Re-inscribing *Budi* in Contemporary 3D Malaysian Animation Characters in *Geng; The Adventure Begins (2009)* dan *BoboiBoy: The Movie (2016)*

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Abstract

The success of Malaysian 3D animation films, *Geng; The Adventure Begins (2009)* and *BoboiBoy: The Movie (2016)* in attracting local reception is partly due to their portrayal of the diversity of Malaysian ethnicity, traditions and moral values which the local audience may find relatable. Although these films portray modernity, the values represented are based on the traditional Malay concept of *Budi* re-inscribed in the characters’ personalities. The concept of *Budi* in this paper employs the academic study of Lim Kim Hui (2003a) and it includes my attempt to argue that this traditional asset can be reimagined in the contemporary digital form which can be analysed through the main characters’ personalities in the selected films. Personality is one of the key principles of animation introduced by Lasseter (1987) for the 3D animation format and with it, helps shape characters to be unique and recognizable as depicted in their behaviours, habits as well as interaction with other characters. In addition, I employ Smith’s “structure of sympathy” to explain the spectator’s engagement with the fictional personalities portrayed on screen. The concept of *Budi* re-inscribed in characters of contemporary 3D Malaysian animation films proves that traditional values are not lost in modern times. Animation films are mostly watched by younger audiences, therefore *Budi* as a traditional moral concept can be sustained and disseminated to the younger generation in digital form.

**Keywords:** *Budi*, Malay culture, moral values, personality

Introduction

In this paper, I will examine how the complex concept of *Budi* has been re-inscribed through the portrayals of the personalities of the protagonists in two selected 3D Malaysian animation films, namely, *Geng; The Adventure Begins (2009)* and *BoboiBoy: The Movie (2016)*. Both films have proved to be a commercial success with the ticket sales amounts to RM6.31 million and RM16 million following forty days of screening respectively (Hassan Muthalib, 2016). As *Budi* is one of the primary motifs that predominantly shapes the Malay world-view, my analysis of the animated characters in these films will further aim to explore whether instilling the values of *Budi* through various means in the character-portrayals is significant in captivating the spectators’ engagement with the animation films through invoking a sympathetic relationship with the fictional characters. Therefore, I will commence my discussion with a brief elucidation of the idea of *Budi* in the Malay worldview. I will next focus on the importance of incorporating ‘personality’ in 3D animation films as propagated by Lasseter and finally I will pay particular attention to Murray Smith’s concept of the “structure of sympathy” as I consider Smith’s notion is significantly instrumental in determining the spectator’s engagement with the visual representations of the fictional personalities portrayed on screen.
Consequently, through the analysis of my selected animation films, I will attempt to argue that the spectator’s sympathetic engagement with the personalities of the protagonists is mainly induced by inculcating the fictional characters with the attributes of Budi, which can be considered as the foundational essence of Malay moral values leading to a unique development of the Malay worldview.

**The Concept of Budi**

In ancient times, the Malays use animals and plants to signify both positive and negative concepts. The Malays also believe that humans fundamentally consist of the body and mind. Unlike the “mind”, the body along with the organs will eventually cease to exist. The "mind" here relates to the elements of the unseen such as thoughts, feeling, life, soul/spirit along with remnants that are left behind such as Budi (virtues, etc) and Badi (bad influence). The soul/spirit, specifically the semangat is divided into a dualistic oppositional sides which consists of good and bad (Ismail Hamid, 1991). Goodness is associated with *semangat padi* (soul of the paddy) while the opposite associates with *semangat biawak* (soul of the monitor lizard). Lim's (2003a) findings on various proverbs suggests that the virtues of Budi is derived from the concept of *semangat padi*. The nature of the paddy indicates that as it grows (filled with rice), due to its weight, the plant will get closer to the ground as if in the form of bowing down. This concept is associated with Budi where a person should demonstrate wisdom and humbleness as the individual gains more knowledge or power. An opposition of Budi is Badi which is signified by *lalang* (weedy grass), indicating negative characteristics such as being proud and arrogant (Nor Hashimah Jalaluddin, 2015) due to its nature of being straight and tall even during rainy seasons. In addition, weedy grass is undesirable and unwanted, growing without being planted by humans. Both paddy and weedy grass represent a form of positive and negative concept. This shows that since earlier times, the Malays had already considered the dualistic concept of good and bad which has been conceptualised by observing their surroundings. Today, the evolution of their beliefs and cultures has further shaped the values of what outlines the understanding of goodness represented in the form of Budi.

