



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

**A CRITICAL LINGUISTIC READING INTO  
THE APPEAL OF GIBRAN KHALIL GIBRAN'S  
THE PROPHET**

**NIDAA HUSSAIN FAHMI AL-KHAZRAJI**

**FBMK 2014 22**



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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPY**

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By

**NIDAA HUSSAIN FAHMI AL-KHAZRAJI**



**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra  
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**September 2014**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

مَا يَفْتَحِ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ رَحْمَةٍ فَلَا  
مُمْسِكَ لَهَا وَمَا يُمْسِكُ فَلَا مُرْسِلَ لَهُ  
مِنْ بَعْدِهِ ۗ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٢﴾

صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

﴿سورة فاطر آية 2﴾

**In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Most Merciful**

**Whatever mercy Allah opens to people, none can withhold; and whatever He withholds none can release after Him. He is the Almighty, the Wise.**

**(God Almighty has spoken the truth)**

﴿**Surah Fatir, Verse 2**﴾

*To My Father Hussain Fahmi,  
My Husband Mohammad Saied,  
My Son Waleed, My  
Daughter Hadeel*

*And*

*To My Late Brother  
Malik Hussain Fahmi*

4/9/1965 – 3/1/2014

**Abstract of Thesis Presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in Fulfilment of the Requirement for Doctor of Philosophy**

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KHALIL GIBRAN'S *THE PROPHET***

By

**NIDAA HUSSAIN FAHMI AL-KHAZRAJI**

**2014**

**Chair: Associate Professor Mardziah Hayati Abdullah, PhD**

**Faculty: Modern Language and Communication**

This study analyses the appeal of *The Prophet* (1923), the widely read best-known masterpiece of the Lebanese writer, poet, artist and philosopher Gibran Khalil Gibran (1882-1931). Gibran was a key figure in the history of modern Arabic and English literature in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Gibran's masterpiece, *The Prophet*, is a volume of twenty-eight prose-poems full of wise sayings, representing wisdom of a prophetic quality. It has not been out of print since it was first published, and has sold more than ten million copies in English language alone. It has also been translated to more than twenty-five languages. Using a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach that incorporates a Positive Discourse Analysis (PDA) perspective, the study analyses the text at macro and micro levels and identifies aspects of the book that contribute to its appeal.

The findings show that universal themes and global messages are explicitly or implicitly addressed in the discourse of *The Prophet*. The universality of the issues dealt with, as well as the open, realistic manner in which they are addressed, make them relatable to readers. These themes and messages arise out of dialogues or narration involving the protagonist/author, who is portrayed as a godlike figure and font of wisdom. From this figure, positive lessons

and exhortations are offered, their messages of hope adding to the appeal of the book. The CDA-PDA perspective also discusses the positive/negative ideologies in the text and the part they play in the appeal of the book. Finally, the study looks at the use of metaphors to see how they aesthetically construct thinking, beliefs and social behavior. The book thus owes its appeal to the reflection of Gibran's ideology and thoughts, and his grasp of life's complexities as well as the need for a message of hope and utopian ideals to combat the reality of a world that is far from ideal.

This discursive and textual analysis of what is largely poetic text is an interesting exercise in applying a CDA-PDA framework to a literary text. It shows how works of arts are important to society and culture by transmitting ideology. Constitutions of cultural power are generated from the structures of meaning at work, and mechanisms that operate in the poetic text generate ideological effects.



**Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia  
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah**

**PENELITIAN LINGUISTIK KRITIKAL TERHADAP DAYA TARIKAN TEKS *THE  
PROPHET* KARYA GIBRAN KHALIL GIBRAN**

Oleh

**NIDAA HUSSAIN FAHMI AL-KHAZRAJI**

**2014**

**Pengerusi: Profesor Madya Mardziah Hayati Abdullah, PhD**

**Fakulti: Fakulti Bahasa Moden Dan Komunikasi**

Kajian ini menganalisa daya tarikan *The Prophet* (1923), karya penulis, penyajak, pelukis dan ahli falsafah Lubnan Gibran Khalil Gibran (1882-1931) yang paling terkenal. Gibran merupakan tokoh utama dalam sejarah kesusasteraan moden Arab dan Inggeris pada awal abad ke-20. Karya unggul Gibran, *The Prophet*, adalah sebuah koleksi du puluh lapan puisi-pros yang mengandungi pepatah dan kata-kata bijaksana. Pencetakan buku tersebut tidak pernah terputus semenjak ia diterbitkan, dan jualan versi Bahasa Inggeris buku ini sahaja telah melebihi sepuluh juta naskhah. Teks ini juga telah diterjemahkan dalam leboh daripada dua puluh lima bahasa. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan *Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)* serta perspektif *Positive Discourse Analysis (PDA)*, kajian ini meneliti aspek buku ini yang menyumbang kepada daya tarikannya.

