

Glory of Poem Diraja Melayu Perak Johor in Contemporary Era

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Abstract

Poetry is no longer an option as a writing platform. Such a pattern of authorship began to weaken as modern literature developed. Whereas, from the 6th to the end of the 19th century, Poem was one of the masterpieces of palace writers. The pattern of authorship in this era is praise and narration regarding the sultan in His time. The presence of Western powers brought together a pattern of authorship in various forms and genres; the royal class was no longer becoming an idea in writing. Poems narrated by His Royal Highness Tengku Ampuan Besar Pahang (1953) is the last record of Royal's history. However, there were two such works emerged in this contemporary era, Sultan Azlan Shah Prince of the People Poem (2009) by Mohd Ibrahim bin Said and His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem (2018) by Maskiah Masrom. Both texts of the Royal Poems are used as samples of the study. The results found that both authors made the king the idea of writing. A comparative method was applied to examine the authorship of both writers in presenting the idea of recording Royal history in the contemporary era. Intrinsically study methods on study samples were also used. The findings found that authorship is similar by demonstrating the success achieved by the sultans in their respective fields. The results proved that royal poetry is still relevant in elevating and glorifying a king even in the modern era. The position of modern authors outside the court does not prevent them from producing royal poetry.

Keywords: literary criticism; comparative study; authorship; royal poetry; contemporary

Introduction

Traditional Malay poetry can be classified into three categories. First, historical poems that describe short events. Second, the poem makes the palace the focus of storytelling. Third, it is themed on a personal story or a person's character. The second category of Poem fully focuses on the narration of praises for the greatness of the palace construction, the king, dignitaries, and even the city-state. Usually, such a work was written by the king himself, the

king's chiefs, or officials. [Rahman Kaeh \(1981\)](#) explained that most of the palace literature was written by poets who were called by the king to record everything that happened around their palace. In this contemporary era, in which the writer has neither relationship with the palace, nor a relative of the Royal family and does not even have access to the palace, two artists who are able to document the story of the greatness of the palace's construction and praise for the king was born. Whereas, both writers are from the majority and educators. Sultan Azlan Shah the Prince of the People Poem by a writer from Perak. His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem, written by a writer from Johor. Two works of historical poetry that are categorized as Poem focused on the palace as the storytelling to praise the king as classified by [Hookyas \(Mohd Yusuf, 1991\)](#).

Two works were created in the contemporary era. *Sultan Azlan Shah, the Prince of the People Poem* which was published by [Ibrahim \(2009\)](#). Nine years later, *His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem* appeared, produced by [Maskiah \(2018\)](#). They are neither from the royal family nor have a close relationship with the royal family. On the other hand, these two writers are the majority. They are just ordinary people, a teacher. This situation does not allow them to approach the palace to obtain information about the sultans of their respective states who are the subjects of narration in their works. However, both writers can express, portray, and describe their respective sultans in the scope or criteria of success in their authorship ideas.

2. Literature Review

There are several studies done in the Royal poetry genre. The text of *Tawarikh Zainal Abidin the Third Poem* studied by [Mohd Yusuf \(1991\)](#). Muhammad Yusuf Hashim used three poetry texts related to the King of Terengganu, Sultan Zainal Abidin. The three texts are History of Terengganu Darul Iman, *Tawarikh Zainal Abidin the Third Poem*, and Text X. He organizes and analyzes three traditional Malay texts of Poem which have a historical pattern relating to the state of Terengganu. These three texts are the basis for critical and in-depth research regarding the methods and approaches used by past Malay writers in writing the societal history in which they live. This study found that historical facts were used by the author, Tengku Dalam Khaltum.

Sultan Almarhum Baginda Sultan Abu Bakar in Johor Poem was studied by [Noriah \(2001\)](#) and was written by Na Tian Piet. This study focused on the text's external and internal. The external includes author, authorship, and dating. Besides, Noriah Mohamed also compares the Almarhum Baginda Sultan Abu Bakar in Johor Poem by Na Tian Piet with the Sultan Abu Bakar Poem, a study of a traveler's work from Pahang. The comparison is made to prove that the sultan is the focus of the writing of these two writers because of His Majesty's attitude, which was very charming.

