

## GOTHIC NOVELS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

**Ibragimova Dilafruz Shukhratovna**

*Senior Lecturer of the Department  
"Practical English",  
FSU*

**Isoqjonova Guljahon Doniyorqizi**

*Student of the Faculty  
English Language and Literature  
FSU*

**Annotation:** *This article provides an extensive exploration of the Gothic genre, including key characteristics of Gothic literature and analyzes the role of Gothic novels like "Frankenstein" and "Dracula", emphasizing their significant impact on subsequent literary movements and popular culture.*

**Key words.** *Gothic literature, gothic novel, setting, characters, dark themes, supernatural ,genre, horror, fear, characteristics.*

**Izoh.** *Ushbu maqola gotika janrini, shu jumladan gotika adabiyotining asosiy xususiyatlarini hamda " Frankenstein" va "Dracula" kabi gotika romanlarining rolini tahlil qilish orqali ularning keyingi adabiy harakatlar va ommaviy madaniyatga sezilarli ta'sirini ta'kidlaydi.*

**Kalit so 'zlar.** *Gotika adabiyoti, gotika romani, vaziyat, qahramonlar, qorong'u mavzular g'ayritabiiy, janr, dahshat, qo'rquv, xususiyatlar.*

**Аннотация.** *В этой статье дается обширное исследование готического жанра, включая ключевые характеристики готической литературы, и анализируется роль готических романов, таких как "Frankenstein" и*

*"Dracula", подчеркивая их значительное влияние на последующие литературные движения и популярную культуру.*

**Ключевые слова.** *Готическая литература, готический роман, сеттинг, персонажи, тёмные темы, сверхъестественное, жанр, ужасы, страх, характеристики.*

Originally, the term "Gothic" was associated with the Goths, a Germanic tribe, and was initially used in a negative light to characterize the architectural style of the medieval era. As time passed, it was repurposed to describe the unique elements of Gothic architecture like pointed arches and ribbed vaults.

Gothic can be interpreted in two main ways: firstly, as a genre of fiction that includes historical romance, horror, and stories of psychological obsession and haunting, from the 18th century to today; and secondly, using as a themes of disorder and monstrosity. Moreover, the word "gothic" is used in literature as well, so the term Gothic novel broadly refers to stories that combine elements from horror and romanticism. The Gothic novel often deals with

supernatural events, or events occurring in nature that cannot be easily explained or over which man has no control, and it typically follows a plot of suspense and mystery.

Furthermore, there are a variety of characteristics in Gothic literature, there are several found in many works. These elements include a dark setting, romance, supernatural forces, emotional extremes, anti-hero, female victims, visions and nightmares, madness, gloomy weather, and prophecies and curses. The key Gothic themes are best understood as varied expressions of terror, capable of being explored together under that single explanation, but also functioning as individual concerns which illuminate one another. The most pervasive of these customary Gothic devices is that of fear/terror and the secret/hidden reasons for that terror. In the production of such emotions as fear, there is a certain element of the transgression of boundaries, so that the known is transformed and becomes unknown and terrifying. Another formulation of Gothic terror is the hidden nature of the unconscious and the threat posed by this repression. This involves threat to the self from within as well as from without, from the other and the unknown repressed self. Both these elements interact and, I argue, converge on the human body as the focus of these fears and repressions.

Authors who focused on the Gothic genre typically included similar traits into their works. There are a variety of characteristics, including Gothic literature typically contains a specific cast of characters who represent the various ideas the author presents in the text. Common characters found within the genre include anti-heroes, fallen heroes, tyrannical villains, the "damsel in distress," fallen female, Byronic hero, servants, and religious figures. For instance, in the Gothic book called Harry Potter is essentially book of fear or frightfulness. The environment of the novel is commonly simple, colorless but something stunning might happen at any miniature. The setting makes a distinction to set up this undermining mien. From the beginning to the end of the work, the name of the hero Voldemort, who frightened the whole world of magicians, reflects not only the nature of the hero, but also his fate. The word "mortal" means "death or evil" in many European languages. The French word "vol-de-mort" translates as "escape from death." It can be translated as "lim". Voldemort is the most powerful, but also the most evil sorcerer, punishing those who stand in the way of his goal with a terrible death, so the sorcerers are afraid to mention his name.[3;373]

The various settings in the Gothic do take many forms. The setting and its expression is nearly as varied as the characters which are found in the Gothic, while there is a commonality found in the various settings, that which Hogle described as an "antiquated or seemingly antiquated space" [3;2] . And here we need to emphasize words of Wilde that "Knowledge would be fatal. It is the uncertainty that charms me. A mist makes things wonderful".[6; 236]. As the language creates atmosphere which is expected by the reader in a certain and unique way to feel the situations in the work. Classical Gothic settings typically include structures such as castles, expansive manors, and expansive yet isolated regions that are devoid of life. There is usually a suggestion of decay or deterioration reflected in the setting that mimics a significant plot point in some way. The setting often provides a reflection of the internal nature of the main characters while highlighting the duality that exists between man and their environment. Authors utilize the setting as a means of creating an atmosphere of trepidation

and fear. The setting in the Gothic is of great importance; the architectural connection discussed above supports this line of argument, and can be seen in the care which is taken to describe it in Gothic narratives.

