

Project Ibunka 2023 the Final

Friday, November 3, 2023
Project Ibunka 2023, Newsletter
No. 7
M. Watanabe wata33@gmail.com

Cultures, Cultures, and Cultures This is my Language (66)

A little about the importance of the Ukrainian language (2058) **10342 Shutilieva Anastasiia, Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute R - Ukraine**

Hello everyone! 😊 For everyone who still needs to meet me, my name is Anastasiia or simply Nastia. At first glance, it was hard to decide on the topic I wanted to talk about. But then I read all the topics and realised that this was exactly the one I was looking for. The issue of language is the one that is sometimes scary to discuss in my country. And I hope I'll be able to explain to you why.



As you know (or maybe don't) our national language is Ukrainian. And the biggest part of our nation speaks this language. But the matter is that the smallest part, however a lot of people, speak Russian. Why so? The prohibition of the Ukrainian language on the territory of Ukraine has its own complex history. I will tell you about only a part of it.

During the period of the Russian Empire (18th and 19th centuries), the Ukrainian language was restricted and suppressed in many spheres of life, especially in the territory that belonged to the Russian Empire. The Russian Empire sought to Russify the Ukrainian population by prohibiting the use of the Ukrainian language in state and church institutions.

During the Soviet era, in particular, under the leadership of Joseph Stalin, the Ukrainian language was heavily repressed. The use of the Ukrainian language in education, the media, and state institutions was prohibited. Books and literature in the Ukrainian language were restricted. Many Ukrainians were forced to speak Russian.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the declaration of Ukraine's independence, Ukrainian became the official state language of the country. This helped to restore and strengthen the status of the Ukrainian language in all spheres of society. However, a lot of people still speak Russian, because of their ancestors.

It's the same story with my family. My grandparents and parents lived and grew up in the Soviet Union, so they were obliged to speak Russian. So my brother and I were raised in the Russian space. We knew Ukrainian, of course, and everyone studied in the national language at school. But the rest of the time, with friends and family, we used Russian.

Now the situation has changed dramatically. After the Russian invasion, I decided to dissociate myself from Russia in all areas of my life, including the language issue. Most of the Ukrainian people, who also think about the future of the state and the preservation of its culture, have also switched to the Ukrainian language.

However, it should be noted that there is a significant number of people who do not consider language to be important and continue to speak the language of the enemy during the war. That is why the language issue in my country is complicated and it is advisable not to discuss it with strangers, as it can lead to a major conflict.

I hope you found it interesting and learned something new for yourself. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you.

Hello Nastia! (2417) **10806 Aoi Fukuoka, Bunkyo University - Japan** **Hello Nastia! ! I'm Aoi.**

I read your essay and became very interested in the language problem in Ukraine. Thank you for making me interested in new things!

In Japan, during World War II, there were times when English was not used because it would lead to people suspecting that you were a spy. Nowadays, learning another country's language is seen as a good thing. However, if war or other political issues arise in the future, the evaluation of foreign languages will likely change.



My grandparents are similar to Nastya's grandparents and are reluctant to speak English. The reason is the

influence of World War II. In addition, the proprietress of the inn where I used to work had a hard time accepting people from Nepal, and she started getting angry when we said "OK" in English.

Reading your essay made me realize once again that words are delicate, and that everyone must be careful when speaking them.

There are two things I would like to ask Natia. I would appreciate it if you could tell me which country's language you speak. Also, I would be happy if you could tell me how learning a foreign language is valued in Ukraine.

Sorry for asking so many questions 🙏 Please reply when you have time. I'm glad to share about language with you. thank you!

The Significance of Bahasa Indonesia: Uniting Diversity in Indonesia (2057) **10604 Intan Priyani, SMK PGRI Subang - Indonesia**

Bahasa Indonesia is the native language of Indonesia, embracing the cultural and ethnic diversity found across the archipelago's numerous islands, which total around 17,000. Within my country, Indonesia, there are more than 700 regional languages. Bahasa Indonesia serves not only as a means of communication but also as a unifying factor for the nation's diverse identity. This language boasts a rich history, evolving from various regional dialects into a recognized national language.