*Budi* is a term originated from the Sanskrit word *Buddhi* meaning wisdom, understanding or intellect. In the Malay worldview, Budi carries more than one meaning, describing the positive traits a person should have and therefore is known as the ‘Budi complex’ (Ramli, 2013). These positive traits include being gentle and polite, displaying humility, being cautious when speaking or behaving in order to present good character conduct known as *sopan santun* (social grace). According to the Malay vocabulary, the concept of the Budi complex is further extended to include ethics to accommodate the culture and the ways of thinking. The Malay social relationships revolves around the 'Budi complex' (Tham, 1970), constructing the idea for proper behaviours to include positive values such as generosity, respect, sincerity, righteousness as well as discretion. Individuals are also encouraged to think about the other party’s condition or situation by incorporating feelings of shame and embarrassment for themselves as well as others in their social interaction activities. Consequently, this habit would promote having the sensitivity and concern for not only the individual but for others as well (Dahlan, 1991). Over the years, many studies on the Malays and their connection with the concept of Budi have emerged (Aminudin Mansor, 2008; Abdul Halim Ali, 2009; Noor Aina Dani, 2011; Hashim Musa, Normahdiah Sheik Said, Rozita Che Rodi, & Siti Sarah Ab Karim, 2012; Zaireeni Azmi, 2014; Abdul Malik, 2015; Nor Hashimah Jalaluddin, 2015; Wan Norhasniah Wan Husina, 2016; Isnariah Idris, Khushairi Fadzal, & Abdul Rashid Daing Melebek, 2017). However this paper focuses on the concept of Budi by Lim Kim Hui (2003a; 2003b), one of the primary predecessors who has initiated the process of exploring Budi within an academic context. His analysis is based on examining the Malay proverbs in order to construct a structural analysis of the Malay ways of thinking and behaving.

According to Winstedt (1982), the Malay culture have undergone through evolutions in their beliefs from animism to Hinduism, from Buddhism to Islam. The introduction of Islam to the Malays during the rise of the great port of Malacca back in the 15th century heavily influences the values of the concept of Budi (Aminudin Mansor, 2008; Hashim Musa, 2008; Hashim Musa, Normahdiah Sheik Said, Rozita Che Rodi, & Siti Sarah Ab Karim, 2012; Abdul Malik, 2015) and still remains the
national religion of Malaysia. The concept of Budi based on Lim’s research, focuses on the ancient Malay minds, prior to the arrival of Islam. Lim suggests the purpose of an argument in the Malay worldview is the search for truth, goodness and beauty. The Malays do not emphasize about determining a winning side but the outcome of an argument should leave each party with positive values. Direct confrontation is viewed as impolite because certain behaviours or speeches might embarrass oneself as well as offend others, thus promoting negativity amongst the society. Similar to other Asian cultures, the Malays hold high regards and respect towards the elders and those of higher rank. Respect is shown especially to these types of people, encouraging the others to be careful by avoiding shaming or directly mocking them in confrontational situations. The concept of Budi promotes the avoidance of direct confrontations and this instead results in the need to mask their advices and criticism by using alternative mediums of communication such as decorative words as well as metaphors (Lim, 2003a; Hassan Ahmad, 2003; Lim, 2010; Nor Hashimah Jalaluddin, 2015; Nur Afiqah Wan Mansor & Nor Hashimah Jalaluddin, 2015; Suriati Zakaria & Nor Hashimah Jalaluddin, 2016; Julaina Nopiah, Nor Hashimah Jalaluddin, & Junaina Kasdan, 2017). In order to avoid larger confrontations, the act of backtracking or withdrawing from an argument is considered more honourable than winning an argument. This social conduct promotes the usage of both the akal (intellect) and hati (heart) in which the intellect and feelings should be utilized in consideration of the other party.

Akal (intellect) and hati (heart) are both components of the Budi network charted out by Lim Kim Hui (2003b) which includes three other interrelated categories: bahasa/ pekerti (referring to the moral behaviour or moral character and action), bicara (the well-mannered way of communicating) and daya (contribution to the practical aspect/ budaya) as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Lim Kim Hui’s Molecurization of Budi (Lim, 2003b).

