

**HARDY DECONSTRUCTING HARDY—A DERRIDEAN READING OF  
THOMAS HARDY’S POETRY**

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To all passionate readers of literature and philosophy

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## PREFACE

This study rests on the discussion of semantic and linguistic instabilities in such poems by Hardy that appear to be less mimetic or less thematically organized within their placement in the collections. My argument dwells on poems that either have not been analysed in Deconstructionist light or have not been thoroughly referred to in Derridean terms. While some of the thirty-four poems analysed in Part 2 have been accepted to be among Hardy's best and most well-known poems, some of them have not been given so much attention. In short, there is no single principle or treatment by which the poems appear to be chosen for discussion in this research. There are sub-sections in Part 2 by which Derridean and Hardyesque key concepts appear to manifest their challenge to the logocentrism, phonocentrism and phallogocentrism of the Western epistemology. Those sub-sections mainly explore some key concepts in Hardy, such as agnosticism, the self, language of negation, irony, and temporality, by which Hardy, like Derrida, appears to present a challenge to metaphysics of presence through the language of poetry.

Abbreviations:

*CP*—*Thomas Hardy: The Complete Poems*.

App.; app.—Appendix

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