

Abstract

This thesis aims to identify the 'vampire other' in Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea*. It is the primitive, barbaric and uncivilized side of a character that diminishes the line between human and vampire. In other words, the dark side of a character, embodying the traits and characteristics of a vampire, is the 'vampire other'. The text contains many characters that seem to be written in the image of vampire. Those characters are the product of Jean Rhys's obsession with Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* that lead her to bringing Bronte's dead protagonist Bertha back to life in the form of Antoinette. Christophine says to Antoinette, "your face like dead woman and your eyes red like souciant [Caribbean version of vampire]" (Rhys 105). Then Rochester mentions, "I hated her. For she belonged to the magic" (156). These lines imply that on an unconscious level, Rhys brought her back as a vampire. In the process, other characters seem to be influenced as well, which is the reason why Faizal Forrester discusses that Rhys's writing is haunted. Rhys herself acknowledges in a letter to Helen Nebeker that one cannot be sure what he or she writes on an unconscious level. The research adds to the existing body of knowledge by expanding the understanding of *Wide Sargasso Sea* within the gothic sphere by offering an entirely new perspective that states that the characters are vampiric. In addition, 'vampire other' theory can be beneficial for future researchers in terms of probing other gothic texts of a similar nature. Vampire folklore, fiction and film aid in analyzing 'vampire other' in the text. Research methods such as experimental and comparative are utilized to meet the requirements of this research. This research concludes that *Wide Sargasso Sea* appears to be the embodiment of Rhys's obsession with *Jane Eyre*, and her unconscious fascination with the supernatural, especially vampire.