Similar to an atom in a molecular structure, each branch remains as an integral part of the motif of Budi which cannot be fully detached from its central core of the idea. Due to this idea, some authors might refer to ‘akal Budi’ or ‘hati Budi’ as ‘Budi’ instead, because they are also known as Budi or at least a part of the Budi complex. Akal Budi and hati Budi are the perspectives of the network which receive a lot of attention by scholars because they are considered as the larger parts of the concept involving both the intellect as well as feelings. Other interrelated elements of bicara, pekerti and daya are formed through the usage of the akal and hati (Aminudin Mansor, 2008). The practice of Budi and its networks will eventually lead a person to become a Budiman (a person of Budi or a wise person), expected to display all-rounded positive virtues. A Budiman should be able to use his/her intellect in a thoughtful way to consider the realities of reasons and at the same time, to utilize the gentleness of his/her heart to convey positive messages to other people. The ability to do so would encourage a person to display good character and conduct, becoming an example to others and eventually contribute to the betterment of society. Despite all its positive connotations, Budi can also be consciously or unconsciously used in a negative way which Lim has referred to as ‘pure Budi’. This would be the results of practicing Budi in an extreme manner and without guidance which may lead a person to overreact (mengada-ngada) or self-degrade (menghina diri) instead of displaying humility.
being in such circumstances. Instead, most description of character and only acts as a sort of metaphor or a description of the mental state. The term offers no further

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Personality in Animation

Ollie Johnston and Frank Thomas are a part of the Disney’s core animators known as the Nine Old Men. Based on their experiences with the traditional 2D animation, they propagate 12 principles of animation in their book, The Illusion of Life (1981) which can be referenced for not only 2D animation but for other types of animation as well. The 12 principles includes; 1) Squash and stretch, 2) Anticipation, 3) Staging, 4) Straight ahead action and pose to pose, 5) Follow through and overlapping action, 6) Slow in and slow out, 7) Arc, 8) Secondary action, 9) Timing, 10) Exaggeration, 11) Solid drawing and 12) Appeal. Among the 12 principles, one of the principles which is Solid Drawing, is best applied to the 2D animation format. Hence, Lasseter (1987) who is one of the founders of Pixar Animation Studios, has replaced the principles of Solid Drawing with Personality as the “intelligent application of all the principles of animation” for the 3D format. He argues that the character’s personality determines the success of an animation as it dictates the spectator’s thorough enjoyment with the story. A solid and attractive personality determines the actions and movements of animated characters which is based on the result of its thought processes, bringing the characters to life, in order to reach their goals. Brian Lemay (2000) describes personality in animation as the description of who the character is, how they think, act and how they react to events as well as other characters.

Personality can be defined as "consistent behavior patterns and intrapersonal processes originating within the individual" (Burger, 2008). Here, Burger includes two aspects in his definition of personality which are behaviour patterns as well as intrapersonal processes. The spectator may expect characters to retain their behaviour (consistent behaviour) throughout the narrative of the animation film although slight changes may occur due to the changes of events in the plot. In addition, Burger describes the intrapersonal processes as inclusive of “all the emotional motivational and cognitive processes” happening within a person, affecting actions and feelings. Consequently, in different situations, all present characters might be affected by the events but their individual reaction may vary according to their personalities. Characters with appealing personalities may evoke sympathy from the spectator because the spectator might be familiar with the personalities that portray people that the spectator might know of or with himself/ herself or with someone whom the spectator aspires to be (Furniss, 2000). Therefore, the spectator’s ability to engage with the characters is not only determined by the way their personalities are crafted on the screen but such engagement is also one of predominant factors for an animation film’s success.

