

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF TRADITIONAL
MALAY SETTLEMENT: A CASE STUDY OF KG
MORTEN AND KG PARIT SIDANG SEMAN, MELAKA

BY

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A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirement for the
degree of Master of Science (Built Environment)

Kulliyyah of Architecture and Environmental Design
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JUNE 2021

ABSTRACT

The physical characteristics of the traditional Malay settlement is usually linked to the village's environment, where the integration of social and cultural activities can be seen in the daily lives of the communities. However, the modernization of the settlement and rapid urban development around it have slowly diminished the characteristics and changed the physical characteristics of some settlements. Therefore, the objectives of this thesis are, i) to identify the physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlement through the selected case studies in Melaka, ii) to analyses the significance of the components of physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlement that are implemented in the case studies, iii) to propose the conceptual of the traditional Malay settlement based on the physical characteristics analysed in the case studies. This thesis examines the existing layout of two selected case studies in Melaka, namely Kg Morten and Kg Parit Sidang Seman, using an inventory, interview, and questionnaire approach, as well as the use of drone technology. This study considers five physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlements: house compound; house arrangement, distribution, and orientation; density; street network; and proximity. Based on the five components mentioned above, the key findings of this thesis are that both case studies show that the village environment is still preserved as the society and local authorities are concerned about the identity of the traditional Malay settlement. The significance of preserving the physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlements is identified as it improves the permeability and legibility of the settlement while also creating local identity through architectural design, historical and traditional culture of the settlement. In response to the objectives of this study, a conceptual for traditional Malay settlement based on physical characteristics has been created, which can be used as a reference to assist the authority and NGOs in the development of future settlements and the preservation of existing Malay settlements. Furthermore, theoretical studies may provide ideas and knowledge to specific agencies to assist them in planning and preserving the city's Malay identity. As a result of the exploration of the physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlement, this study has made an important contribution to the body of knowledge.

مُلَخَّصُ البَحْثِ

ترتبط الخصائص الفيزيائية للموطن الملايوي التقليدي عادةً ببيئة القرية، حيث يمكن رؤية الأنشطة الاجتماعية والثقافية المتكاملة في الحياة اليومية لمجتمع القرية. ومع ذلك، إن التطور الحضري الحديث السريع للمستوطنة الملايوية حول القرى قد غير ببطء الخصائص الفيزيائية لبعض المستوطنات الماليزية، وقلل خصائصها. ولهذا؛ فإن أهداف هذه الأطروحة هي: (1) تحديد الخصائص الفيزيائية للمستوطنة الملايوية التقليدية من خلال دراسات الحالة المختارة في ملاكا. (2) تحليل أهمية مكونات الخصائص الفيزيائية والمفاهيم الملايوية التقليدية التي يتم تنفيذها في دراسة الحالة. (3) اقتراح مفهوم المستوطنة الماليزية التقليدية بناءً على الخصائص الفيزيائية التي تم تحليلها في دراسة الحالة. تبحث هذه الأطروحة في التخطيط الحالي لدراسة حالتين مختارتين في ملاكا وهما قريتي: ، وذلك باستخدام منهج المسح، Kg Parit Sidang Seman ، وقرية باريت سيدنج سيمن Kg Morten مورتن والمقابلة، والاستبيان، بالإضافة إلى استخدام تكنولوجيا الطائرات بدون طيار. تتناول هذه الدراسة خمس خصائص مادية لمستوطنات الملايو التقليدية: تجمع المنازل، وترتيب البيوت، وتوزيعها، وكثافتها، وشبكة الطرق والشوارع والقرب. بناءً على المكونات الخمسة المذكورة أعلاه، فإن النتائج الرئيسية لهذه الأطروحة هي أن كلا الدراستين تظهران أن بيئة القرية ماتزال محافظة حيث إن المجتمع والسلطات المحلية تهتم بهوية الاستيطان الملايوي التقليدي. ويتم تحديد أهمية الحفاظ على الخصائص المادية للمستوطنات الملايوية التقليدية؛ لأنها تحسن نفاذية وإمكانية وضوح خصائص المستوطنة؛ بينما تخلق أيضاً هوية محلية من خلال التصميم المعماري والثقافة التاريخية والتقليدية للمستوطنة، استجابةً لأهداف هذه الدراسة، تم إنشاء تصور للتوطن الماليزي التقليدي على أساس الخصائص المادية، والذي يمكن استخدامه بوصفه مرجعاً لمساعدة السلطات والمنظمات غير الحكومية في تطوير المستوطنات مستقبلاً والحفاظ على المستوطنات الملايوية القائمة. وعلاوة على ذلك، ربما توفر الدراسات النظرية الأفكار والمعرفة للمنظمات غير الحكومية لمساعدتها في التخطيط والحفاظ على الهوية الملايوية في المدن. نتيجة لاستكشاف الخصائص الفيزيائية للاستيطان الملايوي التقليدي، هذه الدراسة عملت على تقديم مساهمة مهمة في البناء المعرفي.

