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Bui Hangi: Multimodal Re-presentations of a Narrative from Pura

(Proposal for the ENUS-Conference in Kupang August, 1st – 3rd 2007)

In 1999/2000 I came across a story from the island Pura. The narrative of Bui Hangi is about a father who married his daughter to the lord of the mountain-water in exchange for drinking water. The highly dramatic narrative directed me to the “owner of the story” and to certain locations on Pura. Making a film of the narrative on the spot and with the “owners” was a logical next step for me.

Some years later I met the “owner” of the story when two friends from Pura accompanied me to Dolabang. We started to prepare the film project. The story of Bui Hangi as a “fairytale” normally told to children was easily accessible and known to all participants. The narrative was first recorded in Bahasa Indonesia, and then it was written down in Bahasa Blagar and finally translated literally into Bahasa Indonesia. This is the data corpus I will refer to in my presentation.

In a next step the participants discussed the casting and the locations. In the following discussions we tried to anticipate as many questions and obstacles to our project as possible. This provided for some rich talk: the undercurrent of *adat* became more relevant due to the story. What arrangements had to be made, to make the relevance of an *adat* story correspond with the situational modernity of “film-shooting” and progressive Protestantism?

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