

## FICTION AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY: A STUDY OF JOSEPH CONRAD'S HEART OF DARKNESS AND JAMES JOYCE'S A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN

*Amungwa Veronica Nganshi*

*Lecturer, Department of English, Government Bilingual High School, buea, Cameroon*

**Received: 12 Aug 2020**

**Accepted: 21 Aug 2020**

**Published: 31 Aug 2020**

### **ABSTRACT**

*Although Heart of Darkness is an earlier modernist novel than A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, both novels incorporate autobiographical elements which project the authors' traumatic experiences with the nihilistic practices in their societies. This paper examines fiction and autobiography with reference to Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness and James Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man with the aim of illustrating that these authors integrate personal life experiences in their fictional works to project their feelings and thoughts about the modernist experience. The autobiographical undertones therefore give the modernist novel its strength. Using the New Historicist theoretical approach, this article is predicated on the assumption that the modernist consciousness in Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness and James Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man is enriched by the autobiographical undertones. In other words, the protagonists in both works reflect their authors' life experiences. Conrad and Joyce use their protagonists as mouthpieces to project individual freedom and the bestial part of man. Conrad envisions a life of honesty, sincerity, justice, fidelity and restraint while Joyce proposes justice, truth and individual freedom*

**KEYWORDS:** *Fiction, Autobiography, Modernist*