

## UNDERSTANDING THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS OF TAIPA WEAVING IN SOROWAKO, SOUTH SULAWESI: FROM TRADITIONAL HERITAGE TO CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL EXPRESSION

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### **Abstract**

*Taipa Weaving is a cultural heritage of the Sorowako community, East Luwu Regency, South Sulawesi, which embodies historical, social, and cultural values through its distinctive motifs. However, the complexity of traditional motifs often limits public understanding and recognition of the cultural meanings they represent. This study aims to examine the transformation of Taipa Weaving motifs as an effort to enhance public understanding and recognition of the cultural values embedded within them. A qualitative descriptive approach was employed through observation, documentation, and interviews with local weavers and cultural practitioners. The findings reveal that Taipa Weaving motifs are derived from various local cultural artifacts, including pottery ornaments, stone engravings, traditional tools, and natural elements. These visual sources have undergone processes of simplification, stylization, and repetition, resulting in motifs that are more structured, recognizable, and suitable for textile applications while preserving their original cultural meanings. The transformation process reflects a form of cultural adaptation that enables local cultural values to remain relevant and accessible to contemporary society. The study concludes that motif transformation contributes to strengthening public recognition of Taipa Weaving and supports the preservation of Sorowako's cultural identity through more communicative visual representations.*

**Keywords:** *Taipa Weaving; Cultural Identity; Motif Transformation.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Cultural heritage constitutes an essential component of a community's identity, representing values, knowledge, history, and ways of life that are transmitted across generations. As a country characterized by rich cultural diversity, Indonesia possesses various forms of cultural heritage that contribute to preserving local identities while strengthening national cultural diversity. However, the rapid development of globalization and modernization has significantly influenced how communities perceive and practice traditional cultures. Cultural transformation has therefore emerged as a form of adaptation that enables cultural traditions to remain relevant and sustainable amid ongoing social change (Fauzan, 2025).

One form of cultural heritage with strong historical and cultural significance is the weaving tradition. Weaving serves not only as a textile product but also as a medium for preserving local knowledge, cultural identity, and collective values within