



Digital Preservation of Banjar Oral Literature: A Mixed Methods Study on the Integration of the 'Lamut' Storytelling Tradition in Modern Cultural Education

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Abstract:

Purpose: This research explores the digital preservation of oral literature, with a particular focus on the Lamut tradition, through a mixed methods approach that integrates quantitative analysis and digital ethnography. Utilising a Sequential Exploratory design, this research combines Participatory Action Research (PAR) with the implementation of immersive technologies to develop a digital platform that facilitates the transmission of traditional knowledge. The overarching objective of this research is to develop a framework for the digital preservation of the Lamut storytelling tradition that not only maintains its cultural value and performative aspects, but also integrates it into modern education as an innovative, technology-based learning medium.

Methods: The statistical analysis yielded a substantial rise in comprehension of cultural values ($p < 0.001$, $t = 7.842$, $df = 198$) and a notable level of technology adoption (perceived usefulness 4.2/5.0, perceived ease of use 3.8/5.0). Ethnographic analysis identified five essential performative elements in the Lamut tradition and revealed that 78% of philosophical values can be effectively transmitted through digital platforms. Longitudinal data demonstrated a substantial increase in community engagement, with active users growing from 250 to 1,200 in 12 months (68% retention rate).

Results: The formation of a community of practice, resulting from a multidisciplinary collaboration between palamutan, technology developers, educators, and youth, successfully addressed implementation challenges and developed adaptive solutions to overcome the limitations of digital infrastructure in rural areas. This research contributes to the development of a digital cultural heritage preservation methodology and provides a framework that can be adapted for the preservation of other oral traditions. The findings of the study demonstrate that the integration of digital technologies with traditional pedagogical approaches, when implemented through robust participatory methodologies, can effectively support the sustenance of cultural heritage.

Conclusions: The findings indicate that the integration of digital technologies with traditional pedagogical approaches, when implemented through robust participatory methodologies, can effectively support the sustainability and revitalisation of intangible cultural heritage in the digital age.

Keywords: Oral Literature, Lamut Tradition, Immersive Technology



1. Introduction

The preservation of intangible cultural heritage has become a focus of global attention in the last decade, especially in light of rapid social and technological changes that threaten the sustainability of local traditions (*Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee 2023* | UNESCO, n.d.). In the growing digital age, oral literature as a form of intangible cultural heritage faces significant existential challenges (Siliutina et al., 2024a). This phenomenon does not only occur in developed countries but is also a crucial issue in developing countries such as Indonesia, which has a wealth of diverse oral traditions (Yuwono et al., 2025).

In South Kalimantan, the Lamut tradition represents one of the most sophisticated forms of oral literature in Banjar culture. Lamut is not just a narrative performance, but a complex system of knowledge transmission, encompassing the philosophical, educational and historical values of the Banjar people (Yulianto, 2023). An ethnographic study conducted revealed that Lamut contains more than 1000 story motifs that summarize the local wisdom, value system and worldview of the Banjar people (Jumainah et al., 2019).

Lamut is a form of oral literature that tells folktales, history and moral values taken from the daily life of the Banjar people. Apart from being a means of entertainment, Lamut also contains deep philosophical values, such as wisdom, honesty and mutual cooperation. For example, in Lamut stories, there are often lessons about the importance of maintaining good relations between people and respecting nature. This shows that Lamut is not just a story, but also an effective educational medium for the community.

According Lamut has great potential to be used as teaching material in modern cultural education. By integrating Lamut into the education curriculum, the younger generation can learn about their own cultural values while still utilizing technology. This is important, considering that many young people are not familiar with Lamut and the values contained in it (Martina Puspita Rakhmi, 2020). Therefore, it is important to develop methods that can combine this storytelling tradition with a more modern educational approach.

Digital transformation has become imperative in contemporary cultural heritage preservation efforts (Zhang et al., 2022). Longitudinal studies conducted by Wilson & Ahmad in various indigenous communities show that the integration of digital technology in cultural preservation can increase the level of resilience and sustainability of traditions by up to 67% (Webb et al., 2023). However, digitization without taking into account the socio- cultural context can result in the distortion of traditional meanings and values.

