



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**ANTI-CAPITALIST SATIRICAL ATTITUDE IN NOVELS  
BY SONALLAH IBRAHIM AND MARTIN AMIS**

**KHALED ABKAR ALKODIMI**

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BY SONALLAH IBRAHIM AND MARTIN AMIS**

**By**

**KHALED ABKAR ALKODIMI**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in  
fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of philosophy**

**February 2011**

## **Dedication**

To my Mother and the  
Memory of my Father

To my Wife and Children



**ABSTRACT OF THESIS PRESENTED TO THE SENATE OF UNIVERSITI  
PUTRA MALAYSIA IN FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE  
DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

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**February 2011**

**Chair: Associate Professor Noritah Omar, PhD**

**Faculty: Modern Languages and Communication**

This study examines the satirical attitude of Sonallah Ibrahim and Martin Amis in the selected literary texts. Taking Ibrahim and Amis as authors who bitterly criticised the established socioeconomic conditions of the late twentieth century society, the analysis centers on two novels each, whose satirical tone, together with their subject matter and wide spread popularity, make them essential reading in this context. The study argues that Ibrahim and Amis have employed the mode of satire to mock the idea that capitalism works for the welfare of societies and individuals.

The study relies on Leonard Feinberg and Gilbert Highet's views of satire as well as on the definitions of Northrop Frey and Mtumane among others to analyse Ibrahim and Amis' use of satiric devices such as exaggeration, irony and distortion to express their anti-capitalist stance as presented in the selected novels. While Frey views satire as an

“attitude”, Mtumane stresses the significance of the literary devices used, such as above, to express such attitude.

The study shows that the two authors have used satire as a vehicle to expose the monstrous nature of the capitalist system that hides its hegemony and exploitation behind the mask of ideology. To this end, their satiric exposition grotesquely shows that consumerism is but a form of exploitation, promoted by capitalism for its own survival. Besides, the study also shows that Ibrahim and Amis have critically presented capitalist society as a class-ridden one that is characterised by inequality and oppression for poor people, and how those people are mechanically driven to search for false success in a free market economy. In this sense, the study makes use of Marxist perspectives on capitalism to further highlight Ibrahim and Amis’s satirical views on capitalism as an exploitative and oppressive social system.

Finally, this thesis stresses the power of satire as a subversive weapon against hegemonic culture and the power of global capitalism which Ibrahim, as a Third World writer in particular, has uniquely employed in his work. The concluding comments show that satirists almost emerge out of their social contexts. Ibrahim and Amis are but voices of resistance for the socioeconomic unjust embodied in the capitalist system that transformed societies into markets, individuals into consumers and workers into machines. They utilised certain satirical devices to ridicule the social unjust that appears to be a significant characteristic of both societies. This leads me to further conclude that Ibrahim and Amis’ novels are significant satiric fictions employed as a means to enlighten the public of the negative impact of capitalism on societies.

**ABSTRAK TESIS YANG DIKEMUKAKAN KEPADA SENAT UNIVERITI  
PUTRA MALAYSIA SEBAGAI MEMENUHI KEPERLUAN UNTUK IJAZAH  
DOKTOR FALSAFAH**

**SIKAP SATIRA ANTI-KAPITALIS DALAM NOVEL-NOVEL SONALLAH  
IBRAHIM DAN MARTIN AMIS**

Oleh

**KHALED ABKAR ALKODIMI**

**February 2011**

**Pengerusi: Profesor Madya Noritah Omar, PhD**

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Kajian ini memeriksa sikap bersatira yang dipaparkan oleh Sonallah Ibrahim dan Martin Amis dalam beberapa buah teks terpilih. Kajian menghujahkan bagaimana Ibrahim dan Amis telah menggunakan kaedah satira untuk mempersendakan pandangan bahawa kapitalisme mampu menjaga kebajikan masyarakat dan individunya. Dengan menganggap Ibrahim dan Amis sebagai penulis-penulis yang melafazkan kekecewaan mereka terhadap kekukuhan sosioekonomi pada lewat abad ke-dua puluh, analisis ini bertumpu kepada dua buah novel yang mempunyai nada satira, isi kandungan dan populariti yang meluas, yang menjadikan novel-novel tersebut sebagai teks-teks bacaan yang penting dalam konteks ini.

Tambahan pula, kajian ini berteraskan definisi satira yang diberikan oleh Northrop Frey dan Mtumane, selain daripada idea-idea yang diketengahkan oleh Leonard Feinberg dan Gilberg Highet. Walaupun Frey menganggap satira sebagai sejenis “sikap”, Mtumane

memberi penekanan kepada kaedah yang digunakan untuk menyatakan sikap ini melalui definisi satira sebagai “serangan berbentuk lisan atau bertulis terhadap sesuatu perkara dengan menggunakan tokoh tambah, ironi, sindiran, jenaka dan ejekan...”. Analisis ini menunjukkan bagaimana Ibrahim dan Amis telah menggunakan pelbagai kaedah sastra seperti yang dibincangkan di atas untuk menyatakan pandangan anti-kapitalis mereka sepertimana yang terkandung dalam teks-teks terpilih.

