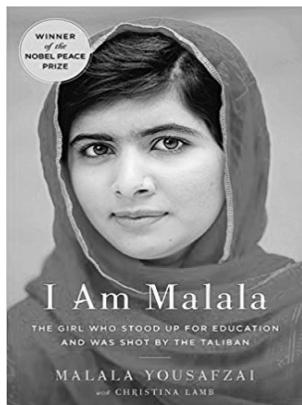


I AM MALALA

“The girl who stood up for equal rights for women, education
for every child and was shot by Taliban”

Chomphunut Makemuengthong¹



Yousafzai, M., & Lamb, C. (2014). *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*. London: Phoenix. 320 pages

บทคัดย่อ

“I Am Malala” เป็นเรื่องที่ป่าที่งของครอบครัวหนึ่งกับการต่อสู้กับการรุกรานของผู้ก่อการร้าย การต่อสู้เพื่อการศึกษา เพื่อเหล่าเด็กผู้หญิงและเรื่องราวของความรักที่ไม่มีเงื่อนไขของพ่อและแม่ต่อลูกสาวในสังคมที่ลุกขยับได้รับการเชิดชูและชื่นชม เรื่องราวของมาลาลาจะทำให้ผู้อ่านมีความสุข เคร้ๆ หัวเราะและร้องไห้ในเวลาเดียวกัน นอกจากนั้น เมื่อคุณอ่านหนังสือเล่มนี้เสร็จ ทัศนคติของคุณที่มีต่อประเทศอิสลามที่คุณเคยมีมาก่อน เช่น ประเทศอิสลามเป็นประเทศแห่งความรุนแรงและประเทศที่มีการก่อการร้ายและสังหาร อาจจะเปลี่ยนไป หนังสือเล่มนี้ได้นำเสนอ มุมมองและความเข้าใจใหม่ๆ ที่น่าสนใจเกี่ยวกับวัฒนธรรมของประเทศปากีสถานที่จะทำให้คุณถึงกับวางแผนหนังสือไม่ลงเลยทีเดียว

Abstract

“I Am Malala” is the remarkable story of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls’ education, and of Malala’s parents’ unconditional love for their daughter in a society where sons are admired. The story of Malala will bring your feeling up and down, happy and sad; laugh and cry at the same time. In addition, when you are finished reading the story, your attitudes towards Islamic country that you have had before, such as Islamic country is the country of violence and the country of terrorism and war, might be changed. This book will certainly give you new perspectives and understanding of Pakistan’s cultures.

¹ Asst.Prof. Dr. Editors, Chairman of Thai for Communication, Rajabhat Maha Sarakham University

“I Am Malala” is the remarkable story of a family uprooted by global terrorism, of the fight for girls’ education, and of Malala’s parents’ unconditional love for their daughter in a society where sons are admired. The book is an international bestseller and the winner of the Specsavers National Books Award. It was translated into 40 languages, and it has sold well over a million copies since the first publication in October 2013 (Brown, 2017).

Malala came from a country which was created at midnight, but she almost died after midday. When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley, she spoke out and refused to be silenced and fought for her and all girls’ right to an education. On Tuesday 9 October 2012, she almost paid her price. She was targeted and shot in the head by Taliban while riding the bus home from school. Few people expected her to survive. This is where her name was spread all over the world. Malala’s miraculous recovery had taken her on an extraordinary journey from her remote valley called Swat which is located in Northern Pakistan to Birmingham, UK, and then the halls of the United Nations in New York to give her speech about women’s rights and education for every single child, both boys and girls, around the world. At sixteen, she has become a global symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. She appeared on many famous TV programs, such as Ellen show and Daily Show by Jon Stewart, to share her life and raise awareness of the significance of education.

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The story was narrated chronologically. It started from her birth to her life when she was young, what she had been through in good times, such as her life with friends and family and her beautiful place, the Swat Valley and bad times, such as devastating disasters, wars, inefficient governance until the Taliban took over the city, how she grew up and fought for children’s rights and education, till she got shot by the Taliban, and then moved to Birmingham for recovery, received awards and made her dreams come true - education for children, boys and girls. The story is easy to read because the use of structure sentences and vocabulary are simply understandable, easy to follow her story and you can picture along what’s going on. Also, you can see the history of Pakistan briefly in one book; some parts of the story might surprise you; for instance, in an Islamic country, who would have thought that in ancient time SWAT was a Buddhist kingdom where there were Buddha states and shrines scattered around the place. Moreover, it was surprising to know that once SWAT before Taliban was called Swat the Switzerland of the East

- kingdom of mountains, stunning waterfalls, crystal-clear lakes, clean air and scenery, wild flowers, orchids, rivers full of trout and a ski resort on the snow mountain. It was where many foreigners came for holiday.

Reading through the story, I found several socio-cultural points of Pakistan that are different from my Thai perspectives, which leave me with words like whoa!, really?, seriously? on my mind. There are several situations and words used in the book that show the different cultural-points based on my perspectives which I could see them crystal clear. The main socio-cultural points are mostly on sex and education.

The following is an example sentence.

“...a land where rifles are fired in celebration of a son, while daughters are hidden away behind a curtain.” (Yousafzai & Lamb, 2014, p. 9)

After I had read that sentence, I could predict the fate of the girls and women in Pakistan what they have to encounter each day. Pakistan is the country where they prize sons, not daughters, which can be inferred that women’s voices will not be heard. It can be concluded that “I am Malala” is the book that will bring your feeling up and down, happy and sad; laugh and cry at the same time. She has expressed in a way how she really feels and what she really thinks through the letters that are produced from her true feelings. So that’s why we can see what she is trying to point out clearly. We can see that she is brave, focused and determined in what she believes in, which are the women’s, children’s rights and education as one part of the book and of the speech that she gave at the United Nations Youth Assembly that made everyone there, including me stunned was “Let us pick up our books and pens. They are our most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can CHANGE the world,” (Yousafzai & Lamb, 2014, p. 262; Yousafzai, 2013). Such a powerful speech, Malala is now one of the most powerful education activists in the world where education for millions of boys and girls around the world are not looked for granted. Also, we can say that her family

is the wind beneath her wings that always brings her up and never gives up on her even though she is a girl living in the society where it admires boys. From the beginning to the end of the book, you will find some situations that leave you with the smile on your face and some that leave you with the questions why? But soon after you are finished reading the story, your perceptions towards Islamic country that you have had before, such as Islamic country is the country of violence and the country of terrorism and war, will be changed like mine. This book will certainly give you new perspectives and understanding of Pakistan’s cultures.

This is the girl from Pakistan who was shot by Taliban but miraculously survived, has continued her campaigns and astonished the world with her courage and determination to stand for equal rights for women and education for every child; the girl who makes you believe in the power of one person’s voice to inspire change in the world. This is Malala Yousafzai.

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