'Adaptation of Traditional Screen Art' – Online Theatres: A Chance to Explore New Frontiers

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Abstract
Adaptation of traditional screen art' is an effort put forth by the students of Malay Folklore to present the folklore stories from oral methods to an online theater production. It imposes to bring an impact to the society with the understanding of concepts as well as the value of the myriad traditional folk literature within the country. By showcasing this online theatre, fresh new ideas are bursting and bubbling in the minds of these students as initiatives in ensuring the interests and assets of the Malay literature in Malaysia is up for further developments by upcoming generations. This study consists of the two objectives. First, to display the skill of students where students can balance aspects of physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectually and personality. Secondly, to analyzing student soft skills. Therefore, this study applies the observation method to study the changes in the behavior among the students. As a result, this study proved that `adaptation of traditional screen art' serves as a platform where students can gain knowledge as well as new experiences in the performing arts industry especially ones that are concerned with Malaysian folklores and fairy tales. In addition to that, students are also exposed on the ropes on how to improvise and showcase these wonderful Malay literary works on stage. Such efforts to put forth a production will act as a learning process, where the students are able to truly understand and appreciate these magnificent literatures. Through this effort, the students are instilled with all the soft skills needed, from matters of management as well as the creation of performing oral traditions virtually. Findings from this research can display students' skills in creating virtual oral traditions that ultimately form students' soft skills. Hopefully further researchers can expand the study of oral tradition and its benefits among the new generation. In addition, being able to connect it with multimedia elements and technology.
Keywords: Adaptation, Traditional, Screen, Art, Online.

Introduction

''*Adaptation of traditional screen art'* is an effort put forth by the students of Malay Folklore from oral methods to multimedia or an online theatre production. Previously known as '*Malam Tradisi Sastera Rakyat*' (MTSR), it is an event held consecutively over the past 36 years in Universiti Putra Malaysia. But due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the event took on another approach, an online theatre production. In addition to being assessed by the coordinating lecturer, this program serves as a curricular requirement where the students' are asked to produce a theatre on the Malaysian folk literature. This effort adds on a whole other level of creativity where the students must critically find solutions on how to present the production online. '*Adaptation of traditional screen art'* is seen as a noble effort especially in the field of research and appreciation of Malay literature. The program is held every year to encourage students to appreciate the Malay folklore through stage performances. Such efforts help in preserving the Malay folklore and introducing them amongst the upcoming generation. The support and initiatives from the Faculty of Modern Languages and Communication, Universiti Putra Malaysia is a noble effort and is a proud symbol for Universiti Putra Malaysia. According to Zakaria et al (2021), The process of merging between literary and multimedia works is in line with the development of the world of education today. The implementation of this method on teenagers who are less interested in literary works will definitely have a more positive impact on them and will not burden them to understand literary works as a creative product when combined together with multimedia.

Objective of Study

This study consists of the following objectives:
- Display the skill of students where students are able to balance aspects of physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectually and personality.
- Analyzing student soft skills.

Questions of Study

Through this study, a few study questions or query is sought of its answer. Through this study, the cause of the problem can be detected, and solution of problem can be proposed. This study tries to answer two questions:

⬤ How do students benefit the skills of physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual and personality from 'adaptation of traditional screen art'?

⬤ How do students benefit their soft skills from 'adaptation of traditional screen art'?

Research Analysis

Before the heavy works are brought in, the students from the Malay Folk Literature class (BBK 3305), addressed that the most important task prior to conducting the programme itself is to establish the committee member. In addition, `adaptation of traditional screen art' will be developed a spiritual nature such as develop the thinking, humanity and linguistics of an individual. `Adaptation of traditional screen art' of literary works also can provide motivation, increased understanding, and interest among the new generations. According to Affendi et al., (2021), the traditional Malay community uses subtle and effective language in expressing the socio-culture of the community around them. They are very concerned with courtesy and good values in their lives. Through the language expression, the far-seeing Malay values can be seen. Each story contains lessons delivered in a beautiful and understandable language that symbolizes Malay intellectuality.

