

## Gending Sriwijaya Dance Training For BIPA Students At Thammasat University Thailand

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### Abstract

*This Community Service activity aims to introduce Indonesian culture, especially those that have similarities with traditional Thai dances. The dance that was introduced and taught in this activity was the Gending Sriwijaya dance from Palembang. The dance material was given to the BIPA class at the Faculty of Liberal Arts, University of Thailand. The training method was carried out in two ways, the first online with additional video tutorials, for 5x meetings, then offline for 2x face-to-face meetings. The training method used modifications developed by Louis Genci (1966), Otto and Glaser (1970), namely 1) analyzing the initial abilities of the trainees, 2) formulating objectives, 3) determining methods and media in accordance with the characteristics of the trainees, 4) demonstrating and practicing skills, 5) evaluating the results of training. This method is very relevant to be used as a long-distance dance training strategy involving international students. The success of this activity can be seen from the questionnaire results, where 90% of students feel happy, and want to learn other Indonesian dances. At the end of the training, a performance was held featuring 8 Thai students who focused on learning Gending Sriwijaya Dance.*

**Keywords:** Training, Sriwijaya Gending Dance, BIPA students

Kegiatan Pengabdian Masyarakat ini bertujuan untuk mengenalkan budaya Indonesia, khususnya yang memiliki kesamaan dengan tarian tradisional Thailand. Tari yang diperkenalkan sekaligus diajarkan pada kegiatan ini adalah tari Gending Sriwijaya yang berasal dari Palembang. Materi tari diberikan pada kelas BIPA pada Fakultas Liberal Arts Universitas Thailand. Metode pelatihan dilakukan dalam dua cara, yang pertama secara daring dengan tambahan video tutorial, untuk 5x pertemuan, selanjutnya dilakukan secara luring untuk 2x tatap muka. Metode pelatihan menggunakan modifikasi yang dikembangkan Louis Genci (1966), Otto dan Glaser (1970), yaitu 1) menganalisis kemampuan awal peserta pelatihan, 2) merumuskan tujuan, 3) menentukan metode dan media yang sesuai dengan karakteristik peserta pelatihan, 4) mendemonstrasikan dan mempraktikkan keterampilan, 5) mengevaluasi hasil pelatihan. Metode ini sangat relevan digunakan sebagai strategi pelatihan tari jarak jauh yang melibatkan mahasiswa asing. Keberhasilan dari kegiatan ini dapat diketahui dari hasil angket, dimana 90% mahasiswa merasa senang, dan ingin mempelajari tari Indonesia lainnya. Akhir dari pelatihan diadakan pertunjukkan yang menampilkan 8 mahasiswa Thailand yang fokus dalam mempelajari Tari Gending Sriwijaya.

**Kata Kunci:** Pelatihan, Tari Gending Sriwijaya, mahasiswa BIPA

### INTRODUCTION

Thammasat University has a Southeast Asian studies program that studies political science, economics, society, culture, and language in the context of the changing modern world to understand social situations and problems. Graduates of this course are instructors, researchers and academics in Southeast Asian studies; editors; tour guides; civil servants and government officials in ministries or public organizations related to Southeast Asia; writers; critics; journalists; and news reporters and news presenters.

Other courses of study are drama theory; Thai, eastern and western theatre; and analysis and criticism of performances or different types of theatre. Furthermore, students will practice various theater arts, such as acting,

directing, scene design and production, costume and sound control. Graduates pursue careers in theater arts; directing theater and TV shows; design and direction of light, sound, and special effects; advertising; public relations; mass media; actors and voice actors; or applying knowledge in performing arts to social and youth development work or education.

Thammasat University also offers Indonesian Language for Foreign Speakers (BIPA) classes to all students. There are currently 25 students taking the class. The importance of BIPA classes can be seen in the Indonesian Day activities that took place at the Indonesian Embassy in Bangkok with Thammasat University which held *Indonesian Day*, so that Thai students' understanding and

skills of Indonesian language and cultural arts are needed. For this reason, dance training is needed that is easy to learn by considering the attractiveness of the material. Based on the beliefs of the Thai people, 93% embrace Buddhism. The dance material that has been influenced by Buddhism is the Gending Sriwijaya dance (Utami et al., 2018).