APPROVAL PAGE

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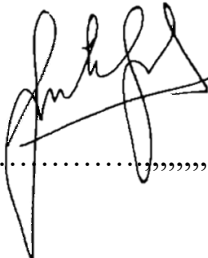
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DECLARATION

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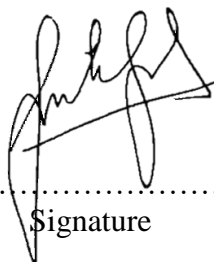
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*This thesis is dedicated to my parents and families for laying the foundation of what I
turned out to be in life.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All glory is due to Allah, the Almighty, whose Grace and Mercies have been with me throughout the duration of my study. Although, it has been tasking, His Mercies and Blessings on me ease the herculean task of completing this thesis. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contribute to the completion of this thesis.

I am most indebted to my supervisor, Asst. Prof. Dr. Illyani Ibrahim, for having confidence in me, enduring disposition, kindness, promptitude, thoroughness and friendship have facilitated the successful completion of my work. I put on record and appreciate her detailed comments, useful suggestions and queries which helped me a great deal. Despite her commitments, she took time to listen and attend to me whenever requested. The moral support she extended to me is in no doubt a boost that helped in building and writing the draft of this research work. I am also grateful to my co-supervisor, Prof. Dato' TPr. Dr. Alias Abdullah, whose support and cooperation contributed to the outcome of this thesis. Not to forget Assoc. Prof. Dr Nor Zalina Harun for helping me in brainstorming the research significance and output of this thesis.

I am also indebted to the MPKK Kg Morten and Kg Parit Sidang Seman, especially to the chief village and the villagers for the time allowed, information given and support to see the research through. Their willingness to give their time so generously has been very much appreciated. Meeting them gives me a chance to give me best picture about the study areas. Special credits to all the residents those are willing to give cooperation to do my questionnaire. Not to forget the help from Integrated GeoPlanning Services for helping me in collecting data in every study area.

Lastly, my gratitude goes to my beloved parent and supportive siblings; for their prayers, understanding and endurance while away. For everything that have given, I thank you my parents and sibling for always been there since day one. I would like to acknowledge my friends directly or indirectly involved throughout this study was greatly appreciated, for the guidance and immense knowledge, they gave me the greatest support. I thank you and I thank Allah for allowing your paths to cross mine.

Once again, we glorify Allah for His endless mercy on us one of which is enabling us to successfully round off the efforts of writing this thesis. Alhamdulillah.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the introduction of the awareness on the preservation of the Malay identity in the current situation in Malaysia. This chapter also discusses on the physical characteristics of the traditional Malay settlement in Melaka and the background of the study. Followed by the explanation on the problem statement, as well as the theoretical framework of this thesis. The next section formulated the research questions and objectives to achieve the aim of this thesis. Further section describes the scopes of this thesis which fills the gap in the research literature on the physical characteristics of the traditional Malay settlement. The last section affirmed the significance of this study and concludes this chapter.

