

Title of Paper: **The Concept of ‘Playing with Shadow’ To Promote The *Wayang Kulit***
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Abstract

The *wayang kulit* or shadow play is among the Malay traditional theatre heritage of Malaysia, but has never been part of the Sarawak and Sabah performing arts culture. To examine its acceptance among the younger generation of Sarawak, a ‘playing with shadow’ workshop was conducted for 43 children, aged 9-12, from various primary schools in Kuching in March of 2012. Shadow being the basic staging element of *wayang kulit*, was applied as the main tool to instigate participant’s interest towards this theatre. An Iban famous folklore entitled ‘*Apai Saloi Rumah Berirama*’ (The Musical House of Apai Saloi) with Apai Saloi as its protagonist was used as the storyline to cast shadows on screen. Later participants had their hands on experience presenting their own shadow play based on their preferred local folklore. A brief lecture on *wayang kulit* was presented to participants before they responded to a questionnaire which intended to evaluate participant’s interest towards *wayang kulit*.

In general this paper intends to share the research’s design and its findings on promoting *wayang kulit* among Sarawak’s younger generation. This research concludes that playing with shadow can be a tool to promote *wayang kulit* among children, provided these activity use familiar local folklores to get participants engaged to the shadow play activity.

Key words: Malay Shadow Theatre, Cultural Heritage, Promotion, Experimental