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## Bale-bale as a space for social interaction

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### Abstract

Social interaction which has been clear to be intensively decreased in urban society creates an impact on mutual assistance degradation and increase of individualism. For those who live in cities, social interaction is done in public areas which are limited in number. While for those who live in villages, social interaction can be done anywhere around the settlement and it is still well maintained. One of the most used areas of social interaction is bale-bale. Bale-bale is a container which primary function as a seat hat was placed outside the home, it is made of half-cut bamboo and design like a bench. Rectangular in shape and have an even number of legs. Bale-bale has a simple design, easily move, cheap, and easy to find. It can be located anywhere such as underneath the house (*kolong*), backyard, side road, and at open space. This study aims to explore the role of bale-bale in anticipating social interaction of villagers in order to make their unity preserved. This research uses quality methods in which all data are collected by directly focusing on conditions in the field and performing interviews to public figures, and village staffs. Result of study show that bale-bale is utilized as place for social interaction from various ages and gender. Bale-bale is portable based because of its simple and light design so that it is easy to move one to another place.

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## 1. Introduction

Fisherman living in coastal area are groups of people who strongly hold their culture of mutual assistance and consensus. All things are almost decided and conducted collectively and they do not have to be done formally. Under the condition when they are not at sea, they generally have a simple communication on bale-bale. Atmosphere created by the situation seems to be more relax and warm.

Bale-bale is made of half-cut bamboo and designed like a bench. For the people of Bugis-Makassar, bale-bale is a place for various activities such as social interaction or communication, work, rest (sleeping), taking care of children, having meals, and play for kids.

Bale-bale can be found almost in every home in the region inhabited by ethnic Bugis-Makassar, both located on the coast or in land. Simple structure and construction as well as materials used to make bale-bale so familiar to most people.

However, if we compare the situation in cities and villages, roles of bale-bale as multi-functional space utilized for social interaction has been significantly lower in the cities and it is almost gone or not used any longer. While in villages, bale-bale is found in almost all houses, open spaces and beaches, as well as road corners.

## 2. Method of study

This research uses quantitative method in which all data are collected by directly focusing on condition in the field and performing interviews to public figures, and villages staff. Furthermore, the data were analyzed by connecting in a concept or theory related to make interpretation.

### 2.1. Design of bale-bale

Bale-bale is a simple-designed place, easily moved, cheap, and easy to find which makes it usable by many people. The following is picture of bale-bale:



Fig.1. The shape of bale-bale

### 2.2. Placement of bale-bale

In fisherman settlement, bale-bale can be located anywhere such as underneath the house (*kolong*), backyard, side road, and open space, but it is commonly placed at shaded place such as underneath the house and around the tress. If bale-bale is placed in open space which are not shaded, the people will apply some roof made from simple material such as palm leaves or tarpaulin. This aims to create convenience and protection from hot weather and rain (comfortable). Figure which shows how to placement of bale-bale are as follow;



(a) In the backyard and underneath the house (*kolong*)



(b) Under the tree and open spaces around the coast



© At the edge of the road and on the porch stage

Fig. 2 Placement of Bal-Bale

Bale-bale does not need a big and specific space to locate. Size of bale-bale can be based on the space itself where bale-bale be placed or by the owner.

### 2.3. Function of bale-bale

Bale-bale is a multi-functional place which can be used by various groups, children, adolescent, adults, and the elderly for a variety of purpose. Picture that show the usefulness of the bale-bale for coastal communities are presented below:



(c) Places for children to play and a place to socialize/communicate for adults

(d) Workplace and take a nap

Fig. 3. Function of bale-bale

### 3. Discussion

Human as social beings have a desire to communicate with each other, exchange of experience, releasing all the mistakes, and the tension of a full day's work. As social beings, humans are required to communicate with one another (Maryono, 1993). Bale-bale is a place that is able to accommodate it on a small scale, ranging from household to community (society). In the neighborhood scale, public meeting or gathering over the bale-bale still get to know each other with a real name or nickname.

Bale-bale that has a primary function as a seat also has many other function, that can be used as a space of interaction in large scale (neighborhood) are generally located on the edge of the road or green open space. As for family units (big family), it is placed in the semi-public space, and for personal use (residential units) it is placed under the house or yard.

For children, the bale-bale generally use to play, being used for mothers to work, child care, day resting, and communication. For men, the bale-bale is used for communication, resting day, and work. Another function of the bale-bale in fishing communities is to control the home environment as well as the surrounding environment (natural surveillance).

However, the conditions described above are generally only occur in rural areas, in the urban areas it is hard to do, because the lack of vendors bale-bale, heterogeneous urban society, a lot of activity and individual. While the bale-bale is container of small-scale non-formal communication and can only accommodate generally between 10-5 people (depending on the area of the bale-bale), and those who sat on it to know each other, and even have a family relationship. Generally rural people spend their leisure time on the bale-bale. But it is possible, people in urban areas using the bale-bale as a medium of social interaction, but maybe limited only to the family scale.

