

Libraries and Love Stories through the Lens of Malaysian Film, Television and Novel Publishing

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Abstract: *It is something not new that love scene is often used in any telefilm, film and novel publishing but it is considered new to discuss library and love scenes in local publishing lens. No doubt love has its own value to complement the storyline of a telefilm, film and novel regardless its real reason for marketing strategy or to reveal the real story that happened in any setting. Love scenes in local film/telefilm and novel has proven in which the real connection of library and love truly exist. This paper gives an insight on how library could be directly and indirectly connected to love in students' campus life based on the perspective of local film production and novels scripts writing. An experience and qualified Film Director and Novelist have been interviewed to discuss this issue. Based on the interview, it was found that there are six central categories that complement the love story scene in the library based on Film Director and Novelist's perspective. The categories include: Library, Film, Novel, Scene, Scripts and Love.*

Keywords: Library, Love Story, Higher Learning Institutions (HLI) Students, Malaysian Film/Telefilm & Novel

1.0 Introduction

Love is something that comes from the heart of a person. When someone falls in love, someone is willing to do anything for the person they love. Love stories always start regardless of time and place. There are no limits. It happens anywhere. But, is there any connection between love and library? This is the issue which has not been discussed prominently in Malaysian setting. Thus, what makes this article interesting is the engagement of the love story and the library as the main

entity which will further be elaborated. Globally, many love stories are featured in movies, dramas and novels around the world. However, the love story in film/telefilm's scenes or novel's plots would be different based on the communities and cultures diversity. In Malaysia, most of the library love story that featured in the film/telefilm and novel are commonly based on the love story among the students at higher learning institutions. Library is the main location that must be featured in the films, drama, and novel if the story is based on the teenage stories who are continuing their studies at higher learning institutions. Thus, the library becomes an important location for university students to meet and grate their love in the films, movies and novel as well as in real life. Basically, the films, movies and novels featured the love story in the library based on real-life experiences of the university students.

There are a number of movies that featured librarian in their movie but few were connected to the library love story scene.

Table 1.0: Shortlisted of Western Film Related to Library/Librarians

Movie Title and Year	Description
1. Letter From An Unknown Woman (1948).	This movie telling about a young lady who makes chaos in the Vienna library trying to look for information about the man that she falls in love with which is a famous pianist and composer.
2. Love Story (1970).	This movie is about a Harvard student so called Ryan O'Neal who comes to Radcliffe College to use the library. He meets with Ali McGraw who is a student assistant who works in the library and she gives him a hard time to use library services.
3. The Cook, The Thief, His Wife And Her Lover (1989).	Alan Howard is a librarian although he never seen it his work place. The first time he is seen in the restaurant where he ignores the bad behavior of the thief at the restaurant by keep on reading the book that placed on his table.
4. Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade (1989).	The library in Venice is the location where Indiana Jones finds the final clue to the location of the lost chalice. To move further he need to break the hole through marble and coordinates his beating with the sound of the librarian stamping books.
5. Sleeping With The Enemy (1991).	Julia Roberts apply a job in the library in another city after she fakes her own death to escape from abusive husband.
6. The Gun In Betty Lou's Handbag (1992).	This movie is about Betty Lou, who is a beautiful and attractive librarian Her husband is a police detective who never taking care about her she encounters a gun used to kill a gangland figure.
7. The Convent [O Convento] (1995)	This story telling about an American professor who was misunderstanding by his wife who have affair with beautiful librarian and eventually leads to trouble for everyone.
8. Don't Look Under The Bed (1999).	Library scene was used in the movie that showed the heroine talking to invisible guide in the library, and the librarian warning her many times. Later, the guide magically resides in a film some children are watching and their loud laughter drives the librarian anxious.
9. Follow The Stars Home (2001, Made-For-TV).	This story is about a mother who is librarian and has two sons who fall in love with the same girl. The mother was retires from her job to take care of her handicapped granddaughter. There are scene in the library was showed and involves with other librarian played by Debra Orenstein.
10. Buongiorno, Notte (2003) [Good Morning, Night].	This story tells about a young woman who is working in a library of government office and become a red brigade expert as well and has kidnapped and killed the Italian prime minister Aldo Modo in 1978.

Based on the data collection and analysis, the researchers had found few Malaysian Film/Telefilm and Novel featured the library and love story. Meanwhile, Film/telefilm featured librarian as the character in the Film simply to be easier to identify especially in the global scope as per discussed by Shaffer and Casey (2012). The representations of librarian in popular culture have been widely examined. In film, few articles that consider librarian stereotypes were discussed in depth, but for library love representation still need further investigation.

2.0 Library & Love Story in Campus Life

Love is something that need to be expressed with feelings and actions. This could be seen as many couples always seeking for attention and hanging around together and so on. It becomes a culture of Malaysian teenagers that they will find their love during university life. Majority of the students in Malaysia fall in love during their university life. Campus is the best place to find their soulmate because they can share their interest during university life.

