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Curiosity And Consequences: Exploring The Gothic Protagonist

Ms. Niyati Patel¹, Dr. Divya Bhadauriya²

Ph.d Scholar¹, Ph.d Guide²

English literature Department¹, English literature Department²
Sabarmati University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Abstract: This research paper examines the interplay between curiosity and consequence of characterization of Gothic protagonists in William Beckford's *Vathek*, Matthew Gregory Lewis's *The Monk*, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and H.G. Wells's *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. Through a comparative analysis, the study explores how each protagonist's insatiable curiosity leads to their eventual downfall of their journeys. The paper will explore how curiosity leads to downfall in Gothic protagonists. It examines how their insatiable curiosity drives them to cross natural and moral boundaries, resulting in tragic consequences. These gothic fictions serve as cautionary tales about the dangers of unrestrained ambition, unchecked desires, and scientific hubris. The aim of this research paper is to analyze the role of curiosity and its consequences of selected gothic fictions in shaping the Gothic protagonists.

Key words: Comparative analysis of protagonist, Curiosity Scientific Hubris
 Supernatural Elements Tragic Consequence Decadence.

"Curiosity and Consequences: Exploring the Gothic Protagonist"

“Vathek” by William Beckford, published in 1786; “The Monk” by Matthew Gregory Lewis, published in 1796; “Frankenstein” by Mary Shelley, published in 1818; “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” by Robert Louis Stevenson, published in 1886; and “The Island of Dr. Moreau” by H.G. Wells, published in 1896.

The ninth Caliph of the Abbasside’s conformity and the novella's main character “Vathek”, was the great-grandchild of Haroun Al Raschid and the son of Motassem. His subjects were led to believe that he would have a long and happy reign due to his early succession to the throne and his knack at decorating it. At the beginning of the tale, Vathek is portrayed as a popular ruler—if not the most obedient. He puts more emphasis on satisfying each of his senses and broadening his thoughts than he does on "[does] not think [...] that it [is] essential to make the worst of this world in order to relish utopia in the next". Rather, he concentrated on expanding his mind and gratifying his senses. Motivated by his mother to follow his dreams, Carathis had a different face. His appearance was attractive and magnificent, but when he became furious, one of his pupils turned so ugly that no one could look at it. The wretch it was fixed on would immediately fall backward and occasionally pass away.

He rarely let his fury get the better of him, though, fear of driving off the people in his dominions and leaving his castle abandoned. He had an addiction to women, was easy to find compatible partners, and had boundless compassion. At the start of the novel “The Monk”, Ambrosio is a haughty and conceited guy, but he was sincere in his religious devotion. But after betraying Matilda and disobeying his chastity vow, he rapidly descends into moral degradation and depravity, killing his mother Elvira before kidnapping and raping Antonia, Elvira's child and his sister. Even though he occasionally shows signs of sincere regret, these eventually evolve into intense self-loathing, and his pride keeps him from truly confessing his wrongdoings and instead tries to avoid punishment by any means possible. In order to achieve this, he finally offers his spirit to the Satan who then admits that he had been deceived by him the entire novel. Even yet, it's obvious Ambrosia was aware of the dangers. His belief around purity determine his relationship with women. As a

result, he is only attracted to women who he perceives as being pure. Nevertheless, after having sex with Matilda, he soon turns against her and despises her for being a prostitute. As he sexual assaults Antonia, he justifies it as a loving gesture and disregards Antonia's objections. However, after the deed is finished, Ambrosio becomes enraged at what he performed and turns against Antonia, even going as far as claiming her of betraying him and damning him. He then has a sincere epiphany and decides to make an effort to assist Antonia. His decision to try to assist Antonia is the result of a sincere moment of regret and sympathy on his behalf. But he can't let her go because of his pride. When she tries to flee, he kills her without nervousness, proving that no matter how much regret he may have, he will always prioritize his pride first. As in *Frankenstein*, coming from a well-to-do Geneva family, reared by his cousin Elizabeth Lavenza after becoming an orphan at an early age. He had a large forehead, nose, and "animated" and "expressive" eyes. He was tall, skinny, and pale. He was driven and ambitious, but also rash and impetuous. He was sensitive and passionate, with a strong appreciation for the natural world and aesthetics. He was also intelligent and inquisitive, with a love of learning and exploration. attended the educational institution of Ingolstadt to study science and natural philosophy. At the age of 22 or 23, he develops the monster. All things considered, Victor Frankenstein is a nuanced and multidimensional figure who personifies the good and bad aspects of the Romantic period. As Dr. Jekyll, the main figure of the peculiar case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, was a small, robust guy with a rounded face, pale complexion, and an odd, repulsive expression. In summary, he had an awful appearance with eyes that were unusually brilliant, almost animalistic, an even more unpleasant demeanor. He was a creature without shame or fear, exuding a very irritating type of swaggering insolence that represented everything sinister and terrible about human nature. Another side Crazy Scientist Dr. Moreau from the Hawaiian Island, he creates humanoid hybrid creatures from animals through vivisection, who was formerly the most eminent physiologist in London. conducted excruciating animal experiments and was forced to flee Great Britain after his horrific vivisection experiments were made public. He also holds the view that suffering is unavoidable and meaningless. He attempts to completely transform an animal into a human being and cuts his hip with a penknife in front of Prendick to show that he has no pain threshold. He created the Beast Folk as being not quite human since they suffer through agony become furious at Prendick's slaughter of the Leopard-Man, die in a battle with the half-finished leopard woman.

