UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

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

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

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 Doctor of Philosophy

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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

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

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FARHANG KOOHESTANIAN

June 2013

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 MANUSIA MODEN

Oleh

FARHANG KOOHESTANIAN

Jun 2013

Pengerusi: Prof. Madya Noritah Omar, PhD
Fakulti: Bahasa Moden dan Komunikasi

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
tentangan, 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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Last but not least, I would like to thank my wife, Sahar. Without her love and encouragement this challenging journey would not have come to an end. I also need to thank my family whose unceasing support and kindness have never escaped my notice.
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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