



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***JOSEPH CONRAD'S NEW PARADIGM FOR
MODERN MAN IN SEARCH OF A SOUL***

FARHANG KOOHESTANIAN

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JOSEPH CONRAD'S NEW PARADIGM FOR *MODERN MAN IN SEARCH OF A SOUL*

By

FARHANG KOOHESTANIAN

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

June 2013

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my wife, Sahar, for her love, endless support, and encouragement, and to my daughter, Shailene, whose birth was a true blessing in my life.



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment
of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Chair: Associate Professor Noritah Omar, PhD

Faculty: Modern Languages and Communication

Joseph Conrad's stories, set in all corners of the globe particularly in the Eastern seas and islands, bear resemblance to mythical and archetypal quests in that their protagonists, who are mainly young Westerners, are on the threshold of literal and symbolic journeys into the less explored and the unknown. However, unlike the heroes of myth and classical epic, Conrad's more or less down-to-earth protagonists represent modern man with his modern concerns and hardships. Conrad was not alone in depicting the miserable human condition of late nineteenth and early twentieth century modernity, but what distinguishes him from his contemporary modernist counterparts is the solution he offers, which parallels the model explored by Carl Gustav Jung during Conrad's lifetime and subsequently articulated with increasing precision. The new paradigm Conrad portrays becomes evident when his works are studied from a psychological perspective and in chronological order of composition. This approach reveals the gradual formation of a significant pattern comparable to what occurs in recurrent dreaming and very similar to the process that Jung defines as 'individuation'. *Almayer's Folly*, *An Outcast of the Islands*, *Lord Jim*, "The Secret Sharer", and *The Shadow-Line* narrate the stories of five young men

on journeys of self-discovery, of individuation, journeys which involve an exploration of the unconscious. In the first three works, Conrad criticises two opposite but equally detrimental extreme reactions to modern life: firstly, extreme rationalism and positivism which closes the door to the unconscious, rejecting it as irrational and primitive; secondly, the antithesis to this approach, where the protagonists fall under the absolute control of the unconscious. The outcomes of such rejection of or submission to the unconscious are seen to be tragically disastrous and inadequate approaches to modern experience. However, that is not the whole story and in the last two of these works Conrad synthesises a novel paradigm for modern man in search of a soul. He shows that the individual, like an adept captain, must be ready to sail the sea of the unconscious, to encounter what may lie there, and return to the land, return to consciousness. Conrad's works not only provide the road map to individuation for all human beings, irrespective of time, place and race, they themselves individuate.

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

**PARADIGMA BAHARU JOSEPH CONRAD UNTUK PENCARIAN JIWA
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Cerita-cerita yang ditulis oleh Joseph Conrad yang berlokasi di seluruh pelusuk dunia, terutamanya di lautan dan pulau-pulau sebelah timur, mempunyai banyak persamaan dengan kisah pengembaraan arketaip dan mitos. Protagonis cerita-cerita ini, yang kebanyakannya adalah pemuda barat, berada di ambang perjalanan yang literal dan simbolik menuju sesuatu yang kurang diterokai dan yang tidak diketahui. Walau bagaimanapun, tidak seperti wira epik klasik dan mitos, protagonis Conrad lebih berpijak di bumi nyata dalam mewakili manusia moden yang menghadapi cabaran dan masalah dunia moden. Conrad bukanlah satu-satunya penulis yang menggambarkan keadaan sengsara manusia era kemodenan pada lewat abad ke-sembilan belas dan awal abad ke-dua puluh, namun apa yang membezakan beliau daripada rakan modenis seangkatannya ialah penyelesaian yang ditawarkan, yang sejajar dengan model yang diterokai oleh Carl Gustav Jung semasa hayat Conrad, dan yang kemudiannya diolah dengan lebih tepat. Paradigma baharu yang digambarkan oleh Conrad ini menjadi lebih jelas apabila karya beliau dikaji dari perspektif psikologi dengan mengikut susunan kronologi penulisannya. Pendekatan ini mendedahkan pembentukan secara beransur-ansur satu pola yang ketara, sama