Gending Sriwijaya dance is a Palembang dance that has a Buddhist influence, this dance is a symbol of respect for the people of South Sumatra for the great guests visiting the land of Sriwijaya. The beginning of the appearance of the Gending Sriwijaya dance originated from the request of the Japanese government in the Palembang Prefecture to Hodohan (Japanese Information Service) to create a song and dance that would be used to welcome guests visiting South Sumatra in an official event. (HUSNA et al., 2021)..

Gending Sriwijaya dance also has a certain function, which is to provide the cultural identity of Palembang city (cultural icon). Gending Sriwijaya song and traditional dance become a unity in cultural attractions. Gending melodies are played to accompany the Gending Sriwijaya dance. Both the song and the dance culture of Gending Sriwijaya broadly describe the glory, glory and majesty of the Sriwijaya kingdom (Sartono, 2000; Mayrita & Darma, 2012).

Based on the similarities that include the influence of Buddhism, the material provided has similarities with the traditional dance of Southern Thailand, namely Nora dance. Nora dance is a traditional dance originating from Southern Thailand. The people of Southern Thailand still believe in the existence of ancestral spirits whose summoning is through Nora Dance performances. The belief in ancestral spirits is still believed today. Nora Dance performances were once believed to be something sacred and only performed in temples, but now it has spread in the community. Nora dance is often known as Noora (formerly known as Chatrri in Southern Thai) tells the story of Nora which originated from an Indian story, then entered and spread to Southern Thailand and the Malay Land until

it became a culture in Southern Thailand. As an illustration, here is the Nora dance:



Nora Dance (Source: Wikipedia)-Left  
Sriwijaya Gending Dance (Document: Dinny Devi T, 2023)-Right

## IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

Training is a specific activity related to mastering a series of tasks, training does not only require understanding, but must be able to measure performance in completing a series of tasks as an effect or result of the activity. (Cartwright, 2003). The purpose of training is to improve the ability, capacity, and performance of staff. Training is conducted to eliminate the gap between work performance and the required standards. (Triana & Nisa, 2022) The main purpose of training is so that trainees can do a better, correct and efficient job of the time and material provided (Budiman et al., 2020). (Budiman et al., 2020).

Training is programmed to increase a person's knowledge, skills and attitudes to make it easier to carry out their duties, while the organization of a good training process will be determined by a training model that can guide them in completing a series of tasks that must be fulfilled. The training method used was adopted from Louis Genci (1966), and Otto & Glasses (1970), for refinement, thus adding the aspect of analyzing the initial abilities of learners which includes five steps to be taken in organizing training as follows: (1) analyzing the initial abilities of trainees, (2) determining training objectives, analyzing training content, and organizing training programs. (3) Designing the stages of training implementation. Activities include determining the formal and informal meetings during training sessions, and understanding the problems of trainees. (4) Selecting effective presentations. Activities include selecting and determining the types of presentations, conditioning the environment including the use of learning tools and aids, and determining

communication media. (5) Implementing and assessing training outcomes. Activities include the transformation of knowledge and skills and values based on the exercise program, as well as evaluation of changes in the behavior of participants after participating in the exercise program. (Kamil, 2003).

In this activity, the training methods used in this activity were carried out in 2 ways, namely online and offline. For 3x face-to-face online with the help of video tutorials and virtual meetings, followed by offline for 2x face-to-face. This method is very effective in conducting distance training with foreign student trainees. The trainees are students of BIPA (Indonesian Language for Foreign Speakers) classes at Thammasat University, with *basic*, *intermediate*, and *advanced* class levels. The dance class was chosen according to the students' interest in learning more deeply. The variety of movements provided consists of 3 main movements that have been simplified according to the ability and time for the implementation of activities.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The training method uses modifications developed by Louis Genci (1966), Otto and Glaser (1970), namely 1) analyzing the initial abilities of trainees, 2) formulating objectives, 3) determining methods and media that are in accordance with the characteristics of trainees, 4) demonstrating and practicing skills, 5) evaluating training results.

