

Abstract

The figure of the vampire is one of the strongest images in present-day culture. It appears in films books, merchandise, and even has an entire subculture associated with the modern gothic. The process of the development of this figure has a long and complex history that reflects the development of culture and society. The popularity of the use of this figure is partially based on its versatility, adaptability and ability to broach various themes and features that reflect the present day society. This fascination with the vampire trope is also due to the development of this figure from folklore in to literature in the nineteenth century and its subsequent use in the popular works of the time.

This thesis attempts to briefly explore the early development of the figure of the vampire in the European context and compare it to its early appearances in literature. Namely, it will focus on the appearance of the vampire in nineteenth century British literature. The thesis of this work will attempt to determine the nature of the vampire in the cultural concepts of the time. It will also follow how the changes in the traditional narratives are reflected and transformed in the concept of the narrative of the "urban Gothic". The formulation of the basic structural background of Victorian society in politics, economy and social relations will also be examined in relation to the association of these matters with regard to the figure of the vampire.

The thesis will focus on examining the prime Victorian anxieties and concerns and will attempt to determine the reflections of the social norms and regulations on the figure of the vampire and how these norms are adapted. Because the vampire is symbolic, the combination of these themes with the trope of the vampire will have an effect on the trope itself, therefore the research will also aim to determine how these adaptations themselves affect the nature of the vampire trope.

The main focus of the work will be directed at the poems, short stories and novels that deal with the trope of the vampire figure. With their analysis the questions of social norms, gender, sexuality, hygiene, and national integrity will be examined in order to determine their relevance to the vampire trope. The thesis will also attempt to search for the causes of the changes behind these questions and their relevance to the anxieties of the Victorian society.

The conclusions of this work will hope to explain the nature of the vampire in the nineteenth century British literature and to determine the individual and overall anxieties,

their causes and the reason behind their possible use of the vampire figure as a metaphor. This thesis and its conclusions will also attempt to provide groundwork and basis for future possible research, focused on a similar field of interest.

Key Words: Vampire, British Literature, The Nineteenth century, Myths, traditional Folk Conceptions, Gender, Sexuality, Society,

