

Summary

This doctoral project explores how contemporary Sinophone Malaysian (Mahua) literature represents trauma and reconstructs historical memory. Focusing on novels published after 2000, it examines how writers engage with both historical events and long-term structural inequalities shaped by colonial legacies and postcolonial policies.

Rather than treating trauma as direct testimony, the study approaches it as a literary construction. Informed by Sinophone studies, trauma theory, postmemory, and postcolonial studies, this project conducts close readings of works by writers such as Ng Kim Chew, Chang Kuei-hsing, Li Zishu, and Ho Sok Fong to analyze how different narrative strategies are employed and what kinds of literary landscapes of Mahua literature are produced.

The project also investigates how these narratives challenge dominant national histories, particularly by addressing overlooked colonial violence and the absence of multiethnic perspectives. By situating Mahua literature within both Malaysian and broader Sinophone contexts, this research highlights its role in rethinking history, memory, and cultural identity in a multiethnic society.