

The Cultural Role of PansEat Tagapo to the Cultural Identity of Santa Rosa City, Laguna

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Abstract. This study aimed to examine the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo and its relationship to the cultural identity of residents in Santa Rosa City, Laguna. It focused on how the dish contributes to cultural significance, traditions, and symbolic meaning, and how residents express their cultural identity through heritage awareness, generational continuity, and adaptation to modern influences. The study employed a mixed-methods approach, specifically an explanatory design combining quantitative and qualitative methods. A survey was conducted among 100 residents using a structured Likert-scale questionnaire, while semi-structured interviews were also conducted to further contextualize and validate the findings. The quantitative data were analyzed using weighted mean and Pearson correlation (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The results showed that respondents strongly agreed on the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo (WM = 3.31) and their cultural identity (WM = 3.37). All computed correlation values were greater than the critical value of 0.194, indicating a statistically significant relationship between the cultural role of the dish and the cultural identity of residents. Interview results further revealed that PansEat Tagapo serves as a symbol of family tradition, cultural pride, and community connection among residents. The study concludes that PansEat Tagapo plays an important role in maintaining cultural identity and should be preserved and promoted within the local community, as it contributes to both cultural sustainability and social cohesion. Future studies may further explore its economic and tourism potential in cultural heritage development. It also highlights the importance of community-based cultural documentation in strengthening local identity and supporting sustainable heritage preservation initiatives within the local context.

Introduction

Food is an important part of culture because it reflects the traditions, history, and identity of a community. It is not only a source of nourishment but also a way of expressing shared values and experiences (Partarakis et al., 2021). In the Philippines, many traditional dishes are connected to celebrations and everyday life, helping people stay connected to their roots. One example is PansEat Tagapo, a traditional noodle dish from Barangay Tagapo in Santa Rosa City, Laguna. It is commonly prepared during special occasions and is recognized by residents as part of their local identity. Like other forms of pancit, it carries cultural meaning related to unity and continuity (Mercado & Andalecio, 2020). However, with the growing influence of modern lifestyles and foreign food choices, traditional dishes like PansEat Tagapo are slowly becoming less visible, especially among younger people. This raises concern that its cultural importance may decline over time (Farrer, 2015). Because of this, the researcher aimed to study the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo and how it relates to the cultural identity of residents. This study also looked at how people maintain their cultural identity while adapting to modern changes.

Research Questions

This study aimed to determine the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo and its relationship to cultural identity. Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

1. What is the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo in terms of:

- 1.1 Cultural significance
- 1.2 Integration into traditions
- 1.3 Symbolic value

2. What is the level of cultural identity of residents in terms of:

- 2.1 Heritage awareness
- 2.2 Generational continuity
- 2.3 Adaptation to modern influences

3. Is there a significant relationship between the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo and the cultural identity of residents?

Key Literature

Traditional food plays an important role in preserving culture and strengthening community identity. According to Mintz and Du Bois (2002), food is more than nourishment because it reflects social practices, traditions, and shared experiences within a community. Traditional dishes help people maintain connections to their heritage and cultural roots. Food heritage is also considered an important part of cultural identity because it reflects the history, beliefs, and practices of a community. Rocillo-Aquino et al. (2021) explained that traditional food represents cultural heritage and strengthens the connection of people to their local identity and traditions. Traditional dishes continue to serve as symbols of community values and shared experiences. Moreover, traditional food practices help preserve culture despite the influence of modernization and globalization. Frez-Muñoz et al. (2021) stated that traditional foods remain an important part of cultural identity among different generations even with changing lifestyles and modern food preferences. Although younger generations are exposed to modern influences, traditional food still contributes to cultural continuity and community connection. In the Philippine setting, traditional food is commonly associated with family gatherings, celebrations, and local practices, making it an important part of preserving community identity. Through the continued preparation and sharing of traditional dishes, cultural values and practices are passed down across generations. These studies support the present research because they explain how traditional food, such as PansEat Tagapo, contributes to cultural preservation and cultural identity within the community.

Methodology

Participants and/or Other Sources of Data and Information: This study was conducted in Barangay Tagapo, Santa Rosa City, Laguna.

The participants of the study were 100 residents selected through simple random sampling to ensure that each individual had an equal chance of being included. The respondents included both younger and older residents in order to gather different perspectives regarding the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo and cultural identity. The inclusion of participants from different age groups helped provide a more complete understanding of how traditional food is viewed across generations. For the qualitative part of the study, a smaller group of participants was selected for interviews. These included local residents who were familiar with the preparation and cultural use of PansEat Tagapo. Their responses were used to support and explain the survey results.

