

RELIGIOUS INSIGHT: ETHNOZOOLOGY OF TOTA'AN DOVE JEMBER

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Abstract

In Jember's culture, dove symbolizes peace and purity. Tota'an tradition captures attention as a cultural symbol that fosters a sense of brotherhood, connecting communities. This study delves into the role of local culture in strengthening interpersonal relationships, transcending beyond cultural expressions. Using ethnozoology, it explores the perspectives and roles of doves in the Tota'an tradition. The research focuses on examining the Tota'an tradition in three lenses: ethnozoology, local culture, and Islam. It seeks to understand how Islamic values, such as solidarity and compassion, are reflected in Tota'an, and how these values are connected to ethnozoological

aspects, particularly the symbolism of doves. The result presents the exploration of the analysis of Tota'an's impact in the Islamic context. It emphasizes the intricate balance formed by local culture, serving as a bridge between Islam and ethnozoology. It also provides profound insights into the interconnected relationship of ethnozoology, local culture, and Islam through Tota'an. By following a specific sequence in examining the tradition, it reveals deeper layers of meaning, enhancing our understanding of the mutual reinforcement of values within the context of the vibrant local culture. By preserving and understanding the cultural and religious values in Tota'an, the Jember community can maintain their cultural identity while strengthening social cohesion.

Dalam budaya Jember, merpati dianggap sebagai simbol perdamaian dan kesucian. Tradisi Tota'an, menarik perhatian masyarakat, sebagai simbol budaya yang menghubungkan masyarakat dalam semangat persaudaraan, sehingga tradisi ini perlu dilestarikan. Penelitian ini menggali peran budaya lokal dalam memperkuat hubungan interpersonal, melampaui sekadar ekspresi budaya semata. Dengan menggunakan etnozologi, penelitian ini menjelajahi perspektif dari merpati sebagai tradisi Tota'an. Penelitian ini fokus menguji tradisi Tota'an melalui tiga lensa: etnozologi, budaya lokal, dan Islam. Tujuannya memahami bagaimana nilai-nilai Islam, seperti solidaritas dan welas asih, tercermin dalam tradisi Tota'an, dan bagaimana nilai-nilai tersebut terhubung dengan aspek etnozologi, khususnya simbolisme merpati. Hasil penelitian menyajikan pemaparan analisis dampak Tota'an dalam konteks Islam. Studi ini menekankan keseimbangan kompleks yang terbentuk oleh budaya lokal, berfungsi sebagai jembatan antara Islam dan etnozologi. Penelitian ini memberikan wawasan mendalam tentang hubungan terkait etnozologi, budaya lokal, dan Islam melalui tradisi Tota'an. Dengan mengikuti urutan spesifik dalam mengkaji tradisi, penelitian ini mengungkap lapisan makna yang lebih dalam, meningkatkan pemahaman tentang penguatan nilai-nilai yang saling

berhubungan dalam konteks budaya lokal yang dinamis. Dengan melestarikan dan memahami nilai-nilai budaya dan agama dalam Tota'an, masyarakat Jember dapat menjaga identitas budaya mereka serta memperkuat koherensi sosial.

Keywords: *Ethnozoology; local culture; religious insight*

Introduction

Culture plays a vital role in shaping society. It strongly influences all aspects of life in society; which is known as Cultural-Determinism (Karolina & Randy, 2021). It is something passed down from one generation to the next, which is referred to as "superorganic" concept. It includes a wide array of elements within society, such as social values, norms, scientific principles, social structures, religion, and various other facets (Eppink, 2011). In addition, culture also includes all the intellectual and artistic expressions that characterize a society. As a complex entity, culture includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, laws, traditions, and other skills possessed by members of society (Tylor, 2016).

Indonesia is a very multicultural country, reflected in its diverse society. This diversity is evident from the number of islands spread across Indonesia (13,667 islands, although not all of them are inhabited), with 358 ethnic groups and 200 different sub-tribes. In addition, the Indonesian population follows various religions and beliefs, such as Islam (86.1%), Christianity and Catholicism (8.7%), Hinduism (1.8%), and other beliefs (3.4%) (Bauto, 2014). Besides, Indonesia has a history of cultural acculturation with various traditions, including indigenous Indonesian culture, Hindu, Muslim, Christian, and modern Western culture.

