

## **UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

UNACKNOWLEDGED INFLUENCE OF EXISTENTIALISM IN THREE SELECTED ENGLISH NOVELS

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FBMK 2013 30



# UNACKNOWLEDGED INFLUENCE OF EXISTENTIALISM IN THREE SELECTED ENGLISH NOVELS

By

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Thesis Submitted to the school of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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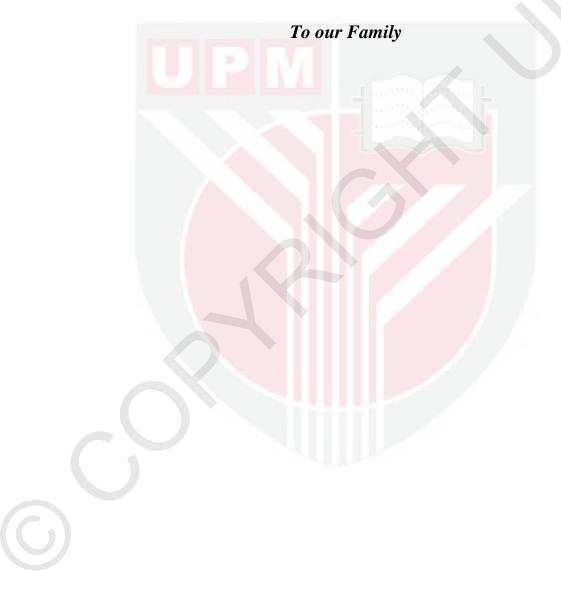
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# To my Parents

# To My Two Brothers and Sister



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

#### UNACKNOWLEDGED INFLUENCE OF EXISTENTIALISM IN THREE SELECTED ENGLISH NOVELS

By

NABEEL ABDUL RAZQ JALIL March 2013

Chair: Arbaayah Ali Termizi, PhD

Faculty: Modern Languages and communication

The research examines three selected English novels for selected elements of existentialism. The philosophy of existentialism was spreading widely in Europe in the middle of the twentieth century, especially after the Second World War. Its influence was not limited to the academic studies, but it affected literature and arts in general. It was spearheaded by two prominent figures, Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus in France, whose literary works and activities made the philosophy relevant to the everyday life of people, particularly in their home country. Yet it seems that the philosophy had a negative reception in the English speaking world, especially England, among scholars and writers. There is not any well known English writer from that time, who is known publicly, who had acknowledged the influence of the philosophy in his/her works. Particularly those of the three selected novels. The research takes the counter point, presented by some scholars, who argue that after many decades of the retreat of existentialism behind modern and contemporary literary theories, (such as Marxism, psychoanalyses, feminism and post colonial theories), the influence of existentialism is still evident. The research selects three novels, (*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* by George Orwell, and *Pincher Martin* by William Golding), to examine them for selected concepts of existentialism, (freedom of choice and bad faith taken from Sartre's philosophy, the absurd and absurd rebellion taken from Camus's philosophy). The study aims to establish that the influence of existentialism can still be seen in some of the works of the selected English writers of that period, even though it was not acknowledged by critics at that time. And therefore, there are some elements of existentialism which can be found in literary works of some writers who are outside the league of the well known existentialist writers.

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

#### PENGARUH EXISTENTIALISM YANG TIDAK DIKETENGAHKAN DALAM TIGA NOVEL INGGERIS

Oleh

#### NABEEL ABDUL RAZAQ JALIL

Mac 2013

Pengerusi: Arbaayah Ali Termizi, PhD

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Tesis ini mengkaji tiga novel Inggeris untuk meneliti beberapa elemen teori existentialism. Falsafah existentialism telah berkembang pesat di Eropah pada pertengahan abad keduapuluh, terutamanya selepas Perang Dunia Kedua. Pengaruhnya tidak terhad kepada bidang akademik sahaja, tetapi turut mempengaruhi sastera dan seni secara amnya. Ia diterajui oleh dua tokoh utama, Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus di Perancis, dalam mana karya dan aktiviti mereka mencerminkan relevannya falsafah itu kepada kehidupan sehariana, terutamanya di negara mereka sendiri. Walau bagaimanapun falsafah itu kelihatan seolah-olah diterima secara negatif dalam kalangan penutur Bahasa Inggeris terutamanya di England, dalam kalangan ilmuan dan para karyawan.

Tiada seorangpun karyawan Inggeris tersohor ketika itu, telah memperakui pengaruh falsafah tersebut dalam karyanya, terutamanya penulis yang menulis

tiga karya yang dipilih untuk kajian ini. Kajian ini memihak kepada para ilmuan yang berpendapat bahawa setelah berdekad-dekad tidak diketengahkan dan tersorok di sebalik teori moden dan kontemporari (seperti Marxism, psikoanalisi, feminism dan pasca- kolonial), pengaruh existentialism masih ketara. Tesis ini mengkaji tiga novel Inggeris (*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce, *Nineteen Eighty- Four* by George Orwell, and *Pincher Martin* by William Golding), untuk mengkaji beberapa konsep existentialism, iaitu kebebasan memilih dan "bad faith" yang diambil daripada Sartre, manakala konsep aneh dan penentangan yang aneh diambil daripada falsafah Camus. Tesis ini ingin mengutarakan bahawa pengaruh existentialism masih ketara dalam beberapa hasil karya para penulis Inggeris pada zaman itu, walaupun ia tidak diperakui oleh para pengkritik ketika itu. Oleh itu, wujud beberapa elemen existentialism yang ketara dalam karya beberapa penulis yang tidak mempunyai hubungan dengan penulis existentialist.

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C

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 08 March 2013 to conduct the final examination of Nabeel Abdul Razaq Jalil on his thesis entitled "Unacknowledged Influence of Existentialism in Three Selected English Novels" in accordance with 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.

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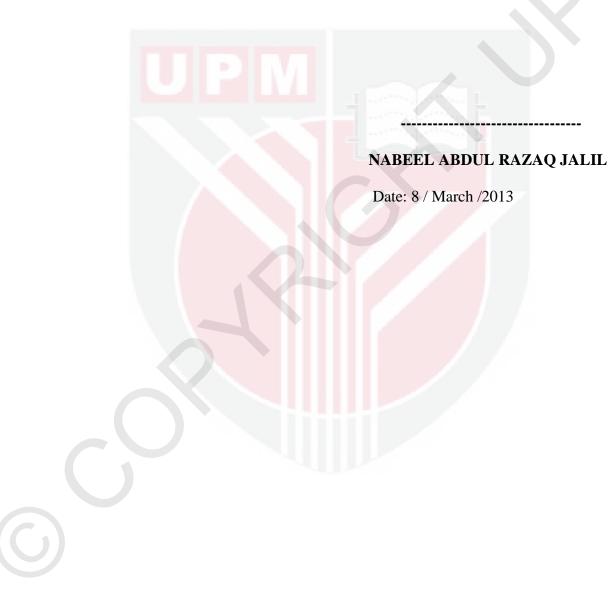
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#### DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for the 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.



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