### 1. Analysis of Trainees' Initial Proficiency

The student ability analysis was divided according to the Indonesian language proficiency class consisting of basic, intermediate, and advanced. Next, a schedule of activities was made based on the ability level grouping.

KLS	TECHNICAL	MATERIAL
Advanced 1	Online Topic: SPECIAL LECTURE FPBS UNJ Time: Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of participants</li> <li>• exposure to Gending Sriwijaya dance</li> </ul>

	17, 2023 09:00 AM Bangkok  Meeting ID: 958 6761 7164 Passcode: TUFPBSUNJ	knowledge material <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of basic movements of Gending Sriwijaya dance</li> <li>• Introduction of participants</li> <li>• exposure to Gending Sriwijaya dance knowledge material</li> </ul>
Intermediate 1	Online Topic: SPECIAL LECTURE FPBS UNJ Time: Aug 17, 2023 01:00 PM Bangkok  Meeting ID: 949 5101 9728 Passcode: FPBSUNJTU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the basic movements of Gending Sriwijaya dance</li> </ul>
Basic 1 (A)	Online Topic: SPECIAL LECTURE FPBS UNJ Time: Aug 21, 2023 01:00 PM Bangkok  Meeting ID: 930 7752 6527 Passcode: TUUNJ2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of participants</li> <li>• exposure to Gending Sriwijaya dance knowledge material</li> <li>• Introduction to basic dance movements</li> </ul>
Advanced 1	Online Topic: SPECIAL LECTURE FPBS UNJ #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exposure to Gending Sriwijaya dance knowledge material</li> <li>• Introduction to the basic dance movements of</li> </ul>

	Time: Aug 24, 2023 09:00 AM Bangkok  Join Zoom Meeting  Meeting ID: 957 3115 3289 Passcode: 2023TUUNJ	Gending Sriwijaya dance knowledge
Inter media te 1	Online Topic: SPECIAL LECTURE FPBS UNJ #2 Time: Aug 24, 2023 01:00 PM Bangkok  Meeting ID: 966 5800 6065 Passcode: 2023UNJTU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exposure to Gending Sriwijaya dance knowledge material</li> <li>• Introduction to the basic movements of Gending Sriwijaya dance using accompaniment</li> </ul>
Basic 1 (A)	Offline, classroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise in groups</li> <li>• Performance rehearsal</li> </ul>
Adva nce 1	Venue: Liberal Arts Building, Thammasat Univ. Tha Prachan Campus	
Inter media te 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exposure to Gending Sriwijaya dance knowledge material</li> <li>• Introductio n to basic dance</li> </ul>	

	movement s	
STAG ING OF LEAR NING OUT COM ES	Venue: Liberal Arts Building, Thammasat Univ. Tha Prachan Campus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stabilizatio n of Gending Sriwijaya dance movement s</li> <li>• Practice for performan ce of learning outcomes</li> <li>• Rehearsal</li> <li>• Performan ce of training results</li> </ul>	

## 2. Formulating Training Objectives

Based on the ability level and characteristics of the trainees, the training objectives were formulated. In this activity, the team chose the material and simplified the dance movements so that they are easy to learn in a short time but do not change the dance philosophy. The results of the discussion determined the Gending Swiwijaya Dance with 3 main movements.

The training objective of this community service activity is to increase Thai students' understanding and knowledge of Indonesian cultural arts, so that dance training is needed that is easy to learn by considering the attractiveness of the material.

The selected movements are as follows:

a. Worship





Figure 1: Movement Variety 1

b. Motion 1



Figure 1: Movement Variety 2

c. Motion 2



Figure 1: Movement Variety 3

d. Motion 3



Figure 1: Motion Variety 4  
 (Documentation: Dinny Devi T, 2023)

### 3. Determine the Training Method

Considering the characteristics of the training participants, time, and distance, the method was then determined so that the training objectives could be achieved. For this reason, through an agreement with partners, the training was conducted through online 5 times, and offline 3 times.

### 4. Practical Training

The training began by explaining the history of Gending Sriwijaya dance online to all levels of trainees. The material was presented in both English and Bahasa Indonesia.

In this service activity, the target output is that students are able to dance Gending Sriwijaya dance, so the emphasis is more on motion material rather than on language. Furthermore, the material is given a simplified variety of basic movements of Sriwijaya Gending Dance.