Gothic novels hold a significant place in English literature as they represent a distinct and influential genre. Emerging in the 18th century, Gothic literature has contributed to the evolution of various literary forms, including horror, romanticism, and even detective fiction. Notable works like Horace Walpole's "The Castle of Otranto", Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" and Bram Stoker's "Dracula" are considered iconic within the Gothic tradition. The genre's exploration of psychological depth, the supernatural, and dark aesthetics has left a lasting impact, influencing subsequent literary movements and popular culture, making Gothic novels an integral part of the English literary canon.

Moreover, we need to mention that, the gothic literature has been a popular genre for centuries, captivating readers with its dark themes and mysterious settings. Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is a prime example of this genre, exploring the concept of creation and the consequences of playing god. In this analysis, we delve into the art of gothic literature and examine Shelley's masterpiece, exploring its themes, motifs, and symbolism [6;1]. However, "the event on which this fiction is founded, has been supposed, by Dr. Darwin, and some of the physiological writers of Germany, as not of impossible occurrence. I shall not be supposed as according the remotest degree of serious faith to such an imagination; yet, in assuming it as the basis of a work of fancy, I have not considered myself as merely weaving a series of supernatural terrors. The event on which the interest of the story depends is exempt from the disadvantages of a mere tale of specters or enchantment. It was recommended by the novelty of the situations which it develops; and, however impossible as a physical fact, affords a point of view to the imagination for the delineating of human passions more comprehensive and commanding than any which the ordinary relations of existing events can yield",- said Marlow about "Frankenstein".[5;35]

On the other hand, Bram Stoker's "Dracula," published in 1897, is a classic Gothic novel that has become synonymous with vampire lore and has profoundly influenced the horror genre. Stoker's narrative unfolds through a series of letters, diary entries, and newspaper clippings, providing a multifaceted perspective on the vampire Count Dracula's menacing presence in both Transylvania and Victorian England.

Anyone reading the abundant recent analyses of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* would be left with the impression that, in the late-nineteenth century, vampires were associated with regression. For instance, Stephen Arata [1;131] describes the Count as "the primitive savage, whose bestiality, fecundity, and vigor alternately repel and attract," while Carol Senf [1;132] writes of Dracula and his minions, "Their tastes for blood or living flesh and their allegiance with various forces of nature ... identify them as primitive" Ernest Fontana, meanwhile, says the Count conforms to physician Cesare Lombroso's definition of the epileptic type, who is predisposed to criminal activity, thus representing a regressive and "atavistic being, a relic of a vanquished race".

Stoker's Gothic tale incorporates several elements that have become synonymous with vampire mythology, such as the aversion to sunlight, the need for blood to sustain immortality, and the power to transform into other creatures. The novel also explores the psychological and sensual aspects of vampirism, adding a layer of seduction and horror.

In the conclusion of my work, I would like to say some words according to the done searches about Gothic novels. The Gothic genre is influenced to the society with its famous works, as it brought innovative new construction techniques that allowed churches and other buildings to reach great heights. The structural parts of the building ceased to be its solid walls and became a stone skeleton due to developed architectural features like pointed arches. And also, Gothic genre is recognized as a response to Enlightenment with a dark twist on Romanticism. Authors develop characters, settings, and themes that highlight a more intense side of humanity, shifting from the scientific aspects of the Enlightenment and focusing on emotional thought and the dark side of humanity. Authors ultimately play on a variety of fears, and despite their ability to develop a sense of dread and intensity, audiences still appreciate a good scare.

The novels that we mentioned in above, plays a great role for the development of gothic style in English literature. In addition, Bram Stoker's "Dracula" remains a cornerstone of Gothic literature, influencing countless adaptations in literature, film, and popular culture. The novel's enduring legacy lies in its ability to evoke fear, suspense, and fascination with the supernatural while also addressing societal fears and tensions of the Victorian era. While, Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" stands as a timeless masterpiece, blending Gothic and science fiction elements. Its exploration of morality, ambition, and the consequences of scientific experimentation has left a remarkable mark on literature, inspiring countless adaptations and interpretations while offering profound insights into the human experience.

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