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Preface

Pioneering Educational Perspectives: Series 2025 is a collection of thought-provoking insights and research contributions exploring contemporary educational trends and practices. This eBook presents a diverse range of perspectives on innovative teaching methodologies, digital learning strategies, and transformative approaches in education. Designed to serve as a resource for educators, researchers, and practitioners, it aims to inspire meaningful discussions and advancements in the field. Through carefully curated chapters, this publication offers fresh ideas and practical solutions to enhance learning experiences in an ever-evolving educational landscape.

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MALAY PROVERB VISUALIZATION: A STUDY ON THE POTENTIAL OF AI-GENERATED IMAGE IN ENHANCING SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT'S UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION

Amir Nor Azan Samar[1]*, Iqbal Jaapar[2], Muhammad Firdaus Amairudin[3], Intan Nadira Abdullah[4] & Mohd Ali Azraie Bebit[5]

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ABSTRACT
Proverbs benefit a person in the aspects of language, communication, cultural understanding, wisdom and life lessons, critical thinking, character building and more. Hence, understanding proverbs should start from an early age. In order to increase Malaysian school children's comprehension and appreciation towards Malay proverbs, this study aims to explore the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated images, opposed to the existing manual and digital human's drawing materials in visualizing the proverbs. The study employs a quantitative methodology where 100 respondents consisting of the secondary school students from different schools in Malaysia make up its sample. A set of questionnaires and proverbs images generated by MidJourney generative AI program were used in collecting the data. Results imply that using AI-generated images can improve respondents' comprehension and enjoyment in learning Malay proverbs. The study shows the potential of AI technology as a tool for the production of teaching and learning materials to foster a deeper appreciation of Malay cultural heritage.

KEYWORDS: Proverb, Malay Cultural Heritage, AI-Generated Image, Teaching and Learning Tool, Visual Communication.

PROBLEM AND OBJECTIVE

Proverbs often encapsulate the values, beliefs, and cultural wisdom of a community or society (Zakaria et al.,2019). Learning proverbs allows individuals to gain insights into the cultural heritage of a particular group (Mansyur & Suherman, 2020). In Malaysia, Malay proverbs are an integral part of the country's cultural and linguistic heritage, encapsulating deep social values and wisdom. However, traditional methods of teaching proverbs, often relying on manual and digital illustrations, may not effectively engage secondary school students or foster a deep understanding and appreciation of these cultural treasures.

Despite the increasing use of AI in various educational contexts, there is also a lack of research on its specific application in teaching Malay proverbs. With the rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education, there is a growing potential to enhance students' comprehension through dynamic AI-generated visuals. Through platforms like MidJourney generative AI program, proverbs can be transformed into dynamic and engaging visual content (Bostan, 2023). These AI-generated images not only capture the essence of the proverbs but also provide a novel and interactive way for students to explore and internalize cultural wisdom. By harnessing AI-generated images, this innovative method transcends conventional boundaries, offering a dynamic platform for students to delve into cultural intricacies. AI has the power to

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become the bridge, connecting learners with diverse cultural backgrounds to a richer understanding of cultural elements (Singh H., 2023). This technological intervention proved instrumental in addressing cultural gaps in traditional educational materials, ensuring inclusivity and sensitivity. In addition, Pikhart, M. (2020) highlighted the urgency of AI for cultural and language learning. The infusion of AI into the educational landscape emerges as a transformative force, cultivating cultural sensitivity and contributing significantly to a more comprehensive and equitable learning environment.

This study aims to address this gap by exploring how AI-generated images can improve the understanding and appreciation of Malay proverbs among secondary school students, thereby bridging traditional values with modern technology. This approach combines cultural preservation with technological innovation, offering new insights into educational strategies.

1. To assess the impact of AI-generated images on the comprehension of Malay proverbs among secondary school students in Malaysia.

2. To examine the effectiveness of integrating AI technology in teaching materials for fostering a deeper understanding of Malay proverbs among secondary school students in Malaysia.