They can study together and support each other in term of giving motivation to each other to excel in their study. Chan Cheata (2011) reveals some points of view collected from his research agreed that love can invigorate people and encourage them to study hard. It is good for some students but not all depending on the way they carry it. Some people trying hard to study when they're in love because their partner is an educated person or may be both of them share similar vision and passionate about studies.

Loving couples spend more time together and most of the time students will stay at the library to meet their soulmate to study together and complete their assignment given by their lecturers. Apart from the library as meeting point students always spend their time with their love one at the cafeteria, lecture halls and sport centre. In Malaysia, the couple who always hanging around together especially in campus has often labelled as CB or "Couple Boring".

3.0 Library and Love Scenes in Publishing Lens: Contributing Factors

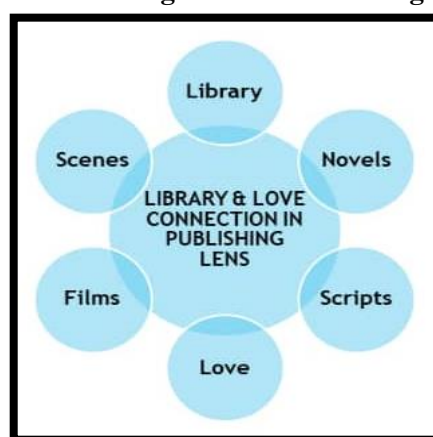


Figure 3.0: The Central Category and the six (6) Main Categories of Library and Love Portrays in Film/Telefilm & Novel

Figure 3.0 shows that there is central category which is Library and Love Connection in publishing lens followed by the six main categories formed based on the data gathering and data analysis from the interviews. Each of the categories is discussed in the section below.

3.1 Library as The MAIN Category

Libraries have been transforming from traditional to modern library and change their role to become virtual and digital library. It is a knowledge centre and a place for gathering. In the context of choice of location by the film director and novelist to be featured in their film and novel most of the

time the film director and novelist used academic library to portray love story among students at higher learning institution as compared to public library. Library becomes Director most preferred location because of the surrounding and nature of library which is silent that help the audio and video recording process run smoothly. Apart from that library also is a compulsory location for university student to meet their friend and loved one. Thus it becomes a matchmaking place. It's also considered as healthy place far from air pollution and noise pollution. Therefore library is the safest place for everyone.

This category comprises of seven sub-categories. They are library attraction, collections, environment, facility, furniture's, marketing and security as per shown in Table 3.1. All of these sub categories contribute to the choice of library as a place for film shooting and plot development in the novel.

Table 3.1: Library and Sub Category

Category	Sub Category
Library as the MAIN Catagory	Attraction
	Collection
	Environment
	Facility
	Furniture
	Marketing
	Security

Based on the finding, libraries become place of attraction to the students who come to the library because they can meet many girls and boys at the library. It becomes their special place of attraction other than the library collections such as book which is required and used by students in campus for their studying purposes. For the film making it is important for the film director to portray the library environment in the Film. Same goes to the novelist who will describe the book presence in details in their novel plot. Other than that, library environment play an important role in film making and plot development in the novel. For the film making it is an added advantage for the film director to make the film shooting at the library because the setting in the library is already properly arranged and well managed. Besides the surrounding also silent that will help the process of recording the voice of the actors become smooth and easy. Meanwhile for the novelist the library environment really help the novelist to describe their plot in details and make the story becomes interesting. Apart from that the students also attracted to come to the library because of the library environment. It is a conducive, place to stay with the suitable temperature and ambience thus it become a comfort stay place among student in Malaysia. Moreover, security factor is another matter. Library has been portraying as a safest place for the patron which provide with many security measurement.

Furthermore, library facilities such as reference counter, cafeteria, air conditioned give an exclusive view for the library to support the film/telefilm and novel's publishing. In addition, modern furniture's available at the library give special effect to the film making and portray new library look in the 21st century with the use of futuristic book shelf and bean bag chair and many more. In the context of marketing strategy, it is the fact that academic libraries have always been used by the film director as a location for shooting. This is because academic library is the place where students or loving couples recorded their love stories to be memorized of their campus life to the ends. Based on this scenarios, it will be beneficial to both parties, library and film directors in the context of library and business marketing.

3.2 Film/Telefilm & Novel as the MAIN Category

3.2.1 Film/Telefilm

Most of the Malay films and telefilm in Malaysia are based on love and family conflict. In terms of love story scenes in the library the film director said that, it's their strategy to attract their

audience attention. Their audience are teenagers and university students to represent majority viewers in Malaysia. In fact, 400,000 of the potential love genre film/telefilm viewers in Malaysia are university students.

