

## REMEMBRANCE PERAK UNSUNG HERO IN VISUAL APPROACHES BY USING CONTEMPORARY PEDAGOGY

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### Abstract

Unsung Hero is about heroic figure that has not been recognized and acknowledged by the public of their contributions and sacrifices for our country's history. This paper will highlight Sybil Kathigasu as the Unsung Hero that the society need to know. She was a wife to Dr Abdon Clement Kathigasu and also a nurse working with her husband. The tragedy happened after the couple helped guerrillas hiding in the Malayan jungles. She had successfully help hundreds of people, before she was arrested. The main objective of this paper is to introduce her story as a historical material by using pedagogy technical to attract student's interest in history subject. For this research, the methods used are, qualitative and quantitative methods. These two methods were appropriate and relevant to be incorporated in this study as a data collection process. Therefore, researcher found that by using visual language it will be easier to attract people/readers especially the new generation to appreciate her story. Based on this study, the story of heroism we have not seen, the unknown sacrifice and the services provided will help the community to learn about the forgotten of Florence Nightingale Malaysia.

**Keywords:** pedagogy contemporary, unsung hero, visual communication, Sybil Kathigasu

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

When we talk about Malaysian Heroes, instantaneously the first names that will pop out are usually Tunku Abdul Rahman, our first Prime Minister, Aishah Ghani and Tun Tan Cheng Lock as the heroes in achieving independence for Malaysia. Nevertheless, we need to know the existence of the unsung heroes also had contributed in protecting the Federation of Malaya. The story of their contributions and courage are not prevalently mentioned in any subject of study but the truth is, their contributions also give a huge impact on our country's independence.

By using contemporary pedagogical concept, this method would have a huge impact on educators, teachers and exhibitors to implement new strategies as a teaching approach to introduce new teaching materials. Pedagogy can be defined as a strategy for teachers, educators and exhibitors to attract and to earn responses from students as a learning process. This method will integrate with three pieces of knowledge as in 'Technology', 'Pedagogy' and 'Content' (TPACK). According to Punya (2014), the framework is illustrated by using these three pieces of knowledge in order to interact for planning in students' learning.

According to Balakrishnan (2016), nine Unsung Malaysian Heroes need to be the subject of the study especially in the Historical subject for their exemplary contributions to the nation and the story of their contributions are little-known and unacknowledged. Based on the table below, the researches introduces the nine Malaysian Unsung Heroes and their contributions to be the example to our country's development, especially in history platform.

**Table 1. Nine of Malaysia's Unsung Hero**

NAME OF HERO	CONTRIBUTION
<i>Cyril and Henry Talalla</i>	First Asian and non-European who are pass the Royal Air Force
<i>Datuk Siti Rahmah Kasim</i>	Donated her gold bangle to support Tunku Abdul Rahman's trip to London to obtain the country's independence
<i>Dr M.K. Rajakumar</i>	Father of family Medicine (President Malaysian Medical Association – MMA)
<i>Sybil Medan Kathigasu</i>	The Florence Nightingale of Malaysia
<i>Datuk Seri Lau Pak Kuan</i>	Founding member of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA)
<i>Datuk Rasammah Bhupalan</i>	Co-founded the Federation of Malaya Women Teachers Union (WTU)
<i>Dato' Sri Tra Zehnder</i>	Sarawak political Pioneer and Iban activist
<i>Ibrahim Mahmood</i>	Journalist and author during the Independence era
<i>Mrs BH Oon</i>	First Malayan female lawyer

The researcher believes that in 30 years later, the new generation will not know about these unsung heroes since the history of these heroes will no longer be explored and published. The researches will highlight the courage of a woman in resisting Japanese invaders in 1940. Her name is Sybil Medan Kathigasu, a nurse and a national heroine of World War II in Perak. Due to her calm nature and had treated many resistance forces during the war led her to receive the title '*Florence Nightingale Malaysia*'.

The importance of this research based on former Deputy of Education Ministry, Datuk P. Kamalanathan (2017), the researcher wants to produce proposal about Sybil Kathigasu into the historical fold of academia, consequentially can help the nation in agonizing one of the war-heroines that was willing to aid the resistance soldiers regardless of race during World War-II. Research aims to introduce this war heroine as the historical material by using the pedagogical technique in order to attract students' interest

The method had been used for this research is, mix-method such as, the qualitative method and the quantitative method. These two methods were importance for researcher to collect data about the research. The data will be interpreted, integrated and will be categorized into a prioritized for the result.

