Ciliwung watershed is in the DKI Jakarta area which indirectly receives the impact of the flood.

The Ciliwung River as a social space has various roles and functions. The river border or riparian has the main function as a water catchment area and a water basin (Mentayani, 2016). Areas commensurate with rivers also have functions as a source of water and nutrients, habitat for vegetation and animals as well as filters for pollutants and toxic substances (Negussie et al, 2011 and Lzydorczyk et al, 2013). Riparian Ciliwung River is a large river that crosses the city of Jakarta. The rapid development in river border areas has reduced the ecological function of the area (Sliva and Williams; Li et al, 2009). The development of the city of Jakarta into a metropolitan city has an impact on the emergence of various slum locations on the banks of the Ciliwung river.

This is due to the increasing number of migrants and the narrowing of land in Jakarta which has an impact on the emergence of housing and residential locations in the area around the Ciliwung watershed. The riverfront area (waterfront) is an area located on the outskirts of the river. One of the developments of the area is to provide various public spaces with their respective functions and roles. Jen Gehl in (Ruslan et al., 2019) explains that public space has three functions, namely as a meeting place, a place for trade and a place for traffic. The closeness of the community to the environment is an important thing. Rivers have an important role in people's lives who use rivers for daily needs such as bathing, washing, drinking water raw materials. The main problem with rivers today is the inconsistency of people's habits in relation to the existence of rivers. Rivers have an important role for the community, but the behavior of the community today has shifted to become a dumping ground for garbage and waste that causes pollution (Suganda et al., 2009).

Public space is one of the important elements for the city. The river is one form of open public space and has an important role for the community. Carr (1992) explains that public space is an open space that is easily accessible by the public to carry out daily community activities that are located outside the building mass and can be used for various activities. The existence of the river as a public space is important to be studied further, especially from the sociological aspect. The problem of decreasing river quality caused by behavior, actions and culture in society can be understood from the aspect of mutualism and the principle of parasitism (Ulfah et al., 2017). The principle of mutualism sees that humans and the environment have a mutually beneficial relationship while the principle of parasitism sees the relationship between humans and the environment that only benefits one party (Susilo, 2006).

The Ciliwung River is a river that stretches from the upstream area in Bogor and ends in the downstream area, namely the north coast of Jakarta. In the past, the Ciliwung River was

a source of life for the people of Jakarta and became a habitat for various types of fish. However, nowadays, economic growth and modernization have caused the Ciliwung watershed area to become a residential area, offices and even a business area. This condition causes not only a decrease in the quality of the water in the river but an increase in the amount of waste and waste disposed of in the Ciliwung River. The condition becomes more complex when the garbage that is disposed of eventually clogs the flow of water, causing overflowing river water and routine flooding that occurs in DKI Jakarta. Based on this background, this study will examine how the meaning of the river for people living in the Ciliwung watershed area, especially in Srengseng District, South Jakarta, along with changes in the role and function of the river today in society.

Literature Review

Watershed (DAS) is an area that has a sloping surface that drains water. Watershed is defined as a landscape bounded by topography that separates ridges/mountains that capture rainfall and store it and drain it through various channels to one outlet (Manan, 1976). The institutional management of the Ciliwung watershed has undergone significant changes that have resulted in the destruction of the river and in the end it has become the so-called tragedy of the commons. One of the common tragedies is the flood. Flooding is one form of institutional development failure in the management of agro-ecosystems and natural resources (Wibowo, 2013).

Rivers basically have a strategic role as one of the natural resources that support people's lives. The role of rivers in the urban context is very important, especially in maintaining sustainable water resources (Suganda et al., 2009). The river has what is called a river border. The river border is a river security boundary line that limits so as not to build illegal buildings on the river bank, river maintenance, there are differences in the width of different borders in each river between urban and rural areas. Based on the Regulation of the Minister of Public Works No.63/PRT/1993, it is stated that the area along the right and left of the river is an artificial river that has an important function to maintain the sustainability of river functions (Widjaja et al., 2021). Government Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia No. 38 of 2011 states that river borders function as a buffer space between river ecosystems and land so that river functions and activities are not disturbed. Management of river borders involves social, economic, and physical values so that a study of the meaning of rivers as social spaces is an important thing to be studied more deeply (Puspitosari, 2010).

