

Citation information. *in esse: English Studies in Albania*. Volume 3, Issue 1, Page 21-30. ISSN 2078 – 7413.

Logomachia: Conrad's unique style in Lord Jim

Sonja VITANOVA-STREZOVA,

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

sonjav.strezova@yahoo.co.uk

Abstract

This article looks into the original poetics of Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim* focusing on the semantic fecundity of the novel's language. The meanings are constantly multiplied which is due to Conrad's unique use of language, be it only simple words, strings of words, or intricate narrative style. The words with emphatic negatives, whose meaning remains yet to be expressed, also contribute to the semantic productiveness of the novel. Thus the argument of this paper is that *logomachia*—the Greek word for “battle of words”—is turned into a battle of meanings in *Lord Jim*. Therefore, through negation and recreation, the meanings are constantly multiplied in the novel. The analysis of the language in *Lord Jim* draws on semiotics to focus first on several examples of words that cannot be reduced to only one meaning. The article then briefly turns to the words whose possible meanings are yet to be expressed, thus emphasizing the semantic potential which is prompted by the inscrutability of the language. In the context of the narrative discourse, the analysis endeavours to demonstrate that Marlow's narration is unreliable due to the many narrative disruptions such as the stories within the main story and the uncertainty of his visions. Thus this article aims at showing that the unique language in *Lord Jim*, rendered through unreliable narration, constantly generates new meanings in the novel which become open to various interpretations.

Keywords: *unique language, Logomachia, semiotics, narrative discourse unreliable narration*