Strangers in the Land of their Birth: Concepts of Social Integration in Portrayals of the Malay in Contemporary Malaysian Novels in English

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Abstract

This paper interrogates the positioning of MLE writers as strangers in the land of their birth by taking a sociology-based (as opposed to an ideology-based or ethnocentric) approach to the study of how Malays and the Malay world are portrayed in MLE novels. This approach is part of a larger research project aimed at developing a new, sociology-based paradigm for MLE studies.
With their sound knowledge and competences in intercultural psychology and education, graduates of the program will be able to consciously treat the diversity of values in different societies, helping to promote social equity, human rights, social integration and cooperation of different minority and majority groups. Completing the program, students will be prepared to pursue doctoral studies, as well. Strength of program. The program, which is one of the few of its kind in Europe, is strongly committed to interdisciplinary studies with a focus on psychological and educational issues. The first writers of English in Canada were visitors—explorers, travelers, and British officers and their wives—who recorded their impressions of British North America in charts, diaries, journals, and letters. These foundational documents of journeys and settlements presage the documentary tradition in Canadian literature in which geography, history, and arduous voyages of exploration and discovery represent the quest for a myth of origins and for a personal and national identity. Frances Brooke, the wife of a visiting British military chaplain in the conquered French garrison of Quebec, wrote the first published novel with a Canadian setting. It was nevertheless the diversity and quality of the English contribution that were more widely appreciated in Elizabethan England, and later. A lady to whom the title belonged by birth and marriage rather than by convention was Elizabeth Craven (née Berkeley), who included her encounters at the court of Catherine the Great in her adventurous Journey through the Crimea to Constantinople (1789) (D48). Lady Craven (fig. 6) was the first female British tourist to publish her letters at a time when for a number of reasons Russia appeared with increasing frequency in the itineraries of travellers. Two of their number, both Cambridge dons, gained particular renown in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries: Rev. William Coxe’s Travels into Poland, Russia, Sweden and Denmark (fig.