Structural and Cultural Value Analysis of the History-Themed Poem: *Sultan Mahmud in Lingga Poem, Banjarmasin War Poem, and Raja Siak Poem* by [Nikmah et al. \(2001\)](#). These researchers took three poetry texts as material for analysis, which are *Sultan Mahmud in Lingga Poem, Perang Banjarmasin Poem, and Raja Siak Poem*. This study is focused on the internal

text or story structure such as theme, message, characterization, setting, and cultural values. Structural analysis is done as a basis for identifying the cultural values in the texts. Characterization and setting revealed the complete history-themed poem. The results identified the cultural values in those texts are the relationship between humans and God and the relationship between humans and society.

A study by [Jelani \(2015\)](#) discusses the strength and position of *Tawarikh of Zainal Abidin the Third Poem* as a magnum opus. Accordingly, indeed this poem is worthy of being a Masterpiece.

In short, this article would like to discuss two new poems using the comparative methodology which published in 2009 and 2018, which are *Sultan Azlan Shah, Prince of the People Poem*, and *His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem* respectively. Thus, this is the gap that needs to be filled. This article aimed to compare both poetry texts about the poet's description, glorification, and praise for the king of their respective states.

3. Methodology

A qualitative approach was used in this study. This approach was chosen because the analysis used a repeated content study of the two texts. Careful reading was done to understand the delivery of ideas or stories from these texts. The reading of *Sultan Azlan Shah, Prince of the People Poem*, and *His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem* was carried out repeatedly and meticulously to obtain information regarding the core or idea. Content analysis was used to obtain the writing idea regarding the authorship of both writers in describing and glorifying the kings of their respective states. Information or data obtained was collected to be analyzed through the comparative study. This analysis was done to compare the idea of authorship used by the two authors to glorify the Royal class in their works.

4. Results and Discussion

Sultan Azlan Shah, Prince of the People Poem, and *His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem* were two works of Royal poetry produced in the contemporary era. Glorification and respect for their king and sultan become the idea of storytelling. The analysis found that both authors dignified their respective kings and sultans by outlining the success achieved by their kings in their respective fields.

4.1 The success of Sultan Azlan Shah

Success can be interpreted as victory and progress that had been achieved. The victory or progress achieved is not only for one's own benefit but also to be enjoyed together. In this context, the success achieved by the two rulers had been documented by the writer in the contemporary poetry discussed. Based on the text of *Sultan Azlan Shah, Prince of the People Poem*, His success in sports and education became an idea of the poem. His Majesty's success in these two fields was raised by the writer to praise and glorify his king.

A Johor writer, Maskiah Masrom, also highlights the theme of success in her text, *His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem*. Sultan Ibrahim's economic success became the material of the writer's documentation. His success is documented by the writer from two aspects. First, His Majesty's success in developing the Mersing district. Second, His success in constructing the Flinstone Palace. Mersing was chosen by His Majesty to be developed because of its location and natural attractions. Mersing can thrive if it is used as a tourist location. Thus, Sultan Ibrahim's success which the author elaborates in this poem refers to His success in developing Mersing. Mersing, a marginalized district, has become a tourist location. Additionally, His Majesty built Flinstone Palace in Mersing as an additional tourist attraction.

Sultan Azlan Shah, the ruler of Perak is described as a successful and outstanding individual. His Majesty's excellence is not limited to education but also sports. According to [Mohd Safar \(1994\)](#) "...His Majesty the Yang Dipertuan Agong, Sultan Azlan Shah has an excellent record in sports and education in his youth". He is one of the active students who is getting involved in school activities, especially the co-curricular, particularly in sports. His Majesty succeeds in sports such as hockey, athletics, and running. This situation has placed him as the teacher's favorite. Even though he is of royal blood, he is humble. He worked hard to ensure success not only in sports that He was interested in but also in His studies. For Him, the success achieved is not only for his benefit but for the educational institution as well. He creates success for shared glory.

All teachers love Raja Azlan,
Royal blood, progressing in his studies,
He likes sports,
Involve in all the co-curricular activities,

Academically excellent,
Also in sports,
Like a bright ray of light,
The pride of all.

Increasing scores in each test,
Keep progressing in sports,
Represent the school in matches,
Always win the competition. (Translated from Sultan Azlan Shah Prince of The People Poem R186, 187 & 188).

