Dedication

To my late mother, father, and uncle Awad Bilal, and to my wife and children.

Acknowledgements

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Abstract

This thesis attempts to explicate the novelty of James Joyce's literary contribution in comparison with two others that have established English literature as known today. The first was the systematised production of the court of Queen Elizabeth and the systematising works by the Enlightenment and the Victorian men of letters. The second contribution was engendered by individual literary men, like Samuel Johnson, whose imprint on English literature remains undeniable.

This study ascribes the novelty of James Joyce's contribution to his milieu and provenance. And it delineates his milieu, as a Catholic-by-birth in the socio-political turmoil of Dublin, which shaped his artistic attitude and drove him to exile himself in Europe for thirty-seven years (ended in his death in Zurich) during which he devoted himself to an intensive reading activity. These readings, which comprised the Italians Dante Alighieri, Giambattista Vico, Giordano Bruno and Thomas Aquinas, underlay the artistic project of James Joyce and led him to first counter the dominance of the Catholic church and the provincialism of the Irish cultural and social atmospheres and then to develop a broader project that would deal with the human self in general.

The study also details how James Joyce's provenance has resulted in a romantic attitude traceable in his affinity with the poets William Blake, Lord Byron, and Percy Bysshe Shelley as well as in his poetry and single play *Exiles*. And it delineates how James Joyce's artistic preoccupation diverges that of his contemporary Modernists Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot and W.B. Yeats and distinguishes his prose fiction from that of his peers the female novelists Dorothy Richardson

and Virginia Woolf as manifested in his two last works *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake* that took him twenty-four years to accomplish despite the hardships of poverty, the two World Wars and his eye troubles.

Abstract

(Arabic Version)

المستخلص

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تقديم كتابات جيمس جويس كإسهام مبتكرمقارنة بشكلين آخرين قاما بتشكيل الأدب الانجليزي كما يعرف اليوم. ويتمثل المؤثر الأول في المنتج الأدبي الذي أط ر له البلاط الأليزابيثي وأعمال حقبتي التنوير والعصر الفيكتوري واللتين حاولتا بدور هما تأطير الأدب. كما قام أدباء أفراد – مثل صموئيل جونسون – بوضع بصماتهم التي لا يمكن انكارها كمؤثر ثان ساهم في رفد الأدب الانجليزي.

وتشكل البيئة التي ترعرع فيها جيمس جويس وما استوعبه من موروث فكري عاملين رئيسين وراء هذا الإبتكار. وتقف هذه الدراسة على بيئة دبلن ذات الخصوصية الكاثوليكية وما اعتمل فيها من إضطراب سياسي/اجتماعي أديا دورا محوريا في التكوين الأدبي لجيمس جويس ودفعاه الى منفاه في أوروبا والذي إمتد لسبعة وثلاثين عاما وانقضت بموته في زيورخ. وقد سخر جيمس جويس جهده في قراءات مكثفة شملت دانتي اليغييري و قيامبتيستا فيكو وجيوردانو برونو وتوما الأكويني وأثمرت في تشكيل مشروعه الأدبي الذي ناهض به الكنيسة والنزعة الوطنية الايرلندية وهيمنتهما على الثقافة والسياسة هناك ثم طوره ليسبر الذات الانسانية عموماً.

وترصد الدراسة ما أضفته قراءات جيمس جويس وخلوصه الى استدعاء الموقف الرومانتيكي للشعراء وترصد الانجليز وليام بليك و لورد بايرون وشيلي. حيث قام الباحث بتفصيل التماثل بين هولاء الشعراء وجيمس جويس الى حد مباينة الأخير لمعاصريه من رموز الحداثة: إزرا باوند، ت.س.اليوت ووليام بتلر ييتس. و تؤكد الدراسة على النزعة الرومانتيكية في مشروع جيمس جويس الشعري وعمله المسرحي الوحيد "المنفيون", بعد التنويه الى انعكاس همه الأدبي في تفرد منتوجه عن الروائيتين دوروثي ريتشاردسون وفرجينيا وولف مثلما يتجلى في عمليه الأخيرين "عوليس" و "يقظة فينيغان" واللذان استغرقا أربعة وعشرين عاما من سنى حياته لينجزهما وسط مصاعب الفقر والحربين العالميتين ومشاكله البصرية.

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