

**ADULTS' VERSUS ELDERS' PERCEIVED UNDERSTANDING
OF THE ENDANGERED LEXICONS OF THE *METATAH*
RITUAL IN MENYALI VILLAGE**

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ABSTRACT

The *Metatah* ritual, a Balinese Hindu life-cycle ceremony practiced in Menyali Village, contains ritual lexicons that reflect cultural and spiritual knowledge passed down through generations. This study aimed to (1) identify the level of adults' perceived understanding of the endangered lexicons of the *Metatah* ritual, (2) identify the level of elders' perceived understanding, and (3) examine whether there was a significant difference between both groups. This study employed a quantitative comparative cross-sectional design involving 100 respondents consisting of 50 adults and 50 elders. Data were collected through a structured questionnaire containing 35 ritual lexicons and analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics through the Mann–Whitney U test. The findings showed a clear generational gap in perceived understanding. Most adults were categorized into very low (52%) and low (48%) levels, while elders were categorized into very high (90%) and high (10%) levels of perceived understanding. The statistical analysis also revealed a significant difference between adults and elders in their perceived understanding of the *Metatah* ritual lexicons ($p < 0.05$). These findings indicate that the ritual lexicons of the *Metatah* ceremony are experiencing lexical vulnerability due to weakening intergenerational transmission.

Keywords: endangered lexicons; *Metatah* ritual; perceived understanding; adults and elders; Menyali Village

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ABSTRAK

Ritual *Metatah*, sebagai salah satu upacara daur hidup umat Hindu Bali yang dilaksanakan di Desa Menyali, mengandung leksikon ritual yang mencerminkan pengetahuan budaya dan spiritual yang diwariskan secara turun-temurun. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk (1) mengidentifikasi tingkat pemahaman persepsian orang dewasa terhadap leksikon terancam dalam ritual *Metatah*, (2) mengidentifikasi tingkat pemahaman persepsian para tetua, dan (3) menguji apakah terdapat perbedaan yang signifikan antara kedua kelompok tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain kuantitatif komparatif dengan pendekatan cross-sectional yang melibatkan 100 responden, terdiri atas 50 orang dewasa dan 50 tetua. Data dikumpulkan melalui kuesioner terstruktur yang memuat 35 leksikon ritual dan dianalisis menggunakan statistik deskriptif serta statistik inferensial melalui uji Mann-Whitney U. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan adanya kesenjangan antargenerasi yang jelas dalam pemahaman persepsian. Sebagian besar orang dewasa berada pada kategori sangat rendah (52%) dan rendah (48%), sedangkan para tetua berada pada kategori sangat tinggi (90%) dan tinggi (10%) dalam pemahaman persepsian terhadap leksikon ritual *Metatah*. Analisis statistik juga menunjukkan adanya perbedaan yang signifikan antara orang dewasa dan tetua dalam pemahaman persepsian terhadap leksikon ritual *Metatah* ($p < 0,05$). Temuan ini menunjukkan bahwa leksikon ritual *Metatah* mengalami kerentanan leksikal akibat melemahnya transmisi antargenerasi.

Kata Kunci: *leksikon terancam punah; ritual Metatah; pemahaman perseptif; dewasa dan lansia; Desa Menyali*