

**PRINCESS WAERUWONDO AND THE MISSING
SLIPPER**

Putri Waeruwondo dan Sepatu yang Hilang

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PRINCESS WAERuwONDO AND THE MISSING SLIPPER

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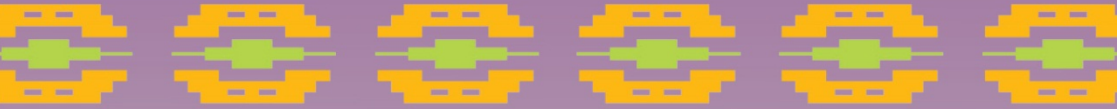
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Putri Waeruwondo

dan Sepatu yang Hilang



Cerita Rakyat dari Sulawesi Tenggara

Ditulis oleh

Uniawati

PUTRI WAERUWONDO

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Foreword

Literature work is not only series of word but it also talks about life, both realistically and idealistically of human. If it is realistic, the literature work usually contains life experiences, good model, and wisdom which have been added various style and imagination along with it. Meanwhile, if it idealistic, the literature work contains moral lecture, good character, advices, philosophical symbols, culture and other things related to human life. The life itself is very diverse, varies, and full of various problems and conflicts faced by humans. The diversity in humans life also affects to the diversity of literature work because the contents are inseparable from civilized and dignified humans life.

The literature works that dealing with life utilizes language as medium of deliverance and imaginative art as its *cultural land*. On the basis of the language medium and imaginative art, literature is multidimensional and multi-interpretative. Using language medium, imaginative art and cultural dimension, literature deliver messages to be reviewed or analyzed from various perspectives. The outcome of that perspective depends greatly on who is reviewing and analyzing with various socio-cultural and knowledge background. There is a time when a literary reviewer reviews from the point of view of metaphor, myth, symbol, power, ideology, economy, politics, and culture can be refuted by other reviewers who see from perspective of sound, referent, or irony. Even so, Heraclitus said, "However opposite they work together and from different directions, the most beautiful harmony emerges".

There are many lessons that we can get from reading literature, one of which is reading folktales that are adapted or reprocessed into children's stories. The results of reading literature always inspire and motivate readers to be creative in

finding something new. Reading literature can trigger further imagination, open enlightenment, and add insights. For this reason, we express our gratitude for the processors for the story. We also express our appreciation and gratitude to the Head of the Coaching Center, Head of the Learning Division, and Head of the Subdivision of Modules and Teaching Materials and staffs for all the efforts and hard works carried out until the realization of this book.

Hopefully this storybook is not only useful as a reading material for students and the community to foster a culture of literacy through the National Literacy Movement program, but also useful as an enrichment of our knowledge of past life that can be utilized in addressing current and future life developments.

Jakarta, June 2016

Regards,
Prof. Dr. Dadang Sunendar, M. Hum.

Preface

The life of oral literature in folklore genre in Southeast Sulawesi can be said to grow and develop in the middle of its speaking community. This is indicated by the many folklore found in the community while the author was literary mapping. However, the significant growth of the story does not guarantee its preservation because there are major obstacles in terms of how the stories are inherited. Not all future generations have great attention and concern for the preservation of folklore, so this needs to be taken seriously in order to save the cultural heritage. One way is through story writing which is adopted from folklore.

The story of Princess Waeruwondo and the Missing Slipper was adopted from the folklore of North Buton, Southeast Sulawesi, which was told by Mr. Ali Nurdin. This story is full of character education that is important for children's growth and development. Nowadays children experience the lacks of reading materials that are full of character education, increasingly degraded by the presence of modern-day stories, both through electronic and printed media even though we are rich in folklore. The writing of this story is a form of participation in the preservation of folklore as well as a form of support for the National Literacy Movement program. The presence of this story is expected to be able to stimulate and hone the children's reading power so as to make reading and writing activities a hobby. Hopefully this effort can add insight into children's literature, and stimulate children to care about the development of the nation's literature.

Hopefully this will be beneficial and happy reading!

Kendari, April 2016
Uniwati

Table of Contents

Foreword.....	v
Preface	vii
Table of Contents	viii
PRINCESS WAERUWONDO AND THE MISSING SLIPPER .	1
Prolog	1
1. Princess Waeruwondo	2
2. A Pair of Eyes.....	6
3. The King’s Contest.....	12
4. The Quest of The Princess.....	19
5. The Garuda	24
6. The Keeper of The Slipper	30
Epilog	39
The Author.....	40
The Editor.....	42

PRINCESS WAERUWONDO AND THE MISSING SLIPPER

Prolog

Becoming a princess might be a dream of every girl in the world. Being a princess is like the sun whose light will always be desired. A princess would always get the privilege and the affection from everyone.

