Research Statement

Sam Silverthorne: Quest
(Hachette Livre Australia)
Crew, Gary

Research Background

*Sam Silverthorne: Quest* is a 50,000 word young adult novel *Quest* is the first in the *Sam Silverthorne Trilogy*. The research question posed by the creative work was: Can the 19th Century Boy’s Own Novel be recreated in the 21st Century without the racism and sexism usually found in that peculiarly Victorian Genre of Empire?

Research Contribution

The innovation undertaken by Crew was to write an adventure novel for 21 Century boys that was based on the great Colonial adventures undertaken in the 19Century whereby a young man went in search of new Natural Species in order to mount Museum Exhibitions and further the interests of Science. Given the interest in the survival of threatened species today, Crew felt that there was a market for such a novel, especially if the somewhat politically incorrect racism and sexism of the Boy’s Own genre’s 19th Century counterpart was removed for today’s readership.

The new knowledge demonstrated in the book is two fold

[1] Content: The introduction of concepts of Darwinism and the original of species into teenage narrative, especially the ground breaking research of Edgar Russel Wallace, the highly significant 19th Century naturalist, and with Charles Darwin, the co-founder of the theory of Evolution.

[2] Voice: to introduce modern youth to the sophisticated delights of 19th Century language and voice, which most would be unfamiliar with.

Research Significance

On the basis of this first novel, *Sam Silverthorne Quest*, Hachette contracted to published two more *Sam Silverthorne* novels.

*Sam Silverthorne Quest* was translated into German and published internationally by Pestsalozzi Verlag (Cologne) in 2006.