

The Impact of Philology Practicum for Arabic Language and Literature Students on The Preservation of Ancient Manuscripts at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the impact of the preservation of ancient manuscripts from the Philology Practicum activities conducted by the students of the Arabic Language and Literature Program (BSA) at the Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah. The philology Practicum is a Compulsory course for BSA Students, making it an essential activity for them to undertake before completing their studies. This activity is expected to have a significant impact on students in preserving ancient manuscripts, which are important heritage, and also assist the heirs of Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah in maintaining and preserving these manuscripts. Based on these considerations, this study formulates the following research questions: 1) Why is the Philology Practicum course important for the preservation of ancient manuscripts at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah. 2) What is the impact of the Philology Practicum activities on the preservation of ancient manuscripts at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah? Using a descriptive qualitative methodology based on preservation theory with a literature study approach, the researchers conducted analysis and data collection through stages consisting of observation, interviews, documentation, and literature review. The data analysis was carried out in three stages: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results obtained from this research are: 1) The Philology Practicum activities conducted by BSA students have a significant impact on the preservation of ancient manuscripts at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah. 2) The Philology Practicum activities assist the heirs in identifying the manuscripts located at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah. 3) There are three obstacles faced by the heirs in preserving the manuscripts: human resources (HR), limited budget, and adequate facilities.

Keywords: Philology Practicum, Manuscript, Preservation, Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah

Dampak Praktikum Filologi Mahasiswa Prodi Bahasa dan Sastra Arab Terhadap Pelestarian Naskah Kuno Di Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah

Abstrak

Penelitian yang dilakukan bertujuan memperhatikan dampak pelestarian naskah/manuskrip kuno dari kegiatan Praktikum Filologi yang dilakukan oleh mahasiswa/i Prodi Bahasa dan Sastra Arab (BSA) Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora UIN Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh di Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah. Praktikum Filologi merupakan mata kuliah wajib bagi mahasiswa BSA sehingga dari kegiatan mata kuliah ini sangat penting untuk diambil mahasiswa sebelum menyelesaikan kuliah mereka. Sehingga kegiatan ini diharapkan dapat memberikan dampak yang sangat besar bagi mahasiswa dalam melestarikan naskah kuno yang merupakan peninggalan penting serta juga mampu membantu memberikan mahaman bagi ahli waris Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah dalam menjaga dan melestarikan naskah-naskah tersebut. Berdasarkan hal tersebut, penelitian ini

merumuskan permasalahan; 1). Kenapa mata kuliah Praktikum Filologi penting dalam pelestarian naskah kuno di Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah?, 2) bagaimana mana dampak dari kegiatan Praktikum Filologi terhadap pelestarian naskah-naskah kuno di Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah?. Dengan menggunakan metodologi deksriptif kualitatif berdasarkan teori pelestarian dengan pendekatan study pustaka, peneliti melakukan tahapan analisis dan pengumpulan data dengan tahap yang terdiri dari: observasi, wawancara, dokumentasi, dan kajian pustaka. Tahapan analisis data sendiri dilakukan dengan tiga tahap yang terdiri dari: reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Adapun hasil yang diperoleh dari penelitian yaitu, 1) kegiatan praktikum Filologi yang dilakukan oleh mahasiswa prodi BSA memberikan dampak yang sangat besar dalam pelestarian naskah kuno di Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah. 2) kegiatan praktikum Filologi membantu pihak Ahli Waris dalam mengidentifikasi naskah-naskah yang berada di Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah. 3) ada tiga kendala yang dihadapi oleh ahli waris dalam pelestarian naskah yaitu: Sumber Daya Manusia (SDM), Anggaran yang terbatas, dan fasilitas yang memadai.

Kata Kunci: Praktikum Filologi, Naskah, Pelestarian, Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah

Introduction

The philology practicum is a mandatory course that every student in the Arabic Language and Literature program (Prodi BSA) at the Faculty of Adab and Humanities, State Islamic University Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, must take. This course is an extension of the theoretical philology course, providing students with practical experience applying the theories learned in class.

Conducting this philology practicum offers students firsthand experience in the fundamental research stages of materials studied in the philology course. It also introduces students to the new experience of observing and analysing ancient manuscripts that are part of the archipelago's cultural heritage.

The objective of the philology practicum course in the Arabic Language and Literature program at the Faculty of Adab and Humanities, State Islamic University Ar-Raniry, is to preserve ancient manuscripts in Indonesia, particularly those in Aceh, with a specific focus on Arabic manuscripts. This aligns with Nasrullah and Kosasih's statement that the process of preserving ancient manuscripts has inspired researchers of ancient texts in Indonesia to reveal the hidden contents within these mysterious manuscripts. (Nasrullah 2018)

Aceh, with its rich Islamic cultural heritage, naturally has many manuscripts written in Arabic, as the Arabic language is a crucial part of Islam. This makes it essential to review and analyze these Arabic manuscripts from Aceh by experts in the Arabic language. In this context, the Arabic Language and Literature program at the Faculty of Adab and Humanities, State Islamic University Ar-Raniry, produces Arabic language experts skilled in philology. Therefore, students in the BSA program at UIN Ar-Raniry have the obligation to safeguard the archipelago's cultural heritage, particularly the ancient manuscripts.

