



The research on the reading in Malay folklore as a learning and teaching medium among students at the university Malaysia Kelantan through the Kahoot application

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Abstract

Folklore is a creative work presented by the Malay community in ancient times as entertainment for the community. Folklore also provide moral education to the local community. There are a few people in today's society who think that folklore is something foreign and is considered purely imaginary. This study aims to identify and analyze the effect of reading by students at the University Malaysia Kelantan on the protagonist character in Malay folklore. This study only limits a folklore which is *Tok Ayah Sin*. This study uses a qualitative approach involving library, field and questionnaire methods. This study took a total of 45 students from University of Malaysia Kelantan, Malaysia as respondents. This study also used the Kahoot application to strengthen the data. As a result, Malay folklore indeed has positive values and lessons that can be learned from the protagonist.

Keywords: Folklore, Students, Malay, Kahoot, Learning, Reading, Teaching

Introduction

Folklore is part of the old Malay literature which is oral and spread by word of mouth by storyteller. Malay oral stories are literary works produced by the Malay community as an entertainment tool to fill free time (Jai Kemalok & Maryati Mohamed, 2020) ^[3]. This is because folklore is an entertainment material owned by the common people. Folklore are only told when the community is resting or at night. This is done to bring closer the relationship between parents and children after a tiring day at work. This statement is supported by Jacqueline Karimon & Shaiful Bahri Mohd. Radzi (2021) ^[2] who defines folklore as a result of oral pronunciation delivered by ancestors in ancient times. Malay folklore has a very easy-to-understand nature, in the form of entertainment and rich in pure values. Thus, the local community is able to learn in depth about manners, noble morals and politeness while interacting with the community. However, the protagonist is the formation of the character of the main character in a story (Zul Pahmi Sahidin & Norazimah Zakaria, 2020) ^[11]. Usually, the protagonist is the main defender or hero in a story or drama. The protagonist often has a big role or responsibility to move a story. Therefore, the protagonist character in folklore plays a big role in influencing the thinking of the local community.

Literature Review

Researchers have collected several past studies to examine aspects of Malay folklore in Malaysia. Among the studies examined is the perspective of 'Lazy Malays' and 'Stupid Malays' by the West and its truth based on Malay Jokes by Rahimah Hamdan & Alya Batrisyia Annuar (2020) ^[8]. This study revolves around the Western perspective on "Lazy Malays" and "Stupid Malays" labeled by the British colonialists from the colonial era. This study focuses on identifying and analyzing the truth of the perspective based on Malay jokes. This study is based on a qualitative design that involves library methods and text analysis. This study limited to four humorous stories namely *Pak Pandir*, *Pak Kaduk*, *Pak Belalang* and *Si Luncai*. As a result, this study found that the Malay jokes can contradict the Western perspective on "Lazy Malays" and "Stupid Malays" because each character in the jokes gives useful lessons to young children.

Next, a study titled *Islamic Values and Moral Formation in Malay Folklore* by Muhammad Nur Al-Hakim Mohamad Hanafiah & Mohd Firdaus Che Yaacob (2020) ^[5]. This study expresses aspects of Islamic values and the formation of morals in Malay folklore. This study aims to identify and analyze the Islamic values in Malay folklore for the moral formation of the Malay community. In addition, this study uses a qualitative design that involves library and text methods to obtain information. In addition, the results of this study found that Malay folklore indeed contain Islamic values that can influence the formation of the morals of the Malay community.

In addition, the study of Tuan Siti Nurul Suhadah Tuan Adnan & Mohd Firdaus Che Yaacob (2020) ^[10] through the title *Common Sense in the Oral Narrative of the Residents of Kota Bharu, Kelantan: A Social Research*. This study is about common sense which describes the thinking of Malays based on their behavior. Accordingly, this study focuses on the objective of identifying and analyzing common sense in oral narratives in Kota Bharu, Kelantan. This study is a qualitative study that involves library and field methods to obtain accurate information. Finally, this study found that the oral narratives that were studied contain elements of common sense such as rationality, courage because it is true, effort and sincerity which reflect the superior thinking of Malays.

Referring to a number of previous studies, the researcher found that studies that have the theme of protagonist characters in folklore have not yet been thoroughly studied. Previous studies seem to focus more on aspects of moral values, common sense and the Malay perspective than the protagonist's character. This causes aspects of the protagonist's character to begin to be marginalized little by little by scholars. Therefore, this study was carried out to restore the aspect of the protagonist's character as the main element in Malay folklore. Indirectly, the protagonist in Malay folklore is able to educate children and teenagers about morals. should be done. Therefore, this study is expected to be able to give added value to the literary world and raise the dignity of folklore to a higher level.

