

# The Legend of Rawa Pening as a Potential Literary Tourism Destination

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**Abstract.** The Legend of Rawa Pening has the myth of the dragon named Baru Klinting as folklore has been told orally from generation to generation. The Regional Government of Semarang Regency sees the potential of nature and legend to become a literary tourism destination. At the entry of location, a statue of Baru Klinting was built in the form of a dragon. Around it, the expanse of Rawa Pening becomes a soothing sight. Visitors can also find a relief wall that tells the story of Baru Klinting. However, this tourist attraction has not been maximized. It can be seen from the small number of visitors, which local tourists and not foreign tourists dominate. Ideally, tourism can provide income for local governments and the surrounding community and empower artists. Unique attractions may be considered to innovate, including boats, several photo spots, an art stage for art performing, an exhibition room, souvenirs, and unique culinary products. These supported facilities and infrastructure can be the alternative way to attract visitors. This study aims to provide input to the Bukit Cinta tourism management so that its natural and cultural potential becomes a literary tourism destination that local and foreign tourists enjoy. This research was conducted in the city of Semarang. The research method uses a qualitative descriptive method. Obtaining data by observation, interviews and questionnaires. The study's results can be used as input for Bukit Cinta tourism management in Rawa Pening, Semarang Regency, as a literary tourism destination.

## 1 Introduction

Folklore is a collective tradition of an area that is spread in the form of oral or movement so that it remains sustainable from generation to generation [1]. Fairytale is one of the folklores that tell the origin of place events or artefacts, such as the legend of Mount Tangkuban Perahu in West Java, Malin Kundang in West Sumatra, Banyuwangi in East Java, Prambanan in Yogya, and Rawa Pening in Semarang Regency. In the legend, there is also a myth that is recognized by the local community. Visitors often visit these places that hold myths as natural and cultural or literary tourism. Many people visit these tourist destinations in natural and cultural or literary tourism. The reasons may vary, as literature and tourism have a reciprocal relationship, meaning that many literary works are inspired by tourism and vice versa. Alternatively, each region's natural and cultural wealth provides a place for recreation and appreciation and preservation of its nature and culture. Other reasons could be that literary tourism allows be transformed into various products, and literary tourism can be used as a study [2]. Literary tourism does not only take advantage of nature but also can provide literary products. For example, how to introduce local legends in the form of ecranization [3,4], transfer ride: ballet, cinema, festivals, competitions, etc.; artistic products: sculptures, reliefs, etc. In addition, natural resources can be used, as well as products unique to the local community.

The Regional Government of Semarang Regency captured the opportunity for literary tourism destinations like this with the Legend of Rowo Pening as the mystical figure of the New Giant Dragon Klinthing. Natural conditions in the form of lakes or swamps have an area of about 2,670 hectares, covering four sub-districts in Semarang Regency, namely Bawen, Ambarawa, Tuntang and Banyubiru sub-districts. Its position between the basins of Mount Merbabu, Mount Telomoyo and Mount Ungaran is artificial tourism [5]. To support the Central Java visit program, the Central

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Java Culture and Tourism Office continues to make efforts to increase the sense of unity/coordination among tourism object managers in the form of joint promotions and also carry out several stages of improvement, such as:

- diversifying the types of tourist attractions,
- improvement and maintenance of access to tourist sites,
- improvement of tourism supporting facilities and infrastructure,
- the creation of various activities in the environment of tourist destinations,
- implementation of tourism awareness campaigns [6].

By holding this research, hopefully, it can support tourism in Semarang Regency to boost Semarang Regency's Original Regional Revenue. This research is aligned with the UNDIP Strategic Research Field Plan for the Social Humanities-Education-Arts and Culture fields, namely Management and tourism development. That is building inclusive, safe, durable and sustainable cities and settlements, namely supporting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, workforce full and productive work and decent work for all. The target of this research is to produce scientific articles, especially those related to literary tourism, which in turn will be followed up with educational and preparation efforts towards the city as a tourist destination.

From a scientific point of view, tourism cannot be said to be an independent scientific discipline. Meanwhile, by using a comprehensive approach, tourism demands the support of various scientific disciplines to be multidisciplinary [7].