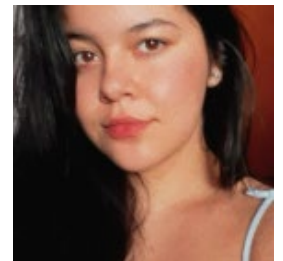
Indonesia's cultural and linguistic diversity enriches Bahasa Indonesia with a wide range of vocabulary and expressions. It plays a crucial role in uniting the people of Indonesia, conveying values, and upholding unity in diversity. Bahasa Indonesia symbolizes unity in diversity, serving as a bridge between Indonesia's varied ethnicities, religions, and cultures.

Hello Intan!! (2163)

10902 Amanda Cristina Maia da Silva

Universidade Tecnologica Federal do Parana - Brazil

The description of Bahasa Indonesia provided in your text highlights its significant role as the native language of Indonesia. This language serves as a unifying factor in a nation characterized by remarkable cultural and ethnic diversity spread across thousands of islands.



Indonesia's linguistic diversity is truly impressive, with more than 700 regional languages coexisting in the country. Despite this diversity, Bahasa Indonesia plays a vital role in bridging the communication gap and promoting unity among the Indonesian people. It has a rich historical background, evolving from various regional dialects to become the recognized national language.

The diversity of Indonesian culture and languages contributes to the richness of Bahasa Indonesia, infusing it with a broad spectrum of vocabulary and expressions. Beyond mere communication, Bahasa Indonesia carries cultural values and serves as a symbol of unity in diversity, and that's super interesting.

Thank you for sharing this information with us, I really enjoyed getting to know a little about your language. If you want to know more about mine (Portuguese), I've posted a text about it.

This is What I Believe and Think, My Religion and Philosophy (65)

The reason why I believe (2203)

10035 Tarani Pasha, SMK PGRI 2 Cibinong Group D - Indonesia

Indonesia is an Islamic country in the world. Taken from several trusted sources, there are around 231 million people who embrace Islam here and the majority of Indonesia's population is Muslim. The first time Islam entered our country was when Gujarati traders, Arab traders and Persians traded around Indonesia, around the 7th or 8th century, and there were Islamic villages at that time around the Malacca Strait. At that time they traded while preaching to introduce Islam in my country.



Apart from traders, the most famous spreaders of Islam in Indonesia were the "Walisongo" or nine wali. They preach and approach in social and cultural ways. Islam teaches many things, tolerance between people, helping each other, doing good to everyone, and many others.

Al-Qur'an is the holy book and guide to life for all Muslims, all the rules, answers to all questions on earth exist

and are written in Al-Qur'an.

"If there is no shoulder to lean on then there is a prayer mat to prostrate on." A short quote that I once read on one of social media really touched my heart, for people who believe that prayer will make all human affairs easier and everything will run smoothly. I believe, and really believe.

The reason I believe is because I have felt a lot of God's power and favor until now. For example, the joy of life, the pleasure of water, meeting good people, and in this IBUNKA projects i will being able to communicate with each other and getting to know soul mate people and knowing various cultures in various different countries,

I think that's a small part of God's many blessings that make me believe in God.

Thanks for reading my article, I hope you are always protected wherever and whenever. How do we believe that we still have to respect each other's differences, right? Have a nice day guys!

Hello) (2579)

10335 Klymovych Olha

Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute R - Ukraine

Thank you for sharing this wonderful and insightful message about Islam in Indonesia and your personal beliefs. It's always a pleasure to hear about the rich cultural and religious heritage of your country.

