

CHAPTER I

CHAPTER II INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Gothic has made its way into the list of literary genres that best reflect a world filled with mystery, dread, horror, and the paranormal. A literary work in the gothic genre seeks to convey a sense of fright and horror to the reader. A.F. Scott, M.A. claims that creating a gothic tale uses the reader's imagination to conjure up terrifying images. The gothic genre is designed to keep readers up at night with fright (Roger 313). The story's premise and setting contribute to the eerie atmosphere, a crucial component of Gothic literature. This issue is intriguing to discuss and is mainly related to Marcus Clarke's books, which fall under this particular work's adventure and drama genres. It investigates the story's content and emphasizes its point using recurrent motifs and themes. In response to the question of whether Gothic may be criticized, one of the fundamental criticisms is that it is merely an escape from reality. Gothic is intriguing to debate and further study because it frequently occurs in novels with a Gothic theme.

Gothic is a literary genre that combines realism and dramatization, both excellent and terrible. Rufus Dawes is the primary character in Marcus Clarke's work *For the Term of His Natural Life*. Rufus Dawes' real name is Richard Devine, but the writer frequently refers to him as Rufus Dawes throughout the narrative. Due to the alleged murder of his father, he was relocated to Australia, had his name changed, and is now known as Rufus Dawes instead of Richard Devine. He is based on facts and resembles many of the original prisoners in Australia. However, while

using the language of terror, irrationality, and chaos, despite the Gothic plot, it is highly predictable. These components are present in the novels by Marcus Clarke that I have seen and read.

Vampires, monsters, monks, and demons are frequently depicted in Gothic literature as they creep around run-down homes, through eerie basements, or across windswept cliffs in quest of unsuspecting victims. Still, I shall talk about these in Marcus Clarke's book. The narrative's plot recounts the exploits of the protagonist, Rufus Dawe, who is imprisoned in Van Diemen's Land, Australia, for the remainder of his natural life after being found guilty of a crime he did not commit. In his attempt to permanently leave the region, he falls in love with Sylvia, a warden's daughter, who fights his doppelgänger John Rex and the sinister prisoner Gabbert. Gothic is particularly well-liked in modern times as a cultural force, a literary presence, and an academic sector (Reyes 92). Unfortunately, Andalas University academics have not covered many Gothic-related issues. Therefore, I rely on references from outside books and publications.

The thrilling section of this book is when Rufus Dawe, the protagonist, is given a life sentence in the Tasmanian prison colony. Rufus Dawes assumes a new identity and boards a convict ship for Van Diemen's Land to spare his mother's pain and embarrassment. A gothic retribution scheme involving betrayal, savagery, and cruelty is revealed when he arrives.

According to Michael Wilding (1986), Marcus Clarke was an Australian author who wanted to further literary history. Additionally, Wilding compares

Marcus Clarke to American author Nathaniel Hawthorne, credited with popularizing American Gothic. According to Wilding, Clarke has demonstrated that Australia is the home of all romance, myth, and history. It sparked the writer's intense interest in analyzing Marcus Clarke's work using the gothic element approach.

According to the just mentioned above, this study is viable because it will give Marcus Clarke's readers insightful knowledge about Australian and Gothic aspects. As a result, I chose my thesis title to be **The Depiction of Australian Gothic Analysis Found in Marcus Clarke's Male and Female Characters in the Novel For The Terms of His Natural Life.**

1.2 Identification of the Problem

This study focuses on Marcus Clarke's works, particularly his Gothic novel *For the Term of His Natural Life*, which contains many Gothic phrases and motifs. The biography of Brian Elliott by Clarke (1958) explains the young author's fondness for Gothic literature. Dawes frequently finds himself on the water for various reasons, so a symbolic ocean study would be an intriguing concept for this book. The story's last image shows Dawes and Sylvia bound together and floating lifeless in the lake. Again, the waters that characterized Dawes' life and fight now hold him for the reader to examine, as if the ocean were the force of fate that drove the story. It depicts him and his soulmate tied in death. Therefore, the purpose of this research is to examine the gothic components of this book and how author Marcus Clarke uses them to create both male and female characters.

This study demonstrates if the male or female characters exhibit the gothic element that is more strongly. However, I discovered via my research that the male character's gothic element is crucial. I will also explain why the male character in Marcus Clarke's book tends to be more dominated by the gothic element.

1.3 Review of Related Studies

Before beginning the investigation, the writer read various articles on the subject. To understand something clearly, the writer concentrates on the finer points. The writer will review a few scientific theses and publications in this chapter to help with the thesis.

