

Summary:

The research started off with three main objectives—to find out how masculinity is constructed in selected short stories from Japan and Malaysia, to find out if these constructions of masculinity are different from each other and to what degree are these constructions representative of current Japanese and Malaysian societies.

The research kicked off with discussions with my co-researcher, Prof Dr. Edwin Vethamani. The discussion was on the strategies to ensure the progress of the research (such as allocation of tasks, setting deadlines, and ways to get materials for the research) was consistent and the objectives of the research were met.

Following the discussion, I acquired relevant books on masculinity studies via Amazon.com, and bookshops. The number of books bought from the bookshops in Malaysia, were unfortunately limited (there are limited number of books on men's studies in the Malaysian bookshops). I had to rely on Amazon.com to source and buy the books. I also relied on journal articles (free access from my university's library as I am a staff member). However, I later needed to source out more articles and books, and consequently, I applied for membership to an online library (questia.com). In short, there were ample research resources, albeit with some initial difficulties.

We (I and my co-researcher) read the available materials when they were made available. Data was gathered and the first product was an article for journal publication. The article was submitted to GEMA online. The review of the article was returned to me and I need to make amendments to the article before re-submission. The amending of the article is still in progress

The research data and outcome were also presented in a conference in June 2010 (ICLLIC 2010 – International Conference on Linguistics, Literature and Culture) which was held in June 2010 in Penang, Malaysia. The original plan to present the research in a seminar on Gender Studies in Taiwan in October 2009 was aborted due to weather uncertainties and natural calamities in Taiwan at that time. Permission was obtained from Sumitomo Foundation to use the allocated budget for overseas conference presentation for local conference presentation.

An outcome of the conference presentation in Penang, Malaysia was the publication of the extended abstract, entitled "Images of Masculinity in Selected English Literary Texts from Malaysia and Japan," in the *Proceedings of the International Conference on Linguistics, Literature and Culture* (pages 287 -289, ISBN: 9789834201791). The full article for a book chapter has also been considered for publication. We are still in the midst of editing this article, which should be completed and be submitted for publication by the end of December 2010 or January 2011.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

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

1 and 2 June 2010, Penang, Malaysia

International Conference on Linguistics, Literature and Culture, Organized by School of Humanities, USM

Images of Masculinity in Selected English Literary Texts from Malaysia and Japan, Presented by Teh Chee Seng

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

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