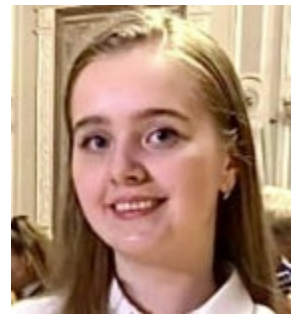
The history of Islam in Indonesia, with its roots dating back to the 7th or 8th century, is truly fascinating. It's incredible to think about how the faith was introduced through trade and peaceful preaching by Gujarati, Arab, and Persian traders. It's also heartening to see how Islam teaches values such as tolerance, helping one another, and doing good to everyone. These principles are universal and can bring people of different backgrounds together.

The significance of the Quran in the lives of Muslims is truly profound. The quote you shared beautifully encapsulates the power of prayer and faith. Belief in the divine and the practice of prayer can bring comfort and strength during difficult times.

I'm glad to hear that you have personally experienced the blessings and guidance of your faith. The joy of life, the beauty of nature, and the connections we make with people are indeed precious gifts that remind us of the power of belief.

Your message is a wonderful reminder of the importance of respecting each other's differences. In a world with diverse cultures and beliefs, understanding and tolerance are essential for peaceful coexistence.

Thank you for sharing your thoughts and experiences. I wish you continued blessings and protection, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn more about your culture and faith. Have a great day, dear!



My belief (2025)

10265 Kristina Romanovska

Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute N – Ukraine

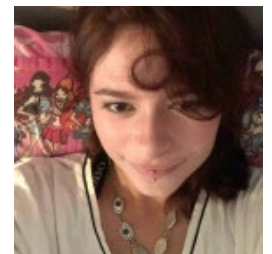
My belief encompasses a deep conviction in the universe and in the idea that every individual constructs their own life. Belief in this universal truth has become a guiding light for me in challenging moments, helping me understand that we possess an incredible power to influence our destiny.

I believe that the universe is vast and incredibly intricate, teeming with boundless possibilities. Each of us is a part of this marvelous cosmos, and we have a unique path defined by our own choices, actions, and beliefs.

It's important to remember that, although faith can be a significant, crucial component of our lives, we cannot always find answers to all questions solely through faith. At times, we must take responsibility for our lives, make decisions, and shape our destiny through our actions.

There are moments when people turn to faith for answers, seeking assistance and support. This is normal because faith can be a source of inner peace and hope. However, we must also remember that we have the power to change our lives by taking action and assuming responsibility for our choices.

My faith in the harmony between the universe and our own potential gives me courage and confidence that each of us can build our own life and be the author of our own story."



I absolutely loved your post Kristina :) (2236)

10911 Emilly Maria Sampaio Prestes

Universidade Tecnologica Federal do Parana - Brazil

Your post was so inspiring!! It's beautiful the way you see life, and I'm sure it gives you a lot of peace.. I absolutely loved that :)

Sometimes when I'm feeling overwhelmed or scary to do something new, I just try to think of how big the universe is and that taking some silly decision about a clothes or something is not gonna make a difference in no one lives but mine, that is really comforting!

Just these days I was waiting for my bus to go back home, and I wrote this thing on my phone that I want to share with you:

Today waiting for the bus and listening to Gal Costa, I felt complete
And it made me think that about two years ago I was scary of life
About was she was going to do with me
And today I realized that what is worthy is what I'm going to do with my life
The world is not my prison anymore
My home lives in it
And this home, by the way
It always was me

I don't know why but it just feels really connected with what you said. It was great to know a little bit about your beliefs, thank you so much.

This is How I have Learned English (63)

The way I learn English (2059)

10341 Shelest Mariia-Mahdalena

Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute R - Ukraine

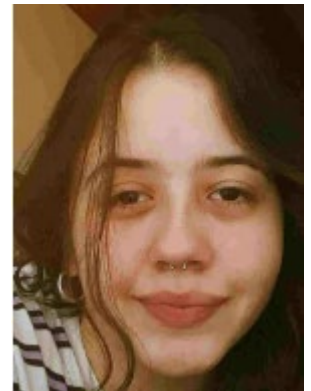
It's nice you found a second to check out my post on this topic. Take some tea with cookies and let this mini-blog moment begin!

