

Principles of Literary Study
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Office hours: Mondays 2:00–3:00 or by appointment

March 29, 2021. Shelley (3).

review

- ▶ embedding and what to do with it
 - ▶ parallels, contradictions, indications
 - ▶ Others and what happens to them
 - ▶ a novel *about* narrating (can the subaltern speak?)
- ▶ who has the last word?

good textbooks are valuable

“The book from which Felix instructed Safie was Volney’s *Ruins of Empires*...I heard of the slothful Asiatics; of the stupendous genius and mental activity of the Grecians; of the wars and wonderful virtue of the early Romans—of their subsequent degeneration—of the decline of that mighty empire; of chivalry, christianity, and kings. I heard of the discovery of the American hemisphere, and wept with Safie over the hapless fate of its original inhabitants.” (86)

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- ▶ What does the Creature’s education imply about the things he learns about?

reading comprehension

- ▶ How does the Creature learn from his reading (93–95)?

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“I often referred the several situations [in *Paradise Lost*], as their similarity struck me, to my own. Like Adam, I was created apparently united by no link to any other being in existence.... Many times I considered Satan as the fitter emblem of my condition.” (94)

thesis proved

“I felt that there was some justice in his argument.” (108)

▶ Is there?

remix

——The sounding cataract
Haunted *him* like a passion: the tall rock,
The mountain, and the deep and gloomy wood,
Their colour and their forms, were then to him
An appetite: a feeling, and a love,
That had no need of a remoter charm,
By thought supplied, or any interest
Unborrowed from the eye.

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intertextuality the relations of texts to one another (“any text is constructed as a mosaic of quotations”—Julia Kristeva)

heteroglossia the presence of other speech types in the language of the novel (“this movement of the theme through different languages and speech types, its dispersion into the rivulets and droplets of social heteroglossia, its dialogization”—Mikhail M. Bakhtin)

short break

females

The remains of the half-finished creature, whom I had destroyed, lay scattered on the floor, and I almost felt as if I had mangled the living flesh of a human being. (129)

- ▶ Why does Frankenstein destroy the female creature he is building?

females

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- ▶ Why does Frankenstein destroy the female creature he is building?

She also might turn with disgust from him to the superior beauty of man she might quit him, and he be again alone. (125)

Yet one of the first results of those sympathies for which the dæmon thirsted would be children, and a race of devils would be propagated upon the earth, who might make the very existence of the species of man a condition precarious and full of terror. (125)

oops

“But remember, I shall be with you on your wedding night.” (127)

oops

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But, as if possessed of magic powers, the monster had blinded me to his real intentions; and when I thought that I prepared only my own death, I hastened that of a far dearer victim. (146)

Discussion

- ▶ Does the narrative make this explanation believable? what alternatives can you suggest?

maybe later

Alas! to me the idea of an immediate union with my cousin was one of horror and dismay. (114)

Answer me, I conjure you, by our mutual happiness, with simple truth—
Do you not love another? (143)

next: complicated

- ▶ paratexts: the preface, Shelley's 1831 introduction
- ▶ read Mellor (Sakai)
- ▶ look at 1831 chaps. 1–3 (Sakai)
 - ▶ keep appendix B open
- ▶ read Poovey (Sakai)