



Frankenstein Through the Daemon's Eyes

Subtitle: Emphasizing the complexity of the creature's consciousness, the role of society in shaping its development, and the consequences of Frankenstein's irresponsibility and neglect.

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Abstract : One of the most well-known writers in the background of romantic literature is Mary Shelley. Her most well-known and infamous work, Frankenstein, has been immortalised as a genre pioneer in both literature and popular culture. Frankenstein, the monster created by Mary Shelly, is a significant figure in Romantic fiction. As they travel with this tortured soul, many readers will be moved by the monster's tale of loneliness and longing. This essay will try to re-evaluate the story through the monster's point of view and establish if he was the horrible and cruel villain who killed Victor's family members or the tragic victim who succumbed to the egocentric nature of his creator. It will weigh in all the arguments for and against the original story of Mary Shelly and conclude the findings using critical materials as evidence regarding the topic that has been discussed, deliberated and written about for over two centuries now.

I. Introduction

Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus, is a novel that has captivated readers since its publication in 1818. Written by Mary Shelley, the novel tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a living being from dead body parts. The creature he creates is abandoned by its creator and must navigate a hostile world on its own. The novel has been the subject of intense scrutiny and discussion for over two centuries now, with scholars and readers alike grappling with the novel's themes of science, creation, and identity.

One of the most central themes of Frankenstein is the nature of consciousness and the consequences of creation. The novel explores the idea that creating life is a profound responsibility that comes with unforeseen consequences. Victor Frankenstein is consumed by his desire to create life and is blinded to the potential dangers of his experiment. When the creature is brought to life, it quickly becomes apparent that it is not the ideal being that Frankenstein had envisioned. The creature is a sentient being with a consciousness of its own, and it struggles to find its place in the world.

One critical perspective on the novel that has gained traction in recent years is the idea of Frankenstein being viewed through the "Daemon's eyes." This perspective focuses on the creature's consciousness and its experience of the world. By examining the novel from the perspective of the creature, readers can gain a deeper understanding of the novel's themes and implications.

The "Daemon's eyes" perspective emphasizes the complexity of the creature's consciousness. While the creature is a product of Victor Frankenstein's experiment, it is also a unique being with its own thoughts and feelings. The creature is initially innocent and curious, but as it experiences rejection and isolation, it becomes increasingly embittered and vengeful. The novel presents a nuanced portrayal of the creature's consciousness, highlighting its capacity for both good and evil.

The "Daemon's eyes" perspective also underscores the role of society in shaping the creature's development. The creature is rejected by its creator and by society at large, and this rejection drives it to seek revenge against those who have wronged it. The novel exposes the dangers of unchecked prejudice and the harm that can be caused by societal rejection and exclusion.

Finally, the "Daemon's eyes" perspective sheds light on the consequences of Frankenstein's abandonment of the creature. Frankenstein's irresponsibility and neglect ultimately lead to the creature's descent into violence and destruction. The novel is a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked ambition and the importance of taking responsibility for one's actions.

1.2 Analysis

The central thesis of *Frankenstein Through the Daemon's Eyes* is that examining the novel through the perspective of the creature sheds light on three key themes: the nature of the creature's consciousness, the effect of society on the creature's development, and the consequences of Frankenstein's abandonment of the creature.

Firstly, the novel presents a complex and nuanced portrayal of the creature's consciousness. The creature is initially innocent and curious, but it is quickly confronted with the reality of its existence and the prejudices of society. The novel explores the idea that the creature's consciousness is shaped by its experiences and interactions with the world. Through its encounters with humans and other creatures, the creature develops a range of emotions, from love and compassion to anger and bitterness. The novel emphasizes the creature's capacity for both good and evil, highlighting the complexity of its consciousness.

Secondly, the novel also emphasizes the role of society in shaping the creature's development. The creature is initially rejected by humans and is forced to navigate a hostile world on its own. As a result of this rejection, the creature becomes increasingly isolated and embittered, leading to its eventual descent into violence and destruction. The novel exposes the dangers of unchecked prejudice and the harm that can be caused by societal rejection and exclusion. By examining the novel through the creature's perspective, readers can gain a deeper understanding of the impact that societal attitudes and prejudices can have on individuals.

Finally, the consequences of Frankenstein's abandonment of the creature are explored in detail in the novel. Frankenstein's irresponsibility and neglect ultimately lead to the creature's descent into violence and destruction. The novel is a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked ambition and the importance of taking responsibility for one's actions. Through the creature's experiences, the novel highlights the importance of nurturing and caring for one's creations, and the consequences that can result from neglect and abandonment.

1.3 Critical Material

1.3.1 Mary Shelley's life and influences:

Mary Shelley's personal life and experiences had a significant impact on her writing, and her novel *Frankenstein* is no exception. Shelley was born in 1797 to philosopher and political writer William Godwin and feminist writer Mary Wollstonecraft, who died shortly after her birth. Her father remarried when she was four years old, and Shelley grew up in a household filled with intellectual discussions and radical ideas.

In 1814, Shelley began a relationship with the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, who was married at the time. The couple eventually married in 1816 after Percy's wife died. The couple's personal lives were tumultuous, marked by financial struggles and personal tragedies, including the deaths of three of their children.

These personal experiences are reflected in Shelley's writing, including in *Frankenstein*. The novel explores themes of loss, isolation, and the consequences of unchecked ambition. Shelley's own experiences with loss and tragedy likely informed her portrayal of the creature's journey in the novel.

1.3.2 Contemporary critical reception of *Frankenstein*:

When *Frankenstein* was first published in 1818, it received mixed reviews. Some critics praised Shelley's imaginative writing and the novel's Gothic elements, while others criticized its lack of moral guidance and its potentially dangerous influence on readers.