## 2 Methods

This research is a qualitative descriptive study with the methods of observation, interviews and questionnaires. The data was taken at the research location of Bukit Cinta Rawa Pening tourist attraction in Banyubiru Village, Semarang Regency, and the questionnaire was distributed. The data is then classified according to research needs. Data analysis was carried out with the concept of tourism literature. The results of the analysis are presented informally and tables to support it.

## 3 Result And Analysis

According to the Central Agency of Statistics Semarang Regency, the number of visitors to recreational areas in Semarang Regency in 2020 counted that there are 1,294,955 domestic tourists and 833 foreign tourists [8]. A total of 1,295,788 at various tourist attractions. Meanwhile, for visitors to Bukit Cinta, there are 138,731 domestic tourists, while there are none at all for foreign tourists. It shows that tourism in Bukit Cinta is not yet well known and enjoyed. According to the results of interviews and questionnaires conducted in 2022, the following data were obtained: 85.4% claimed to have known the tourist destination of Rawapening. Based on the questionnaire, it was also known that 51.2% of the questionnaire fillers had visited the tourist destination of Rawapening, and 48.8% had never visited. Of the total respondents who knew about it, 40% knew from family members, 28.6% from friends, 25.7% from online media, 2.9% from folklore, and 2.9% from print media. Of the respondents who have visited, 50% visited once, 20% visited two times, 15% visited more than five times, 10% visited three times, and 5% visited five times. A total of 65% visited with family members, 35% visited with friends, 25% visited with a tour group, and 10% visited with a partner. Most of the visitors, namely 71.4%, visited for natural tourism purposes, 14.3% for selfies, 9.5% for boating, and 4.8% for photographing landscapes.

Thus, it is necessary to promote better by providing facilities and infrastructure services; take full advantage of the existing potential. Tourist attractions as a development and improvement of tourism can take advantage of the potential of nature, flora, fauna, human creations, and culture [9].

### 3.1 Natural Tourism Potential

The nature of Rawa Pening presents beauty with a vast expanse of a lake or swamp. Bukit Cinta Rawa Pening is an artificial tour utilizing this nature. These tourist attractions built places that support water tourism. Tourists can take a water tour by traditional boat or go fishing in the lake, which has many fishes. It would be even better if there were a boat designed with the shape of the Baru Klinthing dragon, which shows its identity according to the New Klinthing legend. It is also necessary to hold a boat race so that it can become a tourist attraction, produce rowing athletes, and

a place for sports recreation. At this location, a new vehicle in the form of Jet Sky has been opened by utilizing the surrounding lake/swamp.

A small forest with a variety of large tree plants provides beauty in this tourist spot equipped with places for family, friends, or girlfriends to have fun. At the centre of this location is a statue of the dragon Baru Klinthing. It is a shame that the statue is not beautiful. Its placement that is near a residential area does not give a mystical impression. It needs to be addressed so that the aesthetic and mystical impression appears.

Bukit Cinta Rawa Pening is a perfect place for selfies because there are many beautiful places to take pictures. It is necessary to make a flower garden that can be used for selfies, and there is a particular selfie room with a three-dimensional image background. Tourists usually always capture the momentum that is felt to give memories of the tourist attraction.

### **3.2 Cultural Tourism Potential**

#### *3.2.1 Legends and Myths at Bukit Cinta Rawa Pening Tour*

Rawa Pening is a natural lake related to the legends and myths of Baru Klinthing as a dragon incarnate as a human child who seeks recognition from someone who is considered his father. It is said that the story of Baru Klinthing is a genre of fairy tale folklore that lives in the local community. It is said that Baru Klinthing is an ugly child in the form of a dragon who is imprisoned in a circle on orders from people his father considers his son as full of recognition. For a long time, his body was overgrown with moss and the roots of a large tree. Once the locals had a big party, they looked for wood in the forest. When they cut down the roots, blood came out. It turned out that what was cut down was the figure of a giant snake, and the meat was cooked as a side dish for the big party. The spirit of Baru Klinthing incarnated as a dirty, fishy-smelling little boy approached the party. Hence, the bad treatment he got from the locals. Holding back his hunger, he wandered, met a kind-hearted middle-aged woman, and was given food and drink. The little boy then said goodbye and advised the middle-aged woman to prepare a pestle and mortar (rice pounder) for the safety of the middle-aged woman in case something happened. The little boy then went into the crowd again, stuck a stick, and made a contest asking the locals to pull it out, but no one could pull it out. Next, the boy showed his power by pulling the stick out, and the floodwaters came out of the hole and drowned the village and the local people. The water became a lake called Rawa Pening. Dizziness is a variant of wening in Javanese which means 'calm'. The lake is calm without the turbulence of the waves and is supported by a backdrop of mountains and small forests where the air is cool. It is said that the lake is inhabited by the little boy who turned into a dragon named Baru Klinthing [10].