Sultan Azlan Shah's success in sports in the poem is supported by the text of the figures of Batu Gajah, Perak. This text stated:

His Majesty began schooling at the Malay School (now Toh Indera Wangsa Ahmad School, Batu Gajah). His Majesty then continued his studies at the Government English School, Batu Gajah (now known as the Sultan Yusuf School, Batu Gajah). His Majesty's presence at the school is a source of pride because of His excellence in education and sports. He and His schoolmates often bring success to the school, especially in athletics and hockey. (2003)

He also represented the school at the district level in sports. A higher level of competition for him to represent. Each competition he participates in would win. His Majesty's victory has become the pride of not only the school but also the family. His Majesty gained a victory, especially in hockey, a game that He loved. His interest in hockey allowed Him to be one of the chosen players to represent the school, district, and even the state. [Wan Hashim \(1989\)](#) stated, "...he was selected to join the Perak Malay Team as a center forward player in the hockey team".

Back to the story of Raja Azlan,
Excellent in academics and sports,
the pride of the school and friends,
Well-reputed in all districts.

Successful in sports,
A sprinter for hundreds of yards,
Everyone's favorite, hockey,
Wins many trophies, (Translated from Poem Sultan Azlan Shah Prince of the People R193-194)

In addition, His Majesty was also a sprinter. He was a sprinter in the 100-yards, 200-yards, and relay events ([Wan Hashim, 1989](#)). As the fastest sprinter, His Majesty represented his educational institution, Government English School, Batu Gajah and Malay College, Kuala Kangsar. According to "*A Collection of Montages*":

Sultan Azlan Shah is active in various sports. He represented the school in hockey, football, cricket, and athletics. He is the fastest sprinter among his peers at the Government English School, Batu Gajah, and at Malay College, Kuala Kangsar. (2003)

His interest in sports, especially hockey, did not stop even after continuing his degree studies in England. His Majesty continues to be active in his favorite sports. His wisdom in managing time between studies and sports has made him a university hockey player. According to [Wan Hashim \(1989\)](#) in the *Biography of His Royal Highness Sultan Azlan Shah* "...despite being busy attending lectures, tutorials, and completing assignments given by professors and lecturers, His Majesty was still able to spare time to represent his university and district in the hockey game". He was also one of the university players who represent the Northern Counties district team. This has made him the only non-white player. Wan Hashim Wan Teh also stated this success in the *Illustrated Biography of His Majesty Sultan Azlan Shah*:

In sports, His Majesty was selected to play in the university and the district team (Northern Counties). His hockey ability has qualified His Majesty to be awarded a gold medal by the University of Nottingham. He was the only non-white player selected to receive a gold medal for university level hockey at that time. (1989)

During his career as a civil servant from 1954 to 1983, his interest in hockey continued. At that time, he was also in the line of succession to the throne from the position of Raja Kecil Bongsu to the position of Raja Muda of Perak. Therefore, His Majesty strived to raise this sport's quality. Additionally, "...His excellent record in hockey, indeed, he is worthy enough to be appointed as the President of Hockey, Malaysia" (1989). Malaysia achieved success after

success through His Majesty's effort, interest, and commitment to hockey. According to *A Collection of Montages*, in 1970 Sultan Azlan Shah led the Malaysian Hockey Federation as Deputy President to Tun Abdul Razak and then to Tun Hussein Onn in 1972. He was the Manager of the Malaysian Hockey Team at the Olympic Games in Munich. In 1973, he was also the Manager of the Malaysian Hockey Team in the World Cup Tournament in Amsterdam. In 1975, he successfully organizes World Cup Hockey Tournament in Kuala Lumpur. The Malaysian Hockey Team managed to achieve the ultimate success by being ranked fourth. He was also the Manager of the Malaysian Hockey Team in the Esanda Perth Championship in 1979. In 1978, he played the role of Chef De Mission during the Fourth World Cup in Buenos Aires. In 1981, His Majesty took responsibility as the President of Hockey Malaysia and in the same year, he was elected as the President of the Asian Hockey Federation. Then in 1982, he was appointed as President of the International Hockey Federation.

Notable in Malaysia and all over the world,
All sports and athletics,
Sultan Azlan, the patron, and president,
Position he held for time.

If it is observed,
Many international appointments,
Club patron, association president,
Choose Sultan Azlan, a renowned figure.

