This book is a collection of critical views on Shahnon Ahmad’s literary works that spanned 50 years since 1955. In this collection of essays, Shahnon’s works are discussed from various perspectives. This present volume of critical studies will demonstrate how Shahnon’s writings, show a consuming preoccupation with self-examination and self-discovery as he journeys across foreign landscapes, and also project a redefinition of his Malay identity as he returns to his roots for a cultural.
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Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka would like to conveys its gratitude to all the contributors, all of whom had given their full commitment to ensure the success of this project. It is hoped that this book will present to the world one of Malaysia's finest writers, Shahnun Ahmad and his works.

**INTRODUCTION**

This book is a collection of critical views on Shahnun Ahmad's literary works that spanned 50 years since 1955. Shahnun Ahmad's fiction comprises 30 novels and about 120 short stories. For this volume, eleven university lecturers and officers from the Literary Bureau have done studied on Shahnun Ahmad's literary works but many more academicians and students here or abroad have also analyzed his works through thesis and dissertation at both the undergraduate and the master's levels using a variety of critical approaches.

In this collection of essays, Shahnun's works are discussed from various perspectives. For instance, while Mohd. Yusof Hasan looks at the overarching themes, Jeni Amir and Che Abdullah Che Ya study the socio-political aspects. Hashim Ismail looks for symbolisms, while Muhammad Saiful Haq Hussin studies stylistics in *Ranjau Sepanjang Jalan* (No Harvest but a Thorn) and *Sultan Baginda*.

Siti Hajar Che Man reviews stories surrounding women in Shahnun Ahmad's short stories; Siti Aisah Murad approaches Shahnun's works from the standpoint of Mana Sikana's theory; Rahimah A. Hamid is more attracted to the philosophy of water behind character and creativity; Wong Soak Koon traces the issue