



**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

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

**NABEEL ABDUL RAZAQ JALIL**

**FBMK 2013 30**



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

**By**

**NABEEL ABDUL RAZAQ JALIL**

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

**March 2013**

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***To my Parents***

***To My Two Brothers and Sister***

***To our Family***



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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**March 2013**

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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**

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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 kedua puluh, 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 seharian, 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 ilmuwan yang berpendapat bahawa setelah berdekad-dekad tidak diketengahkan dan tersorok di sebalik teori moden dan kontemporari (seperti Marxism, psikoanalisis, feminisme 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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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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## **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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**NABEEL ABDUL RAZAQ JALIL**

Date: 8 / March /2013

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>Page</b> iii
	<b>ABSTRAK</b>	v
	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	vii
	<b>APPROVAL</b>	viii
	<b>DECLARATION</b>	x
	<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xiii
<b>CHAPTER</b>		
1	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	1
	Introduction	1
	Background of the Study	2
	Statement of the Problem	5
	Objectives of the Study	10
	Research Questions	13
	Scope of the Study	14
	Significance of the Study	16
	Conclusion	18
2	<b>CONCEPTUAL THEORY AND METHODOLOGY</b>	20
	Introduction	20
	Methodology	21
	Existentialism: A General Introduction	23
	Soren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)	26
	Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)	32
	Martin Heidegger (1889-1976)	42
	Existential key concepts by Sartre and Camus	54
	Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980)	54
	Freedom of Choice	57
	Bad Faith	63
	Albert Camus (1913-1960)	65
	The Absurd	67
	Absurd Revolt	70
	Conclusion	74
3	<b>LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	76
	Introduction	76
	<i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	76
	<i>Pincher Martin</i>	96
	<i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i>	106
	Conclusion	123
4	<b>FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND BAD FAITH</b>	126
	Introduction	126
	Freedom of Choice	128
	Freedom of Choice in <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	128
	Freedom of Choice in <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i>	138

	Freedom of Choice in <i>Pincher Martin</i>	142
	Bad Faith	152
	Bad Faith in <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	152
	Bad Faith in <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i>	169
	Bad Faith in <i>Pincher Martin</i>	173
	Conclusion	175
5	<b>ABSURDITY AND ABSURD REBELLION</b>	178
	Introduction	178
	Absurdity	179
	Absurdity in <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	179
	Absurdity in <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i>	184
	Absurdity in <i>Pincher Martin</i>	188
	The Absurd Rebellion	192
	The Absurd Rebel in <i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i>	192
	The Absurd Revolt in <i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i>	200
	The Absurd Rebellion in <i>Pincher Martin</i>	204
	Conclusion	213
6	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	216
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	223
	<b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>	234
	<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>	235