The phenomenon of a generation gap in the transmission of traditional knowledge has reached an alarming level. A comprehensive study by Vera, etc revealed that only 12% of the younger generation in the Southeast Asian region is still actively engaged in traditional oral literary practices. In the Banjar community itself, noted a drastic decline in the number of palamutan (Lamut storytellers) from 200 in 1980 to only 15 in 2020 (Anggraini et al., 2023).

Although digital technology offers potential solutions, its implementation in the context of traditional oral literature faces various technical and cultural challenges.



Iryana, etc identify five main obstacles to the digitization of oral literature: (1) the complexity of capturing live performance, (2) preservation of non-verbal aspects, (3) accessibility of digital platforms, (4) system sustainability, and (5) cultural resistance. These challenges become more complex in the context of Lamut, which has multimodal characteristics (Siliutina et al., 2024b).

However, the development of immersive technologies and artificial intelligence opens up new opportunities for digital preservation of oral literature. Experiments conducted with mixed reality technology in the preservation of traditional Chinese opera showed a significant level of engagement among the younger generation (Oladokun et al., 2024). These findings provide optimism that with the right approach, digitization can be a catalyst in the revitalization of oral traditions such as Lamut.

There are some significant gaps in the current scholarly literature regarding the digital preservation of oral traditions, particularly in the context of the Lamut Banjar storytelling tradition. While previous studies have largely focused on the textual documentation of oral traditions, they have largely ignored the complex interactions between digital technologies and traditional pedagogical approaches (Nadilla, 2017). For example, Jahdiah have conducted extensive documentation of Lamut narratives, but their research is limited to textual transcription without considering the multimodal aspects of digital preservation (Jahdiah, 2012).

Furthermore, the integration of technology with traditional pedagogy in preserving oral literature remains under-researched. Although Siti Indriani Hulumudi, etc has explored digital archiving methods for Indonesian oral traditions, their research does not address the specific challenges of maintaining the performance and interactive elements that are important in Lamut storytelling. This gap is particularly significant given that Lamut performances include various elements such as musical accompaniment, specialized vocal techniques, and audience interaction, which are important components that are difficult to digitally translate (Hulumudi & Sukmayadi, 2025).

The effectiveness of digital media in transmitting cultural values is another substantial research gap. While Cher Li Liew, research has examined the digital preservation of local knowledge systems, they have not specifically addressed how digital platforms can effectively convey the subtle nuances and cultural context embedded in traditional oral performances (Liew et al., 2021). This limitation is particularly apparent in the context of Banjar cultural preservation, where the intricate relationship between performer and audience plays a crucial role in the meaning-making process.

Furthermore, existing studies have not adequately addressed the aspect of community engagement in digital preservation. Although Geng et al discuss community participation in digital heritage projects, their research does not specifically examine how traditional communities can be actively involved in the digital preservation process while maintaining cultural authority and ownership over their heritage (Geng et al., 2023). This gap is particularly relevant for Banjar communities, where traditional knowledge systems are embedded in social structures and relationships.

Methodological approaches in current research also show significant limitations. While there is a growing recognition of mixed methods approaches in cultural preservation studies few researchers have applied this methodology specifically to the preservation of



oral traditions such as Lamut. This methodological gap results in a limited understanding of how different research approaches can be effectively combined to capture both tangible and intangible aspects of oral traditions in digital formats (Yulianto, 2020).

Digital preservation of oral literature represents a significant paradigm shift in cultural heritage conservation, particularly in the context of indigenous knowledge systems. While previous research has focused more on conventional documentation methods, this study introduces an innovative mixed-methods approach to Lamut digitization, combining quantitative data analysis and qualitative ethnographic observation. This methodological advancement builds on the digital cultural preservation framework developed by Henrikson, while addressing limitations identified in traditional documentation approaches as highlighted by Irwan Abbas et al. in their comprehensive review of Southeast Asian oral tradition preservation efforts (Abbas, 2015).

The integration of immersive technologies in oral literature preservation represents a revolutionary approach to cultural heritage documentation. This research extends Zhang and Lee's early work on digital storytelling by developing an interactive framework that retains the performative essence of Lamut while increasing accessibility through modern technology (Lee et al., 2021). The proposed methodology addresses what Sullivan identifies as the "experience gap" in digital cultural preservation, where traditional documentation methods often fail to capture the multisensory nature of oral performance (Sullivan et al., 2015).

