

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**THE EVOLUTION AND TRANSFORMATION
OF *BAJU KURUNG* IN THE
PENINSULAR OF MALAYSIA**

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Thesis submitted in fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

Faculty of Art & Design

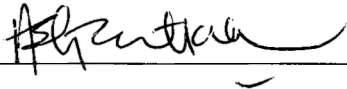
July 2014

AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This thesis has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any degree or qualification.

I, hereby, acknowledge that I have been supplied with the Academic Rules and Regulations for post graduate, Universiti Teknologi MARA, regulating the conduct of my study and research.

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ABSTRACT

Baju Kurung has existed over more than 600 years ago. It has been the pride and heritage of the Malay society since the Great Malaccan Sultanate in the 15th Century. Since then, *Baju Kurung* has gone through some changes, which include its length, cut and shape, fabrics, style and coordination. *Baju Kurung* name is well-known to Malaysian society especially to the Malay people. It is common that any garment that resembles the form of *Baju Kurung* is often called *Baju Kurung (Moden)*. Due to this assumption, this research tends to construct an understanding that draws the line between traditional *Baju Kurung* and *Baju Kurung Moden*. Hence, the character definition of *Baju Kurung* is clearly drawn. The research looks at historical study of the *Baju Kurung* through references of historical literature, journals and visual evidence (photographic documentations) obtained from the libraries, museums, National Archive Malaysia and personal collections. A study of samples of man's and woman's *Baju Kurung* constructed a systematic analysis to document the *Baju Kurung's* workmanship, measurement and fabric choice during a certain period of time. From historical study, literature review of current trend and the study of the *Baju Kurung* samples the research successfully trace the chronology of the development of *Baju Kurung* in the Peninsular of Malaysia. Unstructured interviews were conducted with people who were involved with *Baju Kurung* industries, academia, traditionalists and maker. The issues that incorporate *Baju Kurung* traditional identity is solved by categorization of the garments into several different groups according to their style and character. The identity of traditional *Baju Kurung* is strengthened by imparting the method of evaluation of Malay aesthetic principles to the garment. This will be an added value to the existing character definition of *Baju Kurung*. Character definition of the traditional *Baju Kurung* will protect the *Baju Kurung* from being misused by fashion industries. Based on the development of the *Baju Kurung* it is believed that *Baju Kurung* will continue to inspire modern Malay garments in the future. It is hoped that this research will be a major reference in future study in related field.

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