

Haka as a Representation of Cultural Philosophy through Rugby

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Abstract

Haka dance is a ritual of the indigenous Maori tribe of New Zealand. This dance is performed not only in the form of a dance alone but is also often referred to as a Maori ceremonial challenge that is carried out before war or to honor someone. The All Black Team is the name of the New Zealand National Rugby team. The New Zealand Rugby Team has long danced the Haka in front of its opponents before the match started. Haka dance makes the audience get carried away by the energy and charm of Haka when they see the All Black team competing. In Rugby Haka matches are played in groups and usually represent a display of pride, strength and unity of a Maori tribe. This Haka dance attraction is often awaited by Rugby fans every time New Zealand plays in a Rugby tournament event. When dancing the Haka they show their chivalry traditions with expressions that frighten their opponents with loud and passionate voices that can be heard by all the spectators in the stadium. The dance is performed by being led by one person who is in command with various movements such as sticking out the tongue, hitting the palms of the hands and feet or stomping the feet on the ground. Haka has earned a place of its own and become an attraction in the era of contemporary sport and professional Rugby. This is an interesting phenomenon to be discussed to see Haka's philosophy as a representation of the All Black team in Rugby matches through a literature review.

Keywords

maori; new zealand; rugby;
tradition; all black



I. Introduction

The New Zealand team or often dubbed the All Black team has many followers and fans in Indonesia as. Rugby players in Indonesia love to collect and wear the New Zealand Rugby team jersey. Players are captivated not only by the quality game of Rugby but there is another interesting reason when a player chooses to idolize and respect the New Zealand team. Another reason is the ritual performed by the New Zealand team before the Rugby match starts. If we watch a video of the match of the New Zealand team known as the All Black, we will see a fierce-looking player in an all-black jersey who performs a typical Maori dance which is often called the "Haka" dance. The imaginative image of the player is that of a Maori fighter who seems to summon enthusiasm for all Rugby fans who see him. On the other hand, some of our opponents will also see their opponent's respect when the All Black team is showing Haka in front of them. This is because Rugby highly upholds the philosophical values in the sport of Rugby which have been developed for a long time. The values in Rugby are the values of integrity, passion, solidarity, discipline, respect (World Rugby, 2022).

Although there are other views regarding the commercialization of Maori cultural values by certain products (Amoamo, 2007; Hokowhitu, 2009; Jackson & Hokowhitu, 2002) explained Haka in New Zealand as if it had become part of Rugby which was always

shown in Rugby tournament events both at the school level and in the New Zealand national team. Many researchers are interested in conducting a search on Haka as a representation of the Maori tribe in the sport of Rugby. They see the reality or facts about Haka as the identity of the Maori tribe depicted in the context of Rugby. The aim is to investigate the nature and implications of the Maori and Rugby relationship. It is widely confirmed that there is a dynamic relationship of interplaying forces that gives a strong meaning to this southern state's indigenous tribal history. If you look at the relationship between Maori and Rugby through Haka dance, it reflects the various ways the Maori define identity, the relationship with their ancestral heritage and many journals are interested in discussing this. Therefore, it is necessary to study the literature on Haka in Rugby which is often seen and sometimes imitated by several teams in Indonesia.

II. Research Method

The literature review method is a literature search from the Google Scholar and Scopus electronic databases conducted for peer-reviewed English articles from early to late March 2022 using the following keywords: "Rugby" AND "Haka", "Maori AND" Rugby', All Black AND Maori'. The electronic search was complemented by a manual search of the reference list for articles that met the study's inclusion criteria. The review themes represent History, philosophy, Maori, Haka and Rugby. The data is presented in the form of qualitative data and discussed in the text. The review seeks to identify the representation of All Black in Rugby as a philosophy of Maori culture.

III. Results and Discussion

3.1 Haka

In ancient times, when a tribe was going to war, they usually performed a dance or sang a song to ignite the spirit of their troops. The Maori tribe in New Zealand is no exception. The Maori tribe has a traditional war dance or challenge known as the Haka (Clément, 2017; Pihama, 2014; Pope & Bruce, 2004; Rita & Papesch, 2015). Traditionally, Haka is performed when two parties meet as part of a custom. It was once used on the battlefield to mentally and physically prepare soldiers for battle, but was also used when groups gathered in peace.