Research methodology

This study uses a qualitative design that involves library methods, interview methods and questionnaires in the process to obtain data and information about the study accurately and systematically. Bibliography refers to the search for sources and information about folklore and protagonists. In connection with that, the researcher has visited the library with the aim of collecting as many materials and reference sources regarding the study of folklore. Among them are the University of Malaysia Kelantan Library and the Language Council and East Region Library. This method allows information to be obtained formally such as journals, working papers, seminar papers, books and master's theses to obtain information and data. This method has helped the researcher to understand the purpose of the study and do each research process smoothly. Next, the field method is implemented to show the researcher's processes of obtaining research data in detail and clearly. This field method covers the process of interviewing the storyteller in the study area, namely Mr. Mohd Nawi Yaacob in Tumpat, Kelantan on September 9, 2020. There are several verbal questions addressed to the storyteller in order to obtain folklore in the study area. This is important to get quality folklore to lead this study. Finally, the results of

this interview made the researcher able to obtain *Tok Ayah Sin's* folklore that is suitable for the objectives of this study. In addition, the researcher used a questionnaire method to see the perspective of students at University of Malaysia Kelantan. This questionnaire process has taken a total of 45 respondents from the field of Traditional Design. The researcher used the Kahoot application as an alternative to see the extent to which the students understood the essence of the folklore that was presented. Through the Kahoot application, the researcher includes the entire story of *Tok Ayah Sin* so that students can identify the positive attitude of the protagonist. Therefore, the behavior of the protagonist can be analyzed critically through the opinions of scholars. This is to strengthen the main objective of the study systematically.

Data Analysis

In the findings section, this study will analyze the protagonist character in *Tok Ayah Sin's* folklore. Among the protagonist's characters analyzed are humble attitude, generosity and responsible.

The protagonist is the main hero in a Malay folklore. The protagonist is responsible for moving the story until it reaches the end (Teuku Mahmud, 2020) ^[9]. This is because every action taken by the protagonist will be followed by the local community. Therefore, the protagonist's character needs to reflect a good personality in order to give lessons that have a positive impact on the reader or listener.

Protagonist Character Through Generosity

Generosity is a form of action performed by a human being in extending help (Kezia Audina Setyorini, 2020) ^[4]. Every help given is never asked back or received in return as consolation. This is because a human being is worried about receiving wrath from Allah SWT for not being sincere in giving help or assistance. This statement is supported by Nikmah Sari Hasibuan *et al.* (2020) ^[6] generous attitude covers the attitude of not stingy in giving help to people in need. A generous attitude shows the kindness of a sincere human heart in giving help. This encourages people around to learn positive attitudes from generous people. This generous attitude is clearly shown in *Tok Ayah Sin's* story as quoted below:

Quote 1

One day, some villagers voiced their opinion to Tok Ayah Sin to build a shrine. But, they don't have enough land to build a mosque. He voluntarily donated his land for the villagers to build a surau.

(Mohd Nawi Yaacob, 2020)

Based on the quote above, the generous attitude can be seen in the character of Tok Ayah Sin. Tok Ayah Sin is a scholar who teaches religious knowledge to the local community. The village where Tok Ayah Sin taught did not have a prayer hall. Therefore, the villagers will come to learn religious knowledge will come to Tok Ayah Sin's house. However, there was an increase in the number of people studying with Tok Ayah Sin. This worries the villagers. Therefore, the village community took the initiative to build a surau as a gathering place to study religion. However, the surau could not be built because it did not have enough land. Tok Ayah Sin has provided a solution by giving his land for the village community to build a mosque. Tok Ayah Sin's generous attitude has caused the process of building a shrine to be

carried out. Tok Ayah Sin's generous attitude greatly benefits the villagers and his students.

According to Dwi Intan Sulistyawati & Haris Supratno (2021) ^[1] a generous attitude is a form of kindness given to relatives or close friends. This is because an individual will be more prone to give positive things to the people closest to him. Indirectly, the relationship between a group of people will be closer and more harmonious than before. The series, the generous attitude given by the protagonist will have a positive impact on the community to help people in distress.

Protagonist Character Through Humble Attitude

The attitude of humble attitude comes from the word "tawadhu" which means humble towards something that is glorified (Kezia Audina Setyorini, 2020) ^[4]. Humble attitude shows a value that teaches people to be modest and not arrogant. When applying humility, people will be able to live a life that is able to form a society of mutual respect and noble character. This statement is supported by Muhammad Nur Al-Hakim Mohamad Hanafiah & Mohd Firdaus Che Yaacob (2020) ^[5] who define the attitude of tawaduk which means being humble to all things. This attitude shows that a person has a noble heart and is not arrogant with the surrounding community. This humble attitude can be seen in the folklore titled *Tok Ayah Sin* as below:

Quote 2

Tok Ayah Sin is a religious figure in Kampung Jubakar Pantai and a person highly respected by the villagers. He is respected for his humility and the height of his religious knowledge.

(Mohd Nawi Yaacob, 2020)

Based on the quote above, the humble attitude can be seen in the character of Tok Ayah Sin. Tok Ayah Sin is a religious teacher who has just moved to a village. Tok Ayah Sin imparts religious knowledge in the village. Although still new, Tok Ayah Sin's firm and polite attitude made the villagers respect him as a scholar. However, Tok Ayah Sin is not proud of the award. His humble attitude made the villagers amazed and made Tok Ayah Sin a role model for the villagers.