Production Team

The students carefully appointed among themselves who is most suitable to lead them as their director. An assistant director is also appointed to help the director in matters concerning the project. After careful selection, the director and assistant director was both selected to lead and run the programme. This establishment further strengthens the program and ensures a smooth flow for the production. Other positions and committee members are also filled by the rest of the class. With this establishment of a production team, students are exposed to skills of leadership and critical thinking and problem solving when dealing with issues during project management. By conducting such activities, the program also hopes to realize the university aspirations in instilling a more hands on opportunity for students and equip them with the necessary soft skills as a learning process in terms of cognitive and affective psychomotor in the lecture room. Regarding this, Affendi et al (2021), ffolktales express a lot of Malay minds and thinking. The literal and implicit elements are conveyed subtly.

On a worth-mentioning note, students of the class gave their best to deliver a product worthy of recognition. The students do not limit themselves to the knowledge they possess but venture into new knowledge of fields outside of their major. The few efforts from the students of Malay Folk Literature class have adopted to incorporate their knowledge in traditional literature and its aesthetics with current media technologies. Such efforts are the implementation of 'Green Screen' to illustrate locations and places where the students are limited to visit and record due to the pandemic. The technology incorporated is utilized to help the students create a more pleasing visual effect in delivering the stories. From the comfort of their homes, they can showcase locations of deep mossy forests, ravaging blue seas or even heavenly paradises that are common depictions in folklore and fables. As a student, the added knowledge and skill on media technologies does not only help her on the editing for 'adaptation of traditional screen art' program but are also bonus skills that she could include in her resume to appeal in her career route later on after graduation.

According to Zakaria et al (2021); Rieber (1989) states that the presentation of dynamic visual information through animation is also more effective than static graphics. This is because computer animation techniques help build adolescent visualization skills by depicting any form of process of change or movement of objects over time clearly and comprehensively.
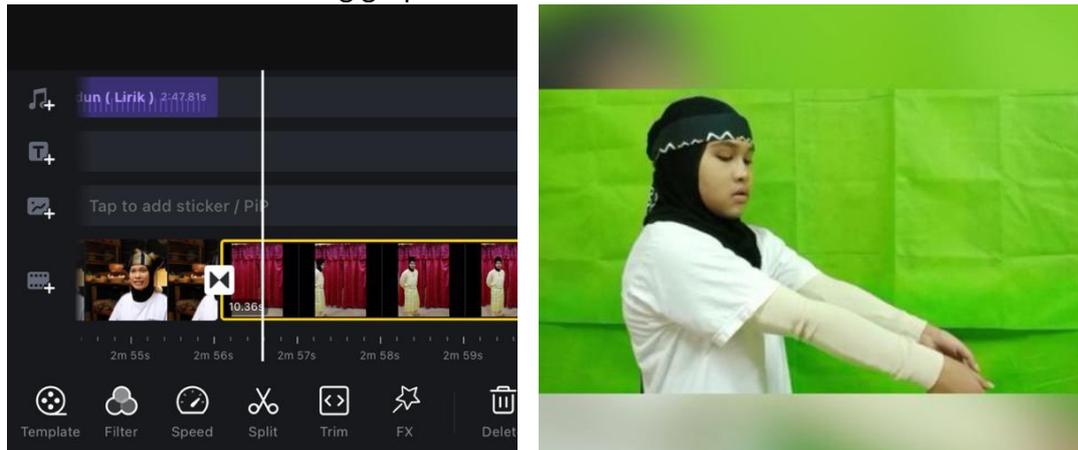
The fact is as the following graphics

Figure 1: Media technologies such as Green Screen and Editing Skills are used as efforts to create a more pleasing performance

Folklore Stories
The manuscripts adapted into virtual form this time are works documented from story tellers from various places. Amongst the stories performed is the Legendary Curse of *Mahsuri* which tells the story of a beautiful young woman who fled to the island of *Langkawi* in hopes of a better life. The conflict arises later when *Mahsuri* is accused of adultery and is to be executed by stabbing to death. After a few failed attempts, *Mahsuri* was stabbed with her family's '*keris*' and she bled white which signified her innocence. Thus, Malay folklore translated in multimedia are easier to understand the content of the work. Regarding to Zakaria et al (2021), the combination of multimedia elements and folk literature is the best method for adolescents to better understand traditional prose while producing a more positive appreciation effect.

Other folklore stories are also showcased within the program to feature an array of selections of traditional Malay folk literature in Malaysia. A few of them are *Batu Belah Batu Bertangkup, Bawang Merah Bawang Putih,* fables of The Honey, Sugar and Salt *(Madu, Gula dan Garam)* and The Spear and The Shield *(Lembing dan Perisai)*. Thus, the traditional Malay of folklore which is delivered through online should be regarded as Malay literary works that have the power to build a human civilisation.

