

**A POST-COLONIAL ASSESSMENT OF INDIAN NATIONALISM IN
TAGORE'S SELECTED NOVELS**

By

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**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts

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October 2005

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This paper is an investigation into the history of India during the early nineteenth century with the birth of the Indian Nationalist Movement under the British colonizers. It is a post-colonial reading and it is in close relation to Rabindranath Tagore who was an active participant in the nationalist movement and his manifold reasons for his disapproval of the movement.

It examines two of Tagore's famous novels, *The Home and the World* (1916) and *Four Chapters* (1934) with political uprisings as its background. The protagonists from both the novels represented by Nikhil, Bimala, Sandip, Indranath, Ela and Atin each embody the happenings that took place during the subjugation and their reaction towards the colonizers. Its main focus is on the discourse encompassing the cultural, political, social and economical issues that takes place in both the novels, reflecting the mindset of the people during that time.

The colonization of India by the British is clearly depicted in the role of the protagonists in both the novels of how they boldly rejected to subjugation and the reasons for doing so. Thus, the need for self-identity and recognition was beginning to take root in the heart and soul of the people of India. Tagore's initiative to instill self-worth into the colonized people is portrayed in the arguments and actions found in the novels.

The Partition of Bengal by Lord Curzon for easy administration divided the Hindus and Muslims accordingly. The extremists represented by the Hindu majority participated fully in the Indian Nationalist Movement whereas the Muslims formed their own movement. This division among the people of India had later on led to bitter riots and unnecessary killings.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sastera

**SATU PENILAIAN PASCA-COLONIALISME NASIONALISME MENGENAI
SEMANGAT KEBANGSAAN INDIA YANG TERKANDUNG DALAM NOVEL-
NOVEL TERPILIH TAGORE**

Oleh

HULDAHRAJAMMAL EBENEZER

Oktober 2005

Pengerusi: Noritah Omar, PhD

Fakulti: Bahasa Moden Dan Komunikasi

Kertas ini merupakan satu penyiasatan berkenaan sejarah India semasa awal kurun ke 19, bersamaan dengan kelahiran Nasionalisme India di bawah penjajahan British. Ia adalah pandangan Pasca Kolonialisme di mana Rabindranath Tagore pernah menjadi aktif dalam gerakan ini dan lepas itu sebab-sebab beliau tidak bersetuju dengan gerakan tersebut.

Kertas ini juga mengkaji dua novel Tagore yang termasyur, *The Home and World* (1916) dan *Four Chapters* (1934) dengan pemberontakan politik sebagai latar belakangnya. Protagonis-protagonis dari kedua-dua novel, iaitu, Nikhil, Bimala,

Sandip, Indranath, Ela dan Atin memainkan peranan dengan merangkumi kejadian-kejadian yang telah berlaku semasa diperolehi oleh penjajah-penjajah dan reaksi mereka terhadap penjajah-penjajah tersebut. Perhatian utama diberi kepada perkara-perkara kebudayaan, politik, sosial dan ekonomi dalam wacana yang terdapat dalam kedua-dua novel, yang dapat mencerminkan pemikiran minda pada masa itu.

Penjajahan India oleh orang-orang British digambarkan dengan jelas dalam peranan protagonis-protagonis dalam kedua-dua novel tersebut dan bagaimana mereka memberontak dengan penuh keberanian terhadap penjajahan, dan sebab-sebab mereka bertindak demikian. Oleh kerana itu, usaha untuk memperolehi identiti dan pengiktirafan sendiri telah mula bertapak didalam hati dan jiwa orang-orang India. Keinginan Tagore untuk menyemai nilai harga diri di dalam orang-orang India dapat di lihat dalam hujah-hujah dan aksi-aksi yang terdapat dalam novel-novel tersebut.

Pembahagian Bengal oleh Lord Curzon untuk memudahkan pentadbirannya memecahbelahkan orang-orang Hindu dan orang-orang Muslim. Golongan ekstremis yang terdiri daripada orang-orang Hindu mengambil bahagian dalam Kongres Nasionalisme India sedangkan orang-orang Muslim membentuk golongan parti politik tersendiri. Pecah-belahan di kalangan orang-orang India diikuti dengan rusuhan-rusuhan pahit dan bunuh-membunuh yang tidak patut telah berlaku.

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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 4 Oktober 2005 to conduct the final examination of Huldahrajammal Ebenezer on her Master of Arts thesis entitled “A Post-colonial Assessment of Indian Nationalism in Tagore’s Selected Novels” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

HULDAHRAJAMMAL EBENEZER

Date:

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