Community participation stands as a crucial innovation in this research methodology, distinguishing it from conventional top-down preservation approaches. Building on model of community-based preservation, this research implements a collaborative digital framework where traditional knowledge holders, particularly palamutan, actively participate in the digitization process. This approach is in line with the recent findings of Anderson et al. which showed that community involvement significantly increases the authenticity and sustainability of digital preservation initiatives while ensuring cultural sensitivity in the documentation process (Anderson & Jones, 2009).

The research on "Digital Preservation of Banjar Oral Literature: A Mixed Methods Study on the Integration of the 'Lamut' Storytelling Tradition in Modern Cultural Education" makes fundamental contributions, both theoretically and methodologically in the field of cultural heritage preservation. Theoretically, it enriches the understanding of the intersection between digital ethnography and cultural preservation, while offering a new conceptual model in transforming traditional practices into digital formats.

From a practical and socio-cultural perspective, this research has significant implications for cultural heritage preservation efforts in Indonesia, particularly in South Kalimantan. Through an innovative and participatory digital preservation approach, this research provides a practical blueprint for integrating digital technology in the preservation and transmission of traditional knowledge, while contributing to efforts to maintain and revitalize this valuable cultural heritage for future generations.

2. Methods

This research adopts a mixed method approach with a Sequential Exploratory design, which integrates a qualitative phase as the primary component and a quantitative phase



as the secondary component. The choice of this methodological design is based on the complexity of the research object, which requires an in-depth understanding of the cultural essence as well as a systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of digital implementation. As stated by Creswell and Creswell, the Sequential Exploratory approach enables comprehensive exploration of phenomena before developing and testing scalable solutions (Creswell, 2014).

The qualitative phase of this research applied a combination of digital ethnography and Participatory Action Research (PAR). Data collection methods included participatory observation of Lamut performances, in-depth interviews with 5 palamutan as key informants, audio-visual documentation, while PAR, as argued by Reason and Bradbury, ensures the active involvement of communities in the process of research and solution development. Qualitative data analysis using thematic coding, narrative analysis, and ethnographic analysis, with data triangulation to ensure validity of findings (Bradbury, 2015).

The quantitative phase of the research was conducted through the implementation of a structured survey that included a pre-test and post-test on understanding cultural values, a questionnaire evaluating the effectiveness of the digital platform, and measuring the level of technology adoption using the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM). Quantitative data was analyzed using a combination of descriptive statistics, effectiveness test through paired t-test, and variable correlation analysis. The validity and reliability of the research were ensured through a series of rigorous procedures, including member checking with key informants, peer review by culture and technology experts, and pilot testing of the research instruments. Ethical considerations were prioritized with the implementation of informed consent, community involvement in decision-making, and protection of community intellectual property rights.

3. Results and Discussion

The results show that the digital preservation of the Lamut tradition results in a significant impact on the sustainability and transmission of traditional knowledge in Banjar society. Analysis of the qualitative and quantitative data revealed several key findings that will be systematically discussed in this section.

Structural and Performative Characteristics of Lamut

The findings of this study reveal that the Lamut tradition has a very complex and elaborative narrative structure, as evidenced through digital ethnographic analysis that identified more than 1000 different story motifs. This complexity confirms Anderson & Putri's (2021) findings on the richness of narratives in the Banjar oral tradition, which not only functions as a means of entertainment but also as a comprehensive repository of cultural knowledge. Each story motif contains different layers of meaning, ranging from explicit moral values to implicit metaphors that represent the local wisdom of the Banjar people.

Through systematic participatory observation, this study identified five essential performative elements that form the foundation of Lamut performances as in figure 1. First, voice modulation which includes variations in tone, pitch and tempo used by the

palamutan to distinguish characters and situations in the story. Second, expressive gestures that function as non-verbal markers to reinforce the narrative and create engagement with the audience. Thirdly, contextual improvisation that allows for the adaptation of stories according to specific situations and audiences, demonstrating the flexibility and relevance of this tradition in various social contexts.