The rationale for the subject is to apply a comprehensive learning among students with new learning experience that not only focuses on the scripts but also staged performances. In my opinion, the importance of the Malay Folklore subject among students that they can dive into the important components of literature, namely the local culture which indirectly reflects the cultural height of a society. I genuinely feel proud and impressed with the outcome presented by the students. With these activities, students can strengthen their language, knowledge in the field of Malay literature, and applying the latest technologies in addition to preserving the heritage of the Malay folklore that is increasingly forgotten by the present generation. According to Zakaria et al (2021); Mana (2012) states that the perfection and beauty of language in a literary work depends on the way the author presents it. Among them are through word selection, constructing and composing sentences, giving the right meaning, and also using language elements that can strengthen and beautify the language. Whereas according to Keris (1988), the style of literary language also not only conveys ideas

and information, but the presentation of ideas and information evokes a sense of emotion, in addition to stimulating the mind and intellect of the reader.

Figure 2: A student acting out a scene from the story of The Curse of Mahsuri.

Balance Aspects of *JERIS*

The objective of this program is also achieved, namely where students can balance aspects of *JERIS* (physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectually and personality) and improve their soft skills. In a relatively short time of less than eleven weeks, the students were able to prove their work. Throughout the preparation of the program, students have gone through meaningful process of learning and experiences. They managed to highlight and improve their communication skills with each other and even deal with outsiders. This proves that through an event, they have been able to show their leadership and integrity. Not only that, but they are also able to illustrate their creativity and critical thinking in producing a quality production. They are given the opportunity to work in small production teams as well as mobilize tasks entrusted as organizers. This is in line with Universiti Putra Malaysia efforts to produce students who are skilled in leadership and always strive to increase knowledge towards betterment. According to Affendi et al (2021), in folk tales, the creator's wisdom of the mind to use a subtle and effective language style can be seen in the sociocultural expression of the society around them. The language is simple but loaded with implicit elements to serve as a guide to the audience. Each word is loaded with meaning that contains didactic elements.

In the same instance, one of the students from the online class stated that he is excited and thrilled with the results presented by the actors, who are also students from the same class, on average most do not have any basic acting and theatrical training before. The production is a group of students, aspiring artists who are just eager to paint and illustrate their craft on a blank canvas, in a sense, geeked to perform it virtually. Throughout training, there is always improvement in our acting skills over time. For example, the task as a director is not easy and need high levels of commitment and agreement between all parties to make the programme a success. Therefore, through online learning, all the cooperation given by all committee members pre, during and post staging is very important. According to Makmun et al (2022), online learning is flexible. It can create a learning that is rich with integration with various skills such as discussing, arguing, making comparisons, summarizing and such. Additionally, students can master the skills related to the technology application.

Conclusion

'Adaptation of traditional screen art' serves as a platform where students can gain knowledge as well as new experiences in the performing arts industry especially ones that are concerned with Malaysian folklores and fairy tales. In addition to that, students are also exposed on the ropes on how to improvise and showcase these wonderful Malay literary works on stage. Such efforts to put forth a production will act as a learning process, where the students are able to truly understand and appreciate these magnificent literatures. Through this effort, the students are instilled with all the soft skills needed, from matters of management as well as the creation of performing oral traditions virtually. Such emphasis is highlighted by the university.

'Adaptation of traditional screen art' imposes to bring an impact to the society with the understanding of concepts as well as the value of the myriad traditional folk literature within the country. By showcasing this online theatre, fresh new ideas are bursting and bubbling in the minds of these students as initiatives in ensuring the interests and assets of the Malay literature in Malaysia is up for further developments by upcoming generations. Example:

Figure 3: Posters of adaptations of the folklore and fables showcased.

Theoretical and Contextual Contribution of This Research

This research was able to prove the effectiveness of online learning to prove that `adaptation of traditional screen art' serves as a platform where students are able to gain knowledge as well as new experiences in the performing arts industry especially ones that are concerned with Malaysian folklores and fairy tales. Upcoming generations. such as students are also exposed on the ropes on how to improvise and showcase these wonderful Malay literary works on stage. Such efforts to put forth a production will act as a learning process, where the students are able to truly understand and appreciate these magnificent literatures. Through this effort, the students are instilled with all the soft skills needed, from matters of management as well as the creation of performing oral traditions virtually.

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