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STRUCTURAL-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS: A METHOD TOWARDS A CLASSIFICATION OF MALAYSIAN FOLKTALE

Harryizman Harun¹, Zulikha Jamaludin²

*School of Computing1
Universiti Utara Malaysia
Sintok, Kedah
harry@uum.edu.my
School of Computing2
Universiti Utara Malaysia
Sintok, Kedah
zulie@uum.edu.my*

Abstract

This paper expounds a method that will be used in a study to propose a Malaysian folktale classification system focusing on Malay folktales. At core, there are three significant folktale classification systems that classify based on three different folktale units: type, motif, and function. Individually, type and motif each classifies based on content of folktale whereas function, structure of folktale. The study intends to generate the folktale classification system for the Malay folktales based on an integration of the three distinguished units of the folktale classification system. In order to achieve that, the method opted is structural-semantic analysis. The method, which constitutes of three levels of classification classifies sequentially according to the content and the structure of the Malay folktales. It is hoped that the method adapted would engender a holistic and robust Malaysian folktale classification system.

Keywords: folktale classification system; type-index; motif-index; function of actor; structural-semantic analysis