Apart from that, the film shoots at the library give many advantages to the film director in terms of audio and video recording for film making. The silent surrounding helps the process of audio recording become smooth as for now they are using direct recording from the site and this will facilitate less editing to the audio of the film or movie. In terms of library setting and interior design it also helps the film director portray their stories in real life situations. Among the film's titles which have been included the library love story scenes in Malaysia are:

Table 3.2.1: Shortlisted of Malaysian Film/Telefilm Related to Library & Love Story

Film's Title	Year	Director
1. Ali Setan	1985	Tan Sri Datuk Jins Shamsuddin (1935-2017)
2. Kuliah Cinta	2004	Dato' Dr. A. Razak Mohaideen
3. Main-main Cinta	2006	Dato' Dr. A. Razak Mohaideen
4. Dunia Baru	2008	Yeop Hitler Zami
5. Adik Manja <i>Return</i>	2012	Dharma Harun Al-Rashid
6. Kerna Syurga Bukan Percuma	2017	Mohd Habibullah
7. Jojie Gigil	2017	Zul Huzaimy Marzuki
8. Semerah Cinta Humairah	2018	Zamri Zakaria
9. Senafas Rindu	2019	Amor Rizan
10. Cinta Disertasi	2019	Heykal Hanifah

3.2.2 Novels

Some of the novelist in Malaysia wrote love story among teenager at the higher learning institution. Thus they normally included the library love story scene among student in the library. It is become a main place for gathering plus library also convenience place to visit by student with very cold environment that initiate love feeling among them. Among the novel that includes library love scene in the library are:

Table 3.2.2: Shortlisted of Malaysian Novel Related to Library & Love Story

Novel's Title	Year	Author
1. Impian Abadi	2000	Hasreeyati Ramli
2. Makin Aku Cinta	2002	Hasreeyati Ramli
3. Bisikan Rindu	2004	Mimie Afinie
4. Pelabuhan Kasih	2004	Lily Suriani
5. Hamparan Kasih	2006	Amy Batrisya
6. Bayangan Rindu	2007	Anis Ayuni
7. Senafas Rindu	2007	Damya Hanna
8. Cinta Pandang ke Dua	2011	Laila Kamilia
9. Diriku Usah Dicari	2012	Irda Haleeda
10. Kerana Kasih	2018	Aisya Sofea

3.3 Scripts as the MAIN Category

The factor that normally influences the film director and novelist to portray library love story scene in Malaysia is because of the script requirement. From that they have to react according to the scripts provided by script writer. In order to develop a good script for the novel details elaboration

about the library surrounding environment, interior design and atmosphere are needed to make the plot more interesting and the reader can get a clear picture about the library and feel like they are in that particular situation. They can feel the mood of the actors, hero or heroine in the novel. Besides that, novelist is also inspired to elaborate more details about the library to make their story interesting when they are benchmarking modern library as a location that they used in the novel. The ambience, atmosphere, furniture, facilities and arrangement of modern library really help the novelist and film director to make their story become an interesting story.

3.4 Scene as the MAIN Category

The scene that is normally included in the film is a close up video of the actors walking, sitting, and talking at the library. When they are taking video at the library they must make sure that the book shelf, reference desk, book collection are obviously shown in the video to portray that the scene happened in the library. Meanwhile, for the novelist they need to describe the library in detail in terms of the coordinate of the hero and heroine in that novel, the environment, atmosphere, table and chair used, reference desk and many more need to be elaborated in detail to make sure the reader can imagine the situation and follow the story and feel like they are inside the novel.

3.5 Values as the MAIN Category

In term of values, love story in the library among students at higher learning institution that have been featured in films and novels instill positive values in which viewers and readers who are also students at higher learning institution can make actors in the films and hero and heroine in the novels as role model for them. This is because when their favorite actors are acting in the film and they go to the library for study automatically they will follow their actors in real life to study in the library as well to get better result. It is proven that teenagers are easily influenced by the actors that they like the most in the movie and film. Making student life as a story and always going to library reveals the intellectualism of the actors as students in the story. It shows that excellent students always go and stay at the library most of the time to study and meet their friends and loved ones for discussion. From that it will give positive influence for the students who are viewers of the film and movies to adapt the students' life style in the movie and film in their real life.

3.6 Characters as the MAIN Category

The characters featured in movies and novels involving romance in the library among students are those who love the library also known as library lover. They are normally excellent students who spend their time in the library studying and completing their task given by lecturers. Thus, it showed their realism in the storyline in the film and novel.

4.0 Library & Love Representation in Local Film/Telefilm & Novels

In Malaysia, library is one of the most preferred locations among film directors and novelist who specialized in love genre. This would happen when they try to portray the existence of love and relationship amongst youngsters and teenagers in campus life. Library is believed to be an inspiration to enhance their storyline of film production and novel script writing. Why Film/Telefilm and novel is used as a tool for library and love representation? Film or telefilm as far as our concern states that the most popular choice among youngsters and even family activities in Malaysia to spend time in Cinema watching movies. Meanwhile, according to Saidin, F. H., & Ahmad, J. H. (nd), novel is one important medium that is often used to disseminate narrative information through narrative media which has long been used in Malaysia. In addition, it has become a prominent trend of novel adaptation to the genre of film or telefilm publishing. Library scene has been used in local film/telefilm production over years. Table 3.3.1 and Table 3.3.2 are referred as the representation of love and romances in the context of Malaysian culture have been portrayed.

