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CONTENT

1. **PENGALAMAN ADAPTASI ANTARABUDAYA PELAJAR MALAYSIA DI KOREA SELATAN**
Abdul Latiff Ahmad, Kan May Yuen, Arina Anis Azlan & Emma Mirza Wati Mohamad
2. **THE LANGUAGE OF MEDIA SUPPORTING PEACE JOURNALISM**
Agus Hari Wibowo
3. **STUDIES OF GUIDED AND NON-GUIDED SETUP UNDER A DOMAIN OF STRESS THERAPY USING VR TECHNOLOGY**
Ahmad Redza Razieff Zainudin, Azmi Mohd Yusof & Mohd Ezanee Rusli
4. **PENDEMOKRASIAN MEDIA DAN CABARAN KESELAMATAN DALAM ERA DIGITAL**
Ahmad Sauffiyah Abu Hasan
5. **THE MEDIATING EFFECT OF READING *IIUM TODAY* ON THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG AWARENESS, PERCEPTION, AND ATTITUDE WITH SATISFACTION**
Aini Maznina A. Manaf & Saodah Wok
6. **POTENTIAL OF RUMORS TOWARDS RACIAL CONFLICT: A REVIEW ON THE IMPACT OF RUMORS SPREAD DURING THE RIOT OF MAY 13, 1969**
Al-Amril Bin Othman & Mohd. Nor Shahizan Bin Ali
7. **PENGGUNAAN MEDIA SOSIAL TERHADAP SOKONGAN POLITIK DI MALAYSIA**
Ali Salman, Mohammad Agus Yusoff & Mohd Azul Mohamad
8. **ANALISIS PANIK MORAL KE ATAS AKAUN *INSTAGRAM* AWKARIN**
Nurul Mustaqimamah & Badrul Redzuan Abu Hassan
9. **JAVANESE BATIK AS MEDIA IN CULTURAL DIPLOMACY**
Bani Sudardi
10. **IMPLIKASI PENGGUNAAN WHATSAPP TERHADAP KUALITI HUBUNGAN DALAM ORGANISASI DARI PERSPEKTIF TEORI KONSTRUKSI SOSIAL**
Che Su Mustaffa, Nuredayu Omar, Zuraidah Abu Talib & Che Hasniza Che Soh

70. **THE ROLE OF MEDIA ECONOMY IN SURVIVAL OF PRINTED MALAY LANGUAGE NEWSPAPERS IN MALAYSIA**
Shahrul Nazmi Sannusi & Husna Mohd Ibrahim
71. **DIPLOMACY IN CONFLICT REPORTING: THE SULU CONFLICT IN EAST BORNEO**
Sharon Wilson & Faridah Ibrahim
72. **VISUAL DAN REKA BENTUK PEMBUNGKUSAN DARI PERSPEKTIF TEORI GESTALT**
Sharul Azim Sharudin & Normah Mustaffa
73. **SYMBOLIC COMMUNICATION IN *SERAT SASTRAHARJENDRA***
Sisyono Eko Widodo
74. **THE INFLUENCE OF POLITICAL SOCIALIZATION AGENTS ON MEDIA AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**
Sumera Memon, Mohd. Sobhi Bin Ishak & Norsiah Abdul Hamid
75. **THE STUDY OF JAVANESE WOMEN IN THE PRIMBON BOOKS**
Supana
76. **PENCAK SILAT IN THE MODERN CULTURE: THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN PRESERVING THE LOCAL HERITAGE**
Suryo Ediyono
77. **MOVING BEYOND DIFFERENCES: A REFLECTION ON STUDENT INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE**
Syarizan Dalib, Minah Harun, Norhafezah Yusof & Mohd Khairie Ahmad
78. **AN OVERVIEW OF VIDEO GAME LIVE STREAMING**
Thomas Tinagaren, Bon Pin Chean, Dang Yuh Feei & Yong Cheng Fei
79. **DASAR BRITISH BERKAITAN FILEM DAN PENAPISAN FILEM DI TANAH MELAYU (1924 – 1940)**
Wan Amizah Wan Mahmud
80. **THE SIGNIFICANT OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND JOB COMMITMENT: BROADCASTING INDUSTRY IN MALAYSIA**
Wan Idros Wan Sulaiman, Mohd Nur Najmi Nuji & Nawar Hani Kamaruddin