This diversity presents challenges for Indonesians, so they must have a high capability of communication and interaction across cultures (Gudykunst, 2003). It includes understanding differences between cultural and intracultural communication. Cultural considerations become very important in maintaining harmony because culture acts as a precursor event that strongly influences individual beliefs and values. It is often likened to the lifeblood of individuals, an integral part of their identity formed from

interactions with family and the environment. It is not something to choose from, but rather one that is inherent to individuals. Culture is the national identity of a nation. The national identity of the nation unique from which a nation can be distinguished from one another (Aprianti et al., 2022). Culture can affect the level of religiosity of society, one of which is Tota'an tradition in Jember.

Tota'an tradition involves doves that have long been globally recognized as a symbol of peace and loyalty (Nurdiyanto & Yanti, 2019). In Indonesia, especially in Semboro District, Jember Regency, the deep meaning of doves appears in a long tradition known as Tota'an. Tota'an is a celebration that reflects the plurality of Indonesian society, which is rich in culture and tradition. This tradition has fascinating historical roots, originated from the Semboro sub-district before spreading to other areas in Jember, including Tanggul and Mangli in the downtown. It celebrates dove lovers and is an essential means for them to strengthen their brotherhood. Tota'an activities are held twice a year and are attended by dove enthusiasts.

In the Tota'an event, dove enthusiasts gather to share knowledge on how to care for their birds. In addition, they also dine together. The event also includes social gatherings and raffles with simple prizes. Such unique names as "Chick Conqueror" or "Spoiled Child" were given to doves decorated with colourful ribbons and crested decorations. This naming is solely for entertainment. This is a cultural symbolism that is closely related to the values of solidarity and social harmony; this is a value that needs to be maintained, considering that local culture functions as a positive enculturation in society (Supriatna, 2019). However, the presence of information and communication technology accelerates this globalisation process. This causes various problems in the field of culture, such as the loss of the original culture of a region, the erosion of cultural values, the decline in the sense of nationalism and patriotism, the loss of kinship and mutual assistance, and lifestyles that contradict to the Indonesian culture (Aprianti et al., 2022).

The Tota'an event begins by releasing a pair of doves from two different directions, which symbolize the cardinal points and are referred to as "western brides" and "eastern brides." After the bride and groom are released, dove enthusiasts gather in the middle of the field to release the thousands of doves they have prepared from the beginning. Interestingly,

these doves always faithfully return to their respective cages, creating a deep symbolism of loyalty. In the context of Tota'an, the dove is not only a bird but also a cultural symbol that connects people in a spirit of brotherhood. This tradition reveals how local cultures can strengthen relationships between individuals and portray deeper meanings than just words; the mythology then crystallizes into new patterns of harmony so that ethnozoology in doves activates the value (Faizah et al., 2013).

This research provides a fresh perspective on the role of doves in the local Tota'an tradition in Jember, Indonesia. Currently, the scholarly journals concern ethnozoology related to culture (Dirhamsyah et al., 2022), Islamic law (Umami, 2019), and learning context (Faizah et al., 2013). However, it still requires a further exploration, specifically on the ethnozoological aspects of local tradition, making this study a recent contribution with the potential to spark future research. A summary of previous research findings related to the Tota'an dove tradition is scarce, providing a foundation for the development of further research. Identifying gaps in the previous research opens opportunities to fill areas that remain unexplored. The uniqueness of this research lies in its exclusive focus on the ethnozoological aspect of the Tota'an dove tradition.

The purpose of this study is to understand and analyze in depth the participation of doves in the local cultural tradition, known as "Tota'an" in the Jember area, especially from an ethnozoological point of view. It aims to uncover the meaning and cultural significance of doves' participation in this event, as well as the role of doves in the cultural and religious context of society. It further examines the religious dimension of the Tota'an tradition involving doves. As a result, this study is expected to make a valuable contribution to understanding the relationship between ethnozoology, local culture, and religion, especially in the context of Tota'an Jember.

Methods

The current research adopted an analytical descriptive approach to comprehensively depict the local cultural tradition of Tota'an dove in Jember. This method is aimed at providing a detailed and thorough overview of an object or phenomenon under investigation (Sugiyono, 2010). It not

only focuses on depicting or describing the characteristics of the object but also involves an analysis of the collected data.

The data collection includes direct observations, interviews with active participants and local community figures, as well as document analysis. The research sample comprises active participants in the tradition, community figures with profound understanding, and relevant written documentation. The study aims to provide in-depth insights into the relationship between ethnozoological aspects and religious values within the Tota'an dove tradition, thereby offering a prominent contribution to the understanding of the rich and unique local culture. It utilized interviews with active participants in the tradition, local community figures, or cultural custodians to gain a profound understanding of the meaning and role of doves in the Tota'an tradition. Such interviews could serve as additional sources of data to support research findings and strengthen their connection to the rich cultural context of Java.