Dapatan kajian menunjukkan pelbagai tema dan mesej yang bersifat sejagat dan global yang terkandung dalam wacana *The Prophet* secara tersurat dan tersirat. Sifat sejagat isu-isu dan cara isu tersebut di kemukakan secara terbuka dan realistik menyebabkan mereka mudah dihayati oleh para pembaca. Tema dan mesej dalam teks ini terkandung dalam dialog atau

penyampaian cerita oleh protagonis/penulis yang diberi watak dengan ciri ketuhanan serta sumber ilmu dan kebijaksanaan. Watak ini memberi pengajaran dan sahutan yang melahirkan harapan justeru menambahkan daya tarikan buku ini. Perspektif CDA-PDA juga membincangkan ideologi positif/negative dalam teks ini serta peranan yang dimainkan oleh ideologi tersebut dalam menjadikan teks ini begitu menarik. Akhir sekali, kajian ini meneliti penggunaan metafor sebagai alat estetika dalam membentuk pemikiran, kepercayaan dan tingkahlaku sosial dalam buku ini. Daya tarikan teks tersebut adalah kerana pencerminan ideology dan pemikiran Gibran, kebolehan beliau mendalami kerumitan hidup serta keperluan manusia untuk menerima harapan dan konsep dunia *utopia* untuk menangani reality dunia yang amat tidak sempurna.

Analisis wacana dan tekstual yang dijalankan ke atas teks yang bersifat kesusasteraan merupakan usaha yang menarik kerana kajian ini menggunakan kerangka CDA-PDA yang jarang digunakan untuk teks sastera. Namun kajian ini menunjukkan bagaimana karya sastera adalah penting sebagai wahana ideologi dalam masyarakat dan budaya. Kuasa budaya dibentuk dan dijana daripada struktur makna, dan mekanisme dalam teks puisi boleh menjana kesan ideologi.

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The biggest thanks and great love to my daughter **Dr. Hadeel Mohammad Saied Al-Hilaly** and my son **Civil Engineer Waleed Mohammad Saied Al-Hilaly** for their emotional support and kindness, to them I owe the fruition of my study.

Finally, the great love to my late brother **Malik Hussain Fahmi Al-Khazraji** who gave me considerable love, stimulation and intellectual motivation throughout the last four years to overcome my nostalgia and loneliness in Malaysia and enable me to complete this work as soon as possible. I deeply miss him.

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 25 September 2014 to conduct the final examination of **Nidaa Hussain Fahmi Al-Khazraji** on her thesis entitled “A Critical Linguistic Reading into the Appeal of Gibran Khalil Gibran’s *The Prophet*” 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 Doctor of Philosophy with **DISTINCTION**.