She would also be the objects of admiration of many people. If a princess' life is that perfect, then which girl that is reluctant to dream such a life?

1. Princess Waeruwondo

Once upon a time, when the earth was still full of wilderness, clear flowing rivers, and beautiful scenery, there was a great kingdom on the Land of Anoa ruled by a king called Lakinolipu. He was known for his integrity, and thus respected by his friends and opponents. During his reign, the people lived in peace and serenity. He never hesitated to find a way in solving the problems faced by his people. For that particular reason, Lakinolipu was loved and cherished by his people.

Lakinolipu had a very beautiful one and only daughter named Waeruwondo. Waeruwondo had so much care and love from her parents. The birth of Waeruwondo was a great blessing for her parents and the whole kingdom. Ever since Waeruwondo was born, the people had been living prosperously. There were abundant supply of farm and sea so that people could fulfill their needs.

As a princess, Waeruwondo was forged to have good character and good behavior by her parents. Thus, she spoke and acted with courtesy. For having no sibling, she treated everyone in the palace as her family. She was kind to all equally. Due to her kindness, the people loved her and treated her as if she was their own daughter or family.

There was a time when one maid, called Dayang Rabbiah, did not come to her presence for a few days. She was in charge of preparing Waeruwondo's outfit and helping her changed. She also combed and styled Waeruwondo's hair. Waeruwondo was always pleased by her service. No other maid could take her place. So in her absence, Waeruwondo preferred to comb her hair by herself.

A week passed but Dayang Rabbiah still had not come. The princess wondered;

"It's unusual for Dayang Rabbiah to not come to the palace for several days without any news. Could it be something happened to her?" Waeruwondo spoke to herself inside her chamber. She was sitting by the window looking out. Right under the window, flowers of many colors were blooming. She fixed her gaze onto the flowers, but her mind was wandering to Dayang Rabbiah. She needed to know what happened to her favorite maid.

So she went out of her chamber and called a maid who happened to pass by. Wa ina, the name of the maid, was a relative of Dayang Rabbiah and lived next to her. Most likely she knew what happened to Dayang Rabbiah.

"Ina, do you know why Dayang Rabbiah did not come for these past few days?" asked Waeruwondo.

“Forgive me, Your Majesty. Dayang Rabiah is in the unfortunate position. Her only daughter is severely ill, and she cannot leave her alone,” explained the maid.

Waeruwondo was shocked to hear the explanation. “Is it true? What kind of illness attacks her daughter?”

“Orang pintar (a person who is said to possess sixth sense and claim he can solve superstitious problems) said her daughter was exposed to witchcraft. It has been a week her daughter stayed in the bed and gibbered the whole time,” added the maid.

“Ina, would you take me to see Dayang Rabiah’s daughter?” inquired Waeruwondo.

Wa Ina was startled upon hearing the princess’ request. It was unusual for a princess to come to a commoner’s house reasoning for visiting ill person.

Wa Ina agreed to take the princess to Dayang Rabiah’s house. She brought many kinds of fruit and other foods. She had asked royal healer to come along. Being escorted by two royal guards, they ride on a horse-drawn carriage.

It was a surprise for Dayang Rabiah to have the princess in her house. She was never thought the Princess would come to her house.

She immediately kneeled before Princess Waeruwondo. “Forgive me, Princess. I have failed doing my obligation,” said she in tears.

“Rise, Rabiah. I come to see you daughter. How is she doing? I heard that she is severely ill. I am not angry because you are absent. I bring a healer to cure your daughter,” said Waeruwondo.

Waeruwondo approached Dayang Rabiah’s daughter to see how she was doing. The she asked the healer to examine the girl.

“Her illness has nothing to do with witchcraft,” said the healer. “Her body temperature was too high so she was delirious. This kind of fever is a result of digestive disorder,” explained the healer. “I will make her a concoction and she has to drink it regularly. For some time, give her easily digestible food. Don’t give her hard food momentarily. She should drink warm water a lot”.

Dayang Rabiah nodded at the healer’s explanation about her daughter’s illness. She was relieved knowing her daughter’s illness was not of witchcraft. After the healer finished making potion, Princess Waeruwondo along with the entourage went home to the palace.

That’s how Princess Waeruwondo showed her sympathy for her people. She never hesitated to help in person if there were people who need help. In her opinion, if the people were in trouble, it was the responsibility of the royal family to give help.

2. A Pair of Eyes

That afternoon, just as usual, Waeruwondo spent time in the garden. She was on her own. Dayang Rabiah who often accompanied her all the time was having a task from the queen. Waeruwondo seemed to enjoy being without companion. She was singing while watering some flower plants.