Curiosity Quest for knowledge; The plot of *Vathek* revolves upon his downfall from favor. An opulent tyrant, he goes to hell in search of the ultimate wealth and knowledge—a destiny that serves as an example of The hazards of Surplus. The statement "He learned so much for his entertainment in the life-time of his dad as to accumulate an abundance of expertise, though not an enough to please his own company; for the desired to be familiar with all things; especially sciences that did not exist" demonstrates Vathek's intense interest in the mysterious and forbidden. He is willing to carry out horrible deeds, such as killing infants, betraying his people, and abandoning his faith, in order to gain omnipotence and otherworldly wealth. Ambrosio's pursuit of knowledge in Matthew Lewis' "The Monk" entails a variety of works, such as: He tries with alchemist in an attempt to turn base metals into gold and find the elixir of life (Lewis 32–35). He reads Hermetic classics in search of insight and the mysteries of nature (Lewis 70–73). In an attempt to acquire magical abilities and understanding, he immerses himself in spells and rituals (Lewis 40–43). In an effort to learn forbidden wisdom, he makes an effort to call forth spirits and speak with the deceased (Lewis 50–53). He also indulges in sorcerous activities, calling forth devils and forming alliances with evil entities (Lewis 60–65). Lastly, he delves into Cabalistic enigmas in an effort to discover secret information and supernatural comprehension. These pieces depict Ambrosio's intense and compulsive quest for knowledge, which finally brings him to ruin. It's also important to remember that Ambrosio's desire for knowledge is motivated by his own conceit and conceit in addition to his quest for power and control. His quest for knowledge is motivated more by his ambition to become more superior than an ambition to better humanity. Inside *Frankenstein*, The first assignment, which is rather simple, is typically completed by highlighting how science is used in Mary Shelley's novel. *Frankenstein* is a story of scientific fantasy told in very concrete terms. By highlighting the plot's intellectual foundation, the opening lines of Percy Shelley's Preface to the 1818 edition establish the novel's distinct departure from earlier Gothic works: Dr. Darwin and a few German physiological authors have postulated that the incident upon which this story is based is not an improbable happening. Victor Frankenstein's pursuit of wisdom in Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" encompasses a number of texts, such as: Examining the writings of alchemists such as Albertus Magnus and Paracelsus; experimenting with natural philosophy and physiology; performing experiments involving chemicals and examining the elements of matter; watching and investigating the events of mortality and life; and producing life from corpses, culminating in the monster (Shelley 55–60). "I swallowed Paracelsus' works and behold the dark secrets of the universe unveiled," he declared (Shelley 32). "I gathered corpses from charnel-houses and perturbed, with irreverent fingertips, the enormous treasures of the mammalian frame" (Shelley fifty). "I accomplished in revealing the root of creation and life; nay, more, I proved in charge of conferring vitality upon inanimate matter" (Shelley 55).

These creations symbolize Frankenstein's infatuation with learning, which finally results in his creation of the monster and the fatal events that follow. In the novel "Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," Dr. Jekyll experiments with substances in an attempt to learn more. Some of these endeavors include: Taking an infusion or serum and turning into Mr. Hyde, a symbol of his sinister tendencies; combining substances to revert to Dr. Jekyll, He drank the potion numerous times, eventually surrendering control and unleashing his inner evil. In a specific study, the subject gradually changes from awake to Hyde while conscious. Attempting to stop the change by taking bigger doses of the serum. Then ran out of a vital component, which caused his death. The experiments in question are a representation of Dr. Jekyll's inward conflict between good and evil and his compulsive search of knowledge. The experiments in science carried out by Doctor Moreau in H.G. Wells' novel "The Island of Doctor Moreau" include vivisection and surgery on creatures with the goal of turning them into human-like beings (Wells 23); experiments with combination, which involves navigating different species to produce new, horrible creatures (Wells 35). After much labor, he created the Beast Folk, anthropoid organisms with animal characteristics, through his laboratory work (Wells 60). h.g. Wells specified: "He [Moreau] had a terror of pain, invented numerous methods to ease it" (Wells 40). "He [Moreau] was shooting at something—but what? He was creating a new monster, a parody of the human form" (Wells 35). "The thing is a travesty of mankind... a ridicule of the individual's form" (Wells 60). These endeavors stand for Doctor Moreau's passionate pursuit of scientific knowledge and his utter disregard for morality and ethical conduct.