Hall, S. (1997) stated that representation is an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchanged between members of culture. This is supported by Cahyadi (nd) where

“representation means to describe, to depict, speaking about...” Prior to the context of library and love representation in film and novel, the emphasis is more on the scenes and scripts narration for both type of publishing in nature.

4.1 Screenshots of selected local love genre Film/Telefilm Scenes

In Malaysia, love genre film/telefilm is a popular trend as a strategy to capture targeted audience. The love genre is like a phenomenon and among the most wanted and favourite among the youngsters especially when it is related to campus life. Not even youngsters, this trend also show how adults and all level of ages in Malaysia are influenced by love genre film or telefilm.

4.1.1 “Cinta Disertasi” Film’s Scene

This film portrays a librarian’s professional and personal life. It is about Puan Fatinah, Head of Librarian who really love her husband. Her husband, Dr Rosli Ibrahim who is also working at the same academic institution. Puan Fatinah is dying due diagnosis of Cervical Cancer stage 4 (scene 1). Due to her suffering she is finding a perfect lady to become a wife to her husband and mother to her children. The library scenes available in this film represent library as a place where Puan Fatinah met Fairuz who is a postgraduate student and also a regular user of the library. Besides, she is her husband’s supervisee for her Master’s Degree program. Dr Rosli also ask Fairuz to teach her daughter, Maya to read Al-Quran as his wife is sick and cannot teach their daughter as usual. She seems to have been recommended as a qualified second wife candidate to her husband (Scene 2). Café is another preferred location for love representation in campus shown where Fairuz and Dr. Rosli Ibrahim met together (scene 3). Meanwhile in Scene 4, Fairuz and her best friend shared stories together in library. This film portrays a librarian as the main character to support love storyline. The librarian’s image and character develop positive values and humanities that make others feel pleasant and touch. This is supported Luthmann (2007) which mentioned the professional image and self-image of the librarians are influenced by representation in the media and images in the general public’s imagination.



Figure 4.1.1: Screenshots of “Cinta Disertasi” Film

Source: Youtube Channel provided by Local Television Program (RTM)

4.1.2 “Senafas Rindu” Film’s Scene

“Senafas Rindu” is a telefilm adaptation from Damya Hanna novel “Senafas Rindu”. It is directed by Amor Rizan. It is 20 episodes and being uploaded at Astro RIA via MegaDrama Slot on 4 February 2019.

The telefilm is about a bitter love experience of Fariz Ashman (Syafiq Kyle) and Vivianna (Anne) (Elizabeth Tan). Fariz and Shafika were in love during their school life but were barred by her own mother. Vivianna was forced to marry Kelvin and the Kevin left her for no reason. The emergence of Vivianna, Chinese-born girl attracted Fariz's attention. Fariz helped Vivianna when she faced a problem. They both are increasingly tense but they have to face various obstacles from their families. At the same time, Shafika also coming back to get Fariz's love. Fariz finally brought Vivianna into Islam and married her. However, Fariz's mother, Maznah and her sister, Marina refused to accept Viviana or her Islamic name Siti Nur Ain. However Fariz grandma, Tun Afifah encouraged Vivianna to be patient and resilient in the house.

One of the scenes used in this telefilm was SMART LIBRARY in Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia and Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia (Scene 1 until scene 4). Scene 3 and 4 shows Fariz meets with Anne in the library and suddenly Kevin came and ask Anne to come back with him as he still loves Anne.



Figure 4.1.2: Screenshots of “Senafas Rindu” Telefilm (novel adaptation)
Source: Youtube provided by Local Television Program (ASTRO RIA)

4.1.3 “Main-main Cinta” Film’s Scene

“Main-main Cinta” is one of Malaysian fictional movie published 23 February 2006. This film directed by Prof. Madya A. Razak Mohaideen. The main actor and actress in this movie are Adam AF2 and Misha Omar.

This film is all about an ideal partners of Metrowealth College, Farah (Misha Omar) and Adam (Adam (AF2)). They were well known among colleagues. They are not only popular, smart and influential among students, but their delinquency makes them the 'idol' of the students. However, the

warmth of Adam and Farah causes envy too, especially Maya, a beautiful student who wants to take over Farah's popularity in college.

Scene 1 and scene 2 shows Farid Kamil and Irma Hasmie had their group discussion in the library. However both of them are making noise until being reprimanded by other patron.



Figure 4.1.3: Screenshots of “Main-Main Cinta” Film

Source: Youtube Channel uploaded by UKS TV

4.1.4 “Ali Setan” Film’s Scene

“Ali Setan” Film was screened on 16 February 1985. It is a romance comedy directed by Jins Shamsuddin (also the actor in the film) which combines a new male actor Azmil Mustapha (Ali Setan) with popular singer Fauziah Ahmad Daud (Asmidar) during that time.

The film is about the naughty student named Ali who is a final year university student. He is often teases other students until being called as “Ali Setan” or Ali the Devil. When Asmidar entered the university and become the junior, Ali often teases Asmidar until Asmidar falls in love with him.

