ETHNOLECTAL AND SOCIOLECTAL CREATIVITY IN MALAYSIAN LITERATURE WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE WORKS OF K. S. MANIAM

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ABSTRAK

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The purpose of this study is to highlight those features of the Malaysian varieties of English found in the creative writing of post-colonial author K. S. Maniam, showing how they are used to enhance characterization, foregrounding ethnicity and emphasizing social status, and to authenticate the cultural setting of his works. Although considerable research has been conducted to date on the features of localized varieties of English in post-colonial literature, specific reference to Maniam’s works is mostly restricted to literary themes. Textual analysis of selected works by Maniam is conducted, referring to descriptions of the Malaysian varieties of English compiled by applied linguists. The author’s own views on the bilingual’s literary creativity in English are also sought in interview. The study concludes that the skilful and appropriate application of nativized lexicon, grammar and speech styles renders Maniam’s works accessible to a worldwide audience or readership.
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