PENCAK SILAT IN THE MODERN CULTURE: THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN PRESERVING THE LOCAL HERITAGE

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Topic:

Media and cultural identity

ABSTRACT

Media technology is the most important instrument in human life in the global era as it is today. Both social media and mass media in essence occupy a separate role and inseparable from the aspects of modern human life. In an effort to recall the community with martial arts of *Pencak Silat* which is the indigenous culture of the Indonesian nation that has long been abandoned, many films of martial arts *Pencak Silat* were produced, many agreed that media is the right choice as a medium for delivering the message of locality embedded in *Pencak Silat* culture. To understand the martial arts traditions and social figures and imaginary of *pendekar* as was narrated in media scientifically, then this study applies a socio-historical approach. This approach is expected to produce an explanation that can reveal symptoms of an event which is closely related to the time and place, environment and culture, where the incident took place, and then be able to explain the origin and in terms of social dynamics and the social structure of the society concerned. The study found that movie is an expression and attitude statement, it is even a medium to gain a lot of supports and people's attentions. Currently, the popularity of martial arts of *Pencak Silat* as a part of Indonesian local culture is quite successful and very proud, especially because the role of mass and social media is embodied into action movies such as *The Raid*, *Yasmine*, and *Star Wars 7*, as well as through social media and internet Such as Youtube. Film/movie as a medium that has the ability to be used as a counter culture or as a tool to fend off culture or knowledge.

Keywords: *media; action movies; indigenous culture; pencak silat*

INTRODUCTION

Pencak Silat comes into existence as a local product of martial arts combining other combating arts of various forms and modifications (Alexander et al., 1972). There are officially about 820 schools of *Pencak Silat* in Indonesia (Wilson, 2002, Ediyono, 2005). In its early time, *silat* was initially a means of corroborating interactions between local communities' relationship with the kingdom and enhancing the capabilities of the state to prevent foreign interference and occupation. Later in the

CONCLUSION

The communication basically includes environmental control; the correlation of the parts of society in responding to its environment; transmission of cultural heritage. These are sequentially related to the provision of information, as well as the formation of consensus, the expression of values and cultural symbols necessary to preserve the culture and sustainability of society. Movie is an expression and attitude statement, it is even a medium to gain a lot of supports and people's attentions. Currently, the popularity of martial arts of *Pencak Silat* as a part of Indonesian local culture is quite successful because the role of mass and social media such as Youtube is embodied into films such as *The Raid*, *Yasmine*, and *Star Wars 7*. Film/movie as a medium that has the ability to be used as a counter culture or as a tool to fend off culture or knowledge.

The central figure of *pendekar* 'warriors' in *Pencak Silat* tradition has been associated the hero of *kampung* has its comparable figure called *jawara* 'local strongmen'. The historical between *pendekar* and *jawara* directs attention to some of the central evidence in *Pencak Silat* culture which took special concern between the issues of self-control, proper personal conduct, self-interest and violence. To be a *pendekar* is the pinnacle of *Pencak Silat* culture. In many of the new producing films of martial arts, the figure of *pendekar* still play a major role for they are the most highlighted actors in such a film. Through the film called *The Raid*, it is expected that the message to be conveyed by filmmakers can be accepted by the younger generation that is currently dissolved into the culture of "Hollywood" and forget the national culture. The film seeks to preserve the values of nationalism as the main theme, with its main segment still the younger generation today. The value of nationalism in this film is packed with different approaches because the time context is also different.

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