seperti dalam mimpi yang berulang-ulang. Pola ini juga didapati hampir serupa dengan proses yang ditakrifkan oleh Jung sebagai '*individuation*'. *Almayer's Folly*, *An Outcast of the Islands*, *Lord Jim*, "*The Secret Sharer*", dan *The Shadow-Line* menceritakan kisah lima pemuda dalam perjalanan mencari diri dan *individuation* yang melibatkan penerokaan minda bawah sedar. Dalam tiga kisah pertama yang disebutkan di atas, Conrad mengkritik dua reaksi kepada kehidupan moden yang bertentangan, tetapi yang sama melampau dan memudaratkan: pertama, rasionalisme dan positivisme yang melampau yang menolak minda bawah sedar sebagai tidak rasional dan primitif; kedua, antitesis kepada pendekatan ini, di mana protagonis jatuh di bawah kawalan mutlak minda bawah sedar. Hasil penolakan atau penundukan kepada minda bawah sedar dilihat sebagai bencana yang tragis dan pendekatan yang tidak mencukupi dalam menghadapi pengalaman moden. Walau bagaimanapun, ini bukanlah keseluruhan cerita, dan dalam dua cerita akhir yang disebut di atas, Conrad telah mensintesis satu paradigma baharu untuk manusia moden yang mencari jiwa. Beliau menunjukkan bahawa setiap individu, seperti seorang kapten yang mahir, mestilah bersedia untuk belayar di lautan minda bawah sedar dan menghadapi apa jua yang menunggu di sana, lalu kemudiannya kembali ke daratan, iaitu kembali kepada kesedaran. Penulisan Conrad bukan sahaja menyediakan peta jalan ke arah proses *individuation* untuk semua manusia tanpa mengira masa, tempat dan bangsa, malah cerita-cerita ini sendiri menjadi proses *individuation* tersebut.

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I certify that an Examination Committee has met on date of viva voce to conduct the final examination of Farhang Koohestanian on his PhD thesis entitled “Joseph Conrad’s New Paradigm for Modern Man in Search of a Soul” in accordance with the Universities and University College Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A)106] 15 March 1998. The committee recommends that student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

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DECLARATION

I declare that this 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 University Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

FARHANG KOOHESTANIAN

Date: 11 June 2013

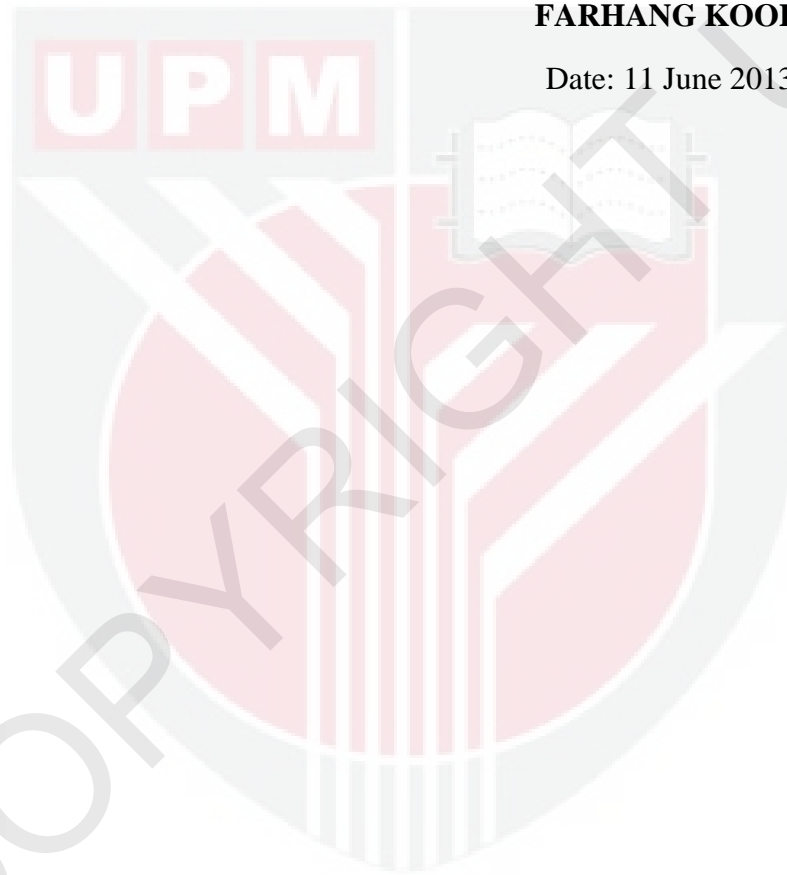


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