Data Gathering Methods: This study used both quantitative and qualitative methods to collect data.

This approach allowed the researcher to gather numerical data and also understand the experiences and views of the participants (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). For the quantitative part, a structured questionnaire was used. The questionnaire contained statements related to the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo and the cultural identity of residents. A Likert scale was used so that respondents could express their level of agreement. The data gathering process followed a clear sequence. First, the survey questionnaires were distributed to the selected respondents. After the responses were collected, the data were organized and prepared for analysis. For the qualitative part, interviews were conducted after the survey. Selected participants were asked open-ended questions about their experiences, beliefs, and opinions regarding PansEat Tagapo. These interviews helped provide deeper explanations of the survey results and added meaning to the findings.

Data Analysis: The data gathered in this study were analyzed using both quantitative and qualitative techniques.

For the quantitative data, weighted mean was used to determine the level of agreement of the respondents regarding the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo and their cultural identity. Pearson correlation coefficient was used to determine the relationship between the two variables. The level of significance was set at 0.05, with a critical value of 0.194 and 98 degrees

of freedom. The null hypothesis was rejected if the computed correlation value was greater than the critical value. For the qualitative data, the responses from the interviews were transcribed and carefully reviewed. Significant statements were identified and grouped based on similar ideas. These were then organized into themes to explain the results of the study.

This process helped connect the experiences of the participants with the numerical findings (Zamora, 2026). To ensure clarity and accuracy, the results from both quantitative and qualitative data were compared and used together to support the findings. These procedures were selected based on standard research practices and were guided by methodological consultation.

Results and Discussion

Cultural Role of PansEat Tagapo	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Verbal Description
Cultural Significance	3.37	Strongly Agree	Highly Accepted Cultural Role
Intrigration into Traditions	3.27	Strongly Agree	Highly Accepted Cultural Role
Symbolic Value	3.29	Strongly Agree	Highly Accepted Cultural Role
Overall Weighted Mean	3.31	Strongly Agree	Highly Accepted Cultural Role

Legend: 3.26–4.00 (Strongly Agree / Highly Accepted Cultural Role); 2.51–3.25 (Agree / Accepted Cultural Role); 1.76–2.50 (Disagree / Less Accepted Cultural Role); 1.00–1.75 (Strongly Disagree / Least Accepted Cultural Role)

Table no. 1. The cultural role of panseat tagapo in santa rosa city, laguna

Table 1 presents the summary of the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo among residents of Santa Rosa City, Laguna. The overall weighted mean of 3.31, interpreted as Strongly Agree with a verbal description of Highly Accepted Cultural Role, indicates that respondents strongly recognize the dish as an important part of local culture and community traditions. Among the indicators, Cultural Significance obtained the highest weighted mean (3.37), showing that respondents strongly value PansEat Tagapo as a meaningful cultural representation of their community. This was followed by Symbolic Value (3.29) and Integration into Traditions (3.27), suggesting that the dish continues to be associated with local practices, celebrations, and shared experiences. The quantitative findings were supported by the interview results. Participants described PansEat Tagapo as a dish connected to family gatherings, cultural memories, and community identity. Several respondents explained that preparing and sharing the dish strengthens their sense of belonging and appreciation of local culture.

Cultural Identity	Weighted Mean	Verbal Interpretation	Verbal Description
Heritage Awareness	3.35	Strongly Agree	Highly Maintained Cultural Identity
Generational Continuity	3.28	Strongly Agree	Highly Maintained Cultural Identity
Adaptation to Modern Influences	3.48	Strongly Agree	Highly Maintained Cultural Identity
Overall Weighted Mean	3.37	Strongly Agree	Highly Maintained Cultural Identity

Legend: 3.26–4.00 (Strongly Agree / Highly Maintained Cultural Identity); 2.51–3.25 (Agree / Maintained Cultural Identity); 1.76–2.50 (Disagree / Less Maintained Cultural Identity); 1.00–1.75 (Strongly Disagree / Least Maintained Cultural Identity)

Table no. 2. Level of the cultural identity of the people of santa rosa city, laguna

