

## Elements of Patriotism in “*Pahlawan Pasir Salak*” Novel

**Maizatul Akma Aziz, Nik Rafidah Nik Mohamad Affendi, Halis Azhan  
Mohd Hanafiah, Kamariah Kamarudin**

Faculty of Languages and Communication, Universiti Putra Malaysia

**Sara Beden**

Institut Pendidikan Guru Tun Abdul Razak, *Kampus Kota Samarahan*

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### Abstract

This study focuses on the elements of patriotism in the novel "Pahlawan Pasir Salak" by Mohd Ismail Sarbini. This novel is a compulsory Bahasa Melayu text used as a Literature Component for Form Two. The setting of this novel is during the British Colonial Era. There are seven elements of patriotism adopted as the basis for the study which are Personal Patriotism, Official Patriotism, Icon Patriotism, Symbolic Patriotism, Capital Patriotism, Environment Patriotism and Symbolic Nationalists Patriotism. According to the study, the personal, icons, symbolic nationalist as well as capital patriotism is found to be very dominant through the characters and certain events occurring in this novel. These patriotism elements are very important to be instilled in the next generation of our country that is emerging in the golden era for the betterment of the nation.

**Keynote:** Element, Novel, Komsas, Types of Patriotism, Patriotism

### INTRODUCTION

A creative author in the past instills the spirit of nationalism and patriotism through their work. Novels with elements of patriotism create awareness of autonomy, freedom or independence so that the novel would serve as a platform for independence. Literary novels depict the struggles to unlock the metanarratives colonial discourse by highlighting the themes of alienation, marginalization, inequality and discrimination of its citizens in the hands of the colonisation. Literary groups emerge as important fighter before World War 2 and towards independence by highlighting nationalism and patriotism as the main idea when they compose their novels. They are aware of the nation's survival and supremacy which has to be fought and a significant tool is through literary work. Thus, writers inject the spirit of nationalism and patriotism through the literary work.

Patriotism is one of the factors that contribute towards building a robust and capable community. In this situation, the younger generation is a significant bud in bringing profit to the nation. Convergence towards a generation of adolescents should be given priority in building a responsible society which has a more dynamic and proactive self-perfection towards life. Thus,

a strong and meaningful patriotic spirit will be built towards contributing to the progress and development of the country. One of the closest medium to inculcate patriotism in the hearts of children and youth is through education, particularly literary. This paper aims to analyze the types of patriotism found in *Pahlawan Pasir Salak* novel .

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Among the studies that examined the elements of nationalism and patriotism at the doctorate level is the study entitled *Novel sejarah Harun Aminurashid dan Walter Scott: Persepsi tentang Nasionalisme* by Elfiondri in 2005. The study analyzed the perceptions of nationalism which is reflected in the text of the historical novels written by Aaron Aminurrashid and Walter Scott. The purpose of analysis is aimed to describe the perception of nationalism author regarding the actions that should be taken when faced with cultural colonialism and applying new historicism literature and comparative literature approach. This historical novel focuses more on the elements of history, nationalism and patriotism as found in the novels produced by Aminurrashid and Scott. His research findings have found that both the authors have highlighted nationalism and patriotism through their novels. Elements that are applied through the main characters by Aminurashid of Malaya and Scott from Scotland, are common which are the struggles of the two countries, which were at one time under British colonial rule.

Similarly, the study at masters level, *Sastera Membina Bangsa: satu analisis persepsi pelajar terhadap teks drama dalam Pendidikan* by Yaakob, 2001. The main purpose of this study was to evaluate the contribution of the genre of drama in Malaysian nation-building while the objective of the study was to investigate students' perceptions towards the elements of nation building through drama texts in education. Survey through questionnaires completed by 24 pieces of drama texts in three anthologies that have and are being used as required text in the subject of Malay at secondary schools (1984-2000). This study emphasizes the acceptance of the text drama by students in building the nation and does not touch specifically on the elements of patriotism in the historical novels.

In addition, a further study is the *Literary Text: Perlumbaan Kedua dan Julia . Satu Perbandingan Kecenderungan struktur: Kajian Kes di Zon Utara Kubang Pasu* was performed by Nor (2005) who compared and evaluated the two novels as a suitable reading text for Form 5. This study also performed to examine the trends and interests of the upper secondary students on the novel, *Perlumbaan Kedua dan Julia*. The methodology used in this study was through questionnaires which were distributed to a total of 128 Form 5 students from two schools in Kedah. It was found that some students preferred the novel, *Julia* than the novel, *Perlumbaan Kedua*. The study did not focus on the issue of patriotism, but to see the acceptance of two literary novels by the students.

