

# Rice is Your Mother: A Metaphor Conceptualizing the Way People of *Kasepuhan Sinarresmi* Treat Rice

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# INTRODUCTION

- Rice has been the most popular staple food and the most important crop in the world (Greenland, 1997; Sen, Chakraborty, & Kalita, 2020; Zhu, Kobayashi, Loladze, Zhu, Jiang, Xu, ... & Ziska, 2018).
- Due to its vital role in food security, particularly in Indonesia, rice production and management have received relatively high attention.
- However, relatively little attention has been paid to the wealth of local cultural practices revealing the cognition of the people that supports rice management.
- A study by Cameron and Moss-Morris (2004) demonstrates illness cognition regulates illness behavior.
- The cognition of the people of *Kasepuhan* Sinarresmi manifested and constructed in the farming ritual influences the way the people treat rice.



# LITERATURE REVIEW

- One prominent mythological figure in Sundanese culture closely related to rice that is also associated with fertility is *Dewi Sri*.
- *Dewi Sri* becomes the center of worship as many rituals are devoted to her for her blessings in the form of good crops and harvest (Heryana, 2012).
- People of *Kasepuhan* Sinarresmi believe that Dewi Sri is a symbol of prosperity and fertility that controls the prosperity of the earth (Adisaputri & Widiastuti, 2015).
- Regarding the belief, people develop cognition manifested in language as a metaphor.
- An understanding of the metaphorical linguistic expressions of rice signals an understanding of one conceptual domain as another domain (Kövecses, 2010; Lakoff & Johnson, 1980), which is called the Conceptual Theory of Metaphor.
- The domains: source domains and target domains.
- Source domain is concrete while the target domain tends to be less concrete or abstract.

# METHOD

- Location: *Kasepuhan* Sinarresmi, Sukabumi Regency of West Java
- Data were collected from primary and secondary sources.
- Primary data from an interview with the leader of *Kasepuhan* Sinarresmi, Abah Asep, and the observation in the field on the farming rituals as well as their meanings.
- Secondary data from written documents, including Facebook account of *Kasepuhan* Sinarresmi to support the explanation from the leader of the *kasepuhan*.

# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Regarding the rice farming ritual

- The people of Kasepuhan Sinarresmi practice rice farming rituals starting from rice planting until the rice consumption.
- Rituals are:
  1. *Ngaseuk*
  2. *Mipit*
  3. *Ngunjat*
  4. *Ngadiukkeun Pare*
  5. *Nganyaran*

# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

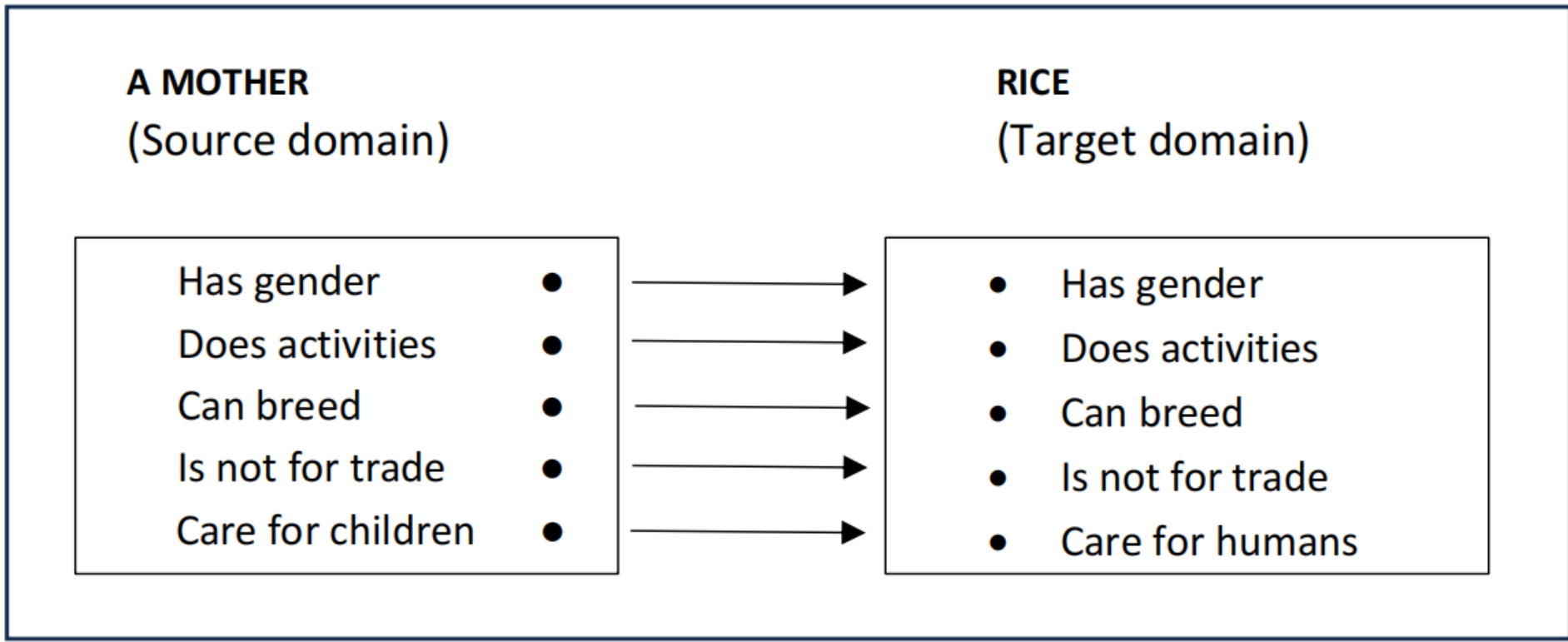
Regarding the rice farming ritual and the metaphor

- The rice farming ritual practices denote how people of *Kasepuhan* Sinarresmi treat rice.
- The name of the ritual *Ngadiukkeun Pare* 'Seating the rice' indicates the metaphorical way of life.
- *Ngadiukkeun* is a verb meaning seating. Only human beings can sit or have a seat, and in this ritual, rice is considered a prominent person deserving a special place.

# FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Regarding the rice metaphor

Rice is your mother



# CONCLUSION

- Rice farming rituals performed by the people of *Kasepuhan* Sinarresmi exhibit the cognitive conceptualization of rice.
- Conceptualizing rice as a mother is the reason for worshipping rice which leads to rice management as the staple food.
- Performing the rice ritual has made the people always respect and appreciate nature. Believing in the power of nature in providing abundant rice harvest is rooted in their faith in the goddess of rice, *Dewi Sri*.

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# THANK YOU!

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