

Research Summary

The ties between Peninsular Malaysia and Japan were forged before the Japanese Occupation of Malaya. Before the outbreak of World War II, there were Japanese associations in several peninsular states. The members of these associations were involved in social and economic activities. Some of them also worked as spies for the Japanese army, gathering military information for the Japanese government in the days before the Japanese Occupation. Japan's wartime 'Asia for Asians' slogan and the implementation of its Look East Policy in the 1980s played a part in enhancing the ties between the two countries. The short stories written during the Japanese Occupation of Malaya show the concept of "Asia for Asians" presented in a stereotypical manner. The locals were encouraged to feel pride in the ability of the Japanese to defeat the British and to support them by enlisting voluntarily in the Japanese army. These short stories were Japanese propaganda about the benefits of Japanese rule. Post-war short stories are exposing the truth behind those earlier publications. There are clear accounts of Japanese brutality which show that the slogan "Asia for Asians" was mere rhetoric used to mislead the locals. The war also turned out to be a form of punishment for the Japanese who suffered the effects of the atom bomb and their suffering was far worse, as if the Japanese people were paying for the crimes committed by the Japanese army. Nevertheless, the brutality of the Japanese army left a deep scar in the hearts of the locals. When the Look East Policy was introduced by the Malaysian government, Japan's blackened reputation was redeemed. Despite the fact that Japan today is very different from what it was during the war, the people's memories of Japanese wartime are hard to erase. Even though a beneficial relationship now exists with the Japanese government, the old wounds do not completely heal.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

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

1. 13th to 15th March 2009, International Institute of Language and Cultural Studies, "The Passage for Southeast Asia: Constructing International Japanese Culture," Studies Institute of Language and Cultural Studies, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto Japan. (Title of my first paper of the research: "Japanese Language Courses: A Surging Factor Into The Future").

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

My first paper entitled "Japanese Language Courses: A Surging Factor Into The Future" was accepted by a bulletin – Ritsumeikan Studies in Language and Culture, and it is supposed to come out by March 2010. My final paper entitled "Re-visiting the Slogan 'Asia for Asians' and the 'Look East' Policy: A Study of Malay Short Stories" will be sent to journal *Malay Literature*, published by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Malaysia.

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