Kajian menunjukkan bahawa kedua-dua penulis ini telah menggunakan kaedah satira secara kritis untuk mendedahkan sifat-sifat hegemoni dan eksploitasi sistem kapitalis yang berselindung di sebalik samaran ideologi. Selain itu, mereka memberikan gambaran yang tidak menyenangkan tentang bagaimana kapitalisme mendorong kepenggunaan untuk menampung kemandiriannya. Kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa Ibrahim dan Amis menentang kritikan terhadap masyarakat kapitalis yang dikuasai oleh sistem pengelasan dimana ketidaksamaan dan penindasan terhadap golongan miskin menyebabkan mereka terpedaya dengan pencarian kejayaan yang palsu dalam pasaran ekonomi yang bebas. Oleh itu, kajian ini dilakukan dari sudut pandangan Marxisme bagi memberi penekanan kepada pandangan satira Ibrahim dan Amis terhadap eksploitasi dan penindasan yang berlaku dalam sistem sosial kapitalisme.

Akhir sekali, tesis ini memberi penegasan terhadap keberkesanan satira sebagai senjata yang mampu menentang budaya hegemoni dan kuasa kapitalisme sedunia. Kesimpulannya, ahli-ahli satira dianggap sebagai berada di luar konteks sosial mereka. Ibrahim dan Amis sekadar menjadi suara yang menentang ketidakadilan sistem

sosioekonomi kapitalis yang menjadikan masyarakat sebagai perdagangan, individu sebagai pengguna dan pekerja sebagai mesin. Penulis-penulis ini memanfaatkan kaedah-kaedah satira tertentu untuk menggambarkan perubahan sosioekonomi yang rapuh dalam masyarakat mereka. Ini telah mendorong saya untuk menyimpulkan bahawa novel-novel Ibrahim merupakan karya sastera yang penting dan boleh digunakan untuk menyedarkan orang ramai tentang kesan negatif sistem kapitalisme terhadap masyarakat-masyarakat Arab.





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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 09 February 2011 to conduct the final examination of Khaled Abkar Alkodimi on his thesis entitled “Anti-Capitalist Satirical attitude in Novels by Sonallah Ibrahim and Martin Amis” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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This thesis was submitted to the senate of universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the supervisory Committee were as follows:

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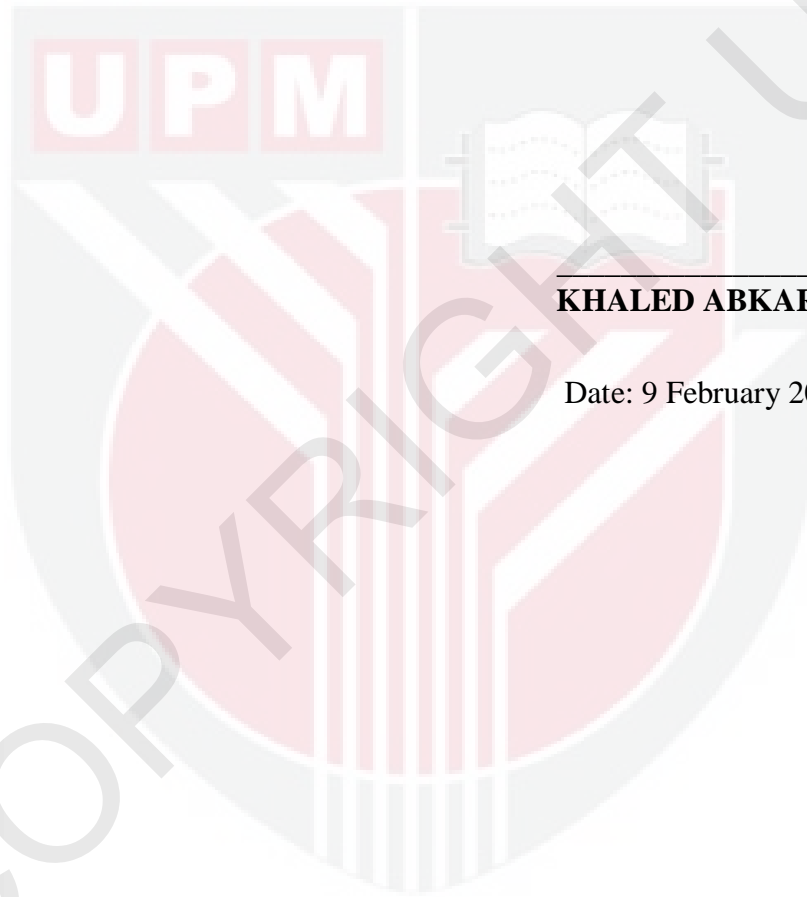
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Date: 9 June 2011

## **Declaration**

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.



**KHALED ABKAR ALKODIMI**

Date: 9 February 2011



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