The writer wishes to discuss the novel's design in the first paragraph, and there is also an essay titled "*Design "For Its Natural Life Time."*" One of Australia's most well-known novels, *The Term of His Natural Life*, has endured the test of time but has not been proven to be the finest. The comparisons with non-Australian writers in this genre have been made, despite the implicit supposition that it is our most outstanding convict novel: Reade, Hugo, and Dostoevsky, although interestingly enough, there are few with Price Waning and Ralph Rashleigh. Although he acknowledges that it "will always occupy a high place in Australian fiction," H. M. Green leaves little room for that. The best research has gone into the content's historical origins, suggesting that it has not been treated objectively as a work of art.

According to Laurie Hergenhan's article "*The Theme of Redemption in His Natural Life*," the theme of redemption was highlighted after Clarke condensed the

serialized version of *For The Term of His Natural Life* for publication. In the book's conclusion, Rufus Dawes' moral breakdown depicts the prisoner needing atonement. Dawes' salvation contrasts with the Northern Priestess' deterioration, and the two switch religious positions as the former gets ready to "save" Sylvia, the embodiment of goodness. Because the writer will address the inherent features of the novel in chapter III, this article is helpful for the writer as she discusses the story's topic.

The geographic history of Australia is explained in one paper and two theses. The three books are "*The Australian Gothic*," written by Ken Gelder in 2012 and included in *The Encyclopedia of the Gothic*, "*Terra Australis Incognita: A Geocritical Analysis of Australian Gothic Literature*," by Lindsay G. Pettee from San Diego State University in 2015, and "*Gothic Fiction in the Australian Landscape: An Analysis of Gabrielle Lord Tooth and Claw, Elizabeth Jolley's The Well, and Tim Winton's In the Winter Dark*," written by Baines Alarcos and Because the novel is also strongly tied to the history of Australia, the sources aid the writer in determining the significance and content of the story in the work to be examined.

The articles "*Marcus Clarke, Gothic, Romance*" by David Mathews from *Medievalism and the Gothic in Australian Culture* from 2005 and "*Marcus Clarke's Chidiock Tichbourne*" by Michael Wilding from *Australian Literary Studies*, vol. 6, no. 4 from 1974 are linked. The articles are helpful for the writer since they serve as a source for Gothic horror and romantic aspects, which can be found in Marcus

Clarke's work *For the Term of His Natural Life*. Additionally, those papers aid the writer's analysis of the novel's romance and other genre characteristics under discussion.

Please do not overlook the book's author, Marcus Clarke, who is also crucial to the issues covered in this thesis and needs to know information about himself. The review of Marcus Clarke: An Annotated Bibliography, by Ian F. McLaren, by Laurie Hergenhan, published in *Australian Literary Studies*, vol. 11, no. 4, is titled as such. This article looks at the contemporary Marcus Clarke, who is recognized for his wide range of writings, including literary criticism, political and social commentary, documentaries, satire, regular columns for his stories, and most recently, his work in theater in addition to the fact that he only wrote one book. Because of his many contributions, his book *For the Term of His Natural Life* has been adapted into a movie. It made the writer eager to research Marcus Clarke's book and movie.

It is evident from the reviews above that none of them explore the gothic characteristics that affect the character's Gender in Marcus Clarke's book. Some articles, for instance, can explore novel genres and themes, Australian history, and the writer's perspective on the narrative. All of that enables the writer to refer to it in the future and serve as inspiration for further research on this thesis.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the reviews, the writers want to define this research based on two questions:

1. What kinds and to what extent Gothic Elements does Marcus Clarke represent through female characters in the novel *For The Term of His Natural Life*?
2. How do the gothic elements attached to the male character in the novel *For The Term of His Natural Life* address Australian Men in the Novel?

1.5 Scope of the Research

The Terms of His Natural Life by Marcus Clarke is the sole subject of this investigation. It embodies Marcus Clarke's alleged Gothic ideas, languages, and words and is unique to his actions and thinking. Regarding character development or gothic themes, the writer will contrast Sylvia, the feminine character, and Rufus Dawes, the novel's protagonist. Only the intrinsic elements of the book would be used in the micro-scale research.

1. Objectives of the Study

This study has two goals: First, examine the male and female characters in the book *For The Term of His Natural Life* for any gothic elements. Second, to examine the various gothic concepts that the male and female characters in Marcus Clarke's *For The Term of His Natural Life* represent. Additionally, this thesis attempts to inform readers about one of the authors, mainly through the work *For the Term of His Natural Life*, who introduced Australian Gothic to Australian literature.