I've started learning English in the Primary school. We had a friendly teacher, I still remember her positive approach. But here is the thing: I wasn't THAT excited to learn all those incomprehensible words and stuff. I don't remember this part, but my mom says I wasn't into it at all. Nevertheless, our excellent teacher did her job very well, so I finally started reading in English one day. Wow. That is where my actual way began. What's up next you may ask? Well, moving to middle school, there was a period of studying the offered program only. Was that effective? I don't think so. Maybe, if our school program hadn't been so overloaded with extremely unimportant for kids details, we'd have had more time to extend our vocabulary or simply practice actual talking in English. This would have been nice. I don't think that knowing about Euglena Viridis is more important than speaking English for the majority of us. Do you agree?

So it's the time. The TEENAGE time. The time when your toys are put apart and you explore the world around you. That is exactly when I dived into Imagine Dragons music and maybe into pop rock in general. Let me tell you about how this canon event affected my English. Frankly speaking, it did a lot. You know, this wasn't just about listening. It was about learning scripts and translations. Now you see that, right? Once this started, there was no chance to escape. I had a bunch of screenshots on my phone. I reviewed them often, learning new things. I'm still listening to foreign music only, though I stopped learning texts intensively a few years ago.

Exams. You know exactly what they are, ha? And either do I. In high school, I attended private lessons once a week for a year or two. It was a quite popular thing in Ukraine (and so it is now), and there are no expensive options either. I don't think there's a lot to talk about, but here's a fun fact: to test my language level in the first lesson, the private teacher suggested IMAGINE DRAGONS KARAOKE. I did so well, omg.

What's next? Did I become an English God? Of course, I didn't. There is always something new to learn. I'm trying to improve my language by reviewing grammar and learning new words. Reading books is helpful as well. I would never have thought that I would need the particular word, but here it is, right in front of me on the page. I practice my writing skills on this platform a lot. I like talking to open people, and everyone seems to be nice here. To practice listening I love stories or blogs on YouTube, as well as TEDx talks. Do you like those? What kind of content do you prefer? Share your favorites in the comments! Maybe some interesting videos would dilute my



playlist.

Wow, that's a big text I shared! I hope you enjoyed it and thanks for the time you spent on it! Is your experience any different? What surprised you the most?

From zero to be an English native speaker (2130) **10584 Fadhila Nadine Haryanto, SMA Plus PGRI Cibinong - Indonesia**

Hello mates!! I extend a warm welcome to everyone who read my article here!!! In this article I would like to share my journey to get understanding, thinking and speaking in English. Though my native language is bahasa, I could still learn many languages. So, I mean that we be able to learn everything if we want it. And Here are my secret tips



1. Write down your specific goal

I had written that I am an English native speaker, when I was 12 years old. At first, I didn't believe that if I wrote something down it would actually happen. Because subconsciously my mind knew it would happen and it registered in my mind then it started working towards my goals, even I'm not thinking about it anymore.

2. do the work towards the goal. You cannot only write down "I want to become an English native speaker" and only sit down and scrolling your phone in your room, right? Then do the work towards the goal.

3. Surround yourself with English

I really love when I learn English with movie, comics, read many English books, and also read beautiful affirmations article in English. That's all so much boost my understanding and thinking in English. And yeah at my school we have an English organization and English course which has many benefits for the students who want to improve their English skills. Because our teachers always remind us that the most important skills to participating in competing and working internationally is the ability to speak English. So we must to mastering in English.



The last but not the least, this is no less important too. Our school has weekly activity hold a roll call after learning activities on every Saturday. Where there is a speech presentation from each class 10 student, but in turns I once gave a speech in front of my classmates and teachers, and that really honed my English Speaking skills. If I have another chance, I want to give another speech, hahaha addicted.