She looked so happy probably because some newly planted flower plants grew well. One of the maids brought her the flowers. Kemuning was the name of the flower. It was said that the flower can bring happiness to the people who take good care of it. Caring the flower is easy given that it gets the right place and soil to grow. She was so happy to see the flower grow well. She started singing and dancing. She was deep in dancing that she did not realize there is a pair of eyes watching her.

The owner of the eyes mumbled, “Hmm, such a beautiful princess.”

It seemed the gaze of those eyes wanted to swallow the princess who kept dancing in circle while watering the plants. The eyes kept starring at Waeruwondo without blinking. The beholder of those eyes had heard of Princess Waeruwondo’s beauty.



He did not hesitate to run his plan he had devised. He was so close to the princess. A little closer and then—

“Ina,” shouted Waeruwondo startled the beholder of the eyes. He broke from his plan momentarily and looked at someone who came out of the palace. Waeruwondo had just called a maid.

“Yes, Princess. Did you call me?”

Waeruwondo just smiled and running around the flower plants she had just watered.

“How happy the princess this afternoon,” said the maid to herself.

“Ina, look at the flowers, they thrive and look refreshing,” reported Waeruwondo. Her eyes glowing as she swept a look at the flowers.

“It’s because of your perseverance in taking care of the flowers, princess,” said Wa Ina, the maid.

Princess Waeruwondo smiled at what the nanny had just said. She found truth in her words. She had fallen for flowers since early childhood. Perhaps she inherited it from her grandmother who had taught her how to take care of flowers.

In the past, before her grandmother passed away, she loved to see and accompany her grandmother in the garden. She admired her skillful hands at picking and sorting the leaves and flower stems

to be trimmed and removed. In Princess Waeruwondo's eyes, her grandmother is a very unpretentious figure. She was skillful, patient, and also caring. She loved Waeruwondo a lot.

"Are you daydreaming, Princess?" asked a maid seeing Princess Waeruwondo stood still unaware of her presence.

"Princess ...," the maid called Princess Waeruwondo again.

"Hmm, what's wrong?" jolted Waeruwondo.

"You called me to come. What can I do for you, Princess?" asked the maid.

"Ah yes..." Waeruwondo tapped her forehead. She was blushing aware of her recent negligence.

The middle-aged woman just smiled and shook her head looking at her attitude. She loved her spoiled and childish attitude.

She had been taking care of Princess Waeruwondo from the day the princess was born. She had considered her as if she was her own daughter.

"Ina, why are you daydreaming?" asked Waeruwondo.

The maid jolted.

"Well, now you are the one who daydreaming. Why is it?" teased Waeruwondo. The maid just smiled.

“Are you not feeling well, Ina?” Waeruwondo asked anxiously.

“No, Princess. Those orchids make me amazed,” she said pointing at a moon orchid in bloom.

She deliberately did not want to tell her what she just thought.

“Oh, I see. By the way, may I ask for a help?” inquired Waeruwondo.

“Of course, Princess. What can I do for you?”

“Yesterday when I was taking a walk to the next village, I found a lily grow in front of one of the villagers’ house. The owner gave me one and I am going to plant the lily here. I put the lily by the well at the back of the palace. Can Ina get that for me along with the hoe?” asked Waeruwondo.

“Sure I can, Princess. Please take a moment”.

Wa Ina hurried to where the princess intended. Unexpectedly there was a wooden root across the path that caught her cloth. It caused her to fall down and her head hit a rock. For a moment she lost her sight and got a headache. A candlenut-seed-sized bump emerged on the left side of her head. As she tried to stand up, the dizziness took control briefly. Thereafter she could take control of herself back. She got into the palace to treat her wound first before went on to take the flower plant and the hoe.

Meanwhile, Waeruwondo did not notice that Wa Ina had fallen over. She was busy replanting a flower plant into a pot she had prepared before. Once in a while she turned to look at where Wa Ina had disappeared, but she still not came yet.

Dusk arrived, but Waeruwondo was still lingering in her flower garden. Once transplanting the flower plant into a pot, she walked towards the overlay of yellow bamboo groove. She did not notice there was a pair of narrowed eyes behind the lush bamboo cluster. It was still unclear what the purpose of the beholder of those eyes gazing on the princess for he did not show himself up although he had been languishing long there.

Meanwhile, Waeruwondo did not aware a bit if there was a pair of eyes spying on her for some time. She focused merely on her flower plants. She remained calm as she walked and moved from one flower to another. Right when she stepped in front of the bamboo lush, a wind blew hard all of sudden. She was startled and turned to where the wind had come. She was taken aback looking at a figure standing very close to her. She wanted to scream, but her voice could not come out. A second later, she was unconscious.