DESIGN DESCRIPTION

This design calls for the use of AI images to help secondary school students in Malaysia learn and appreciate Malay proverbs through technology-infused cultural education. The use of the MidJourney AI to visualize the proverbs goes beyond manual and digital pictures as illustrations for the students themselves. The design facilitates learning and the love for Malay proverbs that builds the culture while developing critical language skills. Its flexibility makes it suitable for various learners and allows equitable access to learning aids that are visually appealing. Targeted at teachers and learners this tool also has important monetary value in the edtech market growing where AI content may be offered to schools, cultural, and other institutions. This innovative approach to education which employs AI and culture preservation is revolutionary and has diverse possible uses.

VISUALS



Figure 1 Existing proverb teaching and learning materials (conventional illustrations)

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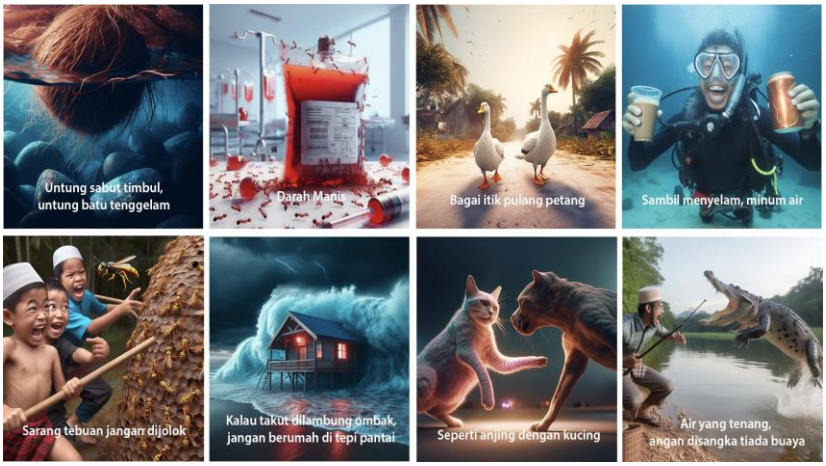


Figure 2 Newly A.I Generated visuals of Proverb

NOVELTY AND UNIQUENESS

For the purposes of this specific study that concerns the teaching of Malay proverbs, which has traditionally relied on illustrations drawn by individuals as a manual or electronic method, the research introduces an interesting use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology for cultural educational purposes. This is the cutting edge of technology combined with the cultural sledge that looks at the way people depict concepts such as ethnology in a different way. The project explores an under-researched topic in Malaysian education - proverbs have always been either illustrated or narrated - by employing a generative AI application, MidJourney. This approach is a new dimension in education as well as in technology even though it may appear as an enhancement of teaching strategy because it opens up a new way of employing artificial intelligence in humanities subjects such as cultural education.

BENEFITS TO MANKIND

The present research helps in the conservation of Malay culture through a better transfer of traditional sayings to new generations. The study uses AI generated pictures to create an interactive and interesting learning environment that can help the students appreciate and understand Malay proverbs and foster their cultural connection. In addition, all students in the study regardless of the regions including underprivileged ones will be able to access visually engaging materials therefore the visual learning approach of this study will promote equity in education. To conclude, such strategy makes students more analytical and so helps them to know the language more profoundly as well as cultural issues.

COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL

There is also opportunity for monetization with the inclusion of AI-generated pictures to enhance the educational materials, especially within the edtech industry. An idea for an AI program could be the commercialization of such a school where strong students would be visualizing proverbs or other cultural substances for sale. This idea Stepan would be extended beyond education in order to promote culture through business with centres of culture and organisations, museums and tourism authorities. Furthermore, companies creating AI software like MidJourney would be able to gain profits by developing culturally appropriate teaching materials for educational publishers and e-learning services focusing on language studies and cultural heritage promotion. This takes up a rather bright opportunity where the socio-economic sectors of education and culture can make use of AI-propelled content generation.

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CONCLUSION

The research findings collectively underscore the potential of AI-generated images as a valuable tool for enhancing the understanding and appreciation of Malay proverbs among secondary school students in Malaysia. While the majority recognizes the positive impact, preferences, and engagement opportunities presented by AI technology, the study also highlights areas for refinement and individualized approaches to ensure its universal effectiveness. The findings contribute valuable insights for educators, curriculum developers, and AI technology developers to further integrate and optimize the use of AI in fostering cultural appreciation and language skill development among students in Malaysia.

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