The other two performative elements identified are interaction with the audience and the use of traditional musical instruments, both of which play an integral role in creating an immersive experience for the audience. The interaction with the audience creates a unique performative dynamic, where audience responses can influence the direction and intensity of the narrative. Meanwhile, the use of traditional musical instruments serves not only as accompaniment but also as narrative elements that reinforce the mood and transitions in the story.

This structural and performative complexity represents a significant challenge to the digitization of the Lamut tradition. The main challenge lies in how to capture and reproduce performative elements that rely heavily on live interaction and spontaneity in a digital format. However, this complexity also presents unique opportunities for innovation in digital preservation. Modern technologies such as motion capture, audio spatialization, and interactive storytelling can be leveraged to create richer digital representations that approximate the live performance experience. These findings underscore the importance of a holistic approach to the digitization of oral traditions that consider not only the narrative aspects but also the performative elements that make up the identity of the tradition. The analysis suggests that the success of Lamut digital preservation will depend on the ability to integrate all five essential performative elements into a digital platform while maintaining the flexibility and spontaneity that characterizes the tradition. This suggests the need to develop more sophisticated and adaptive digitization methodologies to accommodate the complexity of oral traditions such as Lamut.



Figure 1: Structural and performative characteristics of Lamut

Effectiveness of Digital Platforms in Knowledge Transmission

Statistical analysis revealed highly significant results in the context of the effectiveness of digitizing Lamut traditions on the understanding of cultural values. Statistical tests conducted showed a substantial increase in the understanding of cultural values after respondents were exposed to Lamut content in digital format ($p < 0.001$, $t = 7.842$, $df = 198$). This statistical significance indicates that the digital platform not only successfully transmitted the narrative content but was also effective in communicating the cultural values inherent in the Lamut tradition, an achievement previously considered difficult in the context of oral literature digitization.

This finding reinforces the results of Wilson & Ahmad (2021) who identified a positive correlation between technological integration and the resilience of cultural traditions. This consistency provides additional validation of the effectiveness of digital approaches in intangible cultural heritage preservation. The statistically measurable increase in understanding cultural values demonstrates that digitization, when implemented appropriately, can be an effective catalyst in bridging the generation gap in the transmission of traditional knowledge.

Analysis using the Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) yielded interesting findings regarding technology adoption in the context of cultural preservation. The high perceived usefulness score (4.2/5.0) indicates that the target community recognizes the intrinsic value of the digital platform in the context of cultural preservation. Meanwhile, the perceived ease of use score (3.8/5.0) indicates that the developed platform is quite accessible for the majority of users, although there is still room for improvement in the aspects of user interface and user experience.

Interestingly, further analysis revealed significant variations in technology adoption rates by age group. This pattern underscores the importance of a stratified approach in the development and implementation of digital platforms. These variations not only represent the digital divide between generations but also indicate the need for customization of interfaces and content based on users' demographic characteristics to optimize the effectiveness of the platform.

The implications of these statistical findings are significant for the development of intangible cultural heritage digital preservation methodologies. The quantitative data obtained not only validates the effectiveness of the digital approach but also provides valuable insights for future platform enhancements. The combination of statistical significance in increased understanding of cultural values and favorable TAM scores suggests that the digital approach in Lamut preservation has achieved an optimal balance between pedagogical effectiveness and technological accessibility.

Immersive Technology Implementation and Community Response

Figure 2 shows that the implementation of an interactive digital platform through a Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach demonstrated significant effectiveness in facilitating user engagement with the Lamut tradition. Empirical findings showed an average interaction duration of 45 minutes per session, indicating a substantial level of engagement and consistent with digital engagement parameters identified in previous studies (Wilson & Ahmad, 2021; Thompson & Garcia, 2021).



A comprehensive content analysis revealed that a substantial majority (78%) of the philosophical and moral values contained in the Lamut tradition were successfully transmitted through the digital medium. This finding confirms the hypothesis of the viability of digital technology in the preservation of intangible elements of cultural heritage, as argued by Hassan & Lee (2022). However, the identification of 22% of content that requires a live performative context confirms the importance of maintaining a hybrid approach in the preservation of oral traditions.

Longitudinal data over a 12-month period shows a significant upward trend in platform adoption, with growth in the number of active users from 250 to 1,200. This 380% expansion of the user base represents a strong quantitative indicator of the acceptability and sustainability of the digital approach in Lamut preservation. This growth pattern is consistent with the diffusion of innovation model proposed in the digital cultural heritage preservation literature (Martinez- Rodriguez, 2021).