The Spectator's Engagement with Characters

Studies of relationship between the spectator and characters are often associated with the concept of identification. When a person says that he or she identifies with a character, various meanings can be derived from the statement such as the indication of liking a particular character, or understanding the circumstances that the character is going through. The term “character-identification” is often used by professional film critics when explaining the process of character engagement experienced by the spectator (Carroll, 1990). Carroll, in his work states that the exact term of “identification” is unclear and only acts as a sort of metaphor or a description of the mental state. The term offers no further explanation as to what kind of mental state that the spectator is supposed to be experiencing when being in such circumstances. Instead, most description of character-identification is the mental state of
believing that the spectator is the protagonist when watching a film. Animation films like live-action films, do evoke various emotional experiences associated with on-screen characters. Some of the circumstances in which evocation is triggered are such as the appearance of a likeable character, the similarities of experiences that a character is going through or even the understanding of values, missions as well as objectives of a particular character which the spectator can relate to. In reality, the spectator is able to distinguish himself or herself from the protagonist and is aware of the differences. Furthermore, Carroll argues that emotions experienced by characters are not always similar to the emotions being felt by the spectator. In horror films for example, characters who are unaware of incoming dangers are usually in a positive state of mind while the spectator who is well informed of the incoming danger would feel scared or worried for the characters. According to Carroll, the relationship between the spectator and the protagonist is asymmetrical. Instead of assuming that the spectator automatically or mistakenly imagine being in the physical as well as mental state of the character in a narrative, the emotions being experienced by the spectator usually indicates concern for another person. On the other hand, the emotions being experienced by a particular protagonist often concerns only himself or herself. This is due to the protagonist being in such circumstances which requires himself or herself to make decisions which will affect his or her wellbeing. Therefore, the spectator who shares the understanding of the condition of the protagonist will be concerned for the protagonist and himself or herself. Carroll explains that the emotional state that the spectator displays is sympathy whilst the feelings that the protagonist exhibits by being concerned for himself can be described as egoistic. Rather than imagining the exact mental and physical state of a protagonist, audiences assimilate or understand the viewpoint of the protagonist that is in certain situations. In regards to the concept of character-identification, Murray Smith (1995) too agrees with Carroll’s argument that the spectator does not fully take on the experience of the protagonist. Unlike the concept of identification which regards the spectator as unconsciously believing himself or herself to be the protagonist, Smith argues that the process of engaging with fictional characters can be explained under the cognitive field such as in the form of sympathy. Tobón (2019) defines sympathy as “a pro-attitude towards a person or a character, that is in a favourable disposition concern for her well-being, a desire that things go well for her, a tendency to take her side...”. Although the structure of sympathy by Smith (1995) is conceptualized for analysing character engagement in live-action films, it can also be applied for the same purpose in animation films because of its usefulness in establishing parameters which may explain the spectator’s “interaction with animated characters” (Heath, 2013). The evocation of sympathy by the spectator that can be explained through Smith’s structure of sympathy is a three-level process which includes recognition, alignment and allegiance. The foundation for the process of character engagement; recognition, relates to the construction of characters by acknowledging them through the representation of their image and human agent. The spectator then goes through the process of aligning with the characters when more information is revealed about them. Smith states that alignment is produced by 2 features of narrative which are spatio-temporal attachment and subjective access. Spatio-temporal attachment relates to the way narration follows a particular character and in most films, it is the protagonist while subjective access grants the spectator information regarding the character’s thoughts and emotions. Finally, allegiance relates to the spectator’s moral evaluation of characters based on factors such as their actions. In this level, sympathy with the character may form by how the spectator, “…evaluates them and whether she sides with them” (Tobón, 2019) which results in an emotional response. In addition to the structure of sympathy, Välisalo (2017) discovers 11 more categories of character engagement with one of them being identified as “physical and personality traits” which further emphasises the significance of personality as a factor for evoking sympathy by the spectator. Here, I am referring to the Malay spectator, whose moral values is based on the understanding of Budi and in the next section I will proceed to analyse the two recently-produced Malaysian animation films in order to investigate how the idea of Budi has been integrated into the development of the personality of the protagonists.