Overall, this research is a study of the development of research in the faculty's target area which was originally developed by the geography study program. This study uses an environmental sociology approach to analyze environmental problems related to rivers and how people behave towards the river itself. This study aims to develop a study program of geography that focuses more on the physical condition of the river from another point of view, namely sociology. The novelty of this research study is the results of research and findings from this study, namely interpreting the existence of rivers from the aspect of society and community where people have a personal attachment to rivers but have behavior that is not friendly to the environment while communities that do not fully depend on the existence of rivers have a role important to restore the function of the river.

The study of the river as a social space is not a new thing. Research on rivers, both the role, function and meaning of rivers, has been carried out in the last 20 years. Research on

the Ciliwung river is generally a study of water quality from rivers (Astono, 2018), studies of domestic wastewater entering rivers (Cordova, 2008), diversity and loss of various types of fish (Hadiaty, 2011) while studies of rivers as space social space has been studied in terms of social space as an interaction space in the riverbank area (Mulyandari and Bhayusukma, 2015). Changes in urban patterns in the socio-cultural transformation of the people on the banks of the Kapuas river (Anita et al., 2012) and the arrangement of riverside slum areas in the Sungai Raya sub-district (Hamidah et al., 2016).

This shows that research on river environmental management has been widely carried out in Indonesia, but this problem is still a fundamental problem, especially in the Ciliwung watershed (DAS). The problem of damage to river water quality due to garbage and sewage pollution is the basic reason for conducting a study of the river as a social space for the people who live in the Ciliwung watershed area. The difference with previous research, this study emphasizes the perception of meaning that is formed in the community as well as the MAT PEKI community when looking at the river at this time. Changes in the role and function of rivers have major implications for society. This is also the basis for the community to have different meanings that are formed in society.

Methodology

This research uses a qualitative method with a case study approach, namely the people who live in the Ciliwung River Basin area. Collecting data using in-depth interviews and literature studies. Research activities will be carried out in the Ciliwung watershed area, precisely in residential areas in the downstream area, Srengseng Sawah, Jagakarsa District, South Jakarta. The area of Srengseng rice fields is 675 hectares. Judging by the boundaries of the western area, it is limited by Jalan Mohamad Kahfi II; to the east it is bordered by Jalan Raya Lenteng Agung and the Ciilwung River, to the south it is bordered by the City of Depok (Java Barta). Srengseng Sawah Village is divided into 19 RW (Rukun Warga) and 156 RT (Rukun Tetangga). The population of Srengseng Village in 2016 reached 73,493 people consisting of 37,185 men and 36,308 women with a population density of 109 people per hectare. This research was conducted from February to May 2022. There are 5 key informants in this study consisting of representatives of citizens, representatives of the community, and representatives of the local government. Primary data in this study were obtained through in-depth interviews with key informants, while secondary data were obtained from various documents related to the Ciliwung watershed. Data analysis uses descriptive qualitative analysis which aims to explore the process of forming meaning in individuals towards the phenomenon of changes that occur in the Ciliwung watershed area.

Findings & Discussion

The Ciliwung River has a long history of function and role as an important part of the long history of the people living on the banks of the river. Research on people living on the banks of the river has been carried out since 1995. Initially, the banks of the Ciliwung River were an area that attracted tourists as a place of recreation, especially in the pre-independence period. This condition lasts for a long period of time. Based on historical records submitted by the historian Danasasmita quoting from Mongabay Indonesia, the Ciliwung river is one of the natural

