

EDITORIAL

The current publication of *KEMANUSIAAN the Asian Journal of Humanities* comprises eight articles on issues in history, culture, linguistics and translation across different contexts in Asia. The first article is an elegant discussion of the significance of Raja Bongsu of Johor (±1579–1623) during one of the most turbulent times in the history of the Johor sultanate. Raja Bongsu's tenure as the Sultan of Johor coincided with the arrival of the Dutch in the Straits.

The second article is an interesting look into *wong cilik* or the commoner in Javanese culture. The article foregrounds the relationship between this group with the *priyayi*, the ruling elite and high class society, and how they are interdependent in service and goods exchange despite being different socially and economically.

The following article discusses the relationship between Malaysia and Australia during the premiership of Mahathir Mohamad, 1981–2003. The authors argue that during this time, souring factors and enduring factors affected the ties between the two countries. They also claim that issues surrounding the Malaysia-Australia relationship during the time can be best explained by the English School theory of international relations.

The fourth article in this issue is a discussion on the shift in the concept of translation due to the digital development and Web 2.0. A new translation paradigm known as user-generated translation (UGT) has enabled users to be actively involved in translation, giving rise to the concept of audience-based or crowdsourcing translation. The article also ponders on the implementation and implications of crowdsourcing translation.

Linguistic landscape is the issue of concern in the next article, particularly in educational settings. It examined the emerging themes of signs in the linguistic landscape of schools Yogyakarta, Indonesia using a geosemiotic approach. The analysis of the language, image and colour revealed eight major themes of messages in the school linguistic landscape and provides interesting insights into the relationship between the makers of the signs and their addressees.

The following article is also a study in the context of Indonesia, namely in East Sumatera. Its focus is the link between the *Benih Merdeka* newspaper and the political movement in the region from 1916 to 1923. Utilising historical methods such as heuristic, source criticism, interpretation and historiography, the study found that the newspaper criticised the issues of colonialism and capitalism and was the voice of nationalism in the region.

The seventh article discusses an issue that is of concern in many countries where English is seen encroaching on the local language space. Focusing on the Malay language in Brunei, the article discusses language attitudes and vitality of standard Malay and Brunei Malay. Interestingly, the study found that Bruneian youths' attitude towards both variants of Malay is positive. The author also argues that both variants co-exist with English, thus disproving scholars' complaints that English is a threat to the Malay language.

The final article in this collection revisits the issue of the "acquisition" of Pulau Pinang by Francis Light and the East India Company (EIC) in 1786. The main argument put forward by the authors is that the acquisition of Pulau Pinang was illegal as no agreement was made in 1786. This, the authors claim, is based on legal history and Francis Light's communication with two Kedah rulers.

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