

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**CULTURAL ELEMENTS IN  
MALAYSIAN PRINTMAKING: A  
CASE STUDY OF CHINESE  
PRINTMAKERS' ARTWORKS FROM  
1950 TO 1989**

**NOOR A'YUNNI BINTI MUHAMAD**

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## ABSTRACT

Diverse races, ethnicities, and unique cultures plays a significant role as the foundation Malaysia. Culture plays a vital role in shaping the nation, thus, Malaysian cultural elements (MCE) must be recognised, understood, and applied across society. However, in the visual arts, particularly printmaking, MCE are less emphasised through visual representation. This research aims to identify the characteristics of MCE portrayed in printmaking artworks produced by Chinese printmakers between 1950 and 1989, offering insight into Malaysian culture from a visual perspective. The objective of this research are: (1) to identify MCE through policies and official documents, (2) to analyse the visual representation in selected Malaysian Chinese printmaking artwork based on MCE (from objective One), and (3) to synthesise the Malaysian cultural elements (Objective One) and visual representation portrayed by Chinese printmaking artists (Objective two) for proposing a new MCE framework for visual arts. Using a qualitative intrinsic case study approach, the first objective was achieved through document analysis of policies and official documents, producing a comprehensive list of MCE. The second objective involved artefact observation of 44 selected printmaking artworks to examine the visual representations depicted in the artworks. The synthesis of both findings developed MCE framework for visual arts, through an iterative process thus achieved the objective three. Findings from document analysis identified 5 material cultural elements with 18 sub-elements, and 33 non-material cultural elements with 33 sub-elements. Visual analysis revealed 24 categories of visual representation linked to the MCE. The proposed framework incorporates subjects, form, context, and content to guide the recognition and understanding of cultural elements in visual arts.

**Keywords:** Malaysian culture, Printmaking, Chinese Printmakers, Visual Representation, Cultural Framework

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Research Introduction Outline

Chapter One serves as the foundation for the entire research by introducing the research context, discussing the research issues, and focusing on the importance of achieving the research objectives within the broader academic and practical fields. The following is an outline of this chapter that guides the reader through the structure of the chapters, ensuring clarity and coherence in understanding the background of the research, the purpose, and scope of the research:

Table 1.1  
Research Introduction Outline

Section	Sub-section	Description
1.2 Research Background	-	The brief explanation of the research background
1.3 Statement of the Problem	1.3.1 Research Issues	The discussion of the research issues
	1.3.2 Problem Statement	The discussion of the problem statement of this research
	1.3.3 Research Gap	The discussion of the research gaps
1.4 Research Aims	-	The discussion of the research aims
1.5 Research Objectives	-	The research objectives of this research
1.6 Research Question	-	The research questions of this research
1.7 Significance of Research	1.7.1 Theoretical and Empirical Significance	The discussion of the theoretical and empirical significance
1.8 Justification of Research	-	The justification of the research
1.9 Research Methodology	-	The Brief explanation on the methodology of this research
1.10 Research Participant	-	The explanation on the research participants
1.11 Definition of Term	1.11.1 Malaysia	The explanation on the term 'Malaysia'
	1.11.2 Culture	The explanation on the term 'Culture'
	1.11.4 Printmaking	The explanation on the term 'Printmaking'
1.12 Scope and Limitation of Research	1.12.1 Visual Representation of Malaysia's Cultural Elements in Printmaking Artworks	Explanation on the research scope and limitation referring to the Visual Representation of Malaysia's Cultural Elements and the types of 1950 to 1989 Printmaking Artworks
	1.12.2 Types of 1950 until 1989 Printmaking Artworks	
1.13 Summary of the	-	The summary of this chapter