According to Nikmah Sari Hasibuan *et al.* (2020) ^[6] humble

attitude is the action of an individual who does not harbor feelings of ego or pride in himself. This is because the individual is able to accept other people's views or opinions. Every opinion is taken into account and carefully considered before acting. Therefore, this humble attitude is able to overcome the feeling of takbur or ripple in a person.

Protagonist Character Through Responsible

A responsible attitude is someone who has the willingness to carry out the tasks entrusted to them (Jacquelina Karimon & Shaiful Bahri Mohd. Radzi, 2021) ^[2]. An individual will perform the task earnestly. This can inspire the individual involved to make maximum effort to complete the task. Therefore, each assignment will be done systematically in order to produce an excellent assignment. This statement is supported by Pifa Nuryani (2021) ^[7] who defines a responsible attitude as the behavior of a person who is obliged to bear a matter until it is completed. A human being needs to carry out a task with full dedication without any complaints. This responsible attitude can be seen in the title of *Tok Ayah Sin's* story as quoted below:

Quote 3

One day, he saw a worshipping ceremony carried out by the villagers. Then, a sense of responsibility arose in his heart to prohibit acts that are considered shirk and associating partners with Allah SWT.

(Mohd Nawi Yaacob, 2020)

Based on the quote above, the responsible attitude can be seen in the character of Tok Ayah Sin. Tok Ayah Sin is a religious teacher who has just started teaching in a village. One day, Tok Ayah Sin saw the villagers performing a worship ceremony. Tok Ayah Sin has acted to reprimand the act. This is because Tok Ayah Sin feels that it is his responsibility to ensure that the understanding of the villagers is not obsessed with the culture of such worship ceremonies.

According to Jai Kemalok & Maryati Mohamed (2020) ^[3], a responsible attitude is someone who performs a task perfectly. This causes the task giver to feel very satisfied as a result of the individual's actions. A responsible attitude is an important value in life because it involves the implementation of tasks and efforts to implement them systematically.

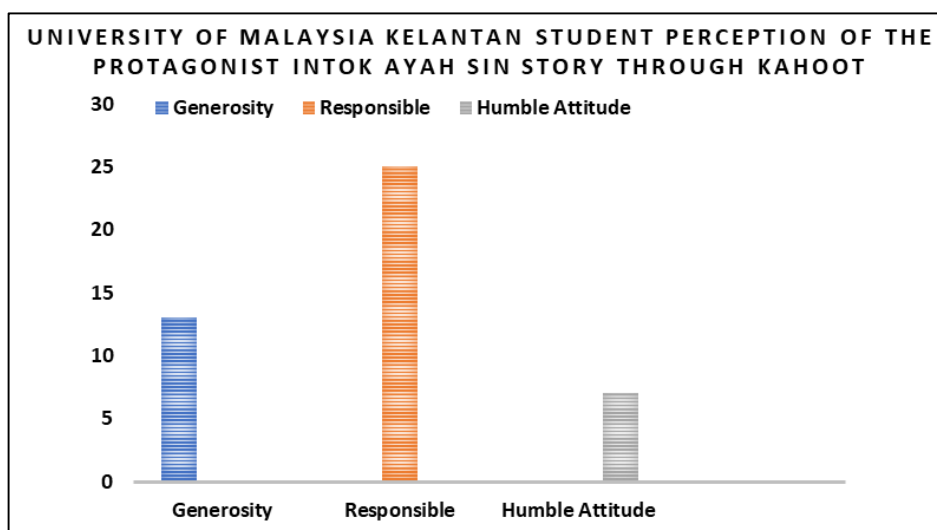


Fig 1: Students Perception of the Protagonist in *Tok Ayah Sin's* Story Through Kahoot at The University Malaysia Kelantan

Through fig 1, the attitude of the protagonist in the folklore *Tok Ayah Sin* can be seen clearly and in detail. Based on the questionnaire method in the Kahoot application, a total of 25 students chose a responsible attitude over a humble attitude, which is a total of 7 students. This clearly proves that Tok Ayah Sin's character is more responsible in managing the religious affairs of the local population. The actions of the protagonist, Tok Ayah Sin, in the folklore clearly reflect his authority in fulfilling the community's trust in him. However, there are a few students who think that the protagonists in the folklore *Tok Ayah Sin* show a generous attitude, which is 13 people. This is due to the good attitude of the hero who wants to give land to be used as a surau as a place to study. The use of Kahoot applications is indeed effective in fostering students' deep understanding and appreciation of Malay folklore. This is because the graphic elements in Kahoot attract students to learn the field of Malay literature instead of just reading manuscripts or books.

Conclusion

As a summary, the protagonist character in Tok Ayah Sin's folklore can provide good to the students of higher education institutions. This is because Malay folklore are able to highlight positive values to students. The results of the research found that the protagonist character in the *Tok Ayah Sin* folklore indeed has positive values that have the potential to educate students. This is so because, folklore is a tool of social control for the previous society which is processed by storyteller to the audience. Therefore, folklore is an important treasure for the Malay community and should be elevated to its dignity so that it can be used as a guide for students.

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