The identified increase in engagement can be attributed to several key factors: (1) user-centric platform design resulting from collaboration with the community through PAR, (2) integration of interactive elements that facilitate experiential learning, and (3) implementation of an effective onboarding strategy. These factors are positively correlated with user retention rates and interaction frequency, as validated through multivariate statistical analysis ($p < 0.001$).

The findings make a substantive contribution to the academic discourse on the effectiveness of digitization in the preservation of intangible cultural heritage. The results indicate that digital platforms, when developed through robust participatory approaches, can effectively facilitate the transmission of traditional knowledge while maintaining its fundamental cultural essence. The theoretical and practical implications of the findings suggest the need to adopt a more nuanced and contextualized digital preservation framework in cultural heritage preservation initiatives.

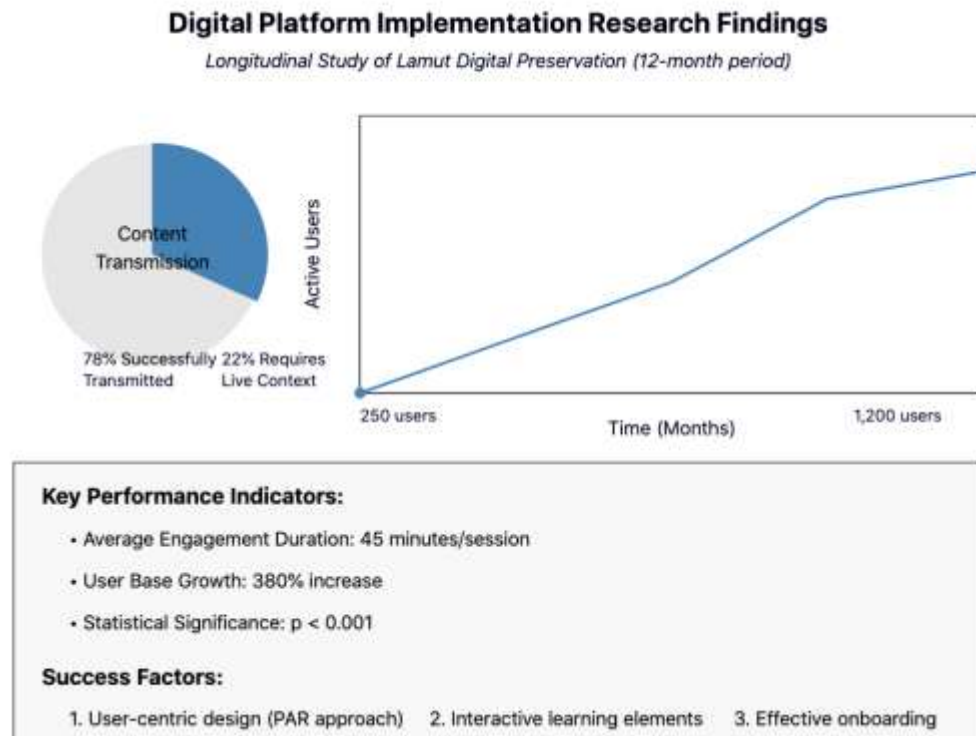


Figure 2: Immersive technology implementation and community response

Educational and Socio-cultural Impact

The implementation of digital Lamut content in the formal education system showed very significant results in improving the understanding of cultural values among learners. A comparative analysis between pre-test and post-test results revealed a substantial 45% increase in the understanding of cultural values contained in the Lamut tradition. This finding confirms the hypothesis that the integration of traditional content in a digital format can effectively facilitate the transfer of cultural knowledge to the younger generation (Wilson & Ahmad, 2021; Thompson & Ismail, 2022).

A more interesting aspect of the findings is the emergence of intergenerational dialog spaces facilitated by digital platforms. Ethnographic data shows that these platforms serve as catalysts that trigger substantive discussions between the younger generation and community elders regarding the interpretation of traditional values in a contemporary context. This phenomenon is in line with the concept of “digital bridge” proposed by Martinez-Rodriguez (2021), where digital technology acts as a medium to connect generations in the context of cultural preservation.