Bale-bale is given a roof for protection from heat and rain when placed in open space. It is actually aimed at

finding physical comfort, because according Sukawi (2009), there are two aspects that are met by an architectural masterpiece, psychological and physical comfort. Psychological comfort related to religion, culture, customs qualitative nature, are obtained from the physical comfort of the comfort of space (spatial), thermal comfort (thermal), the comfort of hearing (audial), and comfort of vision (visual). From the comfort of four, temperature the most influence on human activity. Relation to the bale-bale, the architect can create a form of bale-bale that can provide psychological and physical comfort. Obtain psychological comfort while presenting the bale-bale as a container community to apply life mutual cooperation and consensus. Moderate physical comfort can be presented with a bale-bale created in accordance with the standards of comfort space use, such as the height to suit human needs, the material that is safe and convenient to use so that users feel at home sitting on it. In addition, at a more attractive design that has a higher value.

Generally, almost all the house especially house on stilts in the countryside South Sulawesi has a bale-bale at kolong (underneath the house). In fact, many families have more than one bale-bale. Bale-bale placement under the house is very strategic because it no longer requires a fee, and room under the house provides sheltered and safe space as well as protected from the heat and wind, are in a residential neighborhood that is easily accessible and safe. Reviews these roommates conditions such traditional house supported by Givoni statement (2006) that the area under the shade. Effectively building and protection from rain. It can be used during times when rain and heat by family members for various activities.

This is supported by research that shows that many people who perform activities under their house, it is shown in the following table;

Reasons doing activities in <i>kolong</i>	Number	%
Comfortable	39	35.78
Easy to work	14	12.84
Roomy	42	38.53
Safe	12	11.01
Relax	2	1.83

The main principle of the bale-bale is a simple shape, light, and not too large (typically measuring 1m x 1.5 m), and the construction is easy to do. This causes easily moved or sold with bike. Figure which shows how to sale bale-bale by using bike around the town is a follow.



Fig. 4. Sell bale-bale with bike

Material such as bamboo or wood is in accordance with the principle of them. When using modern materials other more, it was possible origin or lightweight materials such as ferro cement, and may even last longer, but the naturalistic and meaning values reduced. By changing the material of the bale-bale, the name is no longer a bale-bale but bench.

According to Carr *et al.* (1992) building a community garden or a playground will enrich the social life of the community, the community will increase the opportunity to participate in communal activities. Social isolation

which is the case in urban communities will disappear with the presence of open space such as parks, plazas, and then people from different cultures or groups can together enjoy the fun together.

Bale-bale as one of the places that although small when compared to the park or playground, but is able to contribute to enrich the social life of community especially in rural areas, can reduce or even eliminate social isolation in the neighborhood and can tighten the relationship between families and between communities.

In other countries or elsewhere, may be used bale-bale, but its presence is only as an aesthetic complement to container somewhere, or for seating and resting users park or open space. Bale-bale no longer have any meaning as a space bond between families and communities that have an emotional attachment, but only as a bench, so it no longer has meaning and lose his soul.

Bale-bale can be used by various circles of society. However, the use of bale-bale in fishing communities showed a correlation between the placement of the bale-bale with its users, when seen from age, children younger using bale-bale that is placed around the house, such as under the house an in yard, getting away from home, the age of users is also growing older. Similarly with sex, many men use the bale-bale placed in public space, are women as users bale-bale in the semi-public and private.

The link between the placement of the bale-bale to its users, it appears there are similarities with the theory Suttles, 1968 in Rapoport (1977). In Suttle picture looks the use of space influenced by gender and age. This is shown below:

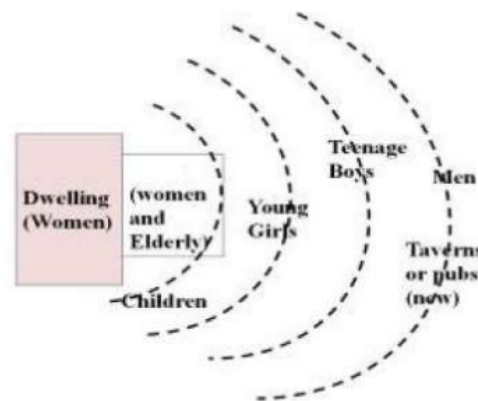


Fig. 5. Group Separation Scheme by Suttle

Figure shows that the use of the territory in general, women and elderly are the most home users, the closest circle of home used by children, then young women, followed by young men, and the outer circle of adult males who spend more time out door.

Picture of the shuttle can also be seen in the settlement of fishermen on the use of space by gender and age related to the use of the bale-bale. Bale-bale that is placed on the hoe yard and *kolong* of the house and on the terrace (terrace of stage house) is widely used by women and children under five years old compared to others. Bale-bale placed on the road side, and the area around the beach is mostly used by men and male teenagers. It is clear that the location of the bale-bale and its users is influenced by age and gender

#### 4. Conclusion

For rural communities, bale-bale is a place to socialize, play, rest, and work. In addition, it is cheap, easy to make, and also easy to find. It does not required specific space for placing. This is what causes the bale-bale a favorite place in the activity. But for urban society, bale-bale just have function as a rest place or sitting place.

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