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The results showed that there was a change in the meaning of the existence of rivers that existed in the past and present which had an impact on the perceptions held by the people living around the river today. Perception is the main core in the communication process which will eventually form a meaning about something and enable effective communication. Social perception is a process of organizing information starting from obtaining information, interpreting information, selecting information, and organizing information about a thing. In social perception, the main focus of information is other people (Sarlito, 2013). Perception is divided into two types, namely external perception and self-perception. External Perception is a perception that occurs because of stimuli that come from outside the individual, while self-perception is a perception that occurs because of stimuli that come from within the individual. There are several perceptions that arise in this study according to the type of perception, including:

a. Perception of the physical environment

Perception is formed from the result of the process of seeing the surrounding conditions and producing meaning for the assessment of certain forms which are generally influenced by background experience, culture and psychological conditions. In the community living around the Ciliwung watershed, differences in river characteristics from the area and depth of the river affect people's perceptions. Currently, people no longer use rivers as a source of clean water or means of transportation, and only as a water ecosystem that plays a role in flowing water from upstream to downstream. The water flow is used as a final waste disposal site which causes a lot of garbage to accumulate in the downstream area before ending up in the mouth of the river and heading to the sea. This condition has begun to change in recent years, especially for people living in the Ciliwung watershed area, precisely in the Srengseng Sawah area. This happened after the entry of MAT PEKI as a community organization with the aim of building public awareness and improving the condition of the Ciliwung river. People's perceptions that initially saw rivers only as dirty, smelly water flows, and as a place for garbage disposal began to change at this time. People who live in the Ciliwung watershed area, precisely in Srengseng Sawah, South Jakarta, see the river as a potential educational tourism that can provide benefits to the community and also a means of playing for children who live around it, as conveyed by residents who live in Srengseng Sawah as follows.

"In the past, before there were river caps, the river was really dirty, everyone threw garbage into the river, because the river was no longer used for community water sources or transportation, so sometimes it was easy to use the river. But since the entry of several organizations that are environmentally aware, the condition of the river is much better, people are made aware not to throw garbage in the river, and it can be a source of educational tourism like here"
(Bpk. AR)

The perception of the physical environment was also conveyed by Mr. AR regarding changes in the role and function of the environment along with changes in the characteristics of the river itself. The difference in the river seen from the physical Ciliwung river today and in the past is very much different. In the past the river was an inseparable part of the life of the community around the river. Besides being caused by the role and function of the river as a source of water for the community, the river also tends to be clear and free from various wastes. In addition, the river is also much deeper and there are still very many fish that can be found in the river. This is as conveyed by Mr. AR as follows:

"In the past the river seemed to be wider and deeper, when I was little I used to play in the river with my friends, now I can't play anymore except the water is dirty and cloudy, I'm afraid that big garbage will pass, especially during the rainy season sometimes someone flows along downstream from upstream. In the past, rivers were everything, yes, water sources, places for bathing, washing, as well as means of transportation, but now the water has a pump, so people don't use river water, transportation is also by land. the last year here, the condition of the river has gotten a bit better" (Mr. AR)

The condition of the Ciliwung River is currently experiencing significant changes and damage due to various pollutions and siltation from sedimentation. In addition, the emergence of villages around the river causes the riverbank area to become slum, not maintained, and become a slum area in urban areas. Rivers can no longer be used for river tourism because most people's lives are carried out in rivers, from bathing, washing to disposing of domestic waste. However, this condition becomes a problem, especially in the downtown area of Jakarta which encourages normalization in the Ciliwung watershed area. Changes that occur in the community around the Ciliwung watershed experience the same changes as in the watershed area.

b. Social perception of the river

Various changes that occur in the watershed area are influenced by the policies implemented by the government. Starting from forming channels to normalizing to restore roles and functions. It also affects the perception and meaning of the people living around the river towards the existence of the river itself. Perception can also be formed through impressions that give meaning, generally social perceptions are formed from meanings that are spread through

information between individuals, communities or groups in a certain area. Rivers in the social context of society are not only seen from the physical changes of rivers but also the role of rivers in people's lives. The change in the function of the river which was initially very important where the government in the past also depended on the river, but then underwent a significant change after the government carried out modernization by building various road infrastructure. This indirectly changes the role and function of the river. In addition, in the urban buffer zones, various groups of people live on the banks of the river. These conditions have a significant impact not only on changes in river conditions but also on the existence of rivers as part of people's lives. In a social context, the river has an attachment to the local culture of the community. This has a significant impact after the river is no longer an important part of people's lives. One of them is the value of interaction between humans and nature as well as cultural values between humans and nature which in the past were carried out a lot, now they are no longer there and are missing.

