IDENTITIES IN EXILE Re-membering Identities, Re-membering the Nation in Laksmi Pamuntjak’s Amba

By: Ahmad, SN [Ahmad, Siti Nuraishah]
View Web of Science ResearchersID and ORCID

KRTIKAKULTURA
Issue: 33-34 Pages: 65-87
Published: Aug-SEP 2013
Document Type: Article

Abstract
Laksmi Pamuntjak’s first novel, Amba (2012) is one of several contemporary Indonesian novels by the post-1965 generation that breaks the silence on the violent suppression of the Indonesian left in the mid-1960s. Like other recent creative responses and initiatives by Indonesian artists and civil society, Amba represents the “postmemory” of the 1965-66 events. This paper examines the modes of internal exile triggered by 1965 as portrayed in three characters in Amba: how exile disrupts and dislays identity formation across different generations of Indonesians: home, exiled, and “homeless” identities. The history of Malaysian exile post-1965 is also crucial to the novel’s representation of people whose identities were displaced, ruptured, or in limbo as a result of political violence. The depiction of internal exile in Amba is examined based on work done by a scholar on Indonesian exile narratives (Hill, Hearman) and concepts of transcultural trauma (Schwab) and postmemory (Hirsth). This paper then discusses the various acts of “re-membering” to recover a coherent sense of self and of the nation depicted in Amba, such as through literal and figurative journeys, re-establishing kinship ties, narrating personal memories of the traumatic past, and the role of art in revealing suppressed memories of the 1965 event.

Keywords
Author Keywords: contemporary Indonesian fiction, exile in fiction, Indonesia 1965-66, Laksmi Pamuntjak, literature and memory, literature and postmemory

Author Information
Reprint Address: Ahmad, SN (reprint author)
Int Islamic Univ Malaysia, Dept English Language & Literature, Literature, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Addresses:
[1] Int Islamic Univ Malaysia, Dept English Language & Literature, Literature, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
E-mail Address: aishah@iium.edu.my

Publisher
ATENEO DE MANILA UNIV, SCH HUMANITIES, DEPT ENGLISH, LOYOLA HEIGHTS, QUEZON CITY, 1104, PHILIPPINES

Categories / Classification
Research Areas: Linguistics, Literature
Web of Science Categories: Language & Linguistics, Literature

See more data fields

Cited References: 30
Showing 30 of 30 View All in Cited References page

1. Review: Voices from the Unheard
By: Allen, Pamela.
Inside Indonesia Volume: 114 Published: Oct-Dec 2013
Accessed 6 June 2017
URL: https://www.insideindonesia.org/review/voices-from-the-unheard-2

2. A Global History of Exile in Asia, c. 1700-1900
By: Andersen, Clare.
Exile in Colonial Asia: Kings, Convicts, Commemoration Pages: 20-47 Published: 2016
Publisher: U of Hawai

3. Title: [not available]
By: [Anonymous].

Times Cited: 1

Times Cited: 3

Times Cited: 2
4. Notice regarding Select Festival Program Changes
By: [Anonymous].
Ubud Writers and Readers' Festival. Published: 23 Oct. 2015
Accessed 31 May 2017
URL: http://www.ubudwritersfestival.com/notices-regarding-select-festival-program-changes

Times Cited: 1

5. Living with the spectre of the past: traumatic experiences among wives of former political prisoners of the 1965 event in Indonesia
By: Budiswara.
Contestations of memory in South East Asia. Pages: 270-81. Published: 2012
Publisher: NUS Press, Singapore

Times Cited: 3

6. Why I Wrote a Novel about Indonesian Political Exiles
By: Chuden, Leila.
MARGAS AM WRIT WORK. Published: 2015
Accessed 7 Apr. 2017
URL: http://aaww.org/why-i-wrote-leila-chuden/

Times Cited: 1

By: Cribb, R

Times Cited: 45

8. THE USES OF MEMOIRS AND ORAL HISTORY WORKS IN RESEARCHING THE 1965-1966 POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN INDONESIA
By: Hearman, Vanessa
International Journal of Asia Pacific Studies. Volume: 5 Issue: 2 Pages: 21-42. Published: Jul 2009

Times Cited: 12

9. The last men in Havana: Indonesian exiles in Cuba
By: Hearman, Vanessa.

Times Cited: 11

10. Under Duress: Suppressing and Recovering Memories of the Indonesian Sixties
By: Hearman, Vanessa.
Social Transformations. Volume: 1 Issue: 1 Pages: 5-25. Published: 2013

