

Acceptance of LGBT Comics and Animation among Public University Students in Malaysia

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Abstract

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) has always been a sensitive topic in Malaysia, especially among the Malays and Muslims. In terms of morals and religion, LGBT is prohibited and taboo to debate because it can be a sensitive issue to other races and religions. Japanese animation and comics have a specific theme or genre for the LGBT community and its fans. This paper attempts to understand the views of Japanese language students at five Public Universities (UA) who read or watch LGBT-genre Japanese comics and animations. The survey was distributed to the target respondents, and 280 respondents answered the survey. The results of this study are part of the author's research data. The study results showed that 22.5% of the respondents read Japanese comics or animations of the gay or lesbian genre, 19.3% have stopped reading or watching comics or animations of this genre and 58.2% have never read such a genre. The percentage indicates that almost half of the study respondents have been exposed to this negative phenomenon. The objective of this study is to identify lesbian and gay genre comics and animated titles as a community and parental guide. The second objective is to examine the respondents' views so that the public understands why they are involved in such a case.

Keywords: anime, boy's love, Japanese, LGBT, manga, public university

Introduction

It is common knowledge that Japanese is one of the most popular foreign language in Malaysia and worldwide. Japanese popular culture became popular in the 1990s with Japanese drama and animation on Malaysian television screens. Among the popular Japanese dramas in Malaysia were Oshin and Great Teacher Onizuka (GTO) in the 1990s.

Interestingly, these two dramas are still screened in several countries and are accepted by the society as they share a similar war background and schooling world in other countries. Among the popular Japanese animations are Conan and Crayon Shinchan. The popular Japanese language and culture are in demand today, especially among teenagers, whether university or high school students.