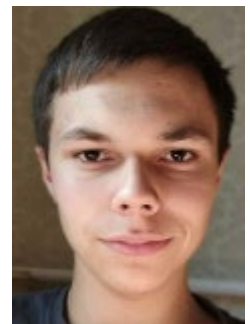
I think that's all from me guys. I hope you learn something in this article. Please feel free to leave me a comment and I will reply your comment with pretty nice story again!!

(n_n)-o(Learning language method)o-(n_n) (2276)

10165 Zakhar Mykhailyshyn **Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute F - Ukraine**

Hello, I want to tell about how I studied and still study English, maybe it will help someone. I myself am not a big fan of watching movies, I prefer watching anime or listening to music.

I loved English-speaking music by itself, I analyzed the texts of songs, which helped me a lot, then I used some phrases in conversations, I think this method is quite effective, but it often happens that performers or songwriters do not try hard to ensure the correctness of the text, for them, as a rule what matters is the sound, so sometimes what you hear in the music may not be correct from the point of view of use.



As I said before, I'm not a fan of watching movies, however, the way to watch your favorite movies or series in English will help you, preferably watch it all first with subtitles of the language you're watching, that is, in our case, English. Although the method is good, it has its downside, it is when you want to watch your favorite series or movie, but what is supposed to relax turns into active learning, and this is already a problem for someone. It's easier when you already have some minimum level to understand the context.

Well, one more way that I didn't mention before is communicating directly with the carrier. But it really is a big boost to your efforts, the learning process always goes faster with a medium.

I will say that these methods help me not only to learn English, but also languages in general, because I am still learning Japanese, albeit with variable success, but it is a little more difficult because the language is completely new, and you need to know a lot of basics.

I understand that for some I have not told anything new here, but this only shows the effectiveness of these methods. I have a problem, I don't know the best way to learn English grammar, maybe one of you can share a useful resource or some method or, as he himself did it, I think it will help me.

Young People of My Country/Town (58)

Empowering Indonesian Youth for a Brighter Future (2164) 10604 Intan Priyani, SMK PGRI Subang - Indonesia

We, the youth of Indonesia, with our energy, enthusiasm, and ambition, play a significant role in shaping the future of our nation. Indonesia is one of the countries with the largest youth populations in the world, and this is what gives the younger generation in Indonesia the immense potential to influence positive change.



My thoughts on the youth in Indonesia are that they possess extraordinary capabilities to confront various challenges. They are powerful agents of change, especially in the context of social, economic, and political transformations. However, to maximize their potential, the youth need access to quality education, opportunities for decent employment, and support in skill development.

Furthermore, I believe that the youth in Indonesia also carry a significant responsibility for preserving the culture and heritage of our nation. Indonesia's diverse and rich culture is a valuable asset that must be conserved. The youth can play a pivotal role in safeguarding traditions, arts, and languages while promoting diversity as a strength rather than a weakness.

The youth of Indonesia hold great potential to create positive change in various aspects of life. It is crucial for all of us to support and motivate them to harness their potential to the fullest for a better future for Indonesia.

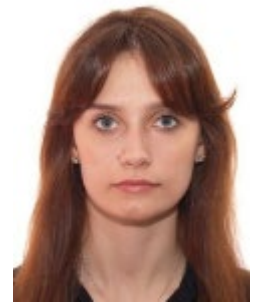
Indonesia is a nation rich in diverse cultures and traditions. One of the most stunning and colorful festivals in the country is the Bali Cultural Festival. This festival is held annually on the island of Bali, also known as the "Island of the Gods." It is an extraordinary celebration of the beauty of the arts, music, dance, and traditions that have shaped the culture of this island for centuries.

questions about your text (2333)

10114 Daria Yelistratov

Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute B – Ukraine

What are the most pressing challenges or issues that the youth in Indonesia face today? How do you think these challenges could be addressed to unlock the full potential of the younger generation? Additionally, how important is it for the youth to actively engage in preserving Indonesia's rich cultural heritage, and what methods or initiatives could help in achieving this goal? Lastly, what support and opportunities do you think are essential to empower the youth and guide them toward making significant positive changes in Indonesia's future?