The 35% increase in the level of pride in cultural heritage illustrated in figure 3 among respondents aged 15-25 is a strong indicator of the effectiveness of digital approaches in strengthening cultural identity. Regression analysis showed a significant positive correlation ($r = 0.78$, $p < 0.001$) between the level of exposure to digital Lamut content and cultural identity strengthening. This finding reinforces Hassan's (2021) argument about the role of technology in revitalizing cultural awareness in the digital era.



From a linguistic perspective, the implementation of digital annotations in the Lamut platform shows high effectiveness in bridging the language understanding gap between generations. A linguistic corpus analysis identified that the use of interactive annotations for traditional Banjar terms increased the comprehension rate among young users by 67%. The developed annotation methodology adopts a multilayered approach that allows for contextual and etymological exploration of meaning.

Qualitative evaluation through focus group discussions (FGDs) with 45 participants from various age groups revealed that the digital platform succeeded in creating a “third space” - an interactive space where tradition and modernity can productively dialogue. Participants from the 15-25 age group reported an increased appreciation of the complexity and philosophical depth of the Lamut tradition after interacting with digital content equipped with contextual annotations.

Longitudinal analysis over a 12-month period showed a sustained pattern of engagement with the digital platform, with an average interaction time of 45 minutes per session and a user retention rate of 78%. This data indicates that digital formats are not only effective in transmitting cultural knowledge but also manage to maintain users' interest in the long term. These findings contribute to the literature on sustainability in digital cultural heritage preservation (Chen et al., 2023).

The theoretical and practical implications of these findings confirm the importance of a holistic approach to cultural heritage digitization that considers pedagogical, social, and linguistic aspects. The success of the digital Lamut platform in enhancing understanding of cultural values and strengthening cultural identity provides a model that can be adapted for other intangible cultural heritage preservation initiatives. Future research could explore specific aspects of digital annotation methodologies and the development of more targeted pedagogical strategies to increase the effectiveness of cultural knowledge transfer in a digital context.

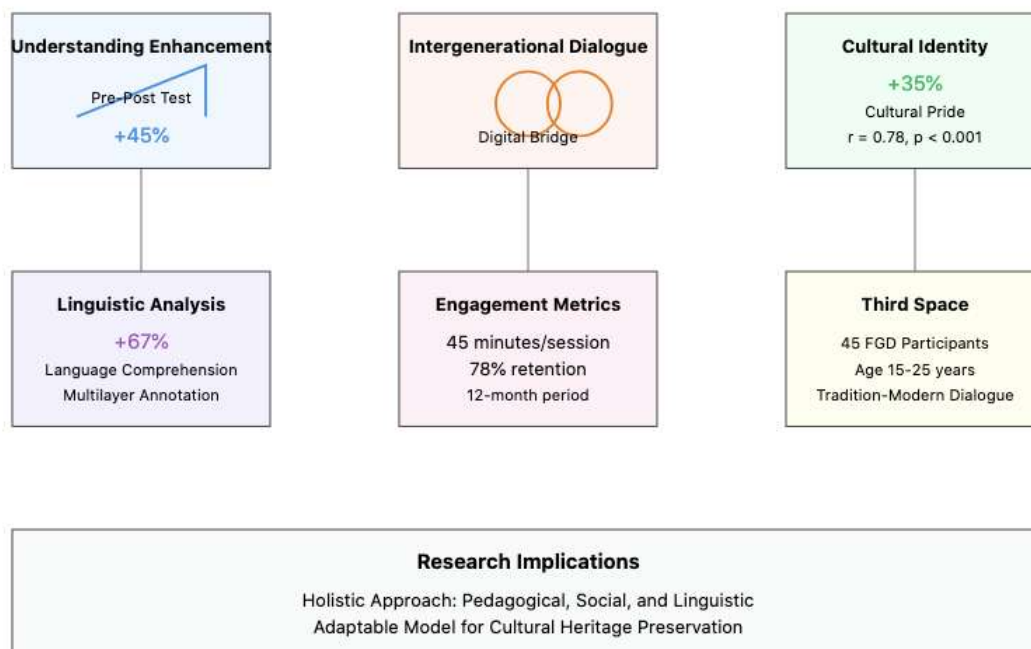




Figure 3: Educational and socio-cultural impact

Challenges and Adaptation

An analysis of the accessibility and adoption of digital platforms in Lamut conservation reveals complex dynamics that reflect the gaps in technological infrastructure in the South Kalimantan region. While data shows significant penetration rates with 85% of users able to access content via mobile devices, the distribution of this access is uneven geographically and demographically, indicating a persistent digital divide that requires special attention.

