

**SHIRLEY GEOK-LIN LIM'S FICTION:
A POST-COLONIAL HYBRID LITERATURE**

**By
SEE THO SIEW HIANG**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
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Arts**

July 2003

*To Chin Tong,
For your patience
and unwavering support.*

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts

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Faculty : Modern Languages and Communication

This research seeks to examine the nationalistic and hybrid elements that permeate Shirley Geok-Lin Lim's fiction: three collections of short stories and a novel, *Joss and Gold*. They portray various elements which cumulated to a nationalistic voice and which depict relationships of the peoples of a multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-racial nation. Lim's stories represent a vast repertoire of themes of a struggling and fledgling nation and her peoples, while her novel represents an observation of and desire for a united, tolerant and cosmopolitan Malaysia with a fusion and acceptance of all the races, cultures and religions. Much has been said and researched on about her works, especially her extensive collection of poems. Thus, this research aims to look at a different angle of her works - her fiction, which includes her first novel that took a few decades to be completed, and which also span decades.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan Ijazah Master Sastera

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Kajian ini bertujuan untuk meneliti unsur-unsur nasionalisme dan hibrid dalam hasil karya Shirley Geok-Lin Lim iaitu tiga koleksi cerita pendek serta novel terulung beliau yang bertajuk *Joss and Gold*. Unsur-unsur ini merangkumi pelbagai elemen yang berfokuskan nasionalisme negara serta perhubungan di kalangan rakyatnya yang terdiri daripada pelbagai kaum, agama dan bangsa. Cerpen-cerpen Lim merangkumi pelbagai tema serta aspirasi sebuah negara yang baru merdeka, sementara novel beliau menonjolkan Malaysia sebagai negara yang terdiri daripada rakyat yang bersatupadu, bertoleransi di mana masyarakat majmuknya dapat menerima kehadiran semua kaum dan bangsa dalam masyarakat tersebut. Pelbagai kajian serta perbincangan telah dibuat terhadap hasil penulisan Lim. Maka, kajian ini hanya akan bertumpu kepada hasil karya Lim dan bukannya koleksi *poem* beliau yang telah banyak diperbincangkan di seluruh dunia. Kajian ini akan meneliti hasil penulisan Lim dari sudut pandangan yang lain dari yang pernah dibuat sebelum ini.

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I certify that an examination committee met on 26th July 2004 to conduct the final examination of See Tho Siew Hiang on her Master of Arts thesis entitled “Shirley Geok-Lin Lim’s Fiction: A Post-Colonial Hybrid Literature” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations, which have been duly acknowledged. I also proclaim that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

SEE THO SIEW HIANG

Date: 30 July 2004

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