

**Birth of Noir Fiction in Southeast Asian Literature in English: A Post-Colonial Reading  
on Jessica Hagedorn's *Manila Noir* and Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan's *Singapore Noir***

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In 2013, *Manila Noir* was published whereas *Singapore Noir* was published in 2014. These two noir fictions have contributed the development of Southeast Asian literature in English. In this study, the birth of these noir fictions is seen as a remark of subversive postures towards the canon as it has been vocalized by post-colonial critics. The subversive postures found in these two noir fictions are in forms of depictions in a particular politics, history and geography. Although Jessica Hagedorn's *Manila Noir* and Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan's *Singapore Noir* are included in noir genre, uniquely there are some depictions of particular politics of the Philippines and Singapore, the history of Manila and Singapore as well as the geographical issues of Manila and Singapore. Those depictions are told to criticize and to react the colonization era undergone by Manila and Singapore. Therefore, by applying post-colonial theory to study these two noir fictions, the result shows that the birth of noir fiction can also contribute to the study of Southeast Asian Literature in English.