The following stages of training were carried out:

#### 1. Online training

N o.	Day/Date	Methods	Documentation
1	Thursday, August 17, 2023 09.00 - 12.00	Online with links provided by partners	
2	Thursday, August 17, 2023 13.00 - 14.00	Online with links provided by partners	
3	Monday, August 21, 2023 13.00 - 16.00	Online with links provided by partners	
4	Thursday, August 24, 2023 09.00 - 12.00	Online with links provided by partners	
5	Thursday, August 24, 2023 13.00 - 14.00	Online with links provided by partners	

#### 2. Offline training

No .	Day/Date	Methods	Documentation
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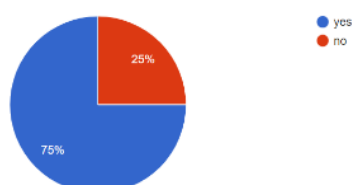
6	Monday, August 28, 2023 09.00 - 12.00	Offline at Thammasat University	
8	Thursday, August 31, 2023 09.00 - 17.00	Offline at Thammasat University	

## 5. Evaluation of Training Outcomes

The evaluation results showed that most of the students who participated in the training had learned to dance, but had never performed. The participants were generally very happy with the training activities, both in terms of material, instructors, and methods. It is hoped that training activities with cultural exchange will be held for a long time.

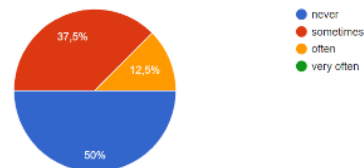
Have never learned to dance

8 jawaban



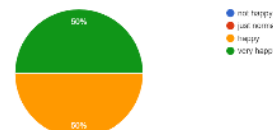
Have you ever danced in a show?

8 jawaban



Do you enjoy learning to dance 'Gending Sriwijaya Dance'?

8 jawaban

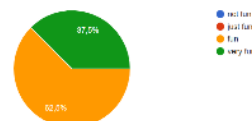


8 jawaban

What is the level of difficulty of the Sriwijaya Gending dance?

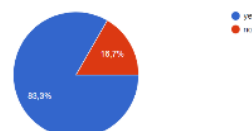
What is the impression of learning the Sriwijaya Gending dance?

8 jawaban



Do you want to learn to dance other dances from Indonesia?

6 jawaban



Thus, in general, the trainees were very happy with the material provided, and hoped to learn other traditional Indonesian dance materials.

## CONCLUSIONS

Gending Sriwijaya dance training activities in the implementation of Community Service have an impact on widespread cooperation, in various forms of activities. But in general, the results of this community service can be concluded:

### 1. Trainee Capability Analysis

A skills analysis is needed to determine the characteristics and initial understanding of the trainees to

- determine the objectives, materials, and methods to be used in the training.
2. Determine Training Objectives and Materials  
The objectives were determined based on the characteristics of the participants, so due to the closeness of Indonesian and Thai cultures, the Gending Sriwijaya dance was given, which has similarities with traditional dance in Southern Thailand. Furthermore, the dance material is simplified with 3 varieties of movements that are repeated without losing the dance philosophy.
  3. Determining the Method  
The online training method followed by offline training is very effective in improving the skills of dance trainees under certain conditions and situations.
  4. Practical Training  
The training process was adjusted to the characteristics and time of both parties, so the online method was chosen and continued with offline face-to-face meetings for the rehearsal process, rehearsal, and performance of the training results.
  5. Evaluation of Training Outcomes  
Evaluation was conducted using a form to determine success and sustainability. The results of the questionnaire showed that the trainees were happy to learn Gending Sriwijaya dance, and hoped to have a long time to exchange cultures between Indonesia and Thailand.

#### ADVICE

1. In the ability analysis, trainees should be segregated according to their interests,
2. Determining training objectives and materials should be tailored to the trainees' initial dancing abilities,
3. Determining the method should be tailored to the characteristics of the trainees, the time available and the outputs to be achieved,

4. The training process should be conducted entirely offline, so that there is sufficient time to practice,
5. The evaluation of the results should be that all trainees try to dance using Gending Sriwijaya dance costumes.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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