

INTRODUCTION

Recently, there has been an increase in the consumption and production of Japanese comics or manga in Malaysia, to the extent that Malaysians are producing their own homegrown manga titles.

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Acknowledgements:
This research is funded by the Sumitomo Foundation under the grant number 23804004.

RESEARCH

OBJECTIVE

To assert and demonstrate the argument that the depiction of ethnicity in Japanese comics, or manga, is existent, especially when adapted into localised versions.

Dramaturgy of Ethnicity and Diversity in Japanese and Malaysian Manga

METHOD

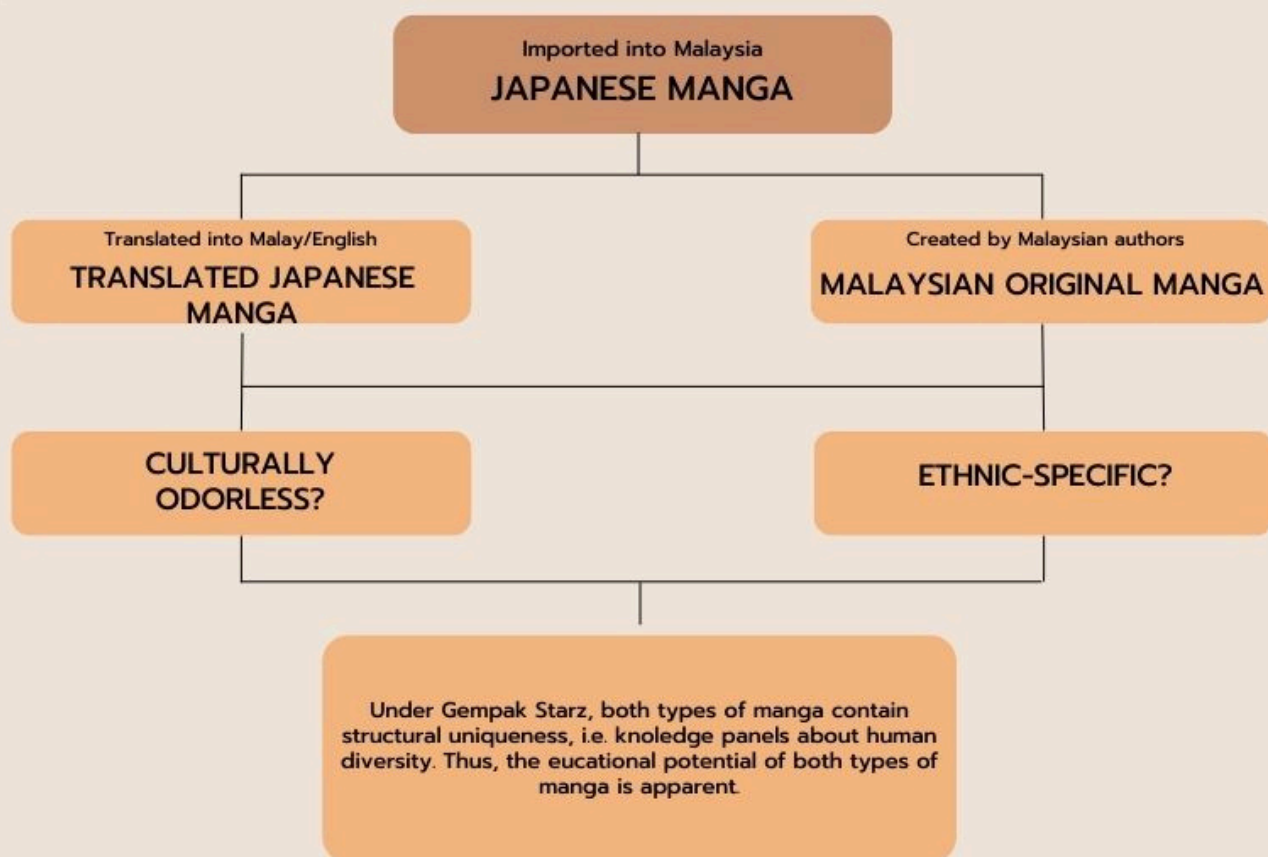
4 Malaysian manga titles were selected for each category. The comparison from the visual, thematic, and structural approaches, as well as educational and content about diversity is presented below.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- What are the visual, thematic, and structural differences between Malaysian manga and Japanese manga?
- Does Malaysian manga express diversity, including but not limited to depictions of ethnicity?
- Is there educational potential in Malaysian manga and how is this demonstrated?

Diversity in Manga

An evolution



FINDINGS

FINDINGS: TABLE 1

Aspect	Japanese Manga	Malaysian Manga
Visual	Contains culturally odorless and culturally specific types.	In some titles, ethnicity is made specific and recognisable.
Thematic	There are moral values and other themes but the reader is supposed to detect them on their own.	Moral values spelt out explicitly.
Structural	Authors' comments.	Authors' comments. Knowledge panels.
Educational	Is not explicitly spelt out as a learning objective. But some titles do have potential to educate on specific topics such as culinary arts, martial arts, social stratification, history, etc. There are specific educational manga, e.g. focusing on topics like statistics/science, etc.	Knowledge panels added specifically for this purpose, perhaps to elevate the status of comics/manga.

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Malaysian manga has also come a long way in being able to depict the daily lives of its people, in a dramaturgical sense. Manga is a great dramaturgical and communication tool that could be used not only in entertainment but also in education.

TABLE 1. Comparison of visual, thematic, structural and educational differences in Japanese and Malaysian manga (Chan, 2021)