UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

CONSTRUCTION OF THE IN-BETWEEN IDENTITY IN KATE CHOPIN'S THE AWAKENING AND SYLVIA PLATH'S THE BELL JAR

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By

SEYEDEH MARYAM HOSSEINIFAR

Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts

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Abstract of thesis presented to the senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Arts

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In both Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* and Sylvia Plath's *The Bell Jar*, one encounters a significant problem regarding the female characters' responses to patriarchal rules and regulations of the symbolic order. The heroines of both these novels, upon reaching a critical point in their lives begin to display a tremendous dissatisfaction toward their predetermined and prescribed gender roles imposed on them via symbolic order's systems of rules and values. Therefore, they start distancing themselves from their prescribed identity in favor of a new fluid identity which allows them to resist against these adamant and deep-seated roles. For this very reason, this thesis aims to examine the complexity of the process of subjectivity of the heroines of these novels; namely, Edna and Esther, in the light of

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Kristeva's psychoanalytical theoretical framework regarding the formation of the female subject, to unravel the motives which may have motivated them to rewrite their identities. As a response, it is argued that by maintaining an "in-between identity" the heroines of these novels awaken their repressed semiotic desires in the symbolic order in order to elude the restrictiveness of the patriarchal logic and accordingly rewrite their phallic identity.

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Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sastera.

Topik: PEMBENTUKAN IDENTITI "IN-BETWEEN" DI DALAM NOVELET KATE CHOPIN DAN *THE AWAKENING* OLE DAN *THE BELL JAR* OLE SYLVIA PLATH

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Pembentukan Identiti "In-Between" di dalam Novelet Kate Chopin dan ***The Awakening*** oleh Kate Chopin dan ***The Bell Jar*** oleh Sylvia Plath

Dalam kedua-dua novel ***The Awakening*** oleh Kate Chopin dan ***The Bell Jar*** oleh Sylvia Plath, seseorang menghadapi masalah yang ketara mengenai respons karakter wanita kepada undang-undang kebapaan dan peraturan arahan simbolik.

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Setelah mencapai tahap kritikal dalam kehidupan, heroin kedua-dua novel ini mula meluahkan rasa tidak puas hati yang membuak-buak terhadap peranan jantina yang ditentukan terlebih dahulu kepada mereka melalui undang-undang dan nilai-nilai sistem arahan simbolik. Oleh itu, mereka mula menjauhkan diri daripada identiti yang ditetapkan lalu berpaling kepada identiti bendalir baru yang membolehkan mereka menentang peranan yang telah tegar dan berakar umbi. Disebabkan alasan ini, tesis ini bertujuan untuk memeriksa kerumitan proses kesubjektifan heroin novel-novel ini; iaitu Edna dan Esther, dalam fakta rangka kerja teori psikoanalitikal Kristeva mengenai pembentukan subjek wanita untuk membongkar motif yang mungkin telah mendorong mereka untuk menulis semula identiti mereka. Sebagai jawapan, ia diperdebatkan bahawa dengan mengekalkan "identiti bendalir" heroin novel-novel ini, ia telah membangkitkan keinginan semiotik yang tertahan dalam arahan simbolik bagi mengelak keterbatasan logik kebapaan dan oleh yang demikian, menulis semula identiti mereka.

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This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of **Master of Arts**. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

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