1.2 BACKGROUND

The study on the settlement characteristics normally cannot escape from the historical study of a specific area, which leads to the creation of the identity of the place. Bunnell (2010) in his research found that the Malay identity was globally acknowledged before the Malay homeland became independent political territories, such as Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. The crisis on the 'identity of Malaysia' is due to the conservative sentiments made by various ethnics living in Malaysia. Each of the ethnic earnestly strives to promote their own identity through both tangible and intangible heritage and culture (Nasuruddin, 2019). Nasuruddin (2019) also agreed that the perpetuation of multiple communal identities will negate the efforts towards achieving a national identity. Moreover, the unique identity of Malaysia is more well represented

in the village environment. This is because the daily lives of the communities are incorporating the social and cultural activities of the local citizens. Lian and Shamsul (2001), argued that the concept of '*kampung*' is taken for granted by Malaysians while agreed that it is undoubtedly influenced by the manifestation of orientalism in the British era. Since the Independence of Malaysia in 1957, the Malays had been indoctrinated into the assumptions that the civil services and agriculture are naturally meant for the Malays. This is the reason why the Malays are commonly can be seen to live predominantly in the *kampung* area (Watson, 1996).

The division of areas according to ethnicity introduced by the British previously has led to the formation of the identity in certain settlement according to the ethnicity. The people also embodying their ethnics characteristics to form the settlement identity. The identity in the settlement can be properly described through the understanding and in-depth study on the settlement form. Various essential elements were carefully identified through different scopes of studies in the previous research such as Hassan, Harun, & Tambi (2019); Noor, Ibrahim, Abdullah, & Aiman Abdullah (2020); Samsudin (2014) that contribute in expanding new knowledge in the future. In the current situation in Malaysia, the conscious awareness of preserving the Malay identity in a place keeps increasing throughout the period as we can find more research papers has been made related to various aspects of Malay such as in architecture (Jaffar & Kassim, 2020; Shireen, Kassim, Syala, & Latif, 2020), heritage (Abdul Aziz, 2018; Kamarul Bahrain Shuib & Habsah Hashim, 2018; Samsudin, Rosley, Raja Shahminan, & Mohamad, 2018), social and cultural (Hassan et al., 2019; Jaffar & Harun, 2019; Jaffar, Harun, & Mansor, 2019; Roslan Talib & Mzailan Sulieman, 2012). However, based on that, it shows that there is a lack of information and documentation in the current scenario of preserving the physical characteristics of Malay traditional settlement. Thus, this research focuses on the physical characteristics of the traditional

Malay settlement. This is because the formation of the Malay settlement indirectly creates sense of welcoming, belonging and place (Gomez, 2004; Kadir & Jamaludin, 2013; Melasutra Md Dali, Safiah Mohammad Yusuf, 2011). However, the modernization of the settlement has diminishing the characteristics of the Malay settlement, and also altering the functions of the physical elements in the settlements such as the changes of the façade of houses, the development of high rise and the separation zone of houses between rich and poor. Previous studies on the physical characteristics of the Malay settlement can be found being carried out (Ismail & Ariffin, 2015; Jaffar, Harun, & Mansor, 2019; Samsudin & Idid, 2015). However, there is still improper concept of Malay settlement being implement in new development. Therefore, to preserve the identity and characteristics of traditional Malay settlement, this research will identify the physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlement and formulate the conceptual of the traditional Malay settlement in Malaysia.

1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The transformation of rural areas into urban developments is destroying the heritage value and traditional character that has evolved over a long time (Kamarul Bahrain Shuib & Habsah Hashim, 2018). The modernization of an area has severely impacted the historic buildings and progressively diminished the historical identity of the city (Ertan & Eğercioğlu, 2016; Raja Norashekin Raja Othman, et.al, 2013). Although there is a continuing research on the physical characteristics of the Malay settlement, the research evidences show that the effort lies more on the documentation of architectural attributes of the historical buildings (Anuar Alias, Azlan Shah Ali, & Wai, 2011; Roslan Talib & Mzailan Sulieman, 2012). Very feeble efforts were demonstrated on the conceptual of the traditional Malay settlement characteristics that contributes to the lack

of awareness in preserving the culture (Nur Izzati Mohd Rodzi, Saniah Ahmad Zaki, & Syed Mohd Hassan Syed Subli, 2013; Wolf, 2016).

