**External and Internal Worlds in The Castle of Otranto**

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**Внешний и внутренний миры в Замке Отранто**

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**Abstract:** This article explores the interplay between the perplexing architecture of the castle and the inner state of the characters, as well as the conflicts. The gothic features intensify the exploration of trauma and its codependence of the exterior landscape. The anxieties, fears, and concerns that are fueled inside the characters shape their reality, which are accelerated by the supernatural occurrences and hiding places within the castle.

**Keywords:** gothic literature, external landscape, internal turmoil, conflict, psychological effect.

**Аннотация:** В данной статье исследуется взаимосвязь между запутанной архитектурой замка и внутренним состоянием персонажей, а также их конфликтами. Готические характеристики усиливают изучение травмы и её зависимости от внешнего ландшафта. Тревоги, страхи и озабоченности, которые скрываются внутри персонажей, формируют их реальность, которая усиливается благодаря сверхъестественным явлениям и тайниками в замке.

**Ключевые слова:** готическая литература, внешний ландшафт, внутреннее смятение, конфликт, психологический эффект.

*The Castle of Otranto* is considered to be the first gothic novel in English literature. Horace Walpole paved the way to the new genre, which eventually became one of the most intriguing and thought-provoking types of fiction. Gothic literature frequently explores the darkest aspects of one’s life and all the secrets. This article will scrutinise the interplay between the external world of the castle's setting and the internal world of the characters in the novel. According to Walpole himself, this novel is unique not only because it is the pivotal gothic novel, but also because it has combined two types of romance: mediaeval or ancient and the modern for the 18th century. Gothic fiction has several inherent features, for instance, mysterious weird locations, non-linear narratives, supernatural elements and horror. The use of a castle as a main setting, that creates the atmosphere of terror, supernatural events, that are connected to the prophecy intensify the tone. The narrative structure and the vocabulary that is used to make the atmosphere more dim and gloomy represent the perfect way to immerse the readers.

From the start of the book until its conclusion, the castle serves as the primary location for all of the most significant events. The castle is a personification of the unidentified supernatural creature, who is essential to evoking a feeling of mystery and terror. The crucial part is devoted to the description of the castle. This building's architecture blends elements of the Middle Ages and Gothic style. There is enough darkness in each room to create an eerie and mysterious atmosphere. Walpole makes sure that the readers have a thought that the castle is the character himself, when certain events are happening. It is if a place rejects the now reigning Manfred’s family knowing that they do not belong here [Loiseau, 2011]. In fact it might be considered that the castle is the personification of Alfonso, furious of the current situation happening in his home.

The paranormal moments, when characters have to deal with something supernatural and unexplainable, intensify the mood and increase the characters' agitation and aggression because they make them fearful and confused about what is happening. The consequences may be observed in the upcoming conflicts between characters, that would not appear if it was not for the strange occurrences in the castle. For instance, fearing that the real family will regain the castle and Manfred's family will be left with nothing, Manfred has a negative attitude towards Theodore. The supernatural still has an effect on everyone, and the gloomy castle prevents secrets from being forgotten, driving Manfred into paranoia. The ghost that people saw in the castle and the magical appearance of the body parts of Alfonso's statue play hard on the nerves.

Throughout the work, ​​almost every character makes use of different dungeons, rooms, and secret passageways. All these places are both hidden, as they are not spoken about publicly, and disclosed, as all the inhabitants are aware of their presence. If the parallel between the mysterious passages and the secrets of people, which they are making a tremendous effort to conceal, will be investigated, it will be evident that they have nothing to hide, by virtue of people already being aware of everything. It leads to the conclusion that every habitat of the castle remains undisclosed to themselves. Overall, the mysterious and dark atmosphere is burdensome for the characters. All the secrets that they have from each other is observed as the secret rooms in the castle, where they get lost all the time.

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