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

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ABSTRAK

Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji ciri-ciri variasi Bahasa Inggeris di Malaysia yang terkandung di dalam penulisan kreatif penulis zaman selepas penjajah, K. S. Maniam, dengan menunjukkan bagaimana ciri-ciri ini digunakan bagi membangkitkan perwatakan dalam kumpulan etnik dan keutamaan status sosial serta memperlihatkan latar budaya penulisan beliau. Walaupun kajian-kajian pernah dijalankan ke atas ciri-ciri variasi Bahasa Inggeris di Malaysia dalam karya-karya sastera zaman selepas penjajah, rujukan spesifik terhadap hasil penulisan Maniam terhadap kepada tema-tema sastera. Kajian terhadap analisis teks dalam karya-karya tertentu Maniam dibuat dengan merujuk kepada huraian-huraian variasi Bahasa Inggeris di Malaysia yang telah dikumpulkan oleh ahli-ahli linguistik terapan. Pendapat penulis berkenaan kreativiti kesusasteraan penutur dwibahasa dalam Bahasa Inggeris didapati dalam temuramah dengan beliau. Kajian ini memberi kesimpulan bahawa penggunaan sesuai dan tepat leksikon, tatabahasa dan gaya pertuturan yang telah diaslikan menyebabkan karya Maniam sesuai untuk pembaca seluruh dunia.

ABSTRACT

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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CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 – Introduction	1
1.1 <i>Linguistic Creativity</i>	2
1.2 <i>The Works of K. S. Maniam</i>	4
1.3 <i>Research Method</i>	5
1.4 <i>Texts used for Analysis</i>	7
CHAPTER 2 – Literature Review	13
2.1 <i>Author-Specific or Literary Research</i>	14
2.2 <i>Linguistic Research into Post-Colonial Literature</i>	15
2.2.1 <i>Major Concerns</i>	15
2.2.2 <i>Lexical and Stylistic Variations</i>	21
2.2.3 <i>Grammatical Variations</i>	25
2.3 <i>Implications for an International Readership</i>	26
CHAPTER 3 – Lexical Creativity	28
3.1 <i>Lexical Borrowings</i>	30
3.1.1 <i>Terms which Refer to Items</i>	31
3.1.2 <i>Terms which Refer to People</i>	44
3.2 <i>Loan Translations, New Hybrids, and Extension of Semantic Range</i>	49
CHAPTER 4 – Grammatical Simplification	53
4.1 <i>Overgeneralization</i>	54
4.2 <i>Omission</i>	57
4.3 <i>Reduction</i>	61
4.4 <i>Substitution</i>	64
4.5 <i>Restructuring</i>	66

CHAPTER 5 – Stylistic Creativity	68
5.1 <i>Transcreation of Proverbs and Idioms</i>	69
5.2 <i>Nativized Pronunciation</i>	74
5.3 <i>Reduplication</i>	75
5.4 <i>Culturally-Dependent Speech Styles</i>	76
5.5 <i>Local Imagery and Cultural References</i>	80
5.6 <i>Nativized Rhetorical and Syntactic Devices</i>	84
CHAPTER 6 – Conclusion	89
6.1 <i>The Perceived Reader</i>	90
6.2 <i>Linguistic Creativity: a Worldwide Phenomenon</i>	92
BIBLIOGRAPY	96
APPENDIX 1 - Lexical Borrowings in <i>The Return</i>, <i>In A Far Country</i>, <i>Ratnamuni</i>, and <i>The Third Child</i>.	101