The philology practicum course in the Arabic Language and Literature program at the Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh, helps preserve ancient manuscripts and protect Aceh's cultural heritage, specifically at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awee Geutah. Dayah Teungku Chiek Awee Geutah is one of the locations in Aceh that houses ancient manuscripts and serves as an object of study in the philology practicum conducted by students from the BSA program at UIN Ar-Raniry.

The preservation of ancient manuscripts in Indonesia is governed by the Indonesian Government Regulation No. 24 of

2014 on the Implementation of Law No. 43 of 2007 on Libraries, which regulates ancient manuscripts. This regulation aims to preserve manuscripts as intellectual products of society written long ago. (Bahar dan Mathar 2015) According to Article 1, Paragraph 4 of Law No. 43 of 2007 on Libraries, ancient manuscripts are defined as any written document, printed or not, and not reproduced in other ways, whether located domestically or abroad, that are at least 50 years old and have significant value for national culture, history, and science. (Sahidi 2019)

Based on the regulations mentioned above, the philology practicum is conducted at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awee Geutah because it holds manuscripts that are over 50 years old. Therefore, the manuscripts at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awee Geutah qualify as ancient manuscripts, possessing historical, scientific value, and are part of the national culture. The Philology Practicum conducted by students of the Arabic Language and Literature program at UIN Ar-Raniry at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awee Geutah assists in preserving these ancient manuscripts.

Based on the explanation above, the researchers observe important aspects in the preservation of ancient manuscripts at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awee Geutah. From the researchers' observations, it is apparent that the community, especially the owners and caretakers of the manuscripts at Teungku Chiek Awee Geutah, require guidance and support in maintaining and preserving these ancient manuscripts.

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method with a case study approach to explore the preservation of ancient manuscripts at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awee Geutah by students from the Arabic Language and Literature program at UIN Ar-Raniry. Observations involve directly examining the manuscripts' condition and preservation activities, while semi-

structured interviews are conducted with manuscript caretakers and the local community to gather insights into the preservation methods and challenges.

Documentation includes collecting data from observations, interviews, and relevant literature, which are then analyzed to support the research findings. A literature review is also conducted to analyse books, scientific articles, and other written sources related to manuscript preservation and philology. These findings are integrated with field data to provide a comprehensive understanding of the philology practicum's impact on preserving ancient manuscripts.

Result and Discussion

The philology practicum is designed to familiarize students with practical applications of philology, making it an integral part of the curriculum in the Arabic Language and Literature program. This practicum enables students to apply theoretical knowledge in a practical setting, helping them become experts in this specialized field. A practicum involves observing, analysing, proving, and reporting on the findings, and in philology, it specifically means analysing cases related to philological research objects.

According to Edwar Djamaris, the objects of philological research include manuscripts and texts. (Fian dan Muhdi 2022) A young manuscript may contain an ancient text, showing how older texts are transcribed onto new media, preserving their content.

Benefits of the Philology Practicum

The philology practicum offers several benefits:

- Understanding cultural elements such as language, social organization, technology, religion, and literature through classic texts.

- Preserving manuscripts and texts to maintain insights into past lifestyles and cultural elements.
- Understanding and revealing the thoughts and customs of past societies.
- Contributing to cultural preservation.

Philology Practicum Steps for Bahasa dan Sastra Arab Program Students

The practicum conducted by students of the Arabic Language and Literature program takes place at Rumah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah in Aceh. The practicum involves steps such as manuscript inventory, description, selection for transliteration, and transliteration itself, as defined by Djamaris.(Djamari 1977)

The tools and materials used include rulers, pencils, masks, gloves, and paper for documenting the research findings. The process involves working in groups of 2-5 students, who examine assigned manuscripts. Students wear masks and gloves, clean the manuscripts with brushes, and then document their observations.



Figure 1. Tools and Materials
(Source: Private collection)

Preservation of Ancient Manuscripts at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah

Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah houses a collection of 51 manuscripts inherited by the direct descendants of Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah, stored at the family home in the village of Awe Geutah.

The Bireun Department of Culture has conducted an inventory of these manuscripts, registering and coding them to aid in their preservation. This initiative has been beneficial to the heirs, as highlighted by Teungku Muchsin, who stated that government efforts have helped renovate the house and catalogue the manuscripts.

