

UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

Manhood Crisis in Chuck Palahniuk's Fight Club and Choke

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FBMK 2010 37



By

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Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts

July 2010

Abstract of thesis presented to the senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts

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Julai 2010

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Rosli B Talif, PhD

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The following thesis explicates how in Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club* (1996) and *Choke* (2001), the anonymous narrator and Victor Mancini struggle with a certain crisis of manhood as a result of the "contradictory experiences of power" under the

impositions of hegemonic masculinity in addition to a sense of "silence" or disparity between their lived experiences and their inherited language of masculinity caused by the new ideologies of parenting. As a response, it is argued that the two protagonists instigate nostalgic backlashes to grapple with the outlets of their crises. While the backlashes materialize as transgressive assertions of "phallic masculinity," the protagonists eventually become disillusioned with their struggles and opt instead, to come to terms with the crisis of manhood by bonding with certain female characters. This thesis argues that such partial resolutions suggest that both protagonists decide to come to terms with their crises by rearranging "power relations" rather than to assert power as a way toward resolution. Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sastera.

Krisis Kelelakian Hasil Karya Chuck Palahniuk Fight Club dan Choke



Oleh

AMIRHOSSEIN VAFA

July 2010

Pengerusi: Prof. Madya Rosli B Talif, PhD

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Tesis berikut menghuraikan bagaimana dalam hasil karya Chuck Palahniuk iaitu Fight Club (1996) dan Choke (2001), pengisah tanpa nama dan Victor Mancini bergelut dengan krisis kelelakian akibat 'pengalaman bertentangan kuasa' hasil pemaksaan sifat kelelakian hegemonik di samping perasaan 'keheningan' atau jurang di antara pengalaman hidup dan bahasa kelelakian terwaris yang disebabkan oleh ideologi baru keibubapaan. Sebagai satu reaksi, adalah dihujahkan bahawa keduadua watak utama memulakan tindak balas penentangan secara nostalgik untuk menangani penyaluran krisis mereka. Walaupun penentangan tersebut diperlihatkan sebagai tuntutan transgresif 'kelelakian linggai' (*phallic masculinity*), watak-watak tersebut akhirnya kecewa dengan perjuangan mereka dan sebaliknya memilih untuk menerima krisis kelelakian melalui pautan pada watak wanita tertentu. Tesis ini mempertikaikan bahawa penyelesaian secara separa begini memberikan tanggapan bahawa kedua-dua watak utama telah memutuskan untuk mengakui krisis mereka dengan menyusun semula "perhubungan kuasa daripada menuntut kuasa sebagai jalan ke arah penyelesaian.

Acknowledgements

This thesis would not have been possible without the indisputable intellectual support, professionalism, and immense kindness of Dr Rosli B Talif. I am also grateful to Dr Wan Roselezam Binti Wan Yahya for her encouragements.

I would like to thank all of my professors and instructors who enlightened me with knowledge during my last two years in Universiti Putra Malaysia. In particular, I wish to express my gratitude to Dr Malachi Edwin Vethamani for introducing the exciting realm of Men's Studies to me.

I shall also thank Ali, and Hooman; the brothers I never had.

Above all, I am utterly indebted to three outstanding persons whose names I'd rather write in bold: my magnificent and *unique* father **Mohammadnabi**, my heavenly mother **Mahindokht**, and my good **Sepideh**; the power of my heart and the love of my life.

I dedicate this thesis to all these beautiful people!

I certify that an Examination Committee has met on 23 July 2010 to conduct the final examination of Amirhossein Vafa on his Master of Arts thesis entitled "Manhood Crisis in Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club* and *Choke*" in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Arts in English Literature.

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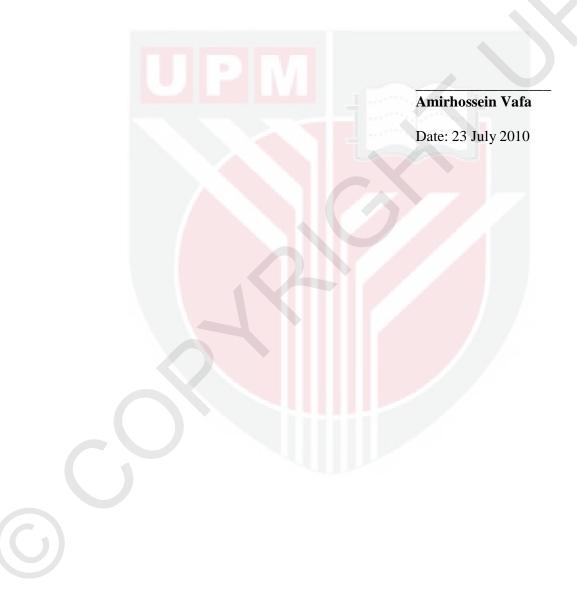
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Date: 21 October 2010

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.