Findings and Discussion

Religious and ethnozoological zones

Islam significantly influences ethical and moral values within various local cultures across different regions. In Indonesia, the convergence of Islamic teachings with local values, such as *gotong royong* (mutual cooperation) and social care exemplifies the alignment of these values with Islamic principles of solidarity and harmony with others (Badrudin, 2014). Local culture serves as a crucial vessel for Islamic practices, encompassing religious rituals, attire, language, art, and indigenous traditions. The integration of Islamic teachings with local customs is evident in the emphasis on social cooperation and the well-being of others. *Gotong royong*, deeply rooted in Indonesian culture, echoes the Islamic ethos of collective responsibility and mutual assistance. This cultural synergy highlights the adaptability of Islamic values to local contexts, enriching the cultural tapestry of the Indonesian archipelago. Moreover, the concern for creatures beyond humans is considered a form of worship and a moral imperative in Islamic teachings. This perspective is echoed in the ethos of environmental stewardship emphasized by Islam. The ethical treatment of animals and the promotion of environmental conservation are seen as integral components of Islamic

ethics. This holistic approach extends beyond human relationships, encompassing the broader ecosystem.

Ethnozoology, as a branch of ethnobiology, provides a lens through which the intricate relationships between humans and animals in diverse cultures can be explored. In the Indonesian context, the work of Dirhamsyah, Ahmad Yani, and Yuliana (2022) delves into the rich tapestry of ethnozoological knowledge. This discipline investigates how different cultural groups understand, utilize, hunt, cultivate, mythologize, and interact with the animals around them. Ethnozoology is grounded in the observation and documentation of traditional knowledge and practices of local communities in relation to fauna. The integration of ethnozoology into Islamic practices and local traditions holds promise for fostering a more profound connection between humans, animals, and the environment. By acknowledging the intricate relationships between cultural beliefs, religious teachings, and ethnozoological practices, a holistic understanding emerges. This understanding is not only valuable for academic exploration but also for developing sustainable practices that align with both cultural and religious values.

Furthermore, the incorporation of Islamic values into local cultures has a profound impact on various aspects of community life. From religious rituals to everyday practices, the infusion of Islamic principles shapes the way individuals interact with one another and with the natural world. The seamless integration of Islamic teachings with local customs is exemplified in the reverence for animals, the environment, and the interconnectedness of all living beings. In conclusion, Islam's influence on ethical and moral values extends beyond religious rituals. The synthesis of Islamic teachings with indigenous practices, as observed in Indonesia, underscores the adaptability of Islam to diverse cultural contexts. The ethical treatment of animals, environmental stewardship, and the integration of ethnozoology into Islamic practices collectively contribute to a comprehensive worldview that emphasizes interconnectedness and responsibility. This intersection of Islamic values, local traditions, and ethnozoological insights creates a nuanced tapestry that reflects the rich diversity and harmony within the cultural landscape.

Ethnozoology in relation to doves addresses how doves are viewed, utilised, and integrated into various cultures (Faizah et al., 2013). In this case,

the context is the dove tradition, which is the local culture of the Jember people. In Javanese culture, doves have a distinctive meaning and symbolism. The dove has long been considered a symbol of peace and purity. It reflects values that are highly respected in Javanese culture, such as harmony, unity, and cleanliness. Doves are often used in various traditional Javanese ceremonies, especially in wedding ceremonies. In the context of Javanese marriages, doves are often used as a symbol of faithful couples and eternal love. The bride and groom are often released together with white doves that are released to fly freely as a symbol of the beginning of their journey together. In the Tota'an tradition, doves may have a similar role as symbols of loyalty and the meaningful beginning of a journey. The similarity in the symbolism of doves in the context of Javanese weddings can provide additional insights into how the ethnozoological significance of doves is connected to the local tradition.

In addition, in Javanese culture, especially in the art of shadow puppetry, doves can represent a symbol of wisdom and purity. In shadow puppet performances, doves are often represented as wise characters and have valuable advice for the characters in the story (Herusatoto, 1984). In various traditional Javanese dances, doves are also often depicted as an essential element, reflecting the beauty and tenderness of dance movements. The symbolism of doves in Javanese culture reflects the close relationship between culture, religion, and nature in Java. This is one example of how doves became an integral part of Javanese traditions and beliefs.

