

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**THE APPRECIATION OF MALAY  
CULTURE OF MURAL PAINTINGS  
IN MALAYSIA**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research intended to study the forms and styles of mural paintings in Malaysia. Other than the visual elements, organization, techniques and medium, this research also ventured into the images, iconography, semiotics, and expressions of the contents of the murals. The ultimate objective was to look into the manifestation or the expression of the Malay culture as well as the multicultural nature of the Malaysian population.

A total of 30 selected study samples which contained Malay cultural elements were taken from all parts of West Malaysia. Among the criteria examined in the selection of these study samples included the location, artist, medium, and content. Content analysis, as proposed by Feldman (1984), was used as the research method. Close examination of each sample, as proposed by Fernie (1995), was performed to study the visual elements, organization, subject matter, meaning, and expression. In addition, images, texts, and symbols were studied to know their semantics and semiotics.

The research found out that a majority of mural paintings in Malaysia were done by taught artists hence the murals produced were artistically executed. Varieties of styles mediums were used whereby emulsion murals paints were popularly used. As mural paintings were becoming an important art activity in the country contemporarily, many great and fantastic murals were produced. A majority of the murals manifested cultural expression with more than 65% expressed the Malaysian cultures explicitly.

**Keywords:**

Mural paintings, culture, explicit expressions, cultural manifestations and styles.

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*Firman Allah S.W.T*

*“(Aku Allah) adalah gudang (pengetahuan) yang tersembunyi maka Aku bermaksud untuk dikenali. Maka Aku ciptakanlah makhluk. Dengan sebab Aku (menciptakan makhluk itu) mereka mengenali Aku.*

*“Barang siapa menginginkan soal-soal yang berhubungan dengan dunia, wajiblah ia memiliki ilmunya: dan barang siapa yang ingin (selamat dan berbahagia) di akhirat, wajiblah ia mengetahui ilmunya pula: dan barang siapa yang menginginkan kedua-duanya, wajiblah ia memiliki ilmu kedua-duanya pula.”* (HR. Bukhari dan Muslim)

*Bersabda NABI MUHAMMAD S.A.W:*

*“Bahawa barang siapa yang menolong melapangkan dari seseorang mukmin satu kedukaan dari kedukaan-kedukaan dunia yang sangat menggelisahkan hati dan perasaannya, nescaya Allah S.W.T akan melapangkan pula daripadanya dari segala kedukaan pada Hari Khiamat”.*

*Barang siapa yang menempuh suatu jalan untuk menuntut ilmu, Allah akan memudahkan baginya jalan ke syurga.* (HR Muslim)

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