

Abstract

This thesis discusses the development of the Gothic novel and the appearance of the sensation genre

in the 1860s in Victorian Britain. Chapter one presents Gothic fiction through highlighting its form, expansion and characteristics as a literary genre through well-known gothic novels, namely *The Castle of Otrantto*, *Frankenstein* and *Wuthering Heights*.

Chapter two highlights the elements and themes of Gothic Fiction, and the transition from Gothic fiction to sensation fiction through exploring sensation devices comprised of murder, blackmail, fraud, impersonation, illegitimacy, multiple secrets, seduction, adultery, bigamy, madness, wrongful incarceration, lost, concealed or forged will in famous sensation novel of the 1860s such as *The Woman in White* (1859). Chapter Three emphasizes mystery in *East Lynne* that is recognized for complex plots. This novel competently unites mystery with Gothic techniques throughout extraordinary sensation and exaggerated action that finishes with death. Chapter four studies Secret which underscores gender and class as well as social problems like blackmail and intentional bigamy, which was in the literary style in the 1860s. Chapter five wraps up with Gothic fiction's acceptance and growth and the arrival of a new genre of novels called sensation fiction, its main feature and the appearance of the detective novel.