In the scenes below shows how Ali is trying to tackle Asmidar in the library. Scene 1 and scene 2 shows Asmidar and her friend entered the library to find books. Asmidar presence noticed by Ali’s friends and they call Ali in the Scene 3. As a naughty boy, Ali had his own planned. He went to rack where Asmidar left her bag and took Asmidar diary (Scene 4) while Asmidar was busying searching books (Scene 5). Later, he jots down love notes in Asmidar diary (Scene 6) and quickly he throw then diary on the floor as Asmidar noticed her diary was lost. Then, Asmidar’s friend found the diary on the floor and gave it to Asmidar. Asmidar took the diary and open it (Scene 7). She saw and read the love notes written by Ali inside and smiled (Scene 8). Ali’s wrote: *Aku tidak bermaksud untuk mencuri diarimu, aku hanya mahu mencuri hatimu. Maafkan Aku. –Ali Setan-* (I didn’t mean to steal your diary; I just want to steal your heart. Forgive me. –Ali Setan-)

With this scene it is proved that library was one of the suitable places to find soul mate during university life. Besides that, this statement also support by our participants in this study.

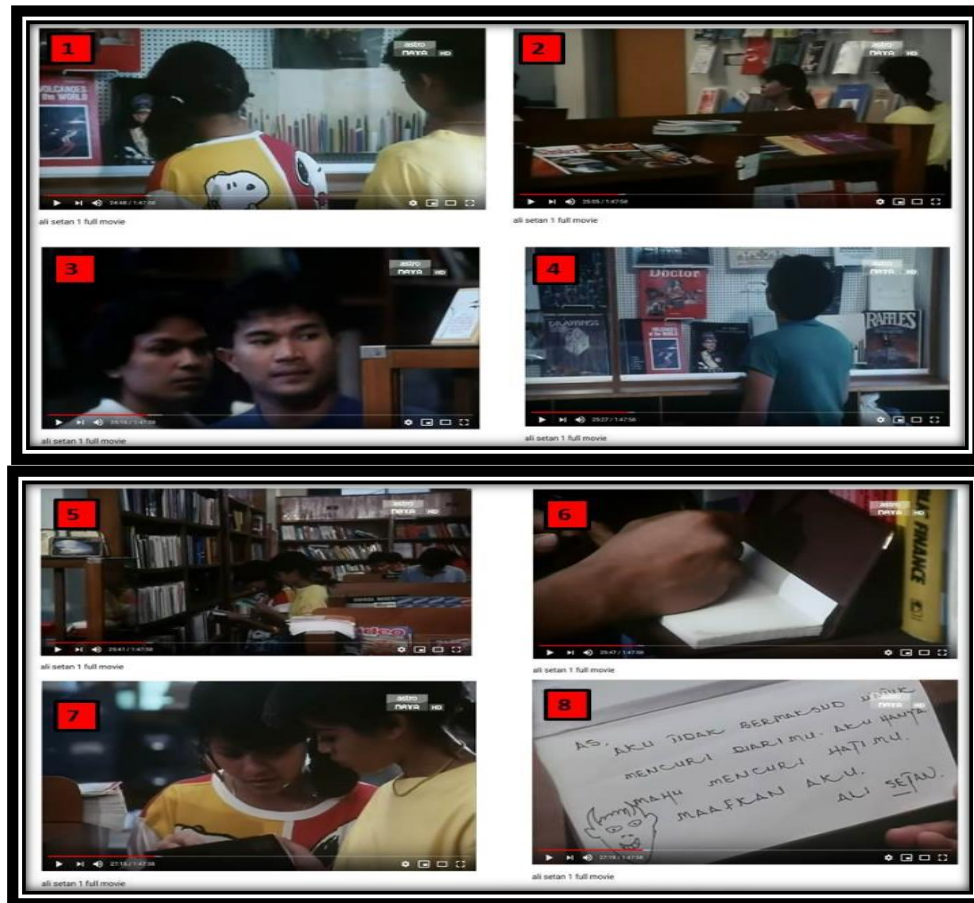


Figure 4.1.4: Screenshots of “Ali Setan” Film
Source: Youtube Channel uploaded by Vrassfire

4.1.5 “Kuliah Cinta” Film’s Scene

“Kuliah Cinta” is a romance comedy film directed by Prof. Madya A. Razak Mohaideen. The film published on 29 January 2004. The main actor and actress for this film was Yusry Abdul Halim (Yusri Kru) and Erra Fazira.

It is also a romantic comedy about teenage life on campus. It tells the story of the friendship that develops between Jojo (Johana) (Erra Fazira) and Faramy (Yusry Kru), since they were kids all the way through university. Things begin to change when they're assigned to oversee the induction of a group of junior students as Faramy secretly falls for one of the students in the group, Ayu. As Faramy and Ayu's relationship gains strength, Jojo is feeling left out and neglected. At the same time, Jojo, who was miserly, receives an offer to go on an exchange student program to Australia and gets to know a guy called Johan, making Faramy jealous. Both Faramy and Jojo feel the strain as they try to distance themselves from each other.