In conclusion, the study on the elements of patriotism in the Literary texts has not been widespread and comprehensive so far. The element of Patriotism in the curriculum as well as the inculcation of noble values should be instilled in the younger generation who are still in

schools so that they can become responsible citizens to their country. Ku Hasnita & Mohd Haizam (2011) argues that patriotism is very important for the sovereignty in the future because education is a powerful mechanism to inculcate this spirit among the younger generation. These views illustrate that the process of teaching and learning in schools need to emphasize this element. The impact, the nourishment of the spirit of patriotism is very important for the country to continue in the future so that the country's independence meaningful. Thus, an extensive and detailed study on the elements of patriotism should be emphasized in Literary Texts

## **CONCEPT OF PATRIOTISM**

Patriotism is a feeling of deep love for the motherland based on an awareness of citizenship and loyalty that one is so willing to sacrifice his life for his homeland. Through patriotism, the nation will be strong, brave, resilient mentally, emotionally and physically in the form of national security and the challenges ahead. According to the International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences (2008):

*“ The word patriotism derives from the Latin patria, meaning “country.” Patriots are citizens joined by a love of country and a readiness to sacrifice, perhaps even die, for their country. Such patriotism was emphatically characteristic of the Spartans of classical antiquity. They were citizens in the strict sense of the term: They shared an identity with others to whom they were related by nationality, as well as by blood, and a sense of belonging to a community for which they bore responsibility. In a word, they were public-spirited.”*

Based on these definitions, the word patriotism comes from the Latin patria, which means the country. The warriors are united as they love the country and their willingness to sacrifice, or perhaps die for the sake of their own country. He stressed patriotism is indeed the characteristics found in the Spartan warriors of old classics. They are the people who have a sense of strong-will within them. They share an identity with each other in terms of citizenship, ancestry and sense of belonging to a community which is responsible together. In other words, they have a sense of community.

Patriotism is defined as the positive attitudes and helpfulness to the 'homeland' by individuals and groups. 'Homeland' (motherland) may be a city or region, but patriotism means people or country. Patriotism includes attitudes of being proud of the country's achievements, national culture, and to preserve the characteristics of the nation and its cultural policies, as well as the identification of other members of their own people. Patriotism is also closely associated with nationalism, and these terms are used as synonyms with each other. For local leaders like Syed Hussein al-Attas (2001), believes that "there is no guarantee that the most convincing defense for the fate of the nation and the birthplace of its own unless it has a high sense of patriotism". However, as a citizen who recite the Rukun Negara that builds a sense of

patriotism, love for the country is important as the love for our own family. Patriotism refers to a spiritual bond between the individual and the country.

Next, according to Abu (2008), patriotism is defined as a strong feeling towards the homeland. "Patriot" refers to people who love and defend the country's sovereignty, or, more simply called "national defense" and "patriotism" are those who are patriots. The Webster's Dictionary says patriotism as love and loyal or zealous support of one's own country, especially in all matters involving other countries and patriotism. Deraman (2006: 10) argues that nationalism or national spirit, is the spirit of love for the country and to uphold the policies. His soul for his country is voted to the welfare of one's country, to do good for the sake of their own country to show the quality of effort and a sense of patriotism, a patriotism that is compatible with the character of patriotisme.

Based on the explanation for the concept of patriotism above, it can be concluded that patriotism is love for the country, race and religion without prejudice against any race, religion or even different ideologies and undivided feelings of every citizen who inhabits a country. Feelings of love for the country comprises various aspects in terms of religion, politics, economy, sports, culture, ideology, race, ethnicity, body and spirit as well as anything that is related to one's country. Willingness and readiness to sacrifice for the country is the greatest and highest fidelity for each individual to show affection and love for the country. Patriotic values such as proud to be Malaysians, spirit of loyalty towards the country, a sense of togetherness, being discipline and continuous efforts to create national prosperity should be planted in the hearts of the younger generation.

## **Types of Patriotism**

There are several types of patriotism which are described by scholars. Juee Phillip Kelley (2006: 1) explains that patriotism can be divided into two types, namely Personal Patriotism and Official Patriotism. Personal patriotism is having a spirit and voluntarily. For example, a patriot must adhere to certain patriotic values, such as respect for the flag and Official patriotism is fostered by the government very symbolic and customary.

Meanwhile, Hurwitz and Peffley (1999) has divided patriotism into five types, namely Icon Patriotism, Symbolic Patriotism, Capital Patriotism, Environment Patriotism and Symbolic Nationalists Patriotism. Although there are various types of patriotism but the underlying meaning is a struggle to defend the country and the nation. Icon Patriotism refers to an individual who showers his love for the country through actions that have a positive impact on the country.

Next, Symbolic Patriotism refers to the level of patriotism, which is symbolized by respect for national symbols. National symbols are such as the flags, National anthem, Rukun Negara, cries, slogans and other important symbols. The use of these symbols can evoke the spirit of the individual as a symbol of their love for the country. Nationalist Symbolic patriotism

refers to an individual who is more focused on trends and expresses concerns that the high spirit of patriotic loyalty to a nation or to behold to their own land. This trend is to be more interested in their own people and to love other nations.