Table 2 presents the summary of the cultural identity of the people of Santa Rosa City, Laguna in relation to PansEat Tagapo. The overall weighted mean of 3.37, interpreted as Strongly Agree with a verbal description of Highly Maintained Cultural Identity, indicates that respondents strongly associate the dish with their cultural identity and community heritage. Among the indicators, Adaptation to Modern Influences recorded the highest weighted mean (3.48), suggesting that respondents believe PansEat Tagapo remains culturally relevant despite changing lifestyles and modern food preferences. Heritage Awareness followed with a weighted mean of 3.35, indicating strong recognition of the dish as part of local heritage and identity. Generational Continuity obtained a weighted mean of 3.28, showing that appreciation and practices related to the dish continue to be carried across generations. The interview findings supported these quantitative results. Participants shared that although younger generations are exposed to modern influences, PansEat Tagapo still holds cultural value

within households and community celebrations. Respondents emphasized the importance of preserving the dish so that future generations may continue recognizing its meaning and cultural significance.

Level of Significance = 0.05 Degree of Freedom = 98 Critical Value = 0.194			
Variables	Computed r-value	Decision	Verbal Description
Cultural Significance × Heritage Awareness	0.2123	Reject Ho	Significant Relationship
Cultural Significance × Generational Continuity	0.301	Reject Ho	Significant Relationship
Cultural Significance × Modern Adaptation	0.7225	Reject Ho	Significant Relationship
Intrigration into Traditions × Heritage Awareness	0.9005	Reject Ho	Significant Relationship
Intrigration into Traditions × Generational Continuity	0.7000	Reject Ho	Significant Relationship
Intrigration into Traditions × Modern Adaptation	0.5841	Reject Ho	Significant Relationship
Symbolic Value × Heritage Awareness	0.2566	Reject Ho	Significant Relationship
Symbolic Value × Generational Continuity	0.4902	Reject Ho	Significant Relationship
Symbolic Value × Modern Adaptation	0.6684	Reject Ho	Significant Relationship

Table no. 3. Relationship between the cultural role of panseat tagapo and the cultural identity of the people of santa rosa city, laguna

Table 3 presents the relationship between the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo and the cultural identity of the people of Santa Rosa City, Laguna using the Pearson correlation coefficient. The findings revealed that all computed r-values exceeded the critical value of 0.194, resulting in the rejection of the null hypothesis across all indicators. This indicates a significant relationship between the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo and the cultural identity of residents. The strongest relationship was observed between Integration into Traditions and Heritage Awareness ($r = 0.9005$), suggesting that the continued inclusion of PansEat Tagapo in traditions and community activities strongly contributes to residents' perception of cultural heritage and identity. The interview results supported the quantitative findings. Participants expressed that PansEat Tagapo functions not only as traditional food but also as a symbol of shared experiences, family tradition, and community connection. Many respondents explained that preserving the dish helps maintain local identity and strengthens their attachment to the cultural heritage of Santa Rosa City.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

This study examined the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo and its relationship to the cultural identity of the residents of Santa Rosa City, Laguna.

The results showed that respondents strongly agreed that PansEat Tagapo has an important cultural role in terms of cultural significance (WM = 3.37), integration into traditions (WM = 3.27), and symbolic value (WM = 3.29), with an overall mean of 3.31. This means that the dish continues to be recognized as part of the community's culture.

In terms of cultural identity, the respondents also showed strong agreement in heritage awareness (WM = 3.35), generational continuity (WM = 3.28), and adaptation to modern influences (WM = 3.48), with an overall mean of 3.37. This indicates that residents maintain their cultural identity while adjusting to modern changes.

The correlation results revealed that all computed r-values were greater than the critical value of 0.194 at a 0.05 level of significance. This means that there is a significant relationship between the cultural role of PansEat Tagapo and the cultural identity of residents. Therefore, the null hypothesis was rejected.

Based on the interview results, several themes were identified. These include the importance of traditional food in shaping identity, the role of family in passing down food practices, and the ability of residents to adapt traditions to modern

lifestyles. These findings support the quantitative results and show that PansEat Tagapo is not only a dish but also a symbol of cultural connection.

This study concludes that PansEat Tagapo plays a significant role in strengthening cultural identity in the community. Maintaining and promoting traditional food practices helps preserve cultural values and supports community unity. In line with the findings, it is recommended that local communities continue to promote traditional dishes through cultural activities and programs. Future researchers may also explore other local foods and their impact on cultural identity in different areas.

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Competing Interests Statement

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this article.

Data Availability Statement

Data sharing is not applicable to this article as no new data were created or analyzed in this study; all data used were obtained from previously published sources as cited in the reference list.

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Appendices

No appendices are attached to this study.