The scenes 1 below show Perpustakaan Sultan Abdul Samad, Universiti Putra Malaysia was one of the film locations for Kuliah Cinta. Scene 2 and 3 portrayed the scene Faramy (Yusry Kru) and Ayu (Zahnita Hussein) dating in the library as Faramy become a sweet talker to win Ayu's heart. Meanwhile, in the scene 4 shows Jojo (Erra Fazira) become angry with Faramy, as they went to library for a group discussion but Faramy is out of the control as he found Ayu in the library. Later, Jojo went to both love birds and talked to them and give them a warning especially to Faramy. She said, “This is library, we come here to do our assignment” and left the couple (Scene 5 and scene 6). After that in Scene 7, Faramy went to meet Jojo and persuade her to cool down and give him a chance to tackle Ayu's heart. The library environment also portrayed as whole in the scenes 8.



Figure 4.1.5: Screenshots of “Kuliah Cinta” Film
Source: Youtube Channel uploaded by MetrowealthPictures

4.2 Screenshots of Selected Local Love Genre Novel’s Manuscript

It is beyond expectation that library is frequently used in Malaysian’s novel. Based on random search and also recommendation by novelists as per shown in Table 3.2.2., there are numbers of novels in love genre used library to harmonizing the storylines of their manuscript. Figure 4.2.1, Figure 4.2.2, Figure 4.2.3, Figure 4.2.4 and Figure 4.2.5 had disclosed that library terms heavily used in any plots of novel’s manuscripts. Library term that has been used was identified and to strengthen the fact that library and love story are the two ideal connections in nature to support love genre of novel publication in Malaysia.

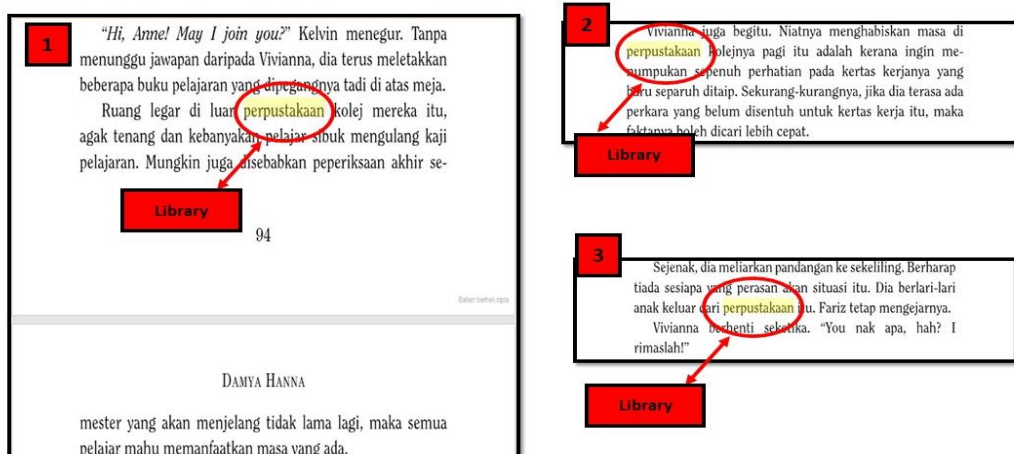


Figure 4.2.1: Screenshots of “Senafas Rindu” Manuscript

“*Senafas Rindu*” is a popular novel written by Damya Hanna in year 2007. It has a very interesting love storylines which covered library in their manuscripts as per shown in Figure 4.2.1. It is about university students in their campus life frequently used library as meeting points doing their academic tasks and indirectly as a meeting point with the love ones. Their practice in using library as a meeting point sustained until they were shifted into their working live. This novel has been published past few years ago, but it has attracted local television producer in publishing this novel as a telefilm. The telefilm was shown in 2019.

