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THE GOTHIC NOVEL-A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

The ingredients of the Gothic novel are hundreds of years old, while some elements made up as recently in the 18th century. Its eagerness combination of features has also continued 250 years across the 19th century and in many novels, stories, plays, films, and television shows of the present day. But the 'Gothic' novel in prose, which became a major, although provocative, force in English Romantic literature. Preface even makes a case for launching a 'new species of romance' under that label: as a revolutionary 'blend' of aristocratic 'ancient romance' conventions harkening back to the Middle Ages. Moreover, the resulting key features of his 'Gothic Story' have had a long life in successive fiction, from its old-fashioned spaces with hidden or underground levels haunted by spectres or monstrosities from the past, its fragmented hints of an hidden primal crime or horror at the root of the apparent hauntings, its inflated styles of narration and dialogue oscillating between intimations of Shakespeare and repeats of Richardsonian sloppiness, and tugs of war in the opposed minds of the characters between philosophies valuing legacy and destiny, rooted in once-aristocratic and older Catholic beliefs.

Keywords: Horror ,Death , Romance, Gothic Novel , *The castle of otranto*.

INTRODUCTION

The gothic novel is the oldest and most studied forms of 'genre' or 'formula fiction'. It start emerging around the middle of the 18th century in Great-Britain and encompasses novels and stories that are described as a mixture of horror, mystery, adventure, psychological thriller and historical fiction. In the past, gothic novels were also often called 'gothic romances', because before our current understanding of 'a romance', the term denoted all stories that focuses on 'fancy' (fantasy) rather than reality. The fact that gothic novels are 'genre' or 'formula fiction' indicates that they in contrast to 'literature', do not focus on original or realistic depictions of life, or certain ethical or logical questions, but on amusing and fascinating portrayals of certain recognized figures and themes. Indeed, in the past, gothic novels were also often called 'gothic romances', because beforehand our current sympathetic of 'a romance', the term meant all stories that emphasizes on 'fancy' (fantasy) rather than reality. Perceptive how to work plots and keeping well-established themes fresh was, furthermore, more

significant than technical or linguistic ability to gothic novel writers. This, though, also destined that, throughout literary history they have never been extremely esteemed by literary elite.

Early Gothic Novels

The gothic novel started in 1764 with Horace Walpole work, called *The Castle of Otranto*. This novel told the story of Manfred, count of Otranto, who want his son to marry Isabella, before the supernatural intervenes and crushed his son under a giant helmet falling from the sky. Because the alliance with Isabella's family is too important to give up and he fears an ancient prophecy, Manfred decides to make the drastic move of divorcing his own wife and marrying Isabella himself. When Isabella hears about this and escapes, a plot is set into motion in which murder, revelation and terror are alternated and the actions of the count become more and more manic.

Because novel writing, like a lot of work that was paid, was in the 18th century seen a something unfit for nobility, Walpole first published *The Castle* as a story he had just found and not written. This claimed old and obscure origin only added to the interest of the story, however, and when Walpole revealed that he had actually made it up, it had become such a success that it did not even matter. A new genre had been born, which was replicated by many others.

The Gothic Today

Today, the gothic can chiefly be seen as a component within other categories and within specific stories. Most people, though, would not refer to these fundamentals as 'gothic' but rather as 'creepy', 'mysterious', 'ghostly', 'Victorian', 'romantic', 'horror'. These demonstrations later genres copying from the gothic have totally taken over. Stories that are clearly gothic often are reinterpretations or adaptations of original gothic novels,

CONCLUSION

Gothic novel allows writers and readers to discover these ideas through the medium of storytelling. Ghosts, death and decay, madness, curses, and so-called 'belongings that go knock in the night' provided ways to explore fear of the unidentified and what control we have as humans over the unknown. Gothic literature is a literature that has been around for over two hundred years and still continues to flourish today. Gothic literature consists of many gothic elements to make each novel bigger than other literatures such as romance and horror mutual, as well as a dark and gloomy remote setting.

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