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*Conrad e la verità: il caso* Heart of Darkness  

**Abstract** – This article focuses on Conrad’s idea of truth as it emerges in particular from *Heart of Darkness*. Conrad believed that fiction could unfold only glimpses of truth, whilst absolute truth was bound to remain inaccessible to the novelist as well as to the philosopher and the scientist. Focusing on the final dialogue between Marlow and the Intended in *Heart of Darkness*, this essay investigates how Conrad’s literary principles and narrative techniques – the poetics of mistake, *Schwelle*dialog (or dialogue on the extreme threshold), polyphonic narration, and delayed decoding – contribute to shaping his skeptical view of the world. The motif of “not yet/not now”, here assumed as being a distinguishing feature of modernist poetics, is also studied in the light of Conrad’s anti-metaphysical axiology.

**Keywords:** Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*, truth in Fiction, apocalypse, deferral