



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**A CRITICAL LINGUISTIC READING INTO
THE APPEAL OF GIBRAN KHALIL GIBRAN'S
THE PROPHET**

NIDAA HUSSAIN FAHMI AL-KHAZRAJI

FBMK 2014 22



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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPY

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By

NIDAA HUSSAIN FAHMI AL-KHAZRAJI



**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra
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September 2014

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

مَا يَفْتَحِ اللَّهُ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ رَحْمَةٍ فَلَا
مُمْسِكَ لَهَا وَمَا يُمْسِكُ فَلَا مُرْسِلَ لَهُ
مِنْ بَعْدِهِ ۗ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٢﴾

صَدَقَ اللَّهُ الْعَظِيمُ

﴿سورة فاطر آية 2﴾

In the Name of Allah, the Merciful, the Most Merciful

Whatever mercy Allah opens to people, none can withhold; and whatever He withholds none can release after Him. He is the Almighty, the Wise.

(God Almighty has spoken the truth)

﴿**Surah Fatir, Verse 2**﴾

*To My Father Hussain Fahmi,
My Husband Mohammad Saied,
My Son Waleed, My
Daughter Hadeel*

And

*To My Late Brother
Malik Hussain Fahmi*

4/9/1965 – 3/1/2014

Abstract of Thesis Presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in Fulfilment of the Requirement for Doctor of Philosophy

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2014

Chair: Associate Professor Mardziah Hayati Abdullah, PhD

Faculty: Modern Language and Communication

This study analyses the appeal of *The Prophet* (1923), the widely read best-known masterpiece of the Lebanese writer, poet, artist and philosopher Gibran Khalil Gibran (1882-1931). Gibran was a key figure in the history of modern Arabic and English literature in the early 20th Century. Gibran's masterpiece, *The Prophet*, is a volume of twenty-eight prose-poems full of wise sayings, representing wisdom of a prophetic quality. It has not been out of print since it was first published, and has sold more than ten million copies in English language alone. It has also been translated to more than twenty-five languages. Using a Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach that incorporates a Positive Discourse Analysis (PDA) perspective, the study analyses the text at macro and micro levels and identifies aspects of the book that contribute to its appeal.

The findings show that universal themes and global messages are explicitly or implicitly addressed in the discourse of *The Prophet*. The universality of the issues dealt with, as well as the open, realistic manner in which they are addressed, make them relatable to readers. These themes and messages arise out of dialogues or narration involving the protagonist/author, who is portrayed as a godlike figure and font of wisdom. From this figure, positive lessons

and exhortations are offered, their messages of hope adding to the appeal of the book. The CDA-PDA perspective also discusses the positive/negative ideologies in the text and the part they play in the appeal of the book. Finally, the study looks at the use of metaphors to see how they aesthetically construct thinking, beliefs and social behavior. The book thus owes its appeal to the reflection of Gibran's ideology and thoughts, and his grasp of life's complexities as well as the need for a message of hope and utopian ideals to combat the reality of a world that is far from ideal.

This discursive and textual analysis of what is largely poetic text is an interesting exercise in applying a CDA-PDA framework to a literary text. It shows how works of arts are important to society and culture by transmitting ideology. Constitutions of cultural power are generated from the structures of meaning at work, and mechanisms that operate in the poetic text generate ideological effects.

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

**PENELITIAN LINGUISTIK KRITIKAL TERHADAP DAYA TARIKAN TEKS *THE
PROPHET* KARYA GIBRAN KHALIL GIBRAN**

Oleh

NIDAA HUSSAIN FAHMI AL-KHAZRAJI

2014

Pengerusi: Profesor Madya Mardziah Hayati Abdullah, PhD

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Kajian ini menganalisa daya tarikan *The Prophet* (1923), karya penulis, penyajak, pelukis dan ahli falsafah Lubnan Gibran Khalil Gibran (1882-1931) yang paling terkenal. Gibran merupakan tokoh utama dalam sejarah kesusasteraan moden Arab dan Inggeris pada awal abad ke-20. Karya unggul Gibran, *The Prophet*, adalah sebuah koleksi du puluh lapan puisi-pros yang mengandungi pepatah dan kata-kata bijaksana. Pencetakan buku tersebut tidak pernah terputus semenjak ia diterbitkan, dan jualan versi Bahasa Inggeris buku ini sahaja telah melebihi sepuluh juta naskhah. Teks ini juga telah diterjemahkan dalam leboh daripada dua puluh lima bahasa. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan *Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA)* serta perspektif *Positive Discourse Analysis (PDA)*, kajian ini meneliti aspek buku ini yang menyumbang kepada daya tarikannya.

