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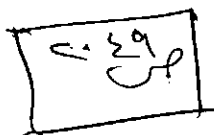
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Gothic Features In Horace Walpole's The Castle Of Otranto (1764) And Ann Radcliffe's The Mysteries Of Udolpho(1794)

An M. A. Thesis

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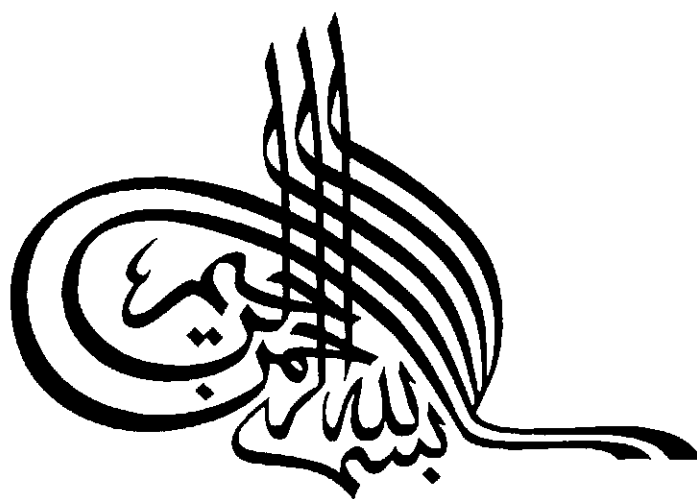
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2001



"وعلمك ما لم تكن تعلم وكان فضل الله
عليك عظيماً"

صدق الله العظيم

"سورة النساء الآية ١١٣"

**To my Parents
and
my husband**

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Abstract

This study attempts to examine the features of the Gothic novel as reflected in The Castle of Otranto (1764) by Horace Walpole and The Mysteries of Udolpho (1794) by Ann Radcliffe. It is divided into three chapters and a conclusion.

Chapter 1 traces the origin and development of the Gothic novel. It shows the relationship between the Gothic novel and Gothic architecture. It also sheds light on some prominent novelists of the Gothic school beginning with Walpole up to Charles Maturin and Mary Shelley. In addition, this chapter handles the life-history of Horace Walpole and Mrs. Radcliffe and their literary career in general.

Chapter II Focuses on one example of Walpole's novels, The Castle of Otranto as a Gothic novel. This chapter applies the Gothic features such as: The element of mystery and horror, the use of the supernatural, scenes of terror, suspense, the idea of the villain and other features to The Castle of Otranto. It shows how far The Castle of Otranto exhibits these features.

Chapter III is devoted to applying the Gothic features on Mrs. Radcliffe's popular novel, The Mysteries of Udolpho. It is shown that the novel includes most of the common Gothic features. Stress is made on Radcliffe's habit of explaining away the supernatural and her brilliant description of nature. The chapter presents the difference between Walpole and Radcliffe regarding the techniques adopted in their novels.

The conclusion presents the findings together with an evaluation of the Gothic school of the novel. It is also concerned with summing up the main ideas that have been tackled in the thesis.

Introduction

Introduction

In the second half of the Eighteenth –Century, there appeared a tendency to break away from the rigid rules and restrictions which were imposed by the Augustan Age on all aspects of life and literature: In the field of the novel this new tendency found expression in the emergence of Gothic fiction which reflected a passion for the macabre, the fantastic and the supernatural. This type of the novel was pioneered by Horace Walpole (1717-1797) in his famous work, The Castle of Otranto (1764). This novel is set in Italy in the Medieval Ages. It is abundant in supernatural occurrences, mystery, violence and various manifestations of terror.

Another Gothic novelist who continues Horace Walpole's interest in terror is Ann Radcliffe (1764-1823). Of her popular novels in this type of Gothic romance one refers to The Romance of the Forest (1791), The Mysteries of Udolpho (1794) and The Italian (1797). Other writers who tried their hands at the genre are Clara Reeve (1729-1807), Mathew Gregory Lewis (1775-1818), C.R. Maturin and W. Beckford. For the sake of concentration and in order to avoid repetition, one will focus in this study on the effort of two only of these figures, Horace Walpole in The Castle of Otranto and Mrs. Radcliffe in The Mysteries of Udolpho as they are, in one's view, the most representative ones in the field of Gothic romance.

The present study attempts to shed light on the features of the Gothic novel. In order to illuminate these features, one has to touch upon