The scenery is breathtaking at the Rawa Pening location, with the expanse of lake water, mountains and forests making this place a natural tourist spot. One of the exciting places in the village of Banyubiru, Ambarawa, made an artificial tour called the Bukit Cinta Rawa Pening. In this place, a giant dragon statue is made that encircles a small forest. At the entrance, there is also a dragon statue; there are two ornaments that depict the story of Baru Klinthing. This form of tourism combines natural and cultural tourism. People who visit here not only want to know the legend but also to see the place and the impression they want to get. Legend stories that are used as tourist attractions are known as tourism literature. Stories or narrative texts will be important because, through narrative text, readers and listeners can find out events that occur at sites or places that later become famous among tourists [11].

The legend of Rawa Pening is not the only myth that develops in society. In addition, it is also believed by the local community that if those who come in pairs and are not married, it means that they are still in a relationship or engaged, then they will break up in love and not reach the aisle. If this myth is used as a justification, it will reduce the interest of tourists, especially teenagers who come to Bukit Cinta tourism. However, the myth was broken because many tourists are still dating at Bukit Cinta Tourism. Even in that place, a selfie place is built with a love symbol as a background called a love lock, meaning that the love that comes to this location will be eternal love [12].

### **3.3 Human Resource Potential**

The ideal tourism potential is to generate community participation and income, especially local revenue. In accordance with the potential for literary tourism, artists/artists can participate. For example, they can make a statue of the Baru Klinthing dragon and make reliefs that tell the story of the Baru Klinthing fairy tale. However, it has not been maximized, for example making small statues, kites, key chains, sticks, pictures of t-shirts, and small boats in the shape of the new Klinthing dragon as souvenirs.

Artists and art connoisseurs of fairy tales, dance, comics, animation, ketoprak, drama, soap operas and films need to be involved in creating and providing them with facilities and infrastructure. It is necessary to hold competitions, festivals, carnivals, and even compose songs that tell the legend of Rawa Pening with the character of Naga Baru Klinthing, such as the legend of Mount Tangkuban Perahu with its Sangkuriang character. On Youtube, can be seen the results of the ekranization. It would be even more interesting if this creativity seen on Youtube is also shown at the Bukit Cinta tourist location.

### 3.4 Local Culinary Tourism Potential

Each region usually has its culinary characteristics. The culinary specialities in the Bukit Cinta tour include dried fish (gereh) wader, grilled fish or fried carp, and spinach chips. It can be developed with Pepes and other types of fish dishes. Near the area around Rawa Pening, there is a floating restaurant known as Kampung Rawa and branding. It will be even more interesting if the Bukit Cinta tourist location provides restaurants or food stalls that sell food with new or unique names. For example, drinks/food hills of love, dragon eggs, dragon meat, dragon chilli sauce, dragon peanut brittle, degan dragon and many more.

## 4 Conclusion

Bukit Cinta object tourism in Banyubiru District, Ambarawa, Semarang Regency is an artificial tour that utilizes its natural and cultural potential. Its beautiful nature with a vast expanse of lakes, backgrounds, forests and mountains can be used for local governments and communities to manage and make innovative products that create jobs. Lake Rawa Pening is related to folklore about legends and myths that have lived in the beliefs of the local community for generations. The new figure of Klinting is an icon of Bukit Cinta tourism in Semarang Regency. The role of literary works can be used as a literary tourism destination. Tourist attractions as a development and improvement of tourism can take advantage of the potential of nature, flora, fauna, human creations, and culture. The potential in Rawa Pening tourism still needs to be developed to its full potential.

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