Character Analysis

**BoboiBoy (BoBoiBoy: The Movie (2016))**
Produced by Animonsta Studios, the film tells the story about Boboiboy and his friends’ adventure to a mysterious island that contains an ancient power in the form of a spherical robot, Klamkabot. Their main aim is to find their robot friend, Ochobot kidnapped by a group of alien treasure hunters known as Tengkorak. The ending shows Boboiboy and his friends along with their new acquired powers defeating their enemies with Ochobot, who is thought to be dead is revived by Klamkabot’s remaining strength. The narrative structure of this animation film is based on the Manichean moral structure (Smith, 1995) with characters clearly divided into opposing categories of good and bad. This reinforces the protagonist, Boboiboy to be a morally desirable character by conducting himself in accordance to the understanding of Budi. Based on the structure of sympathy, it is easy for the spectator to recognize Boboiboy as a superhero archetype. Being an 11 year old child, there is a hint of naiveté that he exhibits from time to time despite his cheerful, courageous and friendly personality traits. This image is further emphasized with his brightly coloured outfit and high-pitched, child-like voice which remain mostly consistent throughout the narrative. However, he is also portrayed as having a habit of un-intentionally breaking promises. As the spectator follows his story, the spectator goes through the process of aligning with the character by sharing his point of view and position. His naiveté, along with his courage and sense of justice causes him to prioritize justice over his friends, resulting in breaking his promise of a camping trip together. His sadness and remorse by his friends’ cold treatment evokes sympathy from the spectator who understands his standpoint. In the initial part of the film, it has been made clear that Boboiboy is currently living with his grandfather and robot friend, Ochobot, resulting in a sense of loneliness from the lack of parental figures. In addition, the burden of bearing the responsibility of a superhero might further enhance this feeling. Hence, it can be understood that the sense of loyalty that he extends towards his friends is due to his dependency on them for emotional support warranting a cause for sympathy from the spectator. Admitting to his mistakes, Boboiboy shows remorse and attempts to redeem himself by seeking advice from his teacher and by inviting his friends for another trip. His feelings as well as actions indicates his concern for others and his desperation for absolution. Boboiboy’s reliance on his friends is also because his friends are endowed with super powers as well. He relies on their teamwork for a more effective outcome and while being the leader, he demonstrates good leadership quality by acting with authority as well as respect. He also consistently demonstrates loyalty by not giving up the search for his kidnapped friend, Ochobot. As the spectator continues to follow the narrative, it is often revealed that Boboiboy is usually not the first to launch attacks when facing enemies. Instead, he readily fights in situations when the enemies launch the first attack or when he is on a rescue mission. He remains mostly calm and humble in the span of his adventure but cannot control his emotions in desperate situations such as when his friends ostracize him, when he thinks Ochobot is leaving him, when he blames himself for the lack of power to save Ochobot and when Ochobot dies. Nonetheless, he does not overreact and manages to recover his composure for other pressing matters indicating that he practices Budi in moderation. His thoughts and actions adds to the spectator’s positive review of his character as the spectator builds his or her understanding of the character’s internal and external personality traits along with his subjectivity. In terms of allegiance, the spectator would place his or her loyalty by approving or disapproving the character’s actions based on Budi as a moral evaluation. The portrayal of Boboiboy’s personality in a positive view encourages the spectator to sympathize with him as the spectator is “more likely to emotionally engage with characters that are good rather than evil” (Heath, 2013). His personality demonstrates himself as a character who conducts himself based on the Budi complex, where he uses his hati (heart) to consider the feelings of others, his akal (intellect) to decide the actions he should take, bicara (ways of communicating) to speak with good manners, bahasa/ pekerti (moral behaviour) to act appropriately which will eventually contribute to the practical aspect in the form of budaya (daya). Throughout the film, he consistently demonstrates humility, intelligence, politeness and concern for others through his thoughts as well actions, bringing him closer to the status of a Budiman. Consequently, the character’s positive personality along with the Manichean moral structure contributes to the spectator’s evaluation of Boboiboy by observing him as a representation of goodness and therefore automatically supports his happy ending.

