**Dr. S. CHOUCHANE**

**3rd Year Literature Module**

**Academic Year: 2024/2025**

**Modernist Aspects in Joseph Conrad’s *Heart* *of Darkness* (1899)**

**Analysis**

The novel presents the story of the narrator Charlie Marlow about his journey into the depths of the equatorial Africa, to the trading station of the European company to pick up the accumulated goods there – ivory – and take out the sick agent of the company, Mr. Kurtz.

* Narrator/author suggests and evokes, but does not explain
* Emphasis is placed not on the story’s plot, but on the narrator's perceptions
* Theme and meaning are often conveyed indirectly--e.g. by imagery and symbolism--rather than by direct, explicit explanation (especially by an uncertain narrator who cannot access the meaning of his narration logically and directly, but only through a-rational, unconscious means)

**Joseph Conrad’s Biography (1857-1924)**

* Born in Poland occupied by Russia, Prussia and Austria
* Forced exile to Russia
* Parents died early and he was brought up by an uncle
* he went to sea on French merchant ships
* In 1878 he joined an English ship to the Far East and Australia
* In 1890 he was sent to Africa (Congo Diary)
* mental breakdown
* he devoted himself to writing