Furthermore, in the rich culture and beliefs of Java, the presence of doves carries profound meaning. In the art of shadow puppetry, doves are often regarded as symbols of wisdom and purity. Shadow puppet performances serve as a platform for transmitting cultural values and moral teachings within Javanese society. In traditional Javanese dance, doves are frequently integrated as an inseparable element. It creates the beauty of dance movements that symbolize gentleness and grace (Perasutiyo et al., 2022). The presence of doves in Javanese art and culture becomes a symbol of harmony and peace. The symbolism of doves in Javanese culture reflects spiritual and philosophical richness, depicting the close interrelation between humans and nature as well as sustainability (Wigati & Lukito, 2021). In this framework, the presence of doves is not merely a symbol but

also a means to imbibe noble values and delve into the harmonious relationship between humans and their environment (Purwanto, 2018).

In this study, the findings regarding the symbolism of doves in Javanese culture are relevant and profound. In the context of shadow puppetry, doves are not merely symbols of wisdom and purity but also entities providing significant advice. Observations of shadow puppet performances involving doves can provide insights into the ethnozoological role of doves in the local cultural context, particularly in the Tota'an tradition. Therefore, the interconnection between the symbolism of doves, culture, and religion in the study may reflect the essence of harmony and peace integral to the Tota'an dove tradition.

Ethnozoology in Islam also has relevance to ethical and moral values. Islam encourages good treatment of animals and teaches concern for other living things (Umami, 2019). In many Islamic cultures, sustainability and nature conservation are seen as an essential part of the religion's teachings. Therefore, ethnozoology in the Islamic context also includes how humans interact with animals and nature according to the ethical and moral values in Islam, as stated in the Quran: "*No animal moves on the earth but is guaranteed sustenance by Allah. He knew the place where he lived and where he was stored. All (written) in the real Book (Lauhulmahfuz).*" (Al-Hud, 11:6).

This verse underscores the concept that God is the Giver of sustenance to all creatures on earth, including animals. It emphasizes that every living thing on earth, including animals, depends on God as their source of sustenance and care. Therefore, ethics and morals in Islam include good treatment of animals and concern for other living beings as actions that are in harmony with the belief that all creatures created by Allah should be respected and cared for properly. In the context of ethnozoology, or the study of the relationship between humans and animals in Islamic culture, this verse shows the importance of treating animals with justice, mercy, and respect. Man is given the responsibility to look after and care for God's creation, including the animals around him.

Existence of Tota'an dove tradition

In the context of culture, doves are considered an essential symbol of peace and loyalty. To understand the reverence for doves and to strengthen the relationship between the dove-loving communities in the

area, Tota'an is essential. The Tota'an ceremony is significant to the local people, although the meaning of the word Tota'an remains unclear. Tota'an is a celebration explicitly aimed at dove enthusiasts. The ceremony is held twice a year in different locations, such as Tanggul and Mangli in downtown Jember. This tradition is not only an exhibition of doves but also an opportunity to strengthen the sense of brotherhood among dove lovers. Cultural existence refers to the existence, continuity, and influence of a culture in a society or human group. It covers all aspects related to cultural identity, including norms, values, practices, language, art, religion, as well as knowledge and cultural heritage. Cultural existence reflects the way individuals and groups live their daily lives, as well as the way they pass on their knowledge and traditions to the next generation (Nur, 2021).

During the Tota'an event, dove lovers gather to share information about dove care. They also enjoy a meal together and make this a moment to interact, exchange experiences, and increase their knowledge on how to care for doves. In addition to the social aspect, this tradition also includes entertainment elements, such as social gatherings and raffles with prizes that may not be too luxurious. Although these gifts are not the main focus, their spirit of brotherhood and love for doves is clearly reflected in this tradition. Tota'an tradition also includes offerings of doves decorated with colourful ribbons and crested ornaments. Hundreds of people proudly carry baskets of doves, and the number of doves participating can be in the thousands. This tradition reflects a deep respect for the dove as a symbol of peace and loyalty. Therefore, the Tota'an tradition in Jember regency is a concrete example of how local culture can enrich religious meaning and symbolism, especially with respect to doves, while strengthening social bonds and knowledge sharing among dove enthusiasts in the region.

Religious values in the Tota'an dove tradition

The Value of Solidarity

The Tota'an tradition emphasizes the importance of solidarity in local culture. The value of cultural solidarity is a deep and powerful concept in local culture, which has a significant impact on social cohesion and relationships between individuals in the community. Therefore, we need to strengthen the sense of solidarity in society (Budiarto, 2020).

