

Paragraph 2:

Conrad was a master of modernist art who paid crucial attention to the form of modernity which his work represents. Some feminists think his work shouldn't be generalized [?] because women had separate subordinate experiences with modernity. For example, Conrad's work represents men as "flaneurs," while women are not afforded this freedom. If we see one reason for Conrad's interest and importance as writer as being his representation of the epistemological position of the subject of modernity, the gender of that subject must crucially determine the form of modernity which his work presents.

Paragraph 12:

Heart of Darkness is a story about the gaining and passing on—or failure to pass on—knowledge, as well as a story about the relationships between men. This knowledge, structured in terms of transgression of boundaries, is open to many interpretations. This is due to Marlow himself never explaining exactly what that knowledge is, and also in part because he says it is impossible to do so. Roberts also explains that the knowledge of the story is actually an empty signifier created using "epistemologically arousing place markers" that hint at something without ever coming to a conclusion as to what "it" is. The emptiness of the signifier, however, is only in regards to the story, as it does have history and meaning related to homophobia, sexism, and racism.

Paragraph 14:

While it may seem that Marlow lied to the Intended as a kind way to avoid destroying her image of her dead lover, Roberts believes that the scene's overly dramatic language and imagery reflects Marlow's deep sense of "panic" caused by the Intended--a woman--getting too close to his realm of "truth" (here in the form of Kurtz's last words.) This proximity, for Marlow, resurrects the provocative ideas of darkness, mystery, and the inconceivable. By lying to her, restricting her access to knowledge, Marlow keeps the epistemological distance between them intact, ensuring that she remains a baseline of naivety against which men can feel more secure.