

Subkultur anak jalanan Singapura : Kajian Novel Spider Boys

Atikah Ruslianti, author

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Abstrak

Spider Boys, written by Ming Cher, sets in colonial Singapore and shows a conflict between generations and a life of sub cultural group with the growth and development of the main characters, Yeow and Kwang, from schoolboys to teenagers. It touches the colonial and post-colonial history of Singapore. Cher examines the purpose of sub cultural group and its spider game in social and historical context.

In Spider Boys one is made aware of the conflict generated by the transition from childhood to young adult and by being caught between the sub cultural group's life of street kids in its relation with their parents culture as well as the dominant culture of the British government. Being the member of the Spider Boys is only the beginning of their life as street kids subculture.

Spider Boys shows pessimism and identity crisis undergo by a group of young Chinese immigrant in Singapore. They have such a sub cultural life within the community of adult Chinese immigrant. This sub cultural group constructs its own identities, among others through language and their way of interaction. These identities are taken as an adaptation to some of their parents' culture.

Not only the in heritage culture of their parents was adopted; some of them are also resisted. They select this parent's culture in such a way that gives them the most convenience and confidence in their group.

Meanwhile, they also adopt the dominant culture of the British government to give a way for their sub cultural style. On the other hand, they resist the political culture of the British government insisting (Standard) English usage at school. As a result, some of them are incapable in communicating Standard English. Their resistance gives a way to the emergence of new variant of English, known as Singlish. The uniqueness of Singlish shows the combination of both dominant culture and that of their parents' culture. Their English does not pay any attention to the rule of Standard English. This absence of rule in their English, both in dialogue and in narration, enrich the atmosphere of the street kids life. As a group's identity, Singlish becomes their symbol of identification.