

JARUKANYA REARNKHAM : A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENGLISH GOTHIC

NOVELS AND AMERICAN GOTHIC NOVELS IN THE INITIAL PERIOD

THESES ADVISOR : ASST. PROF. SIRIRAT THAVEELERTNITHI. 194 pp.

ISBN 974-583-418-1

This thesis concentrates on the comparative study of Gothic Novels in the Initial Period in two different countries : England and America. The major hypothesis is that English and American Gothic novels are related to each other. This study involves the comparative study and the study of Gothic Literature as the escapist literature.

An outcome of this comparative study and the theory of escape has been the finding that English and American Gothic literature are based on the same criteria and they are an integrated literature. The American Gothic authors express their ideas and attitudes about social concerns more clearly than English Gothic authors, who indicate their concerns by connotation. Moreover, both English and American Gothic Literature intends to teach a moral lesson, as well as, to entertain by making readers frightened and excited by the supernatural beings. The approach to the study by the theory of escape illustrates on the ways in which characters escape in literature, which are classified in two kinds of escape : "External Escape" and "Internal Escape". American Gothic characters experience a feeling of alienation and a psychic break down. The American Gothic character is the archetypal character for modern literature of the nineteenth century. Gothic Literature is similar to Romantic Literature and Historical Romance. It became the inspiration for future authors to create new kind of literature such as New Gothic Literature and Science fiction.