Capital patriotism refers to the actions of individuals who have expressed feelings of patriotism and are more focused on the development of the national economy. These individuals feel their involvement in the development of the national economy is a major contribution to show their patriotism. The individual contributes to the overall well-being of the society and the state can bring honour and raise the image of the country. Indirectly, this will ignite the feelings of national pride and build a sense of identity.

Environmental patriotism refers to an individual who has feelings of love for his country's environment. Patriotism is not just to defend the country, but it can also be shown in the ways to improve the quality of life and the environment. Those who have the spirit of patriotism in this form will strive to maintain the flora and fauna in their country. When there is any form of threat to the flora and fauna such as pollution, they will go all out to fight it out. Therefore, they will strive to ensure that the environment around them is well maintained for the future generations.

In summary, the seven types of patriotism will be used as the basis for analysis in the two novels that have been selected in this discussion.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research is library-oriented to collect the necessary data. Library study is conducted to collect various information in writing academic papers such as scientific practices, journals, conference papers and books related to the focus of the study. The aim is to strengthen the argument and collect information about the reading materials related to the focus of the study. Researchers will use intensive reading methods to examine each of the novel. The researchers will also use content analysis using the concept of patriotism as the foundation of analysis. A detailed analysis will be focussed on the analysis of structural aspects, namely character and characterisation, events, themes, issues or problems, relevant setting and values underlying the concept of patriotism in the novels. The researcher will apply the seven types of patriotism which has suggested by scholars as the foundation of the analysis.

This study will only focus on literary texts which has historical elements that have been adopted in schools. Only a novel will be used in the study. This novel is a literary novel for lower secondary students in Form 2, namely *Pahlawan Pasir Salak* novel (1981) by Sarbini. This study represents a novel which has a setting of the British colonial era.

## THE FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis of the research novel shows the existence of four types of patriotism as in Table 1 below:

Schedule 1: Type of Patriotism

Novel	Personal	official	Icon	symbolic	Capital	Environment	symbolic Nationalist
Type of Patriotism							
<i>Pahlawan Pasir Salak</i>	✓	x	✓	x	✓	x	✓

Based on Table 1, it is found to have four types of patriotism underlying the novel that has been analyzed, namely Personal Patriotism, Icon, Capital and Symbolic Nationalist. The Non-existence of the other three types, namely Official patriotism, symbolic and Environment in this novel clearly shows that the author of this text has failed to emphasize this aspect.

The discussion of the analysis in this paper will involve four types of patriotism that exists in both novels, namely Personal Patriotism, Icon, symbolic Nationalist and Capital.

### PERSONAL PATRIOTISM

Through the *Pahlawan Pasir Salak* novel, personal patriotism can be seen through the attitude of youngsters of the village who voluntarily and enthusiastically practise martial arts in order to defend their village. These youngsters practise martial arts every night at Datuk Maharaja Lela's residence. The Malays in the olden days emphasis on silat skills so that they have the power to get rid off invaders who have encroached in out country. These youngsters feel that they have a great responsibility towards the country. Security and prosperity need to be maintained forever. They realize that something needs to be done to oppose the entry of foreign powers into the area. Therefore, the young are practicing martial arts as a preparation for any mishaps. The spirit is shown by the following statement.

*Sesudah memberi ucapan yang ringkas tetapi penuh bersemangat itu, Datuk Maharaja Lela dengan dibantu oleh beberapa orang kanannya mula melatih anak-anak muda Kampung pasir Salak bersilat.*

*Anak-anak muda Kampung Pasir Salak itu kelihatan berlatih bersungguh. Begitu bersemangat sekali. Memang Datuk Maharaja Lela telah menanamkan kesedaran bahawa kampung yang dicintai mereka selama ini mulai terancam, dan mereka perlu mempertahankannya!*

*(Pahlawan Pasir Salak 2000: 9)*

## Patriotism Icon

In the *Pahlawan Pasir Salak* novel, teen who are brave, honest and passionate in defending the homeland are very suitable examples to the youth of today. They are not only daring but are even willing to risk their lives to defend their homeland. Attitudes and heroic values that exist in the din of the younger generation to fight for the country should be followed by the current generation despite the different scenarios in the past and the present. In the building of an independent nation in all aspects, a strong and powerful spirit of patriotism must be in every individual especially the younger generation who will inherit and lead the development of the country. Through this novel, the author describes the younger generation should have high motivation to defend the country as shown by the character Deli and colleagues.

*"Aku pun naik semangat untuk berjuang. Rasa-rasanya kalau orang putih itu datang menyerang kampung kita ini, sanggup aku menentangnya!"* balas Deli sambil mengepalkan penumbuk kanannya.

