

## Completion Report

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This study is significant considering the acceptance that happen in the current Malay literature development, connected to the Japanese literary work. Haruki Murakami is one of the current Japanese authors who has impacted on a number of young new writers in Malaysia. The tendency of their writings especially in prose, are apparently influenced by Murakami. Selected contemporary short stories namely by Roslan Jomel, Rebecca Ilham, Zainal Rashid Ahmad, Ruhaini Matdarin and Jasni Matlani, have been compared to Murakami's work. This one-year reading and analysing are trying to answer two queries: (i) What kind of responses of Haruki Murakami's influences in Malay literature? and (ii) Why Haruki Murakami been well accepted in Malay literature among the young writers. In the restricted due to Covid-19 pandemic, interviews and discussions had been conducted by emails, phone messages and virtual meetings.

Murakami been well accepted in Malay literature is because of his writing about highlighting the anxiety among the contemporary generation. Many aspects of Murakami's work develop the character organically. He provides a method of simplifying the narration, subject, characters, symbols and setting. In fact, Murakami's storytelling style is faster and denser. The plot is faster and the discretion is not long-winded. The reality and imagination collision characterizes the authorship of Haruki Murakami and it gives such inspirations to the Malaysian young writers. The social alienation and confusion of characters in the structure of urban life, is often found through strange communication including between humans and the beasts. It becomes communicative when the animals been humanized, perhaps as satire whether humans have been equated with animals or vice versa.

He brings to life the magic of the 21st century. His work does not drag people into a complicated historical setting. He chooses a current theme that is close to the reader. It is about today's life with today's issues and is universally relevant to those looking for urban human complications and yet in solitude. The main characters do not follow the path that normal people take. The tendency of his magical realism aspires the real setting builds the background, especially the people and the location, and it's greatly influenced on the imagination of current Malaysian young writers.

Murakami's short stories as "On Seeing the 100% Perfect Girl One Beautiful April Morning", "The Ice Man" and "Man-Eating Cats" and "The Little Green Monster" are mentioned in the young writers' creative writing process. *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle, 1Q84, Colorless Tsuzuru Tazaki and His Years of Pilgrimage* and the *Norwegian Wood*, are among Murakami's most referred novels. While the memoir, *What I Talk About When I Talk About Running*, has intertextually found regarding to the run matters and solitude.

The findings show the stimuluses of city environment - mentality of residents in urban areas and the cosmopolitan lifestyle with silence and solitude as Murakami focuses in his work. His power of imagination and fantasy is seemed able to collapse the conventions. Murakami's theme is 'short story is a beautiful diary entry' and most of his work has been described as 'easily accessible, yet profoundly complex.' Those responses and influences keep Haruki Murakami relevance in Malay contemporary literature.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

- 2021 23<sup>rd</sup> of November, Malaysia, Sebahtera Conference, *Haruki Murakami and Roslan Jomel in Contemporary Malay Literature*, Mawar Safei & Nur Farhana Rusli.
- 2022 15<sup>th</sup> of October, Indonesia, Riksa Bahasa XVI, *Literary Research and Identity Portrayal*
- Workshop for Teenagers: *High Order Thinking Skills in Writing*. National Library Board, Singapore. 12 August 2023.
- *Workshop for Beginners: Creative Writing Process*. 19 August & 26 August 2023. NTU One-North, Singapore.
- *Workshop for Established Writers: Creative Writing Process*. 2 September & 9 September 2023. NTU One-North, Singapura.
- Lecture for Integrative Project, National Institute of Education, Singapore. 23 August 2023.
- Lecture for Aesthetics & Rhetoric Through Literature, National Institute of Education, Singapore. 5 September 2023.

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

- Rebecca dan Murakami yang Berlari (*Rebecca and Murakami on the Running*), *Berita Harian* 25<sup>th</sup> of July 2021.
- Haruki Murakami dan Roslan Jomel dalam Kesusasteraan Melayu Mutakhir (*Haruki Murakami and Roslan Jomel in Contemporary Malay Literature*), Proceeding Sebahtera 2021.
- Roslan Jomel's Experimental Short Stories and the Influences of Marquez And Murakami, *The International Journal of Arts, Culture & Heritage (IJACH)*, Volume 11/2024.

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

- Haruki Murakami dalam Kesusasteraan Melayu (*Haruki Murakami in Malay Literature*), published by UKM Press, 2024, Mawar Safei (ed.)