



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**Manhood Crisis in Chuck Palahniuk's *Fight Club* and *Choke***

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**MANHOOD CRISIS IN CHUCK PALAHNIUK'S *FIGHT CLUB* AND *CHOKE***

By

**AMIRHOSSEIN VAFA**

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

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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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By

**AMIRHOSSEIN VAFA**

**Julai 2010**

**Chair: Assoc. Prof. Rosli B Talif, PhD**

**Faculty: Modern Languages and Communication**

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 Kelelakan 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 kedua-dua 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.

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*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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## 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.



**Amirhossein Vafa**

Date: 23 July 2010



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