President, vice president of all associations,
Become the President of Malaysian Hockey,
Also, the President of Asian Hockey,
International Hockey Federation-Vice President too. (Translated from Sultan Azlan Shah Berjiwa Rakyat Poem R1311, 1313 & 1314)

His Majesty was interested and talented in various sports such as hockey, athletics, and football. He was very interested in Hockey. His Majesty's wisdom in managing time for education and hockey resulted in His success in both fields (2003). His Majesty's excellence in hockey is evident as a player, then he takes responsibility as an organizer, manager, and key position holder in the national and international hockey association. His Majesty was elected President of the Malaysian Hockey Association, President of Asian Hockey, and Vice President of the International Hockey Federation.

Because of His ability and character,
Hold many positions of affairs,
National and internationally appointed,
Sports, clubs-all associations.

Interested in all kinds of sports,
His focus is hockey,
Excellent since school,

The manager, the organizer- many matches. (Translated from Sultan Azlan Shah

Berjiwa Rakyat Poem R1310 & 1315)

His Majesty's success in managing, arranging, organizing, and elevating Malaysian hockey in the tournaments he represented has put his name as a hockey figure. Due to his deep interest in hockey since he was in school, His Majesty worked to ensure that Malaysia has outstanding Hockey Team players who can uplift Malaysia at the international level. Because of that earnestness, Malaysian hockey has triumphantly succeeded. According to *A Collection of Montages (2003)*, the success achieved by Sultan Azlan Shah in bringing Malaysian hockey to international fame was praised by Tan Sri Rane Frank. For him, Sultan Azlan Shah is a very high-caliber statesman, fan, and sports developer. His Majesty's interest, earnestness, and devotion to hockey bring Malaysia success. This was also acknowledged by *Mohd Safar (1994)*, "...due to His Majesty's persistence, the national hockey team had carved its name on the international sports map". Wan Hashim Wan Teh in the *Biography of His Majesty Sultan Azlan Shah* supported that he has made a big and proud success in the hockey arena. He stated that:

In fact, under His Majesty's patronage and leadership, the National Hockey Team has progressed from an unknown team to becoming respected among the top teams. His Majesty's authority in this field made Him renowned in the international sports arena and he was appointed as the Vice President of the International Hockey Organization. He is the one who played the main role in making the world hockey match a success. (1989)

His Majesty excelled in sports from school to the university level. His interest in hockey continued even after He worked as a civil servant. His Majesty continued to uphold it even though he became a king, the ruler of the state of Perak, and continued even when he became The Yang DiPertuan Agung.

Sultan Azlan Shah is a person who understands his responsibilities. He strives hard to achieve success and excellence in every field he explores. His Majesty is not only successful and excellent in hockey, but also education. His Majesty adheres to the principle that time has passed for princes to remain passive and wait for the time of succession. For him, opportunities should be used to the fullest to create success (*Wan Hashim, 1989*). The pleasures and luxuries that are owned or given on the ticket as a prince should be fully used to build success. For him, success should be achieved like any other ordinary person. His Majesty realized that it was not time for royal princes to spend their youth enjoying themselves while waiting for their turn to ascend the throne (*Wan Hashim, 1989*). Adhering to this principle, he made full use of the available opportunities to focus on education. That is why His Majesty achieved success in education.

His Majesty showed excellent performance in education at the secondary level. He succeeded in every public examination he sat. Start with the Cambridge Junior Certificate, which he successfully obtained in the eighth grade at the Government English School. Normally, students who obtain this certificate will finish their studies and try to get job opportunities. Instead, Sultan Azlan Shah chose to continue his studies. His Majesty looks far ahead because he is aware that success in education is crucial to everyone. In his view, having a high educational qualification allows a person to live a comfortable life in the future.

According to [Mohd Safar \(1994\)](#) "...He is a person who attaches great importance to knowledge". Therefore, He continued His education to obtain the highest certificate which is Senior Cambridge in the ninth grade. He then continued His Form Six education at Malay College, Kuala Kangsar. His Majesty excelled in the HSC (Higher School Certificate). Sultan Azlan Shah's success in education is recorded in the following excerpt.

Now continues the history of Raja Azlan,
After finishing Grade Nine,
Before this, there was no form level,
'Senior Cambridge' the highest qualification.