## 2.0 LITERATURE STUDY

Pedagogy is the best method and practice based of teaching especially for an academia subject purposed. Researcher found that, pedagogy was divided by three style of technique for teacher, educator or tutor give new information or education to their student. Three styles are; pedagogy method, content skill and technology skill.

This researches want to summarizes all the information and storytelling about Sybil Kathigasu and transforms the form of visual communication in the process of using the pedagogical approach. Visual communication is the image to translate ideas, stories or information from a full text to an image as the method for communication. As mentioned by Speigel et.al (2013), the image will give a huge impact in attracting people especially students in this new generation that is more prone to study using visual in their learning process.

## **2.1 Introducing Unsung Heroes**

This study will feature a local woman who opposed the Japanese occupiers in the 1940. She was a nurse and her name is, Sybil Kathigasu, the heroine of World War II. The barbarous story of Sybil is not publicly recognized and her contributions are less-known by Malaysian. Sybil is a warrior that has to be remembered owing to the fact that she had aided many citizens without being prejudice during the Japanese army invasion.

## **2.2 Synopsis of Sybil Kathigasu**

Sybil Medan Kathigasu also known as Sybil Kathigasu. She was a nurse to Dr Abdon Clement Kathigasu and mother to, Olga, Dawn and they also have an adopted son, William Pilley. They had a clinic in Ipoh. In 1941, Japanese came to Malaya, Sybil and her family moved to Papan. Papan is a small village in Perak. According to Aminah (2017), Sybil helps provide treatment and medical supplies regardless of race and giving the information by using the radio secretly to the folks. Sybil named the radios as, Josephine 1, 2 and 3. After the Japanese captured Sybil, she was forced to admit her mistakes. She was tortured brutally and her daughter was dangled over a fire. Three weeks after the Japanese surrendered, Sybil was released. Sybil received the George Medal from Buckingham Palace and she died on the 4th June 1948.

## **2.3 History Education being taught**

Historical subject is a subject that is required to pass at the highest exam especially for the secondary school. Undeniably, many students are hard-pressed to remember and understand the history of Malaysia's independence in the past. Among the approaches currently that used in this subject are, system of the acronym as a learning process and technique (Zamri Talib, 2014). Using this approach, students have become accustomed to creating some acronyms to simplify their methods of remembering historical facts.

## **2.4 Contemporary Pedagogy**

With the production of Sybil Kathigasu's story combined with the pedagogical concept, the researcher deduces this concept is able to create a phenomenon in which it can facilitate young generations to learn and study the story of Sybil Kathigasu. Pedagogy can be defined as the best method for delivering information process in teaching session predominantly in history subject that is synonym with scientific material.

The researcher found out that pedagogical method in which is divided into three techniques to be used by teachers, educators or tutors in delivering information or new education to their students. Pedagogy, also known as TPACK that describes the process of three techniques of pedagogy itself which are Pedagogical Knowledge, Content Knowledge and Technology Knowledge.