Previous researchers have carried out the research on various scopes of characteristics of the Malay houses, such as the characteristics of Malay traditional houses (Pakhriazad Hassan Zaki, Mohd Zaki Hamzah, Mohd Hasmadi Ismail, Khairil Wahidin, & Hazandy Abd Hamid, 2010), difference of the characteristics of traditional and modern housing (Roslan Talib & Mzailan Sulieman, 2012), and factors of the design of the traditional houses (Noor Hayati Ismail, Shahrul Kamil Yunus, & Mastor Surat, 2016). Apart from that, several researchers have studied on the settlement pattern where the study on settlement pattern somehow effect the physical characteristics of the settlement. For example, the study on the pattern of Indonesian migration on Malay land (Tunku Shamsul Bahrin, 1967), pattern of space in historical city (Nor Zalina Harun, Mazlina Mansor, & Ismail Said, 2013), and the plant distribution pattern (Hazlinda Abd Aziz & Mohd Hisyam Rasidi, 2013). Those studies also significance with the focus of this thesis which is identifying the physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlement. Therefore, this helps in demonstrating the conceptual of the traditional Malay settlement at the end of this thesis.

1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlement? Are there any of the physical characteristics found in the Malay traditional settlement in the case study selected?
2. How the components of physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlement influence the formation of the settlement in the case study?
3. How to formulate the conceptual of the traditional Malay settlement through the physical characteristic?

1.5 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The aim of the objectives of this thesis is to carefully construct a conceptual of the traditional Malay settlement by identifying and analyzing the physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlement in each study area. Thus, the objectives were formulated as follows;

1. To identify the physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlement through the selected case studies in Melaka.
2. To analyse the significance of the components of physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlement that are implemented in the case studies.
3. To propose the conceptual of the traditional Malay settlement based on the physical characteristics analysed in the case studies.

1.6 SCOPE OF STUDY

This research involves identifying and analyzing the physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlement in the selected settlements in Melaka which are Kg Morten and Kg Parit Sidang Seman. Malay is defined as a person who practices the Islam, speaks the Malay language frequently, and follows Malay customs (Timothy P. Barnard, 2014). While a settlement is defined as a populated area that includes structures for working and living in, roads and streets to travel, as well as a few housing units called hamlets or large clusters of buildings called urban cities (Samuel & Okoampa, 2011). The term of traditional Malay settlement in this thesis is define by a village, either in rural or urban area that are inhabited by at least three generations of Malays population and the community should still preserve the inclusiveness of traditional characteristics in their social, physical and environment aspects such as the arrangement of the physical components of the settlement which has residential, commercial and the religious facilities at the walkable distance. The settlements are

carefully selected based on the Malay heritage features and characteristics which are still exist in that area such as the main elements of settlement like mosque, residential and schools, as well as through the identity of the social activities conducted annually in the case studies by referring to the Melaka State Structure Plan 2035. The research is focuses on five components that influence the formation of traditional Malay settlement, namely the 1) house compound, 2) house arrangement, distribution and orientation, 3) density, 4) street (size/ hierarchy) and 5) location (proximity/ connectedness) of the neighborhood building. The analysis of physical characteristics from these components includes the relationship between the zonings of the areas according to their functional characteristics. For instance, the residence (including chief office), religious buildings (mosque, *surau* and cemetery), markets, education (madrrasah, kindergarten, and school), streets and open spaces.

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

The significance of this research is to formulate the conceptual of the traditional Malay settlement through the study on physical characteristics of the traditional Malay settlement. This is in the hope that it can properly guide the authority and NGO's in implementing the conceptual of the traditional settlement constructed by this study into the development of the future settlements and preservation of the existing Malay settlements. Besides, the theoretical studies of the physical characteristics of the settlement can give some ideas and valuable information to certain agencies to facilitate them in planning and preserving our own identity of the city.

1.8 SUMMARY

This chapter has presented and discussed the background of the study. It explained the needs and importance of the study on physical characteristics of the traditional Malay

settlement in formulating of the conceptual of the traditional Malay settlement. This was followed by the body of literature on the theoretical framework of this study. This chapter also presented the research questions and its objectives that are to be achieved in this study. At the end of this chapter, the significance of the study is presented, which highlights how this study addresses the ideas in preserving identity of the traditional Malay settlement in future development through the study on the physical characteristics of traditional Malay settlement.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into four sections that discuss and explain the theoretical study that helps to increase the understanding on the scope of this research. The first section elaborates on the definition of traditional settlement according to the context of this research. This is followed by the overview on the traditional settlements in a broad and local aspect that comprise of several reference case studies in the Southeast Asia countries including Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Indonesia as well as the influence of cultural heritage of traditional settlement. The third section explains details on the traditional Malay settlement that comprises of the evolution, spatial planning of traditional Malay settlement and the spatial structure of traditional Malay houses. The next section elaborates the physical characteristics of the traditional Malay settlement concentrating on the five components namely the house compound, building distribution and orientation, density, street and the proximity of the neighborhood building. Last but not least, the last section summarizes the theoretical study of the chapter.

