

ABSTRACT

Nature encompasses the entire natural world on Earth, including living organisms, landscapes, weather, and natural phenomena. It is everything not significantly shaped by humans, often wild and uncontrolled, serving as the backdrop for life. Nature comprises biological (plants and animals) and non-biological (geological, atmospheric) elements in interconnected systems. It's a complex, studied, and artistically inspiring subject, explored in science, art, and philosophy throughout human history. This thesis examines the representation of nature and the connection between humans and nature in Gothic literature through Andrew Smith and William Hughes' theory of *EcoGothic* and Ynestra King's theory of *Ecofeminism*. It analyzes contemporary American texts, specifically Mira Grant's *Rolling in the Deep* and *Into the Drowning Deep*, and Diane Cook's *The New Wilderness*. This thesis fills a significant research gap by delving into *EcoGothic* literature, a field that has received limited attention. While there's existing scholarly interest in both *EcoGothic* and environmental literature, this research uniquely combines these aspects for a deeper analysis. It aims to explore how *EcoGothic* merges Gothic fiction with environmental themes while offering a clear understanding of this genre's importance especially in a world where ecological concerns are increasingly critical. This thesis discusses the portrayal of gothic natural monsters, the prevalence of *Ecophobia* and *Eco-Anxiety* in characters, the contrasting relationships between women and nature, and the need for a balanced coexistence between humans and nature. In Grant's novels, *EcoGothic* motifs convey ecological concerns in the face of climate change. The narratives depict nature as menacing and emphasize how human actions contribute to its hostility, aligning with nature as an avenging force. Grant and Cook's texts portray gothic natural monsters and eerie, isolated wilderness setting to highlight environmental degradation and climate change. It underscores the need to preserve nature and warns of the consequences of exploitation. This thesis suggests that establishing harmony with nature and respecting its agency is essential to addressing environmental issues.