Supernatural elements used:With its stunning explanations, unique characters and occurrences, and usage of the supernatural, the periodic edition has garnered significant attention from critics in the literary world. It narrates the tale of a restless Caliph named Vathek, who is implied to be the Prophet Mahomet's replacement. Because of the author's "escapist longings for the exotic and beautiful, especially the oriental," "Vathek" is a humorous gothic tale with spooky and fantastical themes. (viii) This implies that, as is typical with delight in the paranormal. (xix) It is generally known that numerous readers of novels are enticed to solve the mysteries and "know the full extent of any danger" (125) due to a common human predisposition. These mysteries are outside human control and cannot be proved or explained. When Vathek is introduced as a strange figure in the novel's first paragraph, we witness the first instance of otherworldly activity. His fixated gaze has the power to murder or at least make others cringe. (9) Also stated Afrit: The most vicious kind of monster, resembling both Medusa and Lamia. Dive: A devil and a malevolent being. Eblis: The ruler of the rebellious angels, who refused to submit to Adam and were cons In mythology from the Middle East, they ruled the Earth before humanity and had the ability to save. Simurgh: A marvelous and clever bird that is hostile to the dives but favorable to "the sons of Adam" The Qur'an, the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, Habeshan history all make reference to Bilqis, a woman who ruled the ancient kingdom of Sheba. Giaour: The terms "blasphemer" and "infidel" translate to his name. Although he presents himself as an Indian trader, he is actually a Jinn who serves the arch-demon Eblis. The fallen angel and demon Lucifer, who is adored by the main character Ambrosio and manifests to him in a variety of forms, is the secret spirit referenced in Matthew Lewis' book "The Monk" (Lewis 152). Beelzebub: Baal: A false god worshipped by the sorceress Matilda, who is revealed to be a demon in disguise (Lewis 250), Asmodeus: a devil indicated as one of the seven princes of Hell and gathered by Ambrosio (Lewis 200), and so on. For example, "He [Ambrosio] titled upon Lucifer to come forth before him" (Lewis 152)."Asmodeus, one of the seven governors of Hell, was invoked by Ambrosio" (Lewis 220), "the demon Beelzebub stood before him" (Lewis 250), and "Matilda invoked the false god Baal. "The supernatural forces that Ambrosio summons and worships—which ultimately lead to his demise and corruption—are symbolized by these secret spirits. "Wandering Jew" or "Ahasuerus" is the name of the mysterious spirit that is described in Mary Shelley's novel "Frankenstein".

Critics occasionally seek deeper significance in Shelley's story, establishing the comparison between the monstrous creature and a without mother child; Shelley's mother passed while delivering newborn to her. The monster has also been compared to a downtrodden class; Shelley said that the monster identified "the division of property of immense wealth and squalid poverty". Others perceive in the monster the risks of unchecked scientific progress, particularly at the time of publication, when Galvanism had convinced numerous researchers that reviving the dead through the use of electrical impulses was a scientific feasible. Dr.jeykll, He formulates a serum or potion in an attempt to remove this underlying evil from his nature. In doing so, Jekyll changed into the smaller, younger, ruthless, remorseless, and malevolent Hyde. Jekyll has a lot of friends and a pleasant demeanor, but as Hyde, he becomes cryptic and dangerous. Hyde becomes more powerful over time. After consuming the mixture several times, he no longer relies on it to summon his inner demon, also known as his alter ego. Eventually, Hyde becomes so powerful that Jekyll relies on the potion to stay aware throughout the novel. Another hand, Dr. Moreau created the science of the procedure in the novel "The Island of Doctor Moreau" by H.G. Wells, creating human-like chimeric beings from beasts... He developed M'ling by combining a bear, a dog and an ox, as well as Ape-Man, Sayer of the Law, Sloth Monster and Hyena-Swine.

fiction	Protagonist	Curiosity, used science	Secret spirit	Consequence
Vathek	Calif	potion	Eblis, The Giaour, Djinns	condemned to eternal damnation and suffering in the underworld under the rule of Eblis
The Monk	Ambrosio	chemical	Lucifer, Belzebub, Asmodeus	Ambrosio is tricked by the devil, Lucifer, into selling his soul and is ultimately condemned to eternal damnation after being thrown to his death.
Frankenstein	Victor	Biological chemical	Monster	Victor dies from exhaustion and illness aboard Captain Walton's ship while pursuing the Creature across the Arctic.
Strange case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde	Dr. Jekyll	Ingredient, serume	Mr. Hyde	Dr. Jekyll permanently loses control to his evil alter ego, Mr. Hyde, and takes his own life to prevent Hyde from continuing his reign of terror.
The Island of Dr. Moreau	Dr. Moreau	Vivisection, Surgery	The Lawgiver	Dr. Moreau is killed by the Beast Folk he created, who revolt against him, symbolizing the failure of his experiments and the consequences of playing god.