3. The King's Contest

No one had thought that in the midst of peace and serenity that enclosing the Kingdom of Kulisusu led by Lakinolipu, a shocking event would occur.

It was like a lightning bolt in broad daylight. What was going on? Princess Waeruwondo was missing.

It had been three days since Princess Waeruwondo was missing. Wa Ina as the last person who was with Waeruwondo at the palace garden had been interrogated by espionage agents deployed by Lakinolipu to find his daughter's whereabouts. But there was not enough information to be able to find the princess. Lakinolipu and the queen were deeply grieved knowing their loveable daughter was lost somewhere. Waeruwondo never left the palace without telling her parents.

In front of Lakinolipu, Wa Ina was kneeling and sobbing. She could not hold back the tears of regret and feeling of guilty. Even she could not forgive herself. She was ready to give her life should Lakinolipu ask for it.

“Cry no more, Ina. It is not your fault the princess is missing. You have been taking care of her since she was a baby. There is no reason for you to harm her,” said Lakinolipu.

“Indeed, Wa Ina. We can see how you love our daughter the way you love your own daughter. I know you feel the sadness and lost the way we do,” added the queen.

Wa Ina burst out upon hearing the king and the queen’s wise words. Guilt filled her heart. She could not stop blaming herself for the missing princess. If only she walked in no hurry, her cloth might not get stuck causing her to fall and her head hit the rock. If only she did not go inside to look for a medicine to ease the pain on her head, the princess would still be with them. If only she did not fall, she could have rushed back to the garden after taking the hoe and the flower plants as per the princess’ request. So many words of ‘if only’ seemed to be racing in her head. How she regretted it all.

“Return to your chamber, Ina.” Ordered Lakinolipu. “We don’t blame you, and we will not punish you either,” her face was still gloomy with swollen eyelids sign of lack of sleep.

“We need your help to look for Waeruwondo. In case you have any clue of Waeruwondo’s whereabouts, let me know soon,” continued Lakinolipu.

Wa Ina left the presence of Lakinolipu and the queen. Instead of heading to her chamber, she went to the garden.

In the garden, Dayang Rabiah was walking back and forth while observing the surrounding. Once in a while she squatted and

lowered her head. It seemed that she was looking for or scrutinizing something. Wa Ina walked towards her.

“Rabiah, what are you doing here?” asked Wa Ina as she stood in front of Dayang Rabiah.

“Wa Ina, you startled me,” jolted she holding her chest. “I am here looking for a clue that can tell where the princess has gone.”

Wa Ina took a long deep breath upon hearing what Dayang Rabiah had just said. She blamed and would never forgive herself if the princess could not be found.

Looking at Dayang Rabiah who was still trying to find a clue of how the princess had gone fired her spirit to check around the garden for the umpteenth time. Desperation came after several unfruitful attempts.

“Do you find anything, Rabiah?” she asked.

Dayang Rabiah with gloomy face only shook her head. She also seemed disappointed for not having found something that could tell where the princess had gone. The espionage agents had also searched the place over and over again to no avail. Half-mooning, Wa Ina walked towards a walkway along the side of yellow bamboo clumps. It was the only path connecting the chamber of Princess Waeruwondo and the garden.

Walking passed the bamboo clumps, her eyes accidentally caught an unusual object behind the clumps. Wa Ina stopped and looked closely at the object that had captivated her attention. It looked like a bronze charm bracelet being stuck among bamboo twigs. Wa Ina took the bracelet and scrutinized it.

“Rabiah ...,” she then called Dayang Rabiah.

Upon hearing the call, Dayang Rabiah hurried to Wa Ina. She stole a glance at the bracelet held by Wa Ina. With just one look, she knew that it was Princess Waeruwondo’s charm bracelet.

“That charm—that charm bracelet belongs to the princess, Ina!” exclaimed Dayang Rabiah.

“You are right, it’s Princess Waeruwondo’s charm bracelet. But how come it got stuck in this bamboo twig?” whispered Wa Ina.

She looked alternately at the charm bracelet and Dayang Rabiah as if demanding explanation for the questions running in her mind.

Dayang Rabiah shook her head and took a deep breath in response to the look. She then joined Wa Ina checking the bamboo clumps carefully. Among the piles of dry bamboo leaves she then found a black feather.

“Is it a bird’s feather?” Wa Ina was rather surprise with her discovery because the size of the feather was larger than the normal size.