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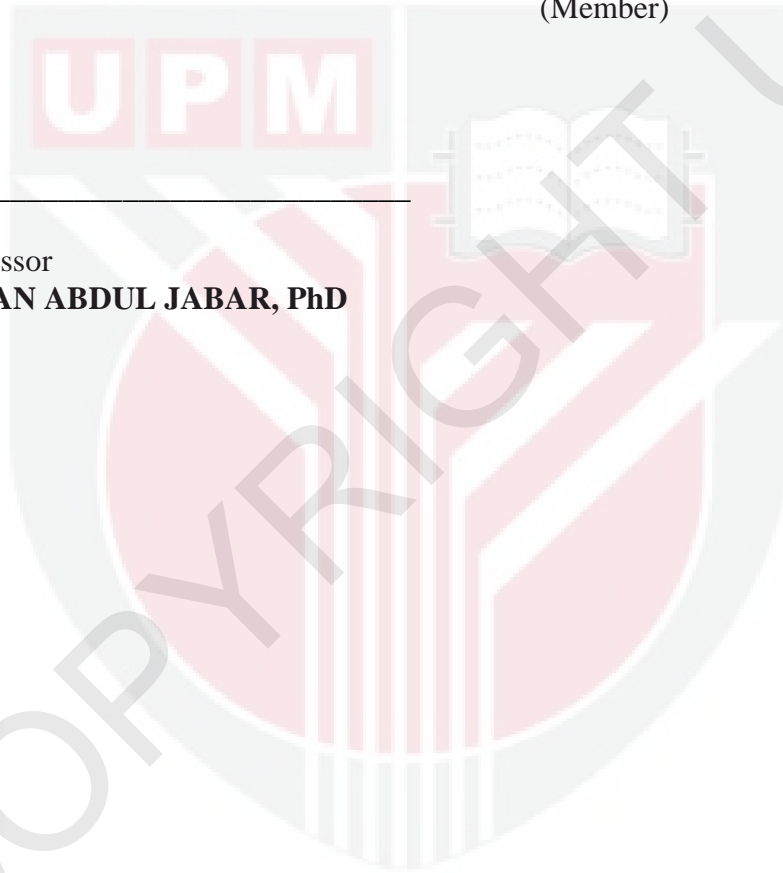
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                              | <b>Page</b>                                      |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>ABSTRACT</b>              | i  |
| <b>ABSTRAK</b>               | iii  |
| <b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>      | v  |
| <b>APPROVAL</b>              | vi   |
| <b>DECLARATION</b>           | vii  |
| <b>LIST OF TABLES</b>        | xiv  |
| <b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>       | xv   |
| <b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b> | xvi  |
| <br>                         |  |
| <b>CHAPTER</b>               |  |
| <br>                         |  |
| 1                            | <b>INTRODUCTION</b> 1                            |
|                              | 1.1 Background of the Study 1                    |
|                              | 1.2 Rationale for the Study 2                    |
|                              | 1.3 Purpose and Objectives of the Study 3        |
|                              | 1.4 Research Questions 4                         |
|                              | 1.5 Theoretical Considerations for the Study 4   |
|                              | 1.5.1 A Positive Discourse Reading of the Text 4 |
|                              | 1.5.2 Utopian Appeal 5                           |
|                              | 1.5.3 Critical Discourse Analysis 6              |
|                              | 1.5.4 Conceptual Metaphor Theory 7               |
|                              | 1.6 Scope of the Study 8                         |
|                              | 1.7 Significance of the Study 8                  |
|                              | 1.8 Definition of Key terms 9                    |
|                              | 1.9 Chapter Summary 11                           |
| 2                            | <b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b> 12                      |
|                              | 2. Introduction 12                               |
|                              | 2.1 Gibran Khalil Gibran's Life (1883-1931) 12   |
|                              | 2.1.1 Gibran's Childhood 12                      |
|                              | 2.1.2 Gibran of America 14                       |
|                              | 2.1.3 Gibran of Lebanon 15                       |
|                              | 2.1.4 Era of Agony 17                            |
|                              | 2.1.2 Arab American Literature 18                |



|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
|   | 2.1.3 Gibran's Art                                | 20 |
|   | 2.1.4 Gibran's Works                              | 20 |
|   | 2.1.4.1 Arabic Works                              | 20 |
|   | 2.1.4.2 Works in English, Prior to Gibran's Death | 21 |
|   | 2.1.4.3 Posthumous in English                     | 21 |
|   | 2.1.5 The Death of the Prophet                    | 22 |
|   | 2.1.6 Previous Studies about the Works of Gibran  | 22 |
|   | 2.1.6.1 Books of Biography                        | 26 |
|   | 2.2 Approaches to Critical Discourse Analysis     | 28 |
|   | 2.2.1 Discourse / Text                            | 28 |
|   | 2.2.1.1 Literary Text                             | 38 |
|   | 2.2.2 Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)           | 39 |
|   | 2.2.2.1 Developments in CDA                       | 40 |
|   | 2.2.2.2 Principles of CDA                         | 57 |
|   | 2.2.3 Critique of CDA                             | 58 |
|   | 2.3 Conceptual Metaphor Theory                    | 60 |
|   | 2.3.1 Types of Conceptual Metaphor                | 62 |
|   | 2.3.2 Poetic Metaphor                             | 64 |
|   | 2.4 Summary                                       | 65 |
| 3 | <b>METHODOLOGY</b>                                | 66 |
|   | 3.1 Research Design                               | 66 |
|   | 3.2 Book Selected for the Study                   | 66 |
|   | 3.2.1 Text Selected for the Study                 | 66 |
|   | 3.2.2 Text Format and Unit of Analysis            | 66 |
|   | 3.3 Framework for Analysis                        | 67 |
|   | 3.3.1 Procedure for Analysis                      | 69 |
| 4 | <b>DATA ANALYSIS</b>                              | 71 |
|   | 4.1 Universal Themes and Messages                 | 71 |
|   | 4.1.1 Theme and Format of <i>The Prophet</i>      | 71 |
|   | 4.1.2 Universal Themes                            | 72 |
|   | 4.1.2.1 Semantic Macrostructures and Macro-rules  | 73 |
|   | 4.1.3 Universal Appeal in <i>The Prophet</i>      | 73 |
|   | 4.1.3.1 Unshakable Belief in Love and Life        | 73 |