Solidarity, as a social concept, creates a close network of social relations between individuals in local communities. This is reflected in various aspects of local culture, from close family relationships to traditions of social care, as well as practices of collaboration and exchange within the community. In many local cultures, the family is considered the primary source of social and emotional support, which creates the foundation for deep values of solidarity. The tradition of gotong royong, which is a common practice in many local cultures, is a concrete example of how solidarity is reflected in daily activities. In certain situations, such as cleaning up neighbourhoods or helping community members in need, local communities often band together to work for the common good. It creates a sense of community and concern for others that is at the core of the value of solidarity (Lede, 2022).

Religious ceremonies and social rituals are essential platforms for strengthening social relations and a sense of unity in local culture. Participation in these ceremonies creates a strong feeling of solidarity and identity among community members. In practice, these ceremonies also create opportunities for communities to interact and strengthen their social bonds (Mahendra et al., 2022). The system of exchange of goods and services in the local culture also reflects the value of solidarity. Individuals in local communities often help each other by assisting, collaborating on projects, and sharing resources. It creates strong economic and social bonds within the community. The positive implications of the value of solidarity in local culture include stronger social cohesion, maintenance of a rich cultural identity, and improvement of shared well-being. These values create a welcoming and inclusive environment where community members feel welcome and respected.

Maintaining local culture is an obligation to strengthen solidarity in the community. Local culture is not only about preserving cultural heritage but also about building and maintaining close social ties, which, in turn, creates a solid and united society. In Islamic teachings, the Quran reflects the values of solidarity, unity, and concern for others (Huda, 2019). For instance: *"And hold fast to you all by the rope of Allah, and do not scatter, and remember Allah's favour to you when you were once hostile, and Allah united your hearts, and became you because of the favour of Allah, brothers. And you were on the brink of hell, and God saved you from it. Thus God explained his verses unto you that ye might be instructed."* (Ali 'Imran: 103). This verse emphasizes the importance

of unity and solidarity in Islam. This message refers to the command to unite in religion and not to be divided. It also emphasizes that unity is a gift of God that must be remembered. In the context of local culture, this message highlights the importance of uniting, avoiding division, and remembering the blessings of unity.

Another verse translates: "O believers, let not one people mock another, (for) they may be better than those who mock; and neither should women (make fun of) other women, (for) they may be better than them (who mock); and reproach yourselves not, and call not by bad titles; At worst the title is ungodly after faith. And whoever does not repent is the unjust people." (Al-Hujurat: 11). This verse reminds Muslims not to make fun of or denounce others. This message encourages justice, fraternity, and respect for others. It reflects the importance of concern for the feelings and self-esteem of others in the local culture and Islam as a whole.

The importance of sharing with people in need without expecting rewards is also noted in relation to this context. This is a significant value of solidarity in Islam and local culture, emphasising selfless care for others as stated: "Behold, we give you food only for the pleasure of Allah. We don't expect a reply and thanks from you." (Al-Insan: 9). In addition, another verse mentioned: "And they fed the food they liked to the poor, orphans, and captives." (Al-Insan: 8). This verse describes the act of feeding people in need, especially the less fortunate, such as orphans and captives. This is one concrete example of the value of solidarity in Islam, where individuals are expected to care for the welfare of their fellow human beings. It creates closer and more affectionate relationships within the local community. These verses reflect the values of solidarity, unity, and concern for others in Islam, which are also relevant to the local culture. They reminded Muslims to live in unity, respect others, and pay special attention to people in need. Solidarity is a substantial value in Islam and has a positive impact on social cohesion in local communities.

Islamic Integrity Values

There is a slogan, "doves never break promise," in local communities. This becomes the spirit of the community, thus forming a culture that activates this interest. They consider the dove created by God will not betray or break promises. This is in line with the finding in Myanmar that Dove is famous for its direction (Cheesman, 2017). They are known to find their home, even after a long journey. In the context of culture, this becomes

enculturation to instal into integrity. They assume that if God's creation has integrity, man should have far more than that because the orientation of reason should have religious integrity. In practice, groups of birds belonging to individuals or communities are contested not like complaints in general, but groups of birds are released simultaneously. The race is judged by the group of birds returning to their halfway house sooner.