"When my mother was still young, madam, the tea river where everything was here, even though it rarely flooded, because in the past, the Teh Dalem river was different from now, then the population is not that much, sis, the tea house is far from the river, we usually go to the river for bathing, children usually play or fish"
(Mrs. SR)

Changes that occur in rivers have a major impact not only on changes in the role and function of the river itself but also on the values, norms, culture and customs that appear as an inherent part of the existence of the river. Rivers are not only a source of water and transportation but also share stories when people wash up in the morning. Close interaction and kinship between communities is reflected in the various activities carried out every day. The community's social perception of the river is inseparable from the river and its existence is also influenced by government policies on the existence of the river.

There are several public perceptions of the river at this time, including:

- a. The Ciliwung River is now much cleaner, except for the rainy season because it sometimes carries garbage from upstream;
- b. Ciliwung River as a learning facility;
- c. Ciliwung River as a source of livelihood;
- d. Ciliwung River as a place of recreation;

Based on various perceptions formed in the community living around the watershed. The meaning formed for the existence of the river has begun to improve where the river has returned to being an important part of life. At least now there are two meanings of rivers for the surrounding community, namely 1) the river as an educational tour built by Mat Peci and 2) the river is part of the lives of the surrounding community that must be maintained together.

The meaning of the river as an educational tour

The river as an educational tour understood by the community is not an easy process. Based on the results of an interview with Pak Usman as the founder of Mat Peci, he explained that the most difficult thing was to build people's awareness not to throw garbage in the river, because the river is an important part of human life. This awareness has been built for almost ten years and the results can only be felt now. The educational tour that was built in Srengseng rice fields is also an effort made by this organization to encourage public awareness in protecting the local river environment. The improvement of the area around the river has a positive impact not only on the river environment which can be used for playing but also as an educational tourism area that also provides benefits to the community.

The meaning of the river as part of life that must be preserved

The second meaning conveyed is related to the existence of the river as an inseparable part of daily life. The community stated that although the river no longer functions as it used to, but because it has been hereditary living around the river there is a bond formed. This encourages the importance of protecting the river area so that it can be better. It is the hope of the community that awareness about maintaining river conditions is not only carried out by people who live downstream but also those who live upstream so that there is no more garbage sent when the river is high.

Changes in Meaning in Society

Rivers for the community experience changes in meaning from time to time which are influenced by changes in the role and function of the river for the community. The change in meaning is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Changes in the Meaning of Rivers for Society

The Past	In Developing	Post Normalization	Currently
Important as a means of transportation and a source of water for the community	Not important : a lot waste, riverside houses, garbage dumps	Not important : no benefit and sometime causes the flood	Rivers are part of people's live

Meaning as described by Berger and Luckman is formed through a construction process. The construction of meaning is explained as a process carried out by humans / individuals consisting of processes of externalization, internalization, and objectivation. Externalization is a process of adjustment to the sociocultural world as a human product. Objectivation is a process of social interaction in an intersubjective world that is institutionalized in an institution. Internalization is a process of identifying individual roles in a social institution. In the study of the meaning of the river in the community in the watershed area, it is basically formed through stages starting from internalization to externalization.

Conclusion

The meaning that is formed in the community around the Ciliwung watershed is influenced by changes in the role and function of the river that has changed from time to time until now.

Currently the surrounding community has a positive meaning for the river which is also influenced by Mat Peci as an organization that cares about the environment around the river. Currently, the community has two meanings, namely the river as educational tourism and the river as an important part of human life.

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