|         |   |     |
|---------|---|-----|
| 4.1.3.2 | Glorification of All Human Beings             | 76  |
| 4.1.3.3 | Appreciation of Joy                           | 79  |
| 4.1.3.4 | Belief in Freedom                             | 80  |
| 4.1.3.5 | Equality and Goodness of All Human Beings     | 81  |
| 4.1.4   | Universal Messages                            | 83  |
| 4.1.4.1 | Universal Messages in Social Activities       | 83  |
| 4.1.4.2 | Universal Messages in Personal Needs          | 87  |
| 4.1.4.3 | Universal Messages in Family Life             | 91  |
| 4.1.4.4 | Universal Messages in Personal Experiences    | 93  |
| 4.1.4.5 | Universal Messages in Social Institutions     | 97  |
| 4.1.4.6 | Universal Messages in Abstract Concepts       | 101 |
| 4.1.5   | Global Macrostructures in <i>The Prophet</i>  | 105 |
| 4.1.5.1 | Message Appeal                                | 106 |
| 4.2     | The World Represented in <i>The Prophet</i>   | 107 |
| 4.2.1   | Ethically and Morally Corrupt World           | 108 |
| 4.2.2   | Love-Impoverished World                       | 109 |
| 4.2.3   | Complex and Materialistic World               | 110 |
| 4.2.4   | Egoistical and Domination-filled World        | 112 |
| 4.2.5   | Unjust and Oppressive World                   | 113 |
| 4.2.6   | Diasporic Identity World                      | 116 |
| 4.3     | The Prophet's Identity                        | 120 |
| 4.3.1   | The Author's References to <i>The Prophet</i> | 120 |
| 4.3.1.1 | Prophetic Names                               | 121 |
| 4.3.1.2 | Relational Reference                          | 122 |
| 4.3.1.3 | Self- Reference                               | 122 |
| 4.3.2   | Interlocutors' Reference to the Prophet       | 125 |
| 4.3.3   | The Prophet's Worries and Needs               | 126 |
| 4.3.4   | The On-going Action                           | 127 |
| 4.4     | Poetic Metaphors in <i>The Prophet</i>        | 131 |
| 4.4.1   | Metaphors in the Data: Discussion             | 131 |
| 4.4.2   | Metaphors in the Data: Conclusion and Summary | 138 |

|   |   |     |
|---|---|-----|
| 5 | <b>SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b> | 139 |
|   | 5.1 Introduction  | 139 |
|   | 5.2 Summary of Findings                                     | 139 |
|   | 5.2.1 Themes  | 139 |
|   | 5.2.2 Message Appeal  | 140 |
|   | 5.2.3 Gibran's World  | 140 |
|   | 5.2.4 Identity and Us/Them Relation                         | 141 |
|   | 5.2.5 Poetic Metaphor in the Data                           | 141 |
|   | 5.2.6 The Appeal of <i>The Prophet</i>                      | 142 |
|   | 5.3 Insights from the Research                              | 143 |
|   | 5.4 Recommendations for Further Study                       | 144 |
|   | 5.5 Concluding Remarks                                      | 145 |
|   | <b>REFERENCES</b>   | 146 |
|   | <b>APPENDICES</b>   | 161 |
|   | <b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>                                   | 218 |
|   | <b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>                                 | 219 |