INTERLOK: TO TEACH OR NOT TO TEACH, THAT IS THE QUESTION

Mohd Nazri Latiff Azmi [#]
Faculty of Languages and Communication,
Sultan Zainal Abidin University (MALAYSIA)
mohdnazri@unisza.edu.my

Nor Azimah Aziz
Faculty of Languages and Communication,
Sultan Zainal Abidin University (MALAYSIA)
azimah@unisza.edu.my

ABSTRACT

Interlok was written by a famous Malaysian laureate, Abdullah Hussein which is seen as a multiculturalism narrative story that developing the process of the building of a national identity that develops out of a rigid ethnic identity. Interlok is one of the compulsory texts to be read by secondary school students in Malaysia, is a novel that claimed to contain 'sensitive' elements which has arisen the anger and inconvenience among some groups of people in Malaysia. The polemic and stigma have made this issue become over-politicized and left without solutions. The gradual formation of a national identity that gradually develops in a multicultural space, is the vision of the author that he tries to present through the social situation depicted in Interlok. The researchers embark on this qualitative study to investigate the novel from the aspects of literature, education and social responsibility. The main objective is to come out with a proper and rational discussion and solutions to clarify the issues in more mature and intellect ways. The research involves an extensive analysis from various credible sources in order to be just and equal in order to form an ideal national culture of nation building or identity. The findings show that a lot of criticisms produce false identity that differs from the social identity of the real world, in which totally differs with the author's vision that concern over the formation of an ideal national identity in this multicultural society is one that is visionary and forward-looking due to his effort to promote positive values in society through literature.

Key words: Interlok, Abdullah Hussain, literature, sociolinguistics, nation building

Please tick (√) the following items.

1) Mode of Presentation

√	Oral
	Poster

2) Language of Presentation

√	English
	Arabic
	Malay
	Thai

[#] Corresponding author