*"Syabas, sahabatku! Kamu memang bakal pahlawan bumi Pasir Salak ini!"* balas Lamin, menepuk bahu Deli.

*"Kamu berdua juga bakal pahlawan yang akan mempertahankan tempat kelahiran kita ini! Balas Deli, tersenyum memandang kawannya-kawanya... " Marilah kita bersumpah sama-sama berjuang menentang orang putih. Jangan seinci pun bumi bertuah ini kita serahkan kepada mereka!"* kata Deli seraya menghulurkan tangannya...

*(Pahlawan Pasir Salak 2000: 26-27)*

## SYMBOLIC NATIONALIST PATRIOTISM

The symbolic nationalist Patriotism is also prominent in the novel, *Pahlawan Pasir Salak*. High fidelity to nation and the homeland is portrayed by the character Datuk Maharaja Lela and the villagers of Kampung Pasir Salak. Datuk Maharaja Lela and villagers jointly disagree to pay taxes imposed by the British colonialists. To them, Pasir Salak is the land where they were born and must be defended from any interference and external threats. They do not want their nation rights to be taken arbitrarily by the British. They are willing to risk their own lives than surrendering it to the invaders of their homeland. For the Malays, dignity is very important even though it involves their motherland.

*"Saya sedar. Orang putih hendakkan bumi kita ini. Mereka hendak memerintah Pasir Salak ini. Tapi kita orang Melayu. Kita punya maruah. Kita mesti pertahankan tanah tempat lahir kita ini!"* kata Datuk Maharaja Lela lagi.  
Suaranya makin melangsing tinggi. tj

*"Kami sanggup berjuang!"*

*"Kami sanggup bejuang!"*

*"Mulai sekarang kita mesti inengawal kampung kita lebih ketat lagi. Kita kena beringat sebelum sebarang kejadian buruk menimpa kita!"*

*(Pahlawan Pasir Salak 2000: 9)*

## **CAPITAL PATRIOTISM**

Based on the novel, *Pahlawan Pasir Salak* which touches this aspect, it can be seen in the character of Datuk Maharaja Lela who is against the British because he wanted to abolish the tax system they have inherited for a long time. The tax system is very important for the Malays in order to improve their economy. Datuk Maharaja Lela goes against the British because he did not want the British to interfere with the tax system that has been implemented by them. When the tax system was taken over by the British, it would damage the economic system that has been implemented by the Malays. Thus, a collective rebellion was carried out by Datuk Maharaja Lela and the villagers of Kampung Pasir Salak against the invaders.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the discussions, it was found that personal patriotism, iconic and symbolic nationalist are very significant in this novel. These findings show that these kinds of patriotism is emphasized and given attention by the author of the novel. The strength of the elements of patriotism in the novel is portrayed through the characters and certain events. The characters are willing to sacrifice, and showed their courage in the fight against colonialism to achieve independence for the sake of their beloved homeland. Feelings of deep love for the homeland or the country does not break their spirit to continue the fight until the last drop of blood. Therefore, the patriotism of the country is very important for a developing country in the era of glory and progress of the nation. The possible ways of expressing patriotism in the past are no longer able to attract a generation of post-independence, due to different factors. Despite the different forms of appreciation, the most important is the existence of a feeling of patriotism and willingness to uphold the country's image. As Malaysians who have compassion and love for the country, we should adopt the attitude of patriotism. This is because through patriotism each individual in the country will gain dignity, identity and a guaranteed future for our generation.

The independence we have achieved was a tremendous blessing. It claims a high and a deep conviction that the colonists can come back and dominate the minds and our culture in different forms. Therefore, to maintain the spirit of independence, it requires self-development and a system with quality knowledge and skills that support the religious values of a civilization and shared values that do not conflict with nature. The struggle to liberate the country from the shackles of colonialism began hundreds of years ago with nature, tears, and blood as a witness. Awareness about the misery of life during the occupation and enjoyment of life, security and freedom in this country now, will certainly enhance the spirit of patriotism. Thus, the implied meaning behind independence is enormous and significant which is not easily forgotten.

In regards to it, peace, prosperity and security of the religion and the nation is very important in ensuring the integrity of citizenship. Patriotism should be the agenda of



independence and defend the sovereignty of the motherland. Patriotic spirit will fortify and deal with the effects of the major powers which have eroded the value of freedom, independence and sovereignty. Patriotism should continue to envelope the soul of the people, always sown, fertilized and nurtured in order to continue lush and stay rooted in our souls.

### **Corresponding Author**

Maizatul Akma binti Aziz  
Fakulti Bahasa dan Komunikasi  
Universiti Putra Malaysia  
43400 UPM, Serdang Selangor  
maizatulakmaazizaziz@yahoo.com

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