Times Cited: 2

11. Title: [not available]
By: Heryanto, Ariel.
State Terrorism and Political Identity in Indonesia: Fatally belonging. Published: 2006
Publisher: Routledge, London

Times Cited: 70

12. Indonesian exiles: Crossing cultural, political and religious borders
By: Hill, David; Dragojlovic, Ana.

Times Cited: 3

13. Indonesian Political Exiles in the USSR
By: Hill, David T.

Times Cited: 6

14. Writing Lives in Exile: Autobiographies of the Indonesian Left Abroad
By: Hill, David T.
Publisher: U of Hawai'i P

Times Cited: 3

15. Indonesia's exiled Left as the Cold Warthaws
By: Hill, David T.
RIMA. Volume: 44 Issue: 1 Pages: 21-52. Published: 2010

Times Cited: 10

16. Knowing Indonesia from Afar: Indonesian Exiles and Australian Academics
By: Hill, David T.
17 BIENN C AS STUD A. Published: 2008
Accessed 7 Apr. 2017

Times Cited: 4

17. Title: [not available]
By: Hersch, Marianne.
The Generation of Postmemory: Writing and Visual Culture after the Holocaust. Published: 2012
Publisher: Columbia University Press, New York

Times Cited: 407
18. Dadang Christanto: Witnesses from Indonesia
   By: Ingham, Jue.
   INT PEOPLES TRIBUNAL. Published: 17 June 2016
   Accessed: 30 May 2017
   Publisher: International People’s Tribunal 1965

19. Exile, Colonial Space, and Deterritorialized People in Eastern Indonesian History
   By: Kaartinem, Timo.
   Exile in Colonial Asia: Kings, Convicts, Commemoration: Pages: 138-164 Published: 2016
   Publisher: U of Hawai’i P

20. Documentory provides different angle on the 1965 tragedy
   By: Kisman, Ika.
   The Jakarta Post. Published: 19 Mar. 2016
   Accessed: 30 May 2017
   URL: https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2016/03/19/documentory-provides-different-angle-1965-tragedy.html

21. Memory Studies and Human Rights in Indonesia
   By: McGregors, Katharine E.
   ASIAN STUDIES REVIEW Volume: 37 Issue: 3 Special Issue: SI Pages: 350-361 Published: SEP 1 2013

22. Title:[not available]
   By: Pamuntjak, Laksma.
   Amba: Sebuah Novel [A Novel] Published: 2012
   Publisher: Gramedia

23. Title:[not available]
   By: Pamuntjak, Laksma.
   Interview By Linda Christanty Published: 15 Apr. 2015
   Accessed: 30 May 2017
   URL: http://laksmipamuntjak.com/press/you-tube

24. Pameran Seni Tentang Wiji Thukul di Yogyakarta dibubarkan Massa Ormas
   By: Permana, Sukma Indah.
   Detik News. Published: 8 May 2017
   Accessed: 31 May 2017

25. Title:[not available]
   By: Schwab, G. M.
   Haunting Legacies: Violent Histories and Transgenerational Trauma Published: 2010

26. Blessings from Buru
   By: Setiawan, Ken.
   Pulang Art Project. Published: 7 June 2015
   Accessed: 30 May 2017
   URL: http://pulangartproject.blog.com/2015/06/07/blessing-from-buru-by-ken-setiawan

27. Molucans in the Netherlands: From Exile to Migrant
   By: Stelken, Fidus.
   RIMA Review of Indonesian and Malaysian Affairs Volume: 44 Issue: 1 Pages: 143-62 Published: 2010

28. Indonesia threatens to shut down Bali's international writers festival
   By: Topfield, Jewel.
   The Sydney Morning Herald. Published: 24 Oct. 2015
   Accessed: 31 May 2017

29. Art and Human Rights: Contemporary Asian Contexts
   By: Turner, C, Webb, J.
   ART AND HUMAN RIGHTS: CONTEMPORARY ASIAN CONTEXTS Book Series. Rethinking Arts Histories Pages: 1-200 Published: 2016
   Publisher: MANCHESTER UNIV PRESS, OXFORD ROAD, MANCHESTER M13 9PL, ENGLAND

30. Internal exile, exile and return: a gendered view
   By: Zarzosa, H.

Showing 30 of 30 View all in Cited References page