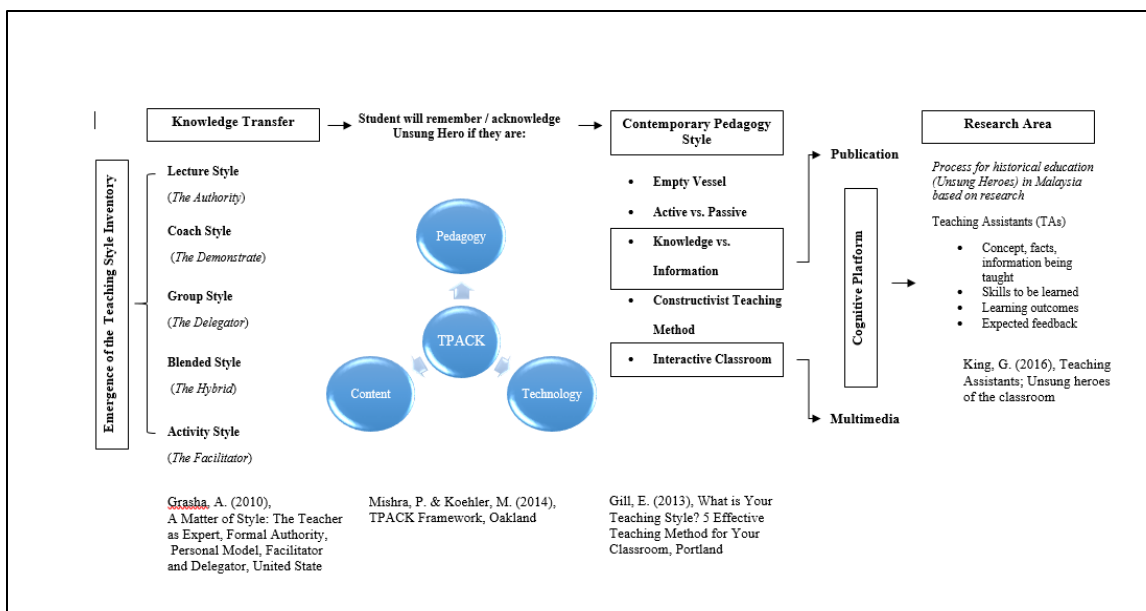


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework for the research

## 2.5 Visual Communication

After having several discussions and brainstorming with supervisor, founder of Perak Heritage Society, and some of the cartoonists in Malaysia, it was agreed that Sybil's story should be recorded in multimedia and publish by using illustration as visual approach can easily and indirectly enhance society to know more about Sybil.

Visual communications are images to translate ideas, stories or information from full-text to images as method to communicate with people. According to Stephen (2006), by using visual as a communication method, it can gain higher level of developing perception, understanding and seeing the situation.

## 3.0 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Qualitative Method

For this study, researcher had focused with three people who were importance to become the interviewee in interview session such as, Former Deputy Minister of Education I, Dato' P. Kamalanathan s/o P. Panchanathan, President of Perak Heritage Society, Mr Law Siak Hong and Founder of Malaysia Cartoon & Comic House, Tuan Haji Mohd Desa.

From the raw data which is, an interview session, researcher would be summaries the data to become the memo. From the memo, researcher would be analysing the data by using the coding process which is, open, axial and selective coding.

### 3.2 Quantitative Method

This method is suitable for researcher to obtain the data by giving the survey to public. For this researches, longitudinal study of method can give a precise decision about the study conducted. The survey was being given to the audience by using a long duration which is, researcher want to know the level of public's interested about historical, and Sybil's story as well.

The questionnaire was created by Google Docs start from 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 and ongoing until end of September, 2018. This researches also targeted about 100 responded to answer the survey given. The reason is, from the data obtained can be seen that public's enthusiasm to know about Malaysia's history especially about Sybil Kathigasu.

### 4.0 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The study had done interviewed the former Deputy Minister of Education I, Datuk P. Kamalanathan, to embed Sybil's story as an academia material, it is necessary to determine whether the greatest contribution of the figure to our country, Malaysia and also to a new generation. His also stated that, the researches must be collaborate with *Persatuan Sejarah Malaysia* and this association will ensure the validity the story of Sybil Kathigasu. From side of Dato' P. Kamalanathan, he was encouraging this study to keep going to visualize her stories by using visual approach for facilitating new generation to understand the chronology of Sybil's story.

According to President of Perak Heritage Society, Mr Law Siak Hong, a lot of researches and interviewer had come and asked him about Sybil Kathigasu's history. But this the only one research wants to interpret heroism of Sybil Kathigasu to become in visual concept. Because of this research, he encourages and wants to see the final work of the study in visual form. Mr Law Siak Hong also does not deny the current era, by using a long text will not help people to motivate people to recognize Sybil Kathigasu.

This researches also had interviewed Founder of Malaysia Cartoon & Comic House, Tuan Haji Mohd Desa (Juragan) for discussion about one of Malaysian Unsung Heroes, Sybil Medan Kathigasu. After he read the synopsis about Sybil Kathigasu, he was attracted to Sybil's sacrifice to Malaysia for a long time ago. Tuan Haji Mohd Desa was strongly supports if Sybil's story will be visualized and also easily to introduce to all groups.

### 5.0 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORKS

The study can be concluding about Sybil's vision to make the society recognize her sacrifice, the researcher wants to make Sybil Kathigasu's story as a study material in History at the secondary school level in Malaysia, as the former Deputy Ministry of Education Malaysia is keen to book the story of Sybil Kathigasu as a scientific material for the learning process. The research believes the story of Sybil is very important in making the new generations to realize the existence of a war-heroine who can sacrifice her life and helped citizens regardless of race.

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