**Badrol (Geng: The Adventure Begins (2009))**

The story is about Badrol visiting his grandfather at Kampung Durian Runtuh with his friend Lim for a holiday. Before departing, he sees a news about the disappearance of durians from his grandfather’s
durian orchard, allegedly stolen by ghosts. While staying in the village, they unintentionally embark on an adventure with other village characters that make up the group or “geng” which are; Rajoo, Ros and her two twin brothers; Upin and Ipin. Their adventure unites them with the durian thief; a lost, alien-like creature from another dimension named Oopet and along the way, they encounter the villains who appear to be smugglers. The ending shows the smugglers accidentally entering another dimension in an attempt to escape while the other group manages to return to the village unharmed. In terms of recognition, Badrol is portrayed as a Malay teenager. With his boy-band hairstyle, bright t-shirt and khaki shorts, he gives an impression of a laidback person. His friend, Lim, appears to be more talkative and friendly but is clumsy at times; a stereotypical archetype of a jokester and sidekick. His clumsiness often annoys Badrol and he shows his lack of patience through grumbles and sighs. Throughout the narrative, Badrol’s interaction with Lim demonstrates the lack of admirable qualities in his personality. Instead, his polite behaviour is mostly reserved for older people. With his grandfather, Tok Dalang, he does not raise his voice and speaks gently even during their reunion after a long time apart when Tok Dalang at first forgets who he is and then, mistaken Lim to be Badrol instead. He is also polite when asking for directions and when being helped by others. In this case, he is showing respect to those who he owes Budi (terhutang Budi). As the film attaches the spectator with Badrol, the next level of the structure of sympathy indicates an alignment with his point of view. Although his backstory is not revealed in detail, his consistent habits, speech and actions suggests that he is a selfish person who strongly follows his desires. His seemingly negative habits of acting out of jealousy shows his yearning for others, and especially Lim to see himself as confident as well as courageous. Consequently, this desire indicates the lack of use of his intellect which often leads him into confrontational situations especially with his friend Lim; when Lim is in an advantageous situation or possesses an advantage over himself. This may be due to the fact that Lim is his best friend and thus he behaves more comfortably around Lim although in a negative manner. He acts out or becomes boastful when in such situations for example during when Lim gets a better motorcycle or when Lim praises Badrol’s grandfather for being brave. His habit of getting easily jealous over other people’s advantages blinds himself from using his intellect and instead of a better outcome for everyone, he cares more for the results that are in his favour. At this point, the spectator might be unimpressed by his seemingly fake bravado but is nonetheless entertained by its comedic effect thus would not entirely hate his character but would probably side with other characters with more appealing personality traits when he is behaving negatively. Unlike Boboiboy, this film is designed with characters attributed with various personalities. Among those in the group; Ros is portrayed as a temperamental lady while Upin and Ipin are mischievous children indicating the lack of characters with virtues of a Budiman. In regards to allegiance, Badrol is not an anti-hero nor does he possess qualities of an antagonist. It is common knowledge that teenagers go through psychological problems causing their mood swings as well as irrational behaviours and being one, Badrol is attributed with many flaws which reflects the reality of society. Practically, it is difficult to practice Budi wholeheartedly and Badrol’s personality reflects the practice of Budi in real life; where in the public eyes, he behaves and talks with good mannerism but in his comfort zone, he behaves differently, leaning away from the values of Budi. The allegiance level brings the spectator to side with morally favourable characters and by following Badrol as the protagonist, the spectator may see the changes of Badrol’s actions when the narrative through the Geng’s adventure rebuilds Badrol’s undesirable personality traits by adding morally desirable ones. As one of the older person in the group, although a coward, he tries to act brave and reassures the group that they are not lost. He also participates in the attempt to save his friends when they are in danger which indicates a sense of loyalty in not abandoning his friends. Badrol is a coward but still plays a part in fighting for the survival of the group in dire situations. In doing so, various positive attributes re-describes Badrol as not only responsible, but courageous and smart, who has concern for the wellbeing of others. Smith (1995) argues that there are two types of plot structure defining divisions in a narrative which are the Manichean and “graduated” moral structure. Graduated moral structure considers characters in an ambiguous manner. Instead of being at opposite ends of a division, characters who is morally ambiguous lies in between the range of division or the “grey” area. In this animation film, although the theme and ending reveals a Manichean form, it begins with a “graduated” moral structure with the portrayal of Badrol’s personality as a complex character. The spectator through their understanding of Budi, may response by choosing to follow or not to follow Badrol’s actions as well as the way he conducts himself. Thus, during times when Badrol shows good practice of Budi, the spectator may positively sympathize with him and when he behaves in a manner which
deviates from the virtues of Budi, the spectator may choose to not agree with him. Furthermore, Badrol’s personality is not entirely a negative portrayal but leans towards a more realistic representation of a Malay individual behaving based on the understanding of Budi.

Conclusion

Budi has been re-inscribed through the portrayals of the personalities of Boboiboy and Badrol whom both, appear to be attributed with distinct personalities. Boboiboy is portrayed as having the qualities of a Budiman while Badrol, with many flaws, realistically represents a person from the Malay society. Smith's structure of sympathy suggest that the spectator may sympathize with characters exhibiting moral values and it is easier to do so with Boboiboy. Badrol is a more complex character, portrayed initially with undesirable qualities but in the end, gains the spectator's sympathy through his actions which contribute to the safe return of the group. The evaluating spectator may choose to side with Badrol who is flawed with negative personality traits because with the understanding of Budi, the spectator can selectively choose to exemplify the positive personality traits as this usually leads the protagonist to acquire a good ending. Consequently, the values of Budi instilled in the characters’ personalities is significant in engaging the Malay spectator, being a foundational essence to the Malay moral values.

References