LIST OF FIGURES

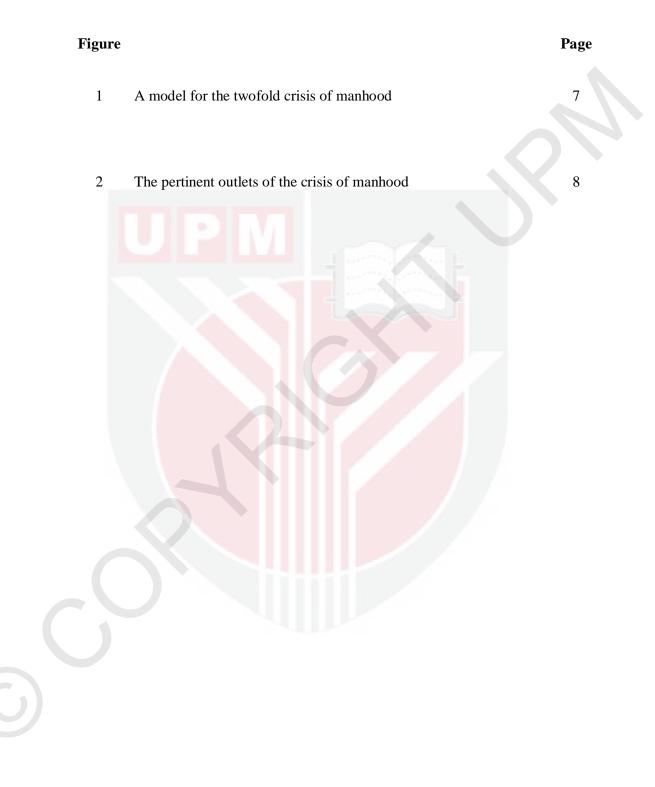


TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	ii
ABSTRAK	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
APPROVAL	vii
DECLARATION	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	X

CHAPTER

1

2

INTRODUCTION		1
Objectives of the Study		2
Summary of the Conceptual Framework		4
Scope of the Study		8
Statement of the Problem	1	0
Significance of the Study	1	2
Methodology and Thesis Structure	1	4
Definition of Key Terms	1	7
LITERATURE REVIEW	1	9
Introduction	1	9
Conceptual Framework	2	20
Men and Contradictory Experiences of Power	2	20
Men's Silences	2	24
Nostalgic Outlets	3	80
Powerlessness, Homophobia, and Violence	3	32
Silence, and Nostalgia for Omnipotence	3	37
Resolution of the Crisis of Manhood		2
Reading Fight Club		5
Reading <i>Choke</i>		6
Bridging the Gap: Review of Past Studies		8
Review of Past Studies on Fight Club	5	50
Review of Past Studies on Choke		52
Conclusion	5	54

3

MANHOOD IN CRISIS: POWERLESSNESS, HOMOPHOBIA, AND VIOLENCE IN <i>FIGHT CLUB</i>	
Introduction	56
The Crisis of Manhood: Contradictory Experiences of Power	57
The Crisis of Manhood: Men's Silences	62
Nostalgic Outlets: Grappling with the Crisis	66
The Buried Pain	67
Homophobia and Aggression	71
Eventual Resolution of the Crisis in Fight Club	78
Conclusion	84

MANHOOD IN CRISIS: SILENCE, AND NOSTALGIA FOR	87
OMNIPOTENCE IN CHOKE	
Introduction	87
The Crisis of Manhood: Men's Silences	88
The Crisis of Manhood: Contradictory Experiences of Power	94
Nostalgic Outlets: Grappling with the Crisis	97
The Unattainable Father and Predicaments in Masculinity	97
Powerlessness, Nostalgia, and Fantasies of Omnipotence	101
Eventual Resolution of the Crisis in <i>Choke</i>	106
Conclusion	114

5	CONCLUSION	115
	Revisiting the Objectives	115
	Suggestions for Future Research	124
	Read Barting Industrial [19]	
ODE		100

120
131
136
139

C