

**A METATHEORETICAL STUDY OF
MALEK BENNABI'S APPROACH TO CIVILIZATION**

**BY
BADRANE BENLAHCENE**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

September 2004

DEDICATION

To my affectionate father and mother; Mesaoud and Samtah, my loving wife Dr. Farida and my children Ayub, Kawthar and Sakinah, I dedicate this work.

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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This study investigates Malek Bennabi's approach to civilization and aims at analyzing the various factors contributed to the formulation and development of Bennabi's approach by using metatheorizing methodology (*Mu*) through its four dimensions. It goes beyond available literature on Bennabi, to not only present his approach, but to understand its underlying structure.

The researcher, by using (*Mu*), realized that civilization is a multi-aspects concept and it had been dominated by the paradigms of philosophy of history and social sciences, on the one hand. On the other hand, it is found that Bennabi's interdisciplinary approach to civilization in its two parts; the major concepts and the interpretation of the movement of civilization, is a result of the internal-external and the social–intellectual factors which formed the context of his approach.

The internal-social factors as his background (family, religion and education) and his intellectual pursuits (activities and intellectual connections), on one hand, and the external-social factors as the colonization and decolonization processes on the other hand, formed the social structure of Bennabi's approach.

Moreover, the internal-intellectual factors as the dominant paradigms and schools within civilization studies, on the one hand, and the external-intellectual factors as the impacts of the *Qur'an* and *Sunna*, the reformist thought in the Muslim world, psychology, philosophy and the modernity discourse, the natural sciences and mathematics, on the other hand formed the intellectual or the cognitive structure of his approach.

The researcher found that by applying (*Mu*) in this study, he could go beyond mere presenting Bennabi's approach, and could gain an in-depth understanding of Bennabi's interdisciplinary approach to civilization and its underlying structure.

In addition, (*Mu*) offered a methodological tools to understanding Bennabi's approach to civilization, and could provide a potential methodology to study the formulation and development of ideas, approaches and theories, because of (*Mu*)'s comprehensiveness in integrating the tools of philosophy of science, history of ideas and sociology of knowledge in one methodology which is metatheorizing.

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

**KAJIAN METATHEORETICAL UNTUK
PENDEKATAN MALEK BENNABI TENTANG KETAMADDUNAN**

Oleh

BADRANE BENLAHCENE

Mac 2004

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Tujuan tesis ini adalah untuk mengkaji faktor-faktor yang membantu mengembangkan pendekatan Bennabi berdasarkan metododologi '*metatheorizing*' (*Mu*) melalui empat dimensi yang digunakan. Kajian ini melampaui sorotan literatur sedia ada mengenai Bennabi, dengan bukan sahaja membentangkan hasil pendekatan beliau dan sekaligus memahami struktur asas pemikiran beliau.

Berdasarkan pendekatan (*Mu*), penyelidik mendapati bahawa tamadun adalah satu konsep yang meliputi berbagai aspek dan telah didominasi oleh paradigma falsafah yang terkandung didalam subjek sejarah dan sains kemanusiaan, sebagai satu perspektif. Dilihat dari perspektif yang lain, jelas bahawa pendekatan ketamadunan '*interdisciplinary*' Bennabi terbahagi kepada dua bahagian; konsep-konsep utama dan interpretasi pergerakan ketamadunan yang terbentuk berdasarkan konteks pendekatan faktor dalaman-luaran dan faktor sosio-intelektual.

Penggunaan faktor-faktor sosio-dalaman sebagai latarbelakang (keluarga, agama dan pendidikan) dan pencarian intelektual beliau (aktiviti dan hubungan intelektual) dari satu aspek dan faktor-faktor sosial –luaran dalam proses kolonisasi dan nyah-

kolonisasi sebagai aspek yang lain telah membentuk struktur sosial pendekatan Bennabi.

Disamping itu, faktor-faktor dalaman-intelektual sebagai satu teori dominan didalam kajian ketamadunan dan faktor-faktor luaran-intelektual bersandarkan Qur'an dan Sunna, pemikiran reformis dunia Islam, psikologi, falsafah dan teori modernisme, sains semula jadi dan matematik membantu membentuk struktur intelektual atau kognitif Bennabi.

Penyelidik mendapati bahawa dengan menggunakan kaedah (*Mu*) didalam kajian ini, penyelidik bukan sahaja dapat mengulas pendekatan Bennabi, malah dapat dapat memahami secara mendalam pendekatan '*interdisciplinary*' beliau berkaitan ketamadunan dan struktur dasarnya.

Oleh itu, (*Mu*) adalah satu sistem metodologi yang boleh diguna pakai untuk lebih memahami pendekatan Bennabi terhadap proses ketamadunan, disamping berpotensi besar dalam membantu proses perkembangan idea, pendekatan-pendekatan dan teori-teori berdasarkan sifat menyeluruh (*Mu*) sebagai alat yang mengintegrasikan falsafah sains, idea-idea berdasarkan sejarah dan ilmu sosiologi didalam satu metodologi yang dikenali sebagai '*metatheorizing*.'

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I certify that an Examination Committee met on 17 September 2004 to conduct the final examination of Badrane Benlahcene on his Doctor of Philosophy. thesis entitled "A Metatheoretical Study of Malek Bennabi's Approach To Civilization" in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

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BADRANE BENLAHCENE

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