“Wa Ina, see what I have found,” shouted Dayang Rabiah whilst brandishing a feather to Wa Ina who was scrapping bamboo leaves.

“What is it you have found?” asked Wa Ina. She then stood up to have a close look at the feather.

“It’s the feather of a bird, a big one,” concluded Dayang Rabiah. “Big bird feather? Do you mean a giant bird?” confirmed Wa Ina.

“That is right, Ina!”

“Don’t be kidding! How could there be a giant bird in this place? Could it be a supernatural creature?” Wa Ina suddenly had a goose bump as she visualized her mind.

Wa Ina then took Dayang Rabiah inside the palace to see Lakinolipu and to show the two objects she had found in the bamboo clumps. Once inside, she saw Lakinolipu was still musing on his throne. Sitting next to him was the queen who was also still grim-faced. Wa Ina kneeled before the king and the queen.

“What’s the matter, Ina?” asked the queen who were surprised to see the sudden return of Wa Ina.

Wa Ina showed and passed along her discoveries to Lakinolipu. Looking closely at the two objects, Lakinolipu furrowed his brow.

“Thank you, Ina. Hopefully these two objects can lead us to find my princess.”

Lakinolipu then called the aides and intelligent agents who were assigned to look for Waeruwondo. He showed them Wa Ina discoveries. With the discovery of broken charm bracelet, Princess Waeruwondo was officially declared missing. As to a piece of giant bird feather relation to the incident was still unknown.

After making a conclusion over several opinions from his assistants, Lakinolipu then stood up from his throne.

All presence eyes were waiting until Lakinolipu finally made an edict. “Whoever finds my daughter shall receive a reward. If it is a woman, I shall make her a royal family member. But if it is a man, I shall make him the husband of my daughter Waeruwondo.

Lakinolipu ordered the royal clerk to make an announcement to be issued and disseminated throughout the kingdom. The announcement read that everyone, regardless of wealth, age, and gender, was invited to conduct an independent quest to find Princess Waeruwondo.



4. The Quest of The Princess

Somewhere in the territory of Lakinolipu kingdom in a secluded small hut at the outskirts of a village at the north corner of the kingdom capital Ladianta, there lived a modest young man named Laembo and his mother. He was an orphan whose father had died before he was one-year-old.

Since his father passed away, his mother, who preferred to be a single mother despite of many proposals to remarry, worked hard to support their life. Perhaps because he was the only child, Laembo was very much loved and not allowed to leave far. On a daily basis, he only helped his mother to work on the field, go to the forest looking for firewoods. Once in a while he went fishing. Laembo also loved her mother very much. He was totally obedient to his mother.

Laembo and his mother lived in mutual support, shoulder to shoulder to overcome every life difficulty. No matter what, they remained patient and steadfast going through life. One day in the village where Laembo lived, there was shocking news about the missing of Princess Waeruwondo. The king held a contest in search of the missing princess. Anyone was invited to join the contest regardless of gender, age, and the perception of facial beauty. Anyone who succeeded to find and bring Princess Waeruwondo home shall receive a great reward. If it is male, he is entitled to

marry Princess Waeruwondo. And if it female, then she is appointed to be the member of royal family.

Upon hearing the announcement, a desire grew inside him to follow the competition and to succeed. In that way, he could marry Princess Waeruwondo whose beauty has been known all around the world, in addition to be able to take her mother to live in the palace.

He uttered his intention to his mother and asked her permission to leave for a few days looking for Princess Waeruwondo. He also asked for his mother's blessing so as to receive guidance from God.

"Ina, I'd like to go searching for Princess Waeruwondo," inquired Laembo to his mother.

"Oh, my son! Many princes have failed, do you think you will succeed?" argued his mother.

It was actually so hard for her to let him go. She was worried about the safety of his only son. She imagined his son would go far away all over the place and maybe to the islands across the sea.

"The sea," she whispered slowly.

The sea was both a friend and a threat. The sea always brought her nightmare. Her husband died in the sea. Should she let her son go to the sea?

For a moment she was silent unable to muffle her son's determination.

“Please give me your blessing, Ina! I care about the king and the kingdom. It is my responsibility to help the king going through his difficulty,” insisted Laembo.

Her mother had no other choice but to give in.

“Alright, my son. You have my blessing to look for Princess Waeruwondo, but please be careful. Don't be hasty and always remember the Almighty. I shall be waiting for your return,” said his mother teary as she looked at Laembo's head down. She held the head and kissed it wholeheartedly.

“I will keep your words in mind,” said Laembo.