Consequence and Decadence

At the close of William Beckford's book "Vathek," Vathek and his friends—Carathis and Nouronihar, among others—are sentenced to an eternity of agony in hell¹⁵. When he's plan to get ultimate knowledge and power fails, they become hopeless and overcome with guilt. The book serves as a warning on the perils of pursuing power and knowledge at all costs as well as the repercussions of renunciation one's morals and beliefs. In contrast, the terrible conclusion of Matthew Gregory Lewis' book "The Monk" is as follows. Ambrosio commits his soul to an eternity of damnation by signing a deal with Lucifer. Lucifer explains that Matilda was a demon assisting him in his long-term plan to obtain Ambrosio's soul. Lucifer identifies the weakness in. Lucifer explains that Matilda was a demon assisting him in his long-term plan to obtain Ambrosio's soul. Ambrosio simply sought to be freed from his imprisonment; he did not seek to be spared from his eternal damnation, as Lucifer points out as a flaw in the agreement. Ambrosio suffers for six days until he dies alone and is doomed for all eternity when he is carried into the skies by him and dropped into the rocks below. The terrible conclusion of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" is as follows.^{1 2 3}: In the Arctic Circle, Victor Frankenstein perishes aboard Robert Walton's ship. ..With the intention of killing himself, the monster, having mourned Victor's passing, vanishes into the wastelands of the Arctic together with Frankenstein's body. In the end, both the monster and Victor pass away, yet their deaths are not the same. The inevitable result of Victor's carelessness and greed in creating the monster is his death. The monster is not to blame for his lonely and miserable existence. The monster feels that he is alone in the world and that there is no purpose to live if he does not have a companion. He regrets what he has done and realizes that Frankenstein is dead. Robert Louis Stevenson's "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" ends as follows. When Dr. Jekyll runs out of the component for his serum, he unintentionally and permanently turns into Mr. Hyde. In a letter to Mr. Utterson, Jekyll describes all that happened and makes his confession. In the lab, Mr. Utterson

and Mr. Poole discover the body of Mr. Hyde, still dressed in Dr. Jekyll's attire. After reading Dr. Lanyon's letter, Mr. Utterson discovers that Dr. Lanyon's demise was brought on by witnessing Mr. Hyde change into Dr. Jekyll. With Dr. Jekyll's passing, the book comes to a close. This is how H.G. Wells' book "The Island of Doctor Moreau" ends: Montgomery, Dr. Moreau's aide, loses his life in a battle with the Beast Folk after Dr. Moreau dies in a combat with the half-finished puma woman. Prendick and the Beast share a home. For months, Prendick stays on the island with the Beast Folk but they eventually return to their feral ways. Prendick's Dog-Man companion is killed by the Hyena-Swine but in self-defense, Prendick shoots the Hyena-Swine. Prendick leaves the island by using a lifeboat he discovers that has two corpses floating on the beach. After three days, he is saved. Prendick acts as though he has amnesia since no one believes him when he relates his story. After returning to England, Prendick finds it difficult to interact with people because he believes they will transform back into animals. Prendick relocates to the country from London and dedicates his life to chemical reactions and astrophysics.

By these five novels—Vathek, The Monk, Frankenstein, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and The Island of Doctor Moreau—this research study explores the relationship between curiosity and consequence in the portrayal of Gothic characters. The study investigates how the voracious curiosity of each protagonist ultimately leads to their downfall through a comparative examination. This paper is the protagonists' pursuit of power and knowledge pushes them to transgress moral and natural bounds, which has catastrophic results. These Gothic works of literature function as warning tales about the perils of unbridled ambition, unbridled desires and scientific arrogance. The evaluation emphasizes the implications of the protagonists' deeds while highlighting the supernatural components and hidden spirits that lead to their demise. Because of his insatiable curiosity, Victor Frankenstein creates the monster, which ultimately leads to his own demise and the monster's solitude. Curiosity drives Dr. Jekyll to explore his darker side, which ultimately leads to his death and transformation into Mr. Hyde. Because of his insatiable curiosity, Dr. Moreau creates hybrid creatures that resemble humans, which ultimately leads to his own demise and the return of his creations to their animal nature. Ultimately, the study comes to the conclusion that Gothic stories combine curiosity and consequence, often resulting in tragic ends and serving as warnings against the perils of unbridled ambition and scientific arrogance.

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