Haka has its origins in whakapapa, the whakapapa interpretation of the word haka and states, "ha" refers to the essence or breath of a person and "ka" refers to the flame of that breath" (Condevaux, 2009; Hapeta et al., 2019; *History Of The Ka Mate Haka*, nd; Scherer & Jackson, 2008; Timu et al., 2018; Whitinui, 2010). Haka is performed by a group that represents the fiery spirit, pride, strength and unity of a tribe. In our haka dance there will be several movements of stamping the foot on the ground, sticking out the tongue, and patting the body rhythmically to accompany the loud singing. The lyrics of the song describe the ancestors and events in the history of the tribe. When dancing the Haka dance, the dancers usually also bring weapons of war. Facial expressions or *Pukana* become an important element and characteristic in performances of Haka dance. With facial expressions we will see a message in the dance and poetry that shows the passion of the dancer.

Haka has many meanings, as a ritual encounter, as an expression of identity and a form of entertainment (Timu et al., 2018). Today Haka is still used during Maori ceremonies and celebrations to honor guests which also shows the importance of an event. Haka is also used for family events, birthdays and weddings.

Haka has adapted to contemporary times while continuing to utilize and maintain its traditional roots. Haka is a composition played by many instruments, hands, feet, body, voice, tongue and eyes, all of which play their part in blending together to convey a message full of challenge, welcome, joy (Armstrong, 2005). Haka has become an integral expression of New Zealand nationalism, particularly in sport. Haka has become an obvious means for the team to express their wishes in front of supporters. It is this element that stands out the most about Maori being consistently integrated, adopted and adapted into the world of sport.

3.2 Haka in Rugby

Haka is the most visible traditional ritual and is often used with sports especially in Rugby which signifies New Zealand's national identity. Haka was first performed in international competition in 1888 and 1889, when the Maori-dominated New Zealand Rugby team toured England, Ireland and Australia. They were the first New Zealand team to show Haka and also to introduce the New Zealand team's black sports uniform. The Haka show has evolved over the years, mainly due to the association of the haka 'Ka Mate' with the New Zealand All Blacks (Erueti & Palmer, 2014). Arguably, on the global stage the haka is what makes New Zealanders instantly recognizable. New Zealand's rugby team, the All Blacks, perform the haka before each match to challenge opponents on the court, a stunning display of strength and physical prowess. All Black use 'Ka Mate' as their haka, which was made in the 1820s by the Maori chief Te Rauparaha. The words for this haka dance have become famous worldwide for being part of a ritual before an All Blacks game. All Black actually does not only use Ka Mate but has another alternative, namely using Kapa o Pango. multicultural makeup New , highlighting the diversity of Polynesian culture in society. This haka is a bit controversial because there is a neck-cutting motion.

Misconception common about who can dance Haka is that Haka is only performed by men. Indeed, there are some Haka that are allowed by men, but there are also those that anyone and even women can do. Like the male All-back player, Black Ferns, (Curtin, 2016) the New Zealand women's rugby team, is also famous for its lively haka. The haka they do before international matches is called 'Ko Uhia Mai' which means 'Let it be known' and is made by Whetu Tipiwai. In addition, many young Māori perform in kapa haka groups when participating in local and national competitions. Non-Maoris are also welcome to learn the haka, however, it is important that you respect the culture and traditions behind the dance. Study the words and make sure you understand the meaning behind the singing, the importance Haka And what you are trying to express when performing it.

Rugby is the national sport of New Zealand. Use of Haka in Rugby and the success of the New Zealand Rugby team at the International level. Haka has become a unique maori ceremony that New Zealanders identify and take pride in. As an expression of cultural identity and as a powerful tool for motivating players, the haka is arguably an essential ingredient of sporting events for the All Blacks team. As such, these shows often attract large and varied audiences. In some cases, these haka are shown on television which contributes to significant visibility. Although in fact several other sports also show Haka, it is the All Blacks team that stands out the most.