Addressing Challenges Faced by Indonesian Youth and Preserving Cultural Heritage (2353)

10604 Intan Priyani, SMK PGRI Subang - Indonesia

Hello Daria! In the present day, Indonesian youth are facing several pressing challenges that require serious attention. One of the most urgent issues is the limited access to quality employment. Many Indonesian youth are either unemployed or working in the informal sector. To address this, we need to create quality job opportunities and support skill development to enable young people to compete in the job market.

Education remains a crucial issue. Comprehensive education reform is necessary, including ensuring access to quality education, especially in rural areas. Investing in an education system that aligns with the demands of the job market is a crucial step in equipping the younger generation.

Furthermore, it is of great importance for the youth to actively engage in preserving Indonesia's rich cultural heritage. Initiatives such as arts and cultural training, traditional arts festivals, and heritage preservation projects can help safeguard our traditions, arts, and languages.

To empower the youth and guide them toward significant positive changes, we need to provide quality education, job opportunities, and an environment that supports innovation and entrepreneurship. Encouraging their active participation in the political process and citizenship is also vital so that they can play a role in shaping a better future for Indonesia.

Traditional Arts of My Country/Town (56)

The Aesthetic and Essence of Japanese Calligraphy, “Shodo” (2383)

39 Naoko Kasami, Bunkyo University - Japan

Have you encountered the art of Japanese Calligraphy, “Shodo”? In Japan, a typical repertoire of childhood lessons encompasses piano, swimming, conversational English, and notably, calligraphy. I would like to highlight the appeal of learning calligraphy. I have been into Japanese Calligraphy, “Shodo” since elementary school. In this article, I will write about two fundamental aspects: (1) The intrinsic nature of “Shodo” and (2) my calligraphy teacher.



Firstly, the universe of Japanese Calligraphy, or “Shodo” as it is referred to in Japanese, is expansive. The term “sho” translates to “writing”, while “do” signifies “way”. The latter is employed in numerous traditions or disciplines that require training, potentially encompassing spiritual growth and self-control for your mindset. For instance, the Japanese tea ceremony is termed “Sado”, and it is also training for your growth in your mind. Perhaps you are familiar with sports such as “Judo”, “Kendo”, and “Aikido”. These are martial arts that focus on self-defense through mental fortitude and technique. In essence, “Shodo” is more than just the act of writing beautifully, and it fosters the cultivation of character traits. It has been effective in teaching me invaluable life skills such as maintaining equanimity, adopting the correct posture, and honing my focus. It has helped shape my character.

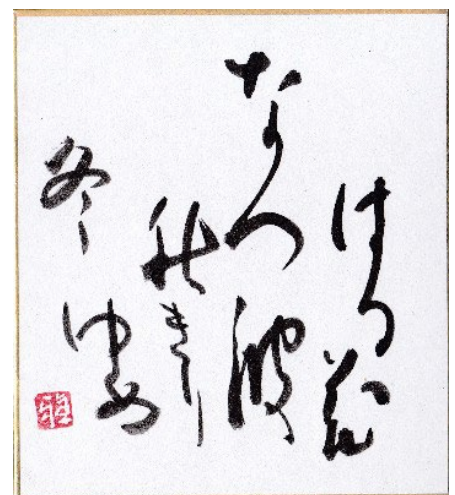


Secondly, my calligraphy teacher was kind and beautiful both in her writing and on the inside, and I truly respected her. She dedicated her life to teaching calligraphy until she reached the age of 90. Her teachings extended beyond calligraphy; she taught me strategies to overcome various challenges. Her words were a source of joy for me. Upon graduating from university and started working, I found myself grappling with demanding days at work that tested my resilience. My teacher was a confidante who lent a sympathetic ear to issues that I found difficult to talk about with my peers. She offered wise advice drawn from her own experiences. Moreover, my calligraphy teacher always taught us happily, and she continued to learn calligraphy with great enthusiasm. I respected her so

much that I continued attending lessons for many years solely for the opportunity to interact with her. My teacher often said that the learning attitude of being flexible in thinking and accepting would improve writing and our lives. My encounter with my calligraphy teacher sparked in me the desire to contribute to the field of education. A few years ago, she passed away, but I firmly believe that her words and kindness continue to resonate with me.