The local resident said that they are not worried at all if their doves are released simultaneously. In fact, they are not afraid that their doves will not come home (Sukmono, Interview 12/08/2023). This raises the value of integrity so that loyalty and love for the doves synchronize with the creator, which means that their efforts to surrender are part of the integrity of Islam. Islamic integrity is a value that contains the meaning of honesty, loyalty, consistency, and responsibility in carrying out all the commandments and prohibitions of Allah SWT. The integrity of Islam also includes the attitude of *sidiq* (truthful), *tabligh* (spreading teachings), and *fathonah* (understanding) possessed by the Prophet SAW as an example for humanity. Truthful becomes the principle as stated: "O you who believe! Fear Allah, and speak the truth." (QS. Al-Ahzab: 70). This verse commands believers to be devoted to Allah Almighty by carrying out His commandments and staying away from His prohibitions. This verse also commands us to speak righteous words, the words that are honest, upright, and factual. Valid words will lead to goodness and salvation in this world and in the hereafter.

The slogan "Dove never breaks promises" gives semiotics and symbolism to the community to maintain an honest and loyal attitude. It is in line with the Quran that says: "Behold, Allah commands you to deliver a commission to those who deserve it, and (commands you) to establish laws among men, that you may establish it justly. Indeed, God has taught you the best. Verily, Allah is All-Hearing and All-Seeing." (QS. An-Nisa: 58). This verse instructs believers to be entrusted in keeping the commission given by Allah Almighty or fellow humans. The trust can be property, position, knowledge, secrets, or other responsibilities. This verse also calls for justice in establishing laws among men without taking sides, tyranny, or prejudice. This verse shows that trustworthiness and fairness are two essential qualities that believers must possess; through local culture, training efforts can use ethnozoological paths as a form of teaching and reflection value in increasing devotion to Allah

swt. They gather and exchange information and even have a meal (*slametan*) and pray together.

In this research, *slametan* plays a crucial role as a religious and communal expression within the Tota'an tradition. *Slametan*, as one of the forms of religious ceremonies in the Jember community, illustrates the close relationship between Islamic integrity values and ethnozoological practices in daily life. First and foremost, *slametan* reflects the values of mutual assistance and solidarity among the community (Awalin, 2018). The presence of doves in the Tota'an tradition symbolizes togetherness, considering that in *slametan*, the community comes together to celebrate significant moments. This mirrors the concept of mutual help and cooperation, essential values in Islam. Secondly, *slametan* also embodies the values of justice and equality among the community. In *slametan*, there is no differentiation in treatment between one group and another. All members of the community, regardless of social or economic status, come together to celebrate this religious event. These values align with Islamic teachings that emphasize the importance of justice in all aspects of life (van den Boogert, 2017).

Furthermore, *slametan* serves as a venue for collective prayer. This communal prayer reflects religious values, such as piety and reverence for God. In the context of Tota'an, doves as symbols can also be interpreted as a medium that enriches the meaning of collective prayer. By integrating ethnozoological elements, *slametan* becomes a more profound and meaningful religious experience for the people of Jember. It is crucial to note that *slametan* in the Tota'an tradition is not merely a formal ritual but a part of daily practices that bring Islamic values to life in the community. *Slametan* is not just a religious activity; it also reflects how local traditions, ethnozoology, and religious values are interconnected, shaping a strong cultural identity (Rofiq, 2019). Thus, *slametan* in the context of this research is not only a routine ceremony but also a cornerstone that strengthens the relationship between ethnozoology, local traditions, and Islamic values. *Slametan* creates a space to explore and experience the meaning of ethnozoology within the context of religious values. It forms a harmonious unity and adding a unique color to the lives of the people practicing the Tota'an dove tradition in Jember.

Conclusion

Local culture, especially the Tota'an dove tradition in Jember, Indonesia, has a significant influence in shaping the values and behaviour of local communities. Values such as solidarity, integrity, and concern for others are reflected in the active participation of the community in this tradition. In addition, the Tota'an dove tradition also plays a vital role in maintaining religious values and in shaping human relationships with nature and the surrounding environment. This study revealed that the Tota'an dove culture is not only a cultural heritage preserved by the community but also a foundation for social norms, religious values, and relationships with nature inherent in the daily life of the Jember people.

Maintaining and preserving local cultures such as Tota'an dove is a must, as it impacts not only people's cultural identity but also the values underlying their lives. Further research into these aspects of local culture may be able to provide deeper insights into how local culture affects society and how people, in turn, influence their culture. In addition, a deeper understanding of the relationship between local culture and social, religious, and ecological development can also assist communities and stakeholders in maintaining and promoting the sustainability of this culture.

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