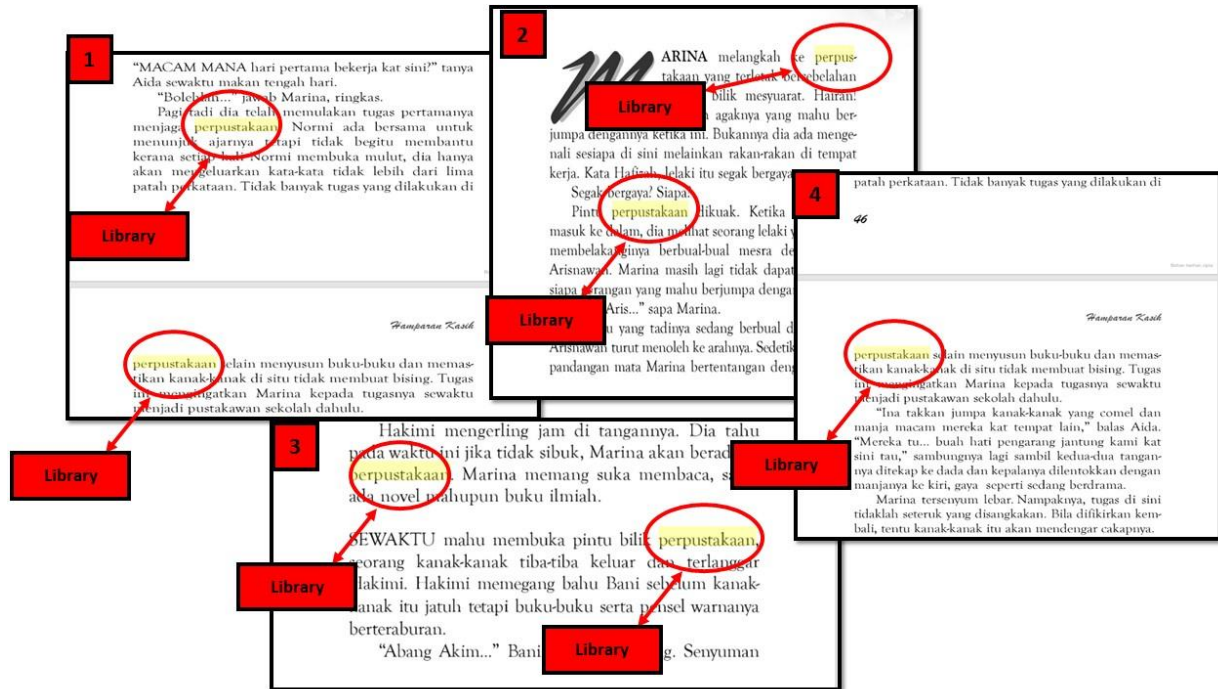


Figure 4.2.2: Screenshots of “Hamparan Kasih” Manuscript

Other than that, “*Kerana Kasih*” is a novel written by Aisya Sofea currently published in 2018 also included the library scene as per shown in Figure 4.2.3. and followed by other selected novel’s manuscripts which were identified to use library in their storyline and plots are “*Hamparan Kasih*” (Figure 4.2.2) written by Amy Batrisya in year 2006, “*Pelabuhan Kasih*” by Lily Suriyani in year 2004 (Figure 4.2.4) “*Diriku Usah Dicari*” (Figure 3.2.5) written by Ida Haleeda year 2012. All those novels shared similar storylines about students and their love story in campus live.