'Junior Cambridge' is called Grade Eight,
Many stops looking for work,
Being fortunate continuing his studies,
'Babul Darjah' the Malay College was called. (Translated from Sultan Azlan Shah, Prince of the People Poem R 637 & 638)

Excellent results in the HSC allowed Him to further continue his education. Interested in Laws, His Majesty has joined a special course that involved two subjects namely English Literature and Latin. Both subjects are compulsory, which are the prerequisites for admission to the Faculty of Law in England ([Wan Hashim, 1989](#)). After passing both subjects, he continued his studies in Law on December 31, 1950, at the University of Nottingham in England.

He achieved excellent qualification,
HSC used to be a prestigious certificate,
Very few people have it,
Got the qualification, flew to England.

That's what happened to Azlan,
Passed HSC went to England,
Across the sea, continue his study,
Law, he studied. (Translated from Sultan Azlan Shah, Prince of the People Poem R 655 & 656)

His Majesty successfully received a Bachelor of Law degree after three years of studies. After passing the test, he was successfully admitted to the English Bar through The Honorable Society of Lincoln Inn, London. He used the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge. According to [Wan Hashim \(1989\)](#), "... it turned out later that He was the only graduate of His time who reached the highest position in the legal and judicial fields".

Several years passed again,
Pass Azlan the law,
'Bachelor of Law' the degree was called,
Proud be the people and family.

After graduation, the study is over,
Called to the 'Lincoln Inn Bar',
Received a degree to be a 'Lawyer',
Judiciary field the chosen 'career'. (Translated from *Sultan Azlan Shah, Prince of the People Poem R660 & R657*)

His Majesty was also said to be among the first or pioneer Malays to explore the field of justice. A field that was unknown in Malaysia at that time. This statement is supported by [Wan Hashim \(1989\)](#):

At that time, only a small number of Malay children were sent to further their studies abroad and could be counted on the fingers. The number is even smaller for those who major in law. It can even be said that His Majesty was one of the pioneers of this field; a field that was not well known in Malaya at that time.

Certainly, Sultan Azlan Shah was a successful sultan in his life, especially in education. His Majesty succeeded in education by positioning himself as a student who never disappoints in every exam and passed with flying colors. His Majesty's success and excellence were because according to [Mohd Safar \(1994\)](#) "... His Majesty is tirelessly striving to gain knowledge". This situation qualifies him to continue his education to the next level. Thus, his majesty obtained success in law with his persistence and perseverance even though he was one of the heirs to the throne. This point is reinforced by Wan Hashim Wan Teh's statement.

One of His Majesty's close friends remembers an incident when they were both sitting for the School Certificate examination at Anderson School, Ipoh. Although he has relatives in Ipoh, he chooses not to live with them. Instead, His Majesty and his friends chose to stay at the Ipoh Town Hall for almost two weeks while sitting the exam. At night, His Majesty and this close friend slept on a table in this hall without mattresses and pillows. This allows him to devote full time to study without being disturbed by anyone. (1989)

4.2 The success of Sultan Ibrahim

In comparison, if Sultan Azlan Shah was described in poetry as a successful sultan in the field of sports and education, Sultan Ibrahim was described as a successful ruler in the economic context. He succeeded in developing Mersing, an area marginalized from the development. Sticking to a clear mission, he succeeded in his vision. A clear mission is to be fulfilled as a responsibility. This is what the Johor writer describes in his poetry regarding the success of the king or sultan of his state, Sultan Ibrahim. Sultan Ibrahim's main mission is to develop his state. To do so, effective steps must be taken. Therefore, a clear and impactful plan needs to be done. His Majesty's desire to develop Johor is solely for the benefit of the people. His Majesty hopes that if Johor can be developed, it means that the people's economy or their source of income can be improved. His Majesty's mission is seen in the following poem;

Sultan Ibrahim often asserted,
The Johor nation needs to be developed,
The state vision can be achieved,
The standard of living can be improved.

My lord the wise Sultan,
He desired to develop the beloved Johor,
Need to redouble all efforts,
For the people to prosper. (Translated from His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem R60 & 73).

Seri Mersing,
Song of the Malays,
Wrote by the former,
The uneasiness turns to despair,
Thinking about the lost son.

This is the famous original Malay song lyrics in the world of art entitled 'Seri Mersing'. A song that is the pride of the Mersing residents in the past and present. Mersing was formerly known as Kangka. Kangka means 'estuary' in Hokkien. In the economic growth of the Johor government, Mersing did not grow as fast as other districts. The economy of Mersing is only the fishing industry because it is close to the sea. The land area is planted with gambier and black pepper (Patimah, 2001).