Before departing, he had devised a search plan. He learned from the information he had obtained that the people had been looking for Princess Waeruwondo all over the kingdom. Yet, she had not been found. Therefore, Laembo would do a search in the island across the sea. As the first step, he needed a lepa (boat) to cross the sea. He did not have a lepa so he was going to make one from

a tree trunk he found in the forest. It took him only a few days to finish making the lepa.

On the scheduled day he rowed over the lepa towards the adjacent island.

“Should the wave be friendly, I can get to the island less than three days,” thought he as he rowed over towards a distant island at the end of the sea line to the west.

He kept rowing whilst whispering sailing mantras he learned from his late father. His father had taught him many things about the sea since his childhood.

His father used to take him to the sea to learn more about sea world once in a while when the waves were not too high. The sea, as his father had said, can be a man’s best friend and enemy at the same time. The sea can also provide and take life, as well as calming and troubling. The sea in many ways is a world with its own secrets. Therefore, the human has responsibility to make peace with, guard, and use the sea as needed.

Those who are not aware of responsibility will certainly be at loss. They will lose the hospitality and tranquility of sea world, and even their right to live. Laembo continued to paddle his boat in the direction of the wind. When tired, he laid down, and when hungry, he opened and ate the provisions from his mother. During

his journey, the sea was quite calm so he did not use his power up rowing the boat.

After two days sailing, Laembo saw a land. He immediately rowed his boat faster towards the island. After close enough, he could also see houses in row around the beach and there was a pier where ships loaded and unloaded baggage. Laembo soon figured out it was a port.



5. The Garuda

Laembo finally arrived at a port end. He docked his boat on one of the pole on the bridge. He then strode towards the beach inquiring some information from a person he met there. He then walked westward just as directed by the person.

“Keep walking westwards.”

He also obtained Laembo obtained a clue about Princess Waeruwondo. His assumption that the princess was likely in this island proved to be right. As to why would she be here remained unpredictable.

Laembo continued walking to the west. He broke his steps once in a while to rest or to ask the people he bumped into. All the people told him to go west. Confidence grew in him that he would be able to find Princess Waeruwondo in this place. Along the way he looked for signs that could lead to Princess' Waeruwondo's whereabouts. Laembo stopped at night and found a safe place to rest. He had reached a foothill. The next day, Laembo caught a wild rooster for breakfast. Then he went on with his journey.

“It's quite sunny. I hope there is no problem—and I can find Princess Waeruwondo,” mumbled Laembo.

He kept on walking climbing a hill until he finally arrived at the border of a forest. He went into the forest and after a few walks

he saw a cave. Laembo carefully walked towards the mouth of the cave and looked around. After being assured that it was safe, he entered the cave and examined the circumstance.

He went deeper inside the cave and was startled seeing a woman sitting on the cave corner. She held onto her knees and hid her head between the knees.

“O woman over there, who are you? Are you human or a genie?” asked Laembo.

He got no reply from the woman he spoke to. She did not make a single move, not even looked up to see who had talked. Laembo repeated the question, “O woman over there, who are you? Are you human or genie?”

The young woman slowly looked up. She was crying. It made him more curious. He approached the woman. As he was close enough, he could see she was a beautiful woman regardless the messy hair and clothes.

“What makes you so sad and crying in this place? Who are you?” asked Laembo.

“I am Waeruwondo, the daughter of Lakinolipu from the kingdom across the sea,” she replied.



Laembo flinched at the answer. He was glad to have found the missing princess.

“Who are you?” asked Waeruwondo.

“My name is Laembo, and I am here to look for you, Princess,” jawab Laembo. “How can you be in this place, Princess? Let’s go back to the kingdom. King Lakinolipu and the queen have asked every one to search and take the princess back to the kingdom,” he continued.

Princess Waeruwondo was still crying when she told him what had happened to her until he ended up in that place. “A garuda kidnapped me when I was in the garden. He imprisoned me in this cave,” explained Waeruwondo.

“Why does he kidnap you?” asked Laembo.

“The garuda possesses supernatural power. He wants to make me his wife in order to increase his power.” said Waeruwondo in fear.

“If that is the case, lets leave this place immediately, Princess,” invited Laembo.

“No! I will not leave this place. The garuda will kill me if I try to run away. You must go before the garuda return,” said Princess Waeruwondo.



“There is no need to be afraid. I will confront the garuda and protect you,” said Laembo trying to convince Princess Waeruwondo. The princess finally followed his invitation. They left the cave and walked toward the harbor. Before they walked far enough, the sky turned to dark as if rain would come down. It was the wings of garuda that covered the sky.

“Don’t try to runaway!” The voice of the garuda was blaring in the sky. Out of nowhere the garuda flapped his wings attacking Laembo and about to grab Laembo and Princess Waeruwondo.