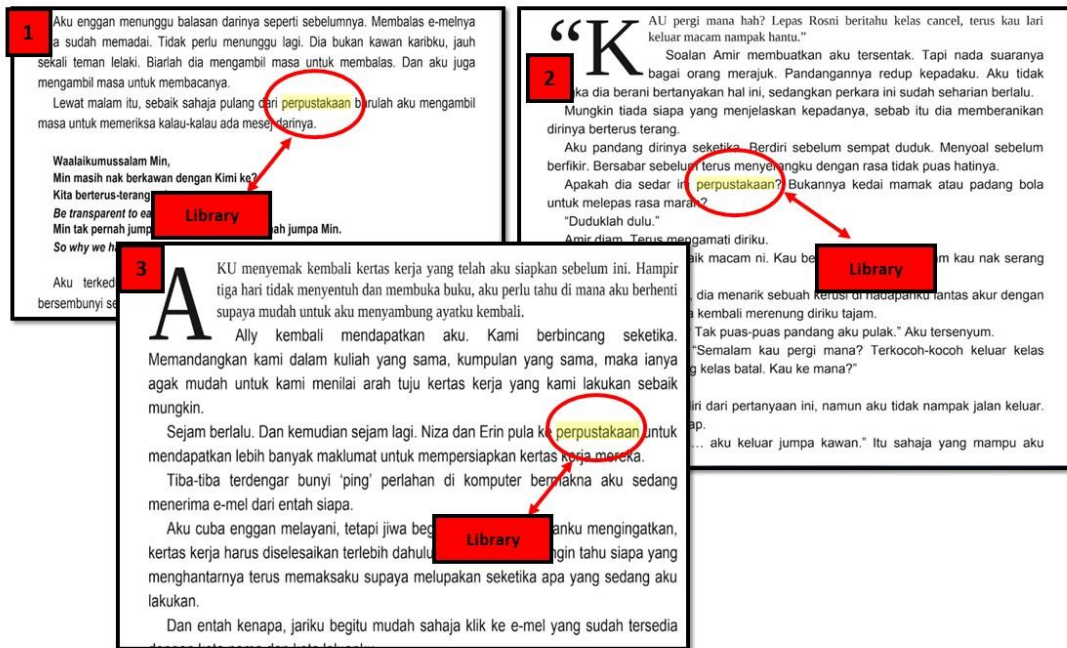


Figure 4.2.3: Screenshots of “Kerana Kasih” Manuscript

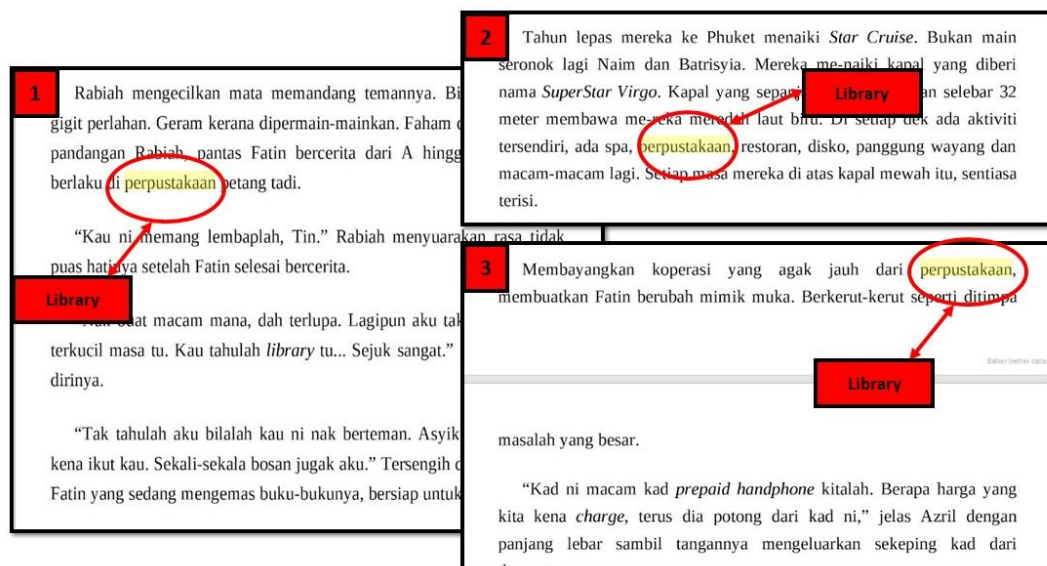


Figure 4.2.4: Screenshots of “Pelabuhan Kasih” Manuscript

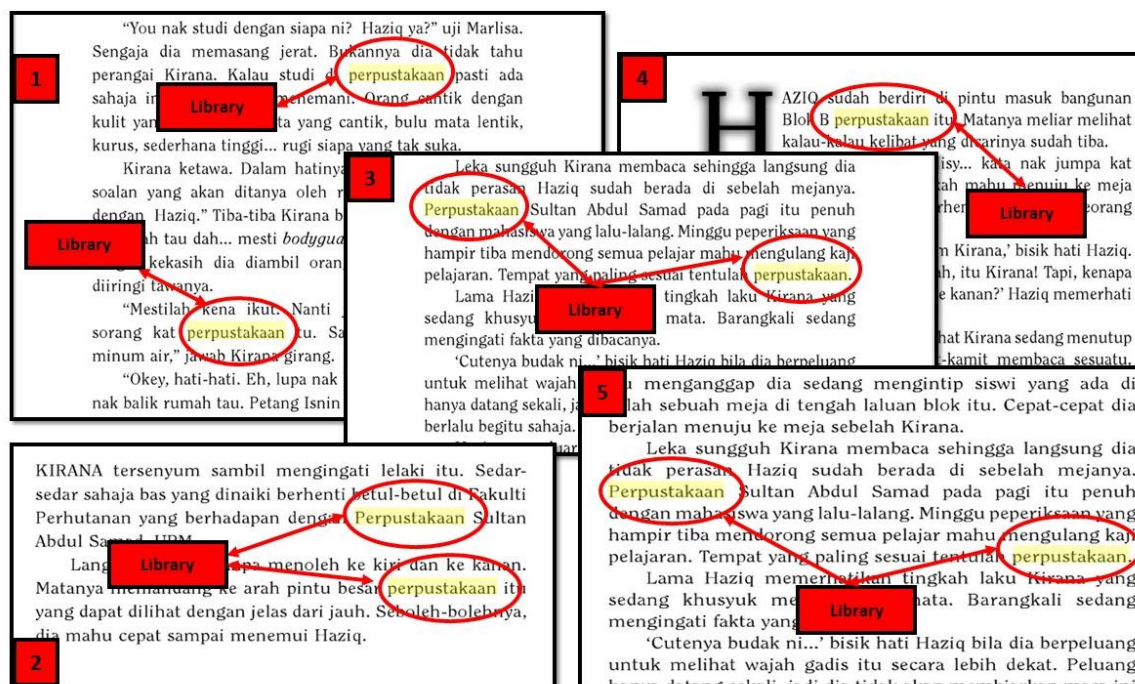


Figure 4.2.5: Screenshots of “Diriku Usah Dicari” Manuscript

5.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, there are significant difference with the western and eastern culture in love stories film/telefilm and Novel publishing lens. The connection of library and love story that has been published contributes to the development of both aspects. This paper has notified the two difference trends of love story production in western and eastern cultures. The library as a place and also librarian as a profession, to support love storylines in any film/telefilm and novel. This fact is however will be further explored for bigger scope and context of discussion.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank to the IFLA committee for accepting our paper that meets the IFLA theme this year. We hope that this paper give significant contribution to the IFLA participant this year as well as others reader of this paper.

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