Sultan Ibrahim's success in developing Johor was by making Mersing a tourist location. Making Mersing a tourist location brings positive effects. The positive impact is not only seen in Mersing but also in the local population. By placing Mersing as one of the tourism centers, this district becomes a must-visit location. The presence of local and foreign tourists to Mersing would be able to generate the local community economy and the district itself. Mersing is the third largest district in Johor. The land area of 700,805 acres with a total population of 69,947 people. According to Ishak and Mustafa (2014), the economy of Mersing residents is still at a moderate level. They explained that most of the land in this district is only developed for agriculture. Only two percent of the land was used for industry. In addition, almost half of the residents depended on the fishery sector. The local population involved in the manufacturing sector or working as production workers were still small. This is because of the district location which is outside the main Johor route which limits the development and foreign investment opportunities.

Ishak and Mustafa (2014) also stated that the quality of life in terms of the material and economic well-being of the Mersing residents was still low. This situation occurs because of low income, uneven income distribution, property ownership issues, and the problem of low consumption among the population despite that Mersing is one of the largest districts in Johor. However, the developmental progress was still far behind if compared to other large districts in Johor. Based on this situation, Sultan Ibrahim's effort to make Mersing a tourist location is a wise and visionary action. His Majesty's efforts are acknowledged by Maskiah Masrom in her poetry;

My lord has a vision,
Mersing District for development,
Put in attractions,
So that a tourist city it become. (Translated from His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem R83)

According to [Ishak and Mustafa \(2014\)](#), to develop and enhance the economic resources of the population, this district was made a tourism center. The numerous natural beauties in this district could be one of the tourist attractions. In addition, this district also has great potential for business development based on marine resources. This is evident in the improving performance indicators in the Small and Medium Industries (SMEs) development. The production performance of SMEs in Mersing was better when compared to other districts. Therefore, the researcher suggested to the government that the Mersing district be developed as a tourism center because,

Since Mersing has numerous attractive places to be developed as a tourist center, efforts to promote this place as a tourist destination need to be intensified. The local income can be improved through their involvement in providing quality tourism facilities such as chalets, homestays, fishing activities, and other tourism products that are appropriate to the local atmosphere. (2014)

Sultan Ibrahim's vision to make Mersing a tourist location is considered a success because He managed to change the Mersing landscape which was retrogressive for the better. It is a success because His Majesty's mission to improve the standard of living of the people under his auspices was attained. His mission was for the people to prosper. Prosperity in terms of enjoying the facilities and improving life resources through new economic activities. But for His Majesty, effective and steady efforts need to be done as stated by the poet, all the effort need to be double. To fulfill his mission to develop Mersing, some steps and efforts needed to be done. In this context, the efforts include building a palace for tourists to visit. Flinstone Palace is created through His deep interest in a cartoon in his childhood. The construction of Flinstone Palace in Mersing added value to several tourist locations in Mersing. For example, the Polo Field and Golf Course are two popular tourist locations in this district. Therefore, the construction of the Flinstone Palace gives local visitors and foreign tourists the opportunity to visit more locations. This is expressed by the writer through her poem;

Mersing has economic attractions,
Flinstone's Palace and lighthouse,
Polo field many people visit,

The golf course is very famous. (Translate from His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem R84)

In addition to Flinstone Palace, Sultan Ibrahim also intends to build a Cowboy City named Bandar Koboi in Mersing. His Highness intended Bandar Koboi to be filled with blacksmiths. In addition, Bandar Koboi is also filled with horses. The horse not only functions as a vehicle but also for sport, especially his favorite, polo. Therefore, with the construction of Bandar Koboi, His Majesty hope that Mersing would receive many visitors.

His desire is interesting,
Cowboy town His heart's dreams,
There are horses and blacksmiths,

Many visitors waiting to come. (Translated from His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim

Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem R 85).