Princess Waeruwondo ran hiding behind Laembo. She passed on a garden shears that was given by her grandmother to Laembo as a defensive weapon.

It is said that the scissor possessed magical power, but she had not proved it yet.

Laembo used the shears to fight against the garuda and when the garuda was off guard, Laembo used it to cut off the garuda’s wings so that the garuda could fly no more. Once the garuda was powerless, Laembo took the princess to the port nearby. They would return to the kingdom.

6. The Keeper of The Slipper

Laembo and Princess Waeruwondo arrived at a port nearby and immediately looked for a ship that would sail across the sea to the neighboring island. They had asked several people they met around the port before they finally found a cargo ship departing that day. The ship was bound for the Java Island, but it would stop by in Waode Buri Port for fuel and fresh water. The Waode Buri Port was in the territory of Kalisusu Kingdom, the place of origin of Princess Waeruwondo and Laembo.

“That ship will stop by in Waode Buri, princess. We should go to the captain, perhaps he can give us a lift,” told Laembo.

Laembo dan Princess Waeruwondo then went to see the captain of the ship who allowed them to ride on after he saw the princess.

It seemed he was attracted by her beauty and wanted her into his possession. He then devised a plan to get rid of Laembo, the man who accompanied Princess Waeruwondo.

“Where are you from and where are you going?” he asked.

The captain apparently had not known that she was Princess Waeruwondo who was missing.

“We got lost in this island and about to return to the kingdom overseas,” said Princess Waeruwondo. The captain began to notice them. He came to a conclusion that the young girl must be

the missing Princess Waeruwondo and the young man was the one who found her and about to take her back to the palace. He then thought of a plan to eliminate Laembo and replace him.

The captain called his two men to come closer. He whispered to their ears. The two men nodded and then moved away to pretend cleaning the ship.

“Inton, you must be careful. We should not fail or we shall be in big trouble,” reminded Inton’s friend.

“Don’t worry! Leave this part to me. Just in case, watch him close enough!” said Inton as he pointed the stern of the ship.

“Alright,” he said.

When the night fell, the sky was clear. It was not full moon yet, but the stars were scattered flashing their light to the earth. Laembo and Princess Waeruwondo were on the deck enjoying the beauty of the night which was bathed in starlight. They walked side by side looking for the perfect place to stare at the stars.

When Laembo and Princess Waeruwondo sat on the deck and involved in a conversation, the princess told him of her feelings. Princess Waeruwondo expressed her gratitude to Laembo who had saved her from the ferocity of garuda.

“I did not know what would happen if you did not or was late to rescue me,” said Princess Waeruwondo.

“There is no need to thank me. It is my duty to save you and bring you back to the palace,” smiled Laembo.

Suddenly a ship crew came up from behind and pushed Laembo until he fell into the sea. Princess Waeruwondo quickly jumped from sitting and maintained distance from the crew.

“What have you done to my friend? You have done terrible thing,” she said shaky.

The ship crew left the princess who was calling out for Laembo hysterically and desperately. She put off one of her slipper and threw it towards Laembo.

“Take that slipper, Laembo. Later if we meet again, bring the slipper back to me,” she shouted at Laembo.

He saw Laembo struggling to save his life after catching the slipper that the princess had thrown. Shortly after, Laembo was visible no more.



Princess Waeruwondo was scared, crying, and running away from the crew. The captain who witnessed it pretended to rescue the princess from fear and threat she felt. He offered her a help. For the princess safety he locked the crew who had harmed Laembo in a chamber.

“Please don’t be afraid and sad. I am here to guard and protect you from any danger. As soon as we reach the island across, I shall take you to your parents,” persuaded the captain. Anxiety and sadness consumed her energy. So she lay down on a pandan mat provided by the captain. As she slept, she was holding the scissors given by her grandmother kept beneath her clothes. She was going to use it to protect herself when needed.

The captain, apparently, had been waiting for Princess Waeruwondo to sleep. He had had a bad intention in mind, but he then cancelled it.

The ship sailed for one full day and one full night. Right on the second day when the sun rose in the eastern horizon, the ship arrived at Port of Waode Buri. The anchor was released when the ship leaned on the port.

The captain escorted Princess Waeruwondo to the palace. At the palace a celebration was held to welcome the return of the princess. After the celebration, the king summoned Princess Waeruwondo to his presence. He told the princess about the

contest he held in relation to her abduction. “Whoever can save you deserves to marry you.” said the king to Waeruwondo.

Princess Waeruwondo mused on what her father had just said. She had a hunch her father was addressing the captain.

“Do you think the captain of the ship is the one who has saved me?” asked Waeruwondo finally.

