

Universal Themes and Messages in Gibran's *The Prophet*

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Abstract:

Gibran's masterpiece, *The Prophet* (1923), is a volume of twenty-eight prose-poems full of sayings representing wisdom of a prophetic quality. The book's chapters deal with the universal themes of all aspects of life love, marriage, children, etc. It is considered as a full representation for a comprehensive survey for all the meanings on earth, (Bushrui, 1998; Acocella, 2008; Buck, 2010). Bushrui asserts that the language of *The Prophet* represents the unity in diversity as a passionate belief in the healing power of universal love and the unity of being (ibid, 1988: 68). The study will attempt to identify the universal themes underlying the text with the core of micro and macro levels. The theoretical grounding for this study draws upon the fact that the book has become so popular in many cultures is an indication the extent of interest in positive ideology which presented universal themes and messages appeal. Waterfield declares that *The Prophet* 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 (Waterfield: 1998:257). The universal themes and messages that emerge from the writings show an absence of the in-group versus out-group distinction that is often evident in other Gibran's works.

Keywords: Gibran, *The Prophet*, semantic macrostructure, universal themes