Indeed, Sultan Ibrahim's vision to make the Mersing a tourist location was a wise move. He is wise to ensure that every district under Him is prosperous considering that the Mersing is a marginalized district (Ishak & Mustafa, 2014). Sultan Ibrahim's vision to make the Mersing a tourist destination had succeeded. Mersing District is now the chosen location for local and foreign tourists. Through His vision, several reforms and public facilities began to be developed. On September 10, 2017, Sultan Ibrahim officiated a complex housing more than 50 shop lots and kiosks for selling various local food, drinks, and handicrafts. The priority of the business space is given to traders and entrepreneurs who are in the B40 group. The complex is also equipped with various public facilities for the use of the local community and tourists. Homestay Project is also provided in this district. A project with the concept of a cultural village, development, and upgrading of various recreational facilities was done. In addition, road infrastructure has been built in the Inap Desa Kampung Air Papan project. This situation allows the community and residents to indirectly enjoy the facilities and infrastructure. According to Hamizah (2017) in his article Mersing Tourism District, in addition to increasing tourism, Mersing development also creates job opportunities not only for the residents but also for Malaysian society in general. In addition, the opportunity to produce more young and local entrepreneurs also exists through the diversity of business economic activities.

Mersing is now thriving,
The beach is clean and windy,
Various products are traded,
Keropok Lekor is selling well. (Translated from His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim
Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem R495).

Sultan Ibrahim's vision to develop Mersing is considered a success because various parties started taking various steps to ensure that Mersing emerge as a tourist location. The East Coast Economic Regional Development Council (ECERDC) is actively promoting Mersing through various tourism projects. Mersing has been a part of the 'Rainforest to Reef' (R2R). This project aims to combine or unify all ecotourism products, assets, and development from Endau-Rompin National Park to the island areas, beaches, and even coral reefs in Mersing waters. Through this project, the islands in Mersing such as Pulau Aur, Pulau Sibul, and Pulau Pemanggil would become regional or world-class tourism destinations.

Pulau Aur in the middle of the blue ocean,
So fresh and windy,
Cleaning together, certainly,
The School Net project was held there.

Tanjung Balang, Pasir Panjang,
People go to the sea, morning, and evening,
Turtle Research Center now,
Anyone is welcome. (Translated from His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibni
Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem R498 & R500).

Undoubtedly, the progress of Mersing was the result of His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim's vision to improve the marginalized Mersing which was far from modernity due to its location outside the main Johor route. The district's natural wealth made His Majesty develop Mersing as a tourist location. The emergence of Mersing as a tourism center had been put under the responsibility of the East Coast Economic Regional Development Council (ECERDC). His Majesty's success was achieved in this context from two aspects. First, the success in achieving his mission to ensure the Johor people are prosperous. They could enjoy the wealth of the state through various facilities developed for the tourism industry and the people. Second, success in the mission to change people's standard of living. People can enjoy life through income from economic activities based on various production whether in the form of services such as the provision of rental space including homestay or massage parlors and through commodities in the form of goods or food. Furthermore, Mersing people have the opportunity to penetrate the foreign market through SME projects by the state government. The wealth of protein resources in Mersing should be utilized to produce sea-based food products.

His Majesty's efforts ensure that Mersing is mapped as a tourism location locally and internationally. To realize this, he did not depend entirely on other parties. So, His Majesty has designed a building that functions as another mandatory location for tourists to visit. Therefore, He built a palace that has its own characteristics and uniqueness like the Taj Mahal in India. For anyone visiting India, the Taj Mahal palace will be a stopover location for tourists. Therefore, His Majesty's wish is that the palace built in Mersing will become one of the attractions like the Taj Mahal. The construction of a palace base on the Flinstone was built there.

Flinstone Castle is renowned
For His Majesty, it's like the Taj Mahal
Built by a very reliable craftsman
The beauty of the palace would be talked about

His Majesty hoped the palace,
Become the world's magical monument,
Attracting visitors to come,
His Majesty's inspiration is wise.

The sultan's palace attracts attention,
Foreigners and locals,
Located in Mersing, the sultan's choice,
Near the sea, beautiful view. (Translated from His Royal Highness Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar Poem R742, 754 & 775)

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the success of Sultan Azlan Shah and Sultan Ibrahim in their respective fields is the core of the discussion in this paper. The success of Sultan Azlan Shah in sports and education became the authorship idea of the Perak writer, Ibrahim bin Mohd Said. Maskiah Masrom, a writer born in Rengit depicted the success achieved by Sultan Ibrahim which

focused on advancing the economic sector of Johor. His Majesty succeeded in developing Mersing; a location that was originally marginalized. Secondly, His Majesty's success in building a palace as a main local and international tourist attraction. The Flinstone Palace is a palace built from imagination.

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