Haka has been the most popular and well-known in the world of sports and has been performed by the All Blacks. Whether cultural expression, commercial opportunism, tactics for the All Blacks uplifted themselves, while at the same time intimidating the opposition, the haka became a permanent fixture for the All Blacks. In some literature it is stated that there have been changes that have been reviewed, and many efforts have been made to become intense, intense, unified, and better reflect the original context. From

practicing and understanding words to perfecting the accompanying actions, haka performances improved drastically under Shelford's leadership (Gardiner, 2007).

New Zealand has historically gained a well-known reputation thanks to the All Black team through which Rugby is integrated through the Haka dance which tends to be identified as Maori warriors performed before the start of a Rugby match (Calabrò, 2012). To strengthen and preserve the profile in this context New Zealand emphasizes the Maori chivalry tradition, iconography, and egalitarian ritual and ethos in which New Zealand has established its identity through the Maori All Black team. Through mass imagery and advertising, All Black has gained worldwide visibility and has been associated with the chivalrous spirit by inheriting the natives who are often known for their motto “one country, one team.”

3.3 Haka As a Maori Cultural Philosophy, New Zealand

Sport also helps shape New Zealand's national identity and the haka provides a unique sense of distinction in relation to the rest of the world (Edwards, 2007). However, the haka in the traditional context does not symbolize a real relationship or belonging in the sporting landscape, raising questions about whether its use is beneficial to the Maori. The hegemonic construction of nationalist discourse has created a prominent place for rugby in New Zealand. Thus, the ever-present use of the haka and other elements of Maori culture is in line with discourses of national unity—as a way to represent the nation and all New Zealanders (Calabrò, 2014; Jackson & Hokowhitu, 2002; Vézina, nd; Whaanga, 2012)

His views on the potential of Haka as a hallmark of Maori culture, as well as New Zealand, to the world. In this sense, most of the literature describing haka is seen as an effective platform for engaging with Maori knowledge, language and culture (Pope & Bruce, 2004). It is a key component of unique intangible cultural heritage, as a point of difference in international markets; it is the source of identity difference. It is the main vehicle for the protection and promotion of Maori culture. New Zealand has rights at various levels, community level & international level. New Zealand has competitive elements, social elements, and cultural elements. Haka is a primary means of engaging with culture and engaging with language, and for many it is the primary platform for such engagement, and ultimately it is an entry point to showcase a country's philosophy. To go one step further, haka is also seen as a medium for fostering a more cohesive and inclusive society in New Zealand. So its New Zealand government is very supportive of kapa haka because it knows its benefits to the nation and united people.

Considering the challenges of maintaining traditional Maori values and practices, Falcous (2007) suggests the need to effect reconciliation with Māori. In this case, if Māori culture is used to represent New Zealand. When Maori and Pakeha (non-Maori) values are aligned with the philosophy for the betterment of society, then these values can be seen as the same value so that there is a greater opportunity to be harmonized in daily actions. From Pakeha, providing each other with equal and fair opportunities is an important value, meaning that everyone is given equal opportunities in New Zealand society. From a Maori perspective, the acceptable and country-appropriate values of Pakeha can thus be harmonized as a New Zealand conceptual and philosophical tool. Maori and Pakeha both look at Haka with pride, both on the Rugby court and off the field. Therefore New Zealand believes that with the popularity of the haka can be a good thing. Because with haka it is used to promote and foster interest in Maori culture in other words as a means of tourism (Amoamo, 2007; Condevaux, 2009; Puriri & McIntosh, 2019; Scherer & Jackson, 2008).

IV. Conclusion

The Maori have a traditional war dance or challenge known as the Haka. With facial expressions we will see a message in the dance and poetry that shows the passion of the dancer. Today Haka is still used during Maori ceremonies and celebrations to honor guests which also shows the importance of an event. Haka has become an obvious means for the New Zealand Rugby team to express their desires in front of supporters. Sport also helps shape New Zealand's national identity and haka provides a unique sense of distinction in relation to the rest of the world. The hegemonic construction of nationalist discourse has created a prominent place for rugby in New Zealand. In this sense, haka is seen as an effective platform for engaging with Maori knowledge, language and culture. To go one step further, haka is also seen as a medium for fostering a more cohesive and inclusive society in New Zealand. Haka is allowed for Pakeha (not Maori), and Pakeha being given equal and fair opportunity is an important value, meaning that everyone is given equal opportunities in New Zealand society.

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