

ABSTRACT

This study discusses semiotics in colonial photography through an analysis of the photo "Beber-Voorstelling van de Desa Gelaran" taken by Kassian Cephas, a native photographer during the colonial period of the Dutch East Indies. This photo is an important visual representation in understanding how colonial culture was constructed and presented through the lens of a native photographer who was bound by the colonial context. Using a semiotic approach, this study traces the signs and symbols contained in the photo, and how these meanings reflect the power relations, cultural identities, and colonial discourses that took place at that time. This analysis not only reveals the ways in which photography was used as a tool of representation by colonial powers, but also displays Kassian Cephas' position as an actor in complex cultural and political dynamics. Through this study, it is hoped that it can provide further insight into the role of photography in shaping the narrative of colonial history and culture in Indonesia.

keywords: *Semiotics, Colonial Photography and Kassian Cephas*