In this way, my fascination with Japanese Calligraphy runs deep. As I practiced it, I cherished memories with my esteemed teacher. I aspire to share the enchantment of Japanese Calligraphy. Have you learned calligraphy in your country? If you have or if you develop an interest in Japanese Calligraphy, I would be delighted to hear from you.

p.s. The attached photo is from when I gave a one-day calligraphy lesson in England at the invitation of one of my friends who worked at the school. It was a great time to convey to the lovely girls what I had learned from my calligraphy teacher.



Japanese Shodo
Spring – flower, Summer – wave, Autumn – fog, Winter - dream

Hello, Naoko! (2490)

10341 Shelest Mariia-Mahdalena

Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute R - Ukraine

Thank you for sharing this type of art with us. I'm so glad to know about your calligraphy passion, as I strongly believe that hardworking artistic people are constantly changing this world for the better. I've never heard about Shodo before, but I've definitely seen the results of that sort of work. It's covered in media as an important part of a culture. I suggest, that I've noticed Shodo in some series or anime.

The story about your teacher is touching. Absolutely incredible one, for me, it also symbolizes the connection between generations. I've never studied calligraphy as an art, but I agree that it's a lot about concentration and training body and mind. In school, we're improving our handwriting, but it wasn't ever in the way you describe Shodo.

Could you show me an example of your artwork? I'm curious since I love drawing and I suggest calligraphy and painting have something in common. I wish you the best! Keep it up!

(I also just wanted to say that your storytelling is so good, that's almost like reading a whole book, not just a post)



Unique Art from West Sumatra!! (2250)

10575 Niken Andriani, SMA Plus PGRI Cibinong - Indonesia

Haloo, in this article I will tell you all about the uniqueness of art in Indonesia. Actually, I have many things to share, but in this article, I will tell you about the art of the province of West Sumatra, which is on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia.

The first art I want to tell you about is Tari Piring or plate dancing. This dance is one of the arts in Indonesia that is very unique. Tari Piring in Indonesia has been around since the 12th century. Initially, this dance was used for the worship of the Minangkabau people towards the Rice Goddess for the harvest. But over time this dance changed its function. Nowadays, Tari Piring is used for welcoming guests of honor, traditional ceremonies, and weddings.



Tari Piring movements in general are placing two plates on two palms. The dancer swings the plate in rapid movements, interspersed with clinking plates or two rings on the dancer's finger against the plate she is carrying. At the end of the dance, usually the plates brought by the dancers are thrown on the floor and the dancers will dance on the broken plates. And that's what makes this dance so unique but dangerous if done without expert guidance.



Another dance from West Sumatra province is Tari Lilin or the Candle Dance. In this dance, the dancers will carry candles accompanied by music played by a group of musicians or musicians. The dancers will dance Tari Lilin in groups by carefully rotating the plate containing the candle. This is done to keep the plate from going out and always above the dancer's palm.

In ancient times, Tari Lilin was only performed in the palace environment at certain traditional events. This dance is carried out as an expression of gratitude to God for the successes and achievements obtained by the community.

However, the function of wax dance has changed. Currently, this typical dance from Minangkabau is not only performed in traditional ceremonies. But it is also presented as an entertaining art show. In addition, this dance is also often performed in interlude performances at the procession of welcoming guests.

I think that's all from me. If you are still curious, please feel free to comment on this post.