Despite these efforts, the heirs only access the manuscripts when visitors request to see them, indicating a lack of regular maintenance. The researcher's observations revealed that the manuscripts are dusty due to insufficient cleaning, compounded by the heirs' fear of damaging these fragile documents. This situation underscores a need for increased awareness and understanding of preservation techniques among the heirs.



Figure 2. Students Bahasa dan Sastra Arab Identifying Manuscripts
(Source: Private collection)

According to Nugraha and Laugu, preserving ancient manuscripts involves both curative and preventive measures to protect cultural heritage. These measures include prevention, conservation, and restoration.(Nugraha dan Laugu 2021) However, the heirs' limited knowledge of these processes has led to a hesitance in handling the manuscripts.

Impact of Philology Practicum on Manuscript Preservation

The Philology Practicum conducted by students of the Arabic Language and Literature program at UIN Ar-Raniry Banda Aceh has positively impacted the preservation efforts at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah. The students engage in cleaning the manuscripts with brushes, wearing gloves, and handling them with care—practices that align with preventive preservation methods to protect the manuscripts from dust and potential damage.

This hands-on approach not only benefits the physical state of the manuscripts but also aligns with Nugraha and Laugu's recommendations for manuscript preservation through prevention, conservation, and repair. Aprinda, 2022 The use of camphor balls during storage, as advised by faculty, is another conservation strategy employed to deter insects from damaging the manuscripts.

The practicum also involves identifying manuscripts, with students successfully cataloging 11 out of 51 manuscripts. Although the identification process is ongoing due to time constraints, it provides significant assistance to the heirs, as expressed by Teungku Fadhlon, who appreciates the help in recognizing and understanding the heritage left by Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah.

Table 1. Manuscript Identification Results

Kode Naskah	Judul	Pengarang	Jenis Naskah
48	اتحاف المرید بجوهره التوحيد	Abdusalem bin Ibrahim Al-Maliki	Tauhid
14	العوامل/ الجروميه	Tidak Diketahui	Arab
66	Zikir/Doa	Tidak Diketahui	Zikir
12	شرح المزيه في علم التجويد	Abu Zakariya Al-Anshar	Tajwid

35	Al-Qur'an Zikir dan Doa	Tidak Diketahui	Al-Qur'an Zikir dan Doa
38	Tidak Ada	Tidak Diketahui	Tentang Bahasa Arab
37	Tidak Ada	Tidak Diketahui	Tentang Bahasa Arab
17	Tafsir	Tidak Diketahui	Tafsir
36	Fiqh/Tasa wuf	Syam'un bin Alim Kamung Bebesen	Campuran Fiqh dan Tasawuf
13	والتعريف	شرح البوحیان	Ilmu Nahwu
09	Tidak Ada	Tidak diketahui	Tauhid

Challenges and Solutions in Manuscript Preservation

The preservation of ancient manuscripts at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah faces challenges, including limited human resources, financial constraints, and inadequate facilities. The heirs' lack of knowledge in proper preservation techniques affects the care and quality of the manuscripts. As noted by Teungku Muchsin, maintenance currently involves basic cleaning around the storage area, with fears of damaging the manuscripts hindering more thorough cleaning efforts.

Financial support is crucial for effective preservation, as maintaining these valuable cultural assets requires significant resources. The age and fragility of the manuscripts necessitate an environment equipped with appropriate tools, such as vacuum cleaners, brushes, gloves, and dehumidifiers, to ensure their longevity.

Efforts to enhance preservation practices at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah must address these challenges by providing education and resources to the heirs, ensuring that the manuscripts are protected, and their cultural heritage is preserved for future generations.

Conclusion

Based on the research findings presented in the previous section, the study concludes the following about the impact of the Philology Practicum by students of the Arabic Language and Literature program on the preservation of ancient manuscripts at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah:

1. The Philology Practicum conducted by students of the Arabic Language and Literature (BSA) program at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah has significantly contributed to the preservation of ancient manuscripts. This practicum not only fulfills academic requirements but also introduces students to philological techniques, enhancing their understanding of manuscript preservation. Additionally, it aids the heirs in comprehending and implementing preservation practices for the manuscripts.
2. The Philology Practicum has assisted the heirs in identifying manuscripts. Although there are 51 manuscripts at Dayah Teungku Chiek Awe Geutah, students successfully identified 11 manuscripts during the practicum.
3. The heirs face three primary challenges in preserving the manuscripts:
 - **Human Resources (HR):** A lack of understanding among the heirs regarding proper manuscript preservation techniques.
 - **Budget Constraints:** Limited financial resources to support preservation efforts.
 - **Facilities:** The absence of essential preservation tools such as vacuum cleaners, brushes, dusters, and dehumidifiers.

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