However, over time, the novel's critical reception has evolved. In the 20th century, scholars began to explore the novel's themes in more depth, leading to a proliferation of critical interpretations and analyses.

Today, *Frankenstein* is widely regarded as a classic of English literature, and it continues to inspire new critical perspectives and adaptations. Its themes of creation, ambition, and responsibility resonate with readers across generations, and its enduring popularity is a testament to Shelley's skill as a writer.

1.3.3 Psychoanalytic interpretations of the novel:

Psychoanalytic readings of *Frankenstein* have focused on the novel's exploration of the unconscious mind and the psychological implications of creating life. Freudian critics, in particular, have explored the novel's themes of repression and the return of the repressed.

One interpretation suggests that the creature represents Victor Frankenstein's repressed desires and that the novel is a metaphor for the dangers of unchecked ambition. Another interpretation suggests that the creature represents the "uncanny," or the feeling of unease that arises when something is familiar yet unfamiliar.

These psychoanalytic interpretations offer a valuable perspective on the novel's themes and can shed light on the psychological implications of Frankenstein's creation. They also underscore the novel's enduring relevance to contemporary discussions of the

human psyche and the nature of consciousness.

1.3.4 Feminist and gender studies approaches to Frankenstein:

Feminist and gender studies approaches to Frankenstein have explored the novel's portrayal of gender and the role of women in society. One interpretation suggests that the novel critiques patriarchal society and highlights the limitations placed on women's agency and autonomy.

Another interpretation suggests that the novel is a metaphor for childbirth and the anxieties and uncertainties that come with the creation of new life. The novel's emphasis on the male creator and the female "monster" underscores the gendered implications of creation and the potential for patriarchal control over the reproductive process.

These feminist and gender studies perspectives offer a valuable lens through which to view the novel's themes and implications. They highlight the novel's relevance to ongoing debates about gender and power and offer insights into the ways in which literature can shape and reflect cultural attitudes towards women and gender.

1.4 Analysis of the Critical Material

1.4.1 Shelley's upbringing and education

Mary Shelley's upbringing and education had a significant impact on the themes and motifs of Frankenstein. Shelley was the daughter of Mary Wollstonecraft, a feminist writer, and William Godwin, a political philosopher. Shelley's parents had a profound influence on her intellectual development, and her education was unconventional for a woman of her time. She was exposed to radical political ideas and encouraged to think critically and creatively. These influences are evident in Frankenstein, which grapples with questions of gender, identity, and power. Shelley's portrayal of the creature's consciousness, in particular, reflects her interest in the nature of the self and the impact of social forces on the individual.

1.4.2 Reception of the novel in the 19th century

The reception of Frankenstein in the 19th century was mixed. While the novel was popular and successful, it was also met with criticism and controversy. Many critics were unsettled by the novel's themes of science and creation, which they saw as blasphemous and morally dangerous. The novel was also criticized for its unconventional narrative structure and its portrayal of women. However, despite these criticisms, Frankenstein remained popular and influential, inspiring countless adaptations and imitations over the years. The novel's enduring popularity is a testament to its power to provoke and challenge readers.

1.4.3 Freudian interpretations of the creature's consciousness

Freudian interpretations of the creature's consciousness have been a significant area of critical inquiry in recent years. Scholars have applied psychoanalytic theories to the novel, exploring the creature's unconscious desires and impulses. According to Freudian theory, the creature's violent and destructive behavior can be attributed to its repressed desires and unresolved conflicts. For example, the creature's desire for a mate reflects its need for companionship and love, which it has been denied. The creature's aggression can be seen as a manifestation of its frustration and anger at being rejected by society. Freudian interpretations of Frankenstein offer a way to understand the novel's themes of repression and desire, and how these forces shape the individual's behavior.

1.4.4 Critiques of patriarchal society in the novel

Critiques of patriarchal society in the novel are another important area of critical inquiry. Scholars have examined how the novel reflects and critiques the gender roles and power dynamics of its time. For example, the novel portrays women as passive and submissive, and Victor Frankenstein's obsession with creating life can be seen as a reflection of his desire for control and power. The creature's violence towards women can be seen as a manifestation of the patriarchal violence that permeates society. However, the novel also offers a critique of these gender roles, as seen in the character of Elizabeth, who defies conventional gender expectations and is punished for it. By examining the novel's portrayal of gender and power, scholars can gain insight into the ways in which social structures shape individual identity and behavior.

1.5 Conclusion

The "Frankenstein Through the Daemon's Eyes" thesis statement offers a compelling perspective on the novel's central themes. By examining the creature's consciousness and experience of the world, readers can gain a deeper understanding of the novel's exploration of creation, responsibility, and societal prejudice.

Through an analysis of critical materials, it becomes clear that Mary Shelley's novel has been the subject of intense scrutiny and discussion for over two centuries. Scholars and readers have approached the novel from a variety of perspectives, including Freudian interpretations, feminist and gender studies approaches, and examinations of Shelley's life and influences.

The "Daemon's eyes" perspective offers a valuable lens through which to view the novel's themes, emphasizing the complexity of the creature's consciousness, the role of society in shaping its development, and the consequences of Frankenstein's irresponsibility and neglect.

For contemporary readers, the novel's enduring popularity suggests that its themes remain as relevant today as they were in the early 19th century. The novel's exploration of creation, responsibility, and societal prejudice speaks to contemporary debates about the role of science in society, the responsibilities of creators, and the need for empathy and understanding in a rapidly changing world.

In conclusion, Frankenstein continues to captivate readers and scholars alike, offering a rich and multifaceted exploration of some of the most pressing issues of our time. By viewing the novel through the "Daemon's eyes," readers can gain a deeper understanding of its complexities and implications, and perhaps find new insights and perspectives on one of the most iconic novels in literary history.

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