2.2 TRADITIONAL SETTLEMENT

The term "settlement" refers to a populated area, which includes buildings to live or use, the paths and streets to travel, and also a few dwelling units called hamlets or big cluster of buildings called urban cities (Samuel & Okoampa, 2011). The PLANMalaysia (2030), in National Rural Physical Planning Plan (NRPP 2030) has defined rural / settlement into three stages that are small town, Rural Growth Center

(RGC) and village. The definition of rural itself comprises all types of village settlements, inhabited by less than 10,000 populations and rich in natural resources with agricultural characteristics. On the other hand, small town is defined by a small settlement equipped with town characteristics and comprises of small scale commercial activities and public facilities. Meanwhile, a village is a traditional settlement in a rural area with highly traditional characteristics in terms of socio-cultural and physical aspects (PLANMalaysia, 2030). It is often referring to a settlement located in a countryside with paddy fields, fruit orchards, rustic villages, forests, river banks and coastal plains. Kamarul Bahrain Shuib & Habsah Hashim (2018) defined the terms of traditional settlement as a village that is inhabited for more than 50 years, sharing the same religion and customs. The term of traditional settlement in this thesis is defined as ‘a village that is inhabited by at least three generations and still preserving the inclusiveness of traditional characteristics in their social, physical and environment aspects’.

2.2.1 Traditional Settlement in Southeast Asian Countries

Every country has its own uniqueness that creates the identity of the country by their historical and cultural identity that are shown through its original or traditional settlements. Many studies have been conducted on various aspects of traditional settlements in Southeast Asian countries, including architecture, social and lifestyle, economics, tourism, and other topics related to traditional settlements (Cambodian Cultural Village, 2019; Imran, 2007; Jeffrey, 2014; Nguyen, 2013; Zomi, 2016; Zuliskandar, 2014). This section presents the characteristics of traditional settlement in several reference studies in the Southeast Asia countries including Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, and Indonesia.

Table 2.1 Traditional settlement in Southeast Asia country

Country	Description	Source
Cambodia	Types of traditional village are characterized according to the tribes that include Chinese, Kroeung, Kola, Khmer, Cham, and Phnornng village	(Cambodian Cultural Village, 2019)
	Villages are covered by the scenery of houses and paddy field along the road	(Umi, n.d.)
	The distribution of houses was clustered together and dispersed in a linear pattern along the road, river, stream, levee or the base of a hill. It usually built on stilts in rectangular shapes with gabled roofs and built above the ground	(Nguyen, 2013; Umi, n.d.)
Laos	The villages were scattered, and cut-off from facilities. The location of villages at the valley areas makes it easier for the villagers to cultivate paddy rice around the villages. Example: Lao Village. The traditional houses in Laos were built by wood or bamboo, above the ground with steep thatched roofs	(Jeffrey, 2014)
Myanmar	3 types of traditional villages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gated village that is surrounded by palisades, fences, gate and guard • Village without a regular plan, without fences and is unoccupied with public buildings but often has a monastery (a building or buildings occupied by a community of monks living under religious vows) outside the village. There are fields within a walking distance, as well as trees and fruit crops in the house compound. • Villages built along the road or waterways. The type of houses in this traditional village was built from wood or bamboo with thatched roofs made from broad-leafed grass or palm fronds. 	(Jeffrey, 2014; Ma, 2019; San, 2017)
	Most villages have farms, coconut trees in the house compound, community pond, monastery, cemetery and school while health facilities are usually located in the nearest town. The main income for villagers in traditional villages is mainly agriculture and aquaculture based	(Jeffrey, 2014; San, 2017; Win, 2015)
	The roads are narrow, the size of the roads is only fit for the motorbike and pathway	(Zomi, 2016).