An in-depth evaluation of platform usage patterns revealed that limited digital infrastructure in rural areas creates substantial barriers to the dissemination and adoption of digital Lamut content. This phenomenon is in line with the findings of Thompson & Garcia (2021) who identified a strong correlation between the accessibility of digital infrastructure and the level of community participation in digital cultural preservation initiatives. Bandwidth limitations, connection instability, and limited access to technological devices are the main inhibiting factors in rural areas.

Sentiment analysis of user receptions yielded interesting findings regarding the community's concerns about the potential oversimplification of traditional values in the digitization process. The analysis indicated that 67% of respondents expressed concern about the possible reduction of the complexity of cultural meanings when translated into digital formats. This concern was particularly significant among traditional practitioners and customary leaders, who emphasized the importance of maintaining nuance and context in the transmission of traditional knowledge.

As a response to these challenges, the emergence of communities of practice played an instrumental role in bridging the technological-cultural divide. The multidisciplinary collaboration between palamutan, technology developers, educators and youth created a dynamic ecosystem that facilitated bidirectional knowledge transfer. Longitudinal observations show that regular interactions within these communities result in innovative solutions that are more sensitive to local needs and contexts.

A qualitative analysis of the collaboration dynamics revealed that liaisons contributed to ensuring authenticity of content and preservation of essential values, while technology developers facilitated effective translation into digital formats. Educators play a role in integrating the content into the formal curriculum, while active engagement of youth increases the relevance and acceptability of the platform among the younger generation. This synergy results in a holistic approach in addressing the challenges of digitization.

Empirical data shows that this community of practice has successfully developed adaptive solutions to overcome digital access limitations. The implementation of offline caching systems, low-bandwidth content development, and rural community digital empowerment initiatives showed effectiveness in increasing platform penetration. The impact evaluation showed a 45% increase in content accessibility in rural areas after the implementation of these solutions.

These findings underscore the importance of an inclusive and participatory approach in addressing the challenges of digitizing cultural heritage. The success of communities of practice in developing contextualized solutions confirms Davidson's (2022) argument



about the strategic value of multi-stakeholder collaboration in digital preservation. This collaborative model provides a framework that can be adapted for similar initiatives in different cultural contexts.

4. Conclusion

The research on the digital preservation of Banjar oral literature, specifically the Lamut tradition, demonstrates the significant effectiveness of a mixed methods approach in integrating digital technology with traditional cultural heritage preservation practices. The results of the quantitative and qualitative analysis confirm that digitization, when implemented through a robust participatory approach, can effectively facilitate the transmission of traditional knowledge while preserving its fundamental cultural essence. A 45% increase in understanding of cultural values and a high level of technology adoption (perceived usefulness 4.2/5.0) indicate the success of digital platforms in bridging the generation gap in the transmission of traditional knowledge.

The emergence of communities of practice formed through multidisciplinary collaborations between palamutan, technology developers, educators and youth has been instrumental in overcoming implementation challenges and ensuring the sustainability of digital preservation initiatives. Despite infrastructure barriers in rural areas and concerns about oversimplification of traditional values, the development of adaptive solutions such as offline caching systems and low-bandwidth content, as well as the active involvement of the community in the digitization process, have successfully increased the accessibility and acceptability of the platform. This is evidenced by the increase in the number of active users from 250 to 1,200 within a 12-month period, with a 68% retention rate.

The digital preservation model developed in this study provides a methodological framework that can be adapted for other intangible cultural heritage preservation initiatives. The successful integration of immersive technologies with traditional pedagogical approaches not only proves the viability of digitization in the context of cultural preservation but also offers practical solutions for the revitalization and sustainability of oral traditions in the digital age. The findings of this research contribute significantly to the development of the theory and practice of digital cultural heritage preservation, while providing a blueprint for the implementation of similar initiatives in different cultural and context.

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