“Yes, I do. Because he is the one who takes you to this palace, so he has the right to marry you, my daughter.”

“But he is not the one who has saved me. There is someone who cannot be here,” explained Waeruwondo.

“Then bring him to come and prove that he is the one who has saved you,” said the king.

Princess Waeruwondo remembered Laembo, the true rescuer. She did not know whether Laembo was alive or not, so she postponed telling the king about Laembo. Princess Waeruwondo then thought of another way to find Laembo.

“Forgive me, Your Majesty. I cannot bring him here now.”

“Should that be the case, then you have to marry the captain,” insisted the king.

“But father, may I ask for a condition?”

“Of course, tell me!”

“Yes, Your Majesty. I accept your decision with one condition,” demanded Princess Waeruwondo. “I lost my slipper on the way back home. I shall only marry anyone who finds the slipper,” she continued.

Then the palace proclaimed an edict about the missing slipper of Princess Waeruwondo. Everyone seemed to be interested in it. They came to every place that provided slipper, but to no result. No one succeeded in finding the slipper of Princess Waeruwondo. Meanwhile, in another place, Laembo who had been pushed into the ocean could survive and returned to his town. Upon hearing the princess had returned to the palace safely, he was relieved and grateful. He then lived his life as usual with his mother.

But one day when he was weeding grass on his farm, there were two men passing by talking about the princess who was looking for the missing of one of her slippers. He immediately asked them about the news they were talking about. Once he heard the explanation, he soon rushed back home, changed his clothes, took a small bundle in the closet, and left for the palace.

Upon arriving at the gate, the guard who judged him filthy forbade him from entering the palace. Lucky for Laembo, Lakinolipu was passing by and saw him while he was having argument with the guard. Lakinolipu told the guard to let him in

at once. Laembo entered the palace and stood before the king. Before he spoke, Princess Waeruwondo showed up. She saw Laembo and immediately kneeled before her father. She cried aloud and said, “Your Majesty, this young man is the one who has found me and saved me from the garuda that kidnapped me. Captain is not the one. He had bad intention, instead,”

“What? Is it true that this young man found you? What is the proof?” asked Lakinolipu not believing.

Laembo took out a slipper belonged to Princess Waeruwondo from his pocket.

It turned out matching the other slipper kept by Princess Waeruwondo. The princess then told the king what had happened to her and Laembo. The captain of the ship was summoned and thrown into prison being charged of doing evil to Princess Waeruwondo and Laembo. Meanwhile, as the king’s promise, Laembo and Princess Waeruwondo got married. They lived happily ever after.



Epilog

Living like a princess is something that will always be dreamed about. One has to remember, however, that a princess is also an ordinary human who feels not only happiness, but also sadness, fear, anxiety, and even threatened. Being a princess is not everything. There are many other happiness and pleasures that can be achieved without necessary be a princess. As an intelligent human being, one must be able to create one's own happiness.

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Riwayat Pekerjaan/Profesi (5 tahun terakhir)

1. 2014—sekarang: Peneliti Madya Iva
2. 2015—sekarang: Penata Tk. I

Riwayat Pendidikan dan Tahun Belajar

1. S-2: Sastra Indonesia, Universitas Diponegoro (2006—2007)
2. S-1: Pendidikan Bahasa dan Sastra Indonesia dan Daerah, Universitas Negeri Makassar (1999—2003)

Judul Buku dan Tahun Terbit (10 tahun terakhir)

1. Putri Satarina dan Tujuh Bidadari
2. Ngkaa-Ngkasi dan Putri Raja Babi

Judul Penelitian dan Tahun Terbit (10 tahun terakhir)

1. Tradisi *Meago-ago* dalam Masyarakat Taluki: Tinjauan Semiotika Budaya (2015)
2. Pengaruh Cerita *Laskar Pelangi* dan *Negeri 5 Menara*: Kajian Intertekstual (2014)
3. *Nelayan di Lautan Utara*: Sebuah Kajian Ekokritik

Informasi Lain

Dilahirkan di Mattampabulu, 25 April 1981. Tumbuh dan besar dalam lingkungan Bugis di Bone, Sulawesi Selatan. Menikah dan dikaruniai dua orang anak. Sejak tahun 2004 bergabung dalam lingkup Badan Pengembangan dan Pembinaan Bahasa di Kantor Bahasa Sulawesi Tenggara. Sejak saat itu menetap di Kota Kendari hingga sekarang. Mengajar pada Jurusan Sastra Indonesia, Universitas Halu Oleo. Beberapa kali terlibat dalam kegiatan kebahasaan dan kesastraan, baik sebagai pelaksana maupun narasumber.

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