Gothic Literature - A Background Study on Main Elements of Horror in Gothic Fiction

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Abstract

The term Gothic created by Germanic tribes called the Goths. It was then later expanded to include most of the medieval style of architecture, this ornate architecture holds abundant of carvings and crevices later transformed in to Gothic Architecture. Gothic writers started to cultivate their emotional effects through this architecture with these help of architecture they started to develop their works by adding certain elements like shadows, conjure an aura, mystery and darkness helped gothic literature that serve an appropriate setting that dabbed with those architecture. The chief motif in this paper is based on the main elements of Gothic fiction that holdsan combination of four elements of horror and followed by suspense and mystery using supernatural events.Horror and suspense are their Gothic motifs. Gothic fiction in present age has new methods that hold Horror and Suspense were replaced by Ghost, Thriller Stories and Detective novels that highlights Mystery, Shock, Sensation and Supernatural- evil forces against an innocent protagonist. The Gothic genre was reshaped by authors of novels and poems cannot classify themselves as a Gothic writer.

KEYWORDS: Gothic, Horror, architecture, shadows, emotional

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The first fiction in Gothic Literature was invented and maintained a change of classic elements is Horace Walpole's infamous Castle of Otranto: A Gothic Story, Shelley's Frankenstein, 1818 was meant by a subtle joke that derived from a middle age. This work of art initially described as an ancient classical work but later it was discovered recently as a tale. The supernatural elements in this story formed a new genre where it took off in Europe and it got hold towards America's Edgar Allen Poe in mid 1800s where no one who succeeded like him. In this literature he found right place to explore Gothic Literature through psychological trauma and Mental Illness.Authors adopted Gothic conventions in Romantic authors as Sir Walter Scott The Tapestried

Chamber, 1829 and Victorianwriters as Robert Louis Stevenson The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, 1886 and Bram Stoker Dracula, 1897. They used horror and suspense as their Gothic motifs.Gothic fiction in present age has new methods that hold Horror and Suspense were replaced by Ghost, Thriller Stories and Detective novels that highlights Mystery, Shock, Sensation and Supernatural- evil forces against an innocent protagonist. The Gothic genre was reshaped by authors of novels and poems cannot classify themselves as a Gothic writer.

The element found in Gothic fiction was an effect that pleases some sorts of terror and Romantic Pleasures that create a new time for English author Horace Walpole, with his 1764 novel The Castle of Otranto, with long- standing features. Since this literature is deeply associated with the Gothic architecture, the extreme and terrifying thrills are inherited in a quest for atmosphere through Neoclassical style Architecture's Establishments that indulge in dark- romantic themes.

The first horror element in Gothic fiction is thesettingthat lies around on ruined old castle or old mansion. Sometimes the view of the building seems abandoned, sometimes occupied and sometimes it's not clear whether the building holds human or ghosts. The mansion or castle often surrounded in islands that contains secret passages, trap doors, secret rooms, trick panels with hidden levers, dark or hidden staircases which helps an aid with their own haunting flavors their darkness, echoes of unusual sounds, mystery and horror. Gothic fiction holds terrifying Monsters or other deviant forms of humans like Vampires, Zombies and Wolf men.It is a goal of these setting in novels is to create a sense of unease towards atmospheric elements of fear and dread. The darkness in the buildings allows a frightening appearance of characters.

The second horror element in this gothic fiction holds mystery and suspense that penetrates the threatening feeling enhanced by unknown glimpse of something that appears with the blow of wind through the window and person rushes out of the window with a creaking sound of someone walking in the floor and normal visions of the night was built around a mystery such as unknown parentage, a disappearance and show up of the dead. In Gothic novels suspense revolves around the mystery enveloped with omens or inexplicable events and tyrannical elements and it transcended the boundaries of the genre.Wuthering Heights and Jane Eyre novels follow gothic tradition in setting, atmosphere events. These novels break from tradition in the matters of feminism influenced by gothic tradition which is specific to gothic novels. Wuthering Heights takes place in the castle-like home. And so Jane Eyre's two main settings are Logwood School and Thorn field Hall. While living in Thorn field Hall, Jane frequently hears unusual sounds coming from the third story of the mansion, and odd things keep happening in the middle of the night, such as bed catching fire and an attack on a guest. Eventually, as a governess Jane discovers that all of this is the work of Mr. Rochester's wife who is insane hiding in an attic in the third story and who sneaks out at night to cause mayhem. The suspense supports dark, cold and creepy which contributes to the overall gothic atmosphere of the novel.

The third horror element in gothic fiction is about omens, portents and visions that hold abnormal dreams or imitation vision those foreshadows of future events were commonly used in Gothic fiction. These omens are preceded by ancient curses that make

the life of protagonist miserable. Though the protagonist endowed with qualities like intelligence, wisdom, strength, sensitivity, pride, etc., are carried around guilt and burdened by sorrows.That imagery was made in to white that peers as bad omen that connected to a universal force intensifies all fear while reading the novel.

The last element of Gothic Fiction was Intense Emotion is often used by gothic writers to give a life for their works that holds an experience of sublime terror and sentimental narration. The narration creates awareness on atmosphere of fear and sometimes protagonist feels a sense of relief from their own misery with high overwhelmed emotions in order to make the characters and setting to seem out of control especially anger, sorrow, surprise and terror. And they suffers from raw nerves and sometimes breathless, screaming and Panic were also common in this element.

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