Dapatan kajian menunjukkan pelbagai tema dan mesej yang bersifat sejagat dan global yang terkandung dalam wacana *The Prophet* secara tersurat dan tersirat. Sifat sejagat isu-isu dan cara isu tersebut di kemukakan secara terbuka dan realistik menyebabkan mereka mudah dihayati oleh para pembaca. Tema dan mesej dalam teks ini terkandung dalam dialog atau

penyampaian cerita oleh protagonis/penulis yang diberi watak dengan ciri ketuhanan serta sumber ilmu dan kebijaksanaan. Watak ini memberi pengajaran dan sahutan yang melahirkan harapan justeru menambahkan daya tarikan buku ini. Perspektif CDA-PDA juga membincangkan ideologi positif/negative dalam teks ini serta peranan yang dimainkan oleh ideologi tersebut dalam menjadikan teks ini begitu menarik. Akhir sekali, kajian ini meneliti penggunaan metafor sebagai alat estetika dalam membentuk pemikiran, kepercayaan dan tingkahlaku sosial dalam buku ini. Daya tarikan teks tersebut adalah kerana pencerminan ideology dan pemikiran Gibran, kebolehan beliau mendalami kerumitan hidup serta keperluan manusia untuk menerima harapan dan konsep dunia *utopia* untuk menangani reality dunia yang amat tidak sempurna.

Analisis wacana dan tekstual yang dijalankan ke atas teks yang bersifat kesusasteraan merupakan usaha yang menarik kerana kajian ini menggunakan kerangka CDA-PDA yang jarang digunakan untuk teks sastera. Namun kajian ini menunjukkan bagaimana karya sastera adalah penting sebagai wahana ideologi dalam masyarakat dan budaya. Kuasa budaya dibentuk dan dijana daripada struktur makna, dan mekanisme dalam teks puisi boleh menjana kesan ideologi.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 25 September 2014 to conduct the final examination of **Nidaa Hussain Fahmi Al-Khazraji** on her thesis entitled “A Critical Linguistic Reading into the Appeal of Gibran Khalil Gibran’s *The Prophet*” in accordance with the 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 with **DISTINCTION**.

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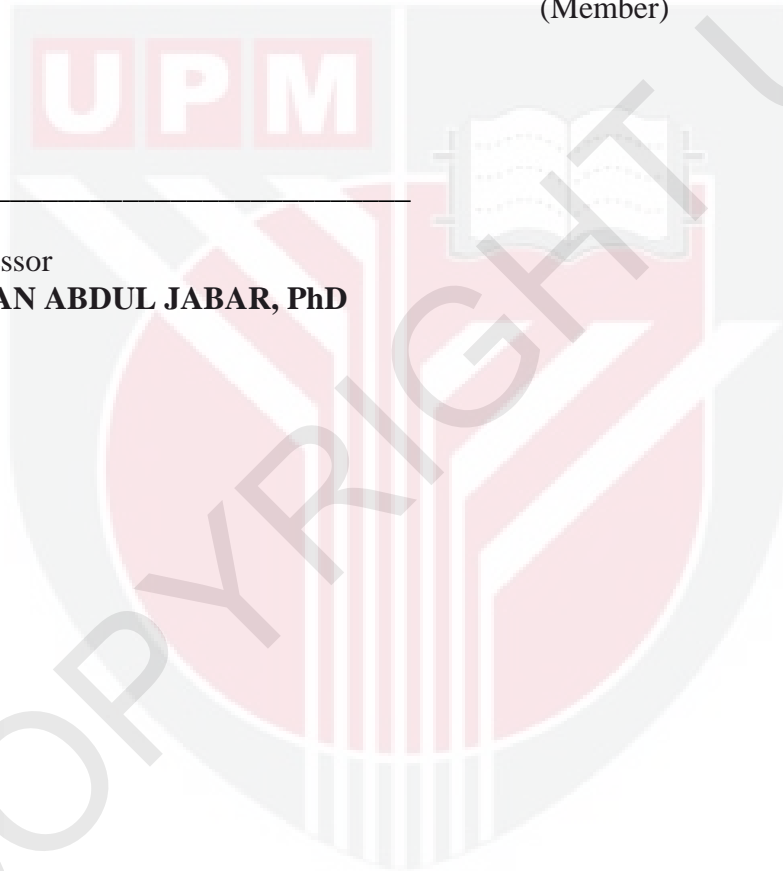


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