



'The Fall of the House of Usher', 'Rip Van Winkle' and 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow' in Relation to Tzvetan Todorov's Definition of the Fantastic

Julia Linnarz

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Seminar paper from the year 2009 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Comparative Literature, grade: 1,7, University of Heidelberg (Anglistisches Seminar), course: American Romanticism and the "Invention" of Tradition, language: English, abstract: Common themes of American Romanticism were sentimentalism, primitivism and the cult of the noble savage, political liberalism, the celebration of natural beauty and the simple life, idealization of the common man and an interest in the picturesque past. Additionally, an interest in the supernatural or in "the crepuscular heart of mystery" (Hart 725) was a widespread topic used by romantic authors. The latter used the supernatural to deal with the disorienting situation of 19th cen-tury American culture, which was not only pressured by the frontier experience but also by an un-ease concerning the experiment of democracy, the virtual nonexistence of a developed American society and racial issues especially relating to slavery and the Native Americans. Additionally, the occupation with the supernatural showed the American romanticists' concern with the "culture's occupation with death in an increasingly secular, individualistic, and scientific age". Two romantic authors that tried their hand as supernatural tales are Washington Irving and Ed-gar Allan Poe. In their supernatural tales ghosts, ghouls, vampires and other mysterious beings as well as inexplicable phenomena make their appearance. Some of these appearances can be ration-ally explained; others are clearly of supernatural origin. The reader of supernatural tales usually chooses one or the other explanation. However, sometimes the reader hesitates between the two. Stories, in which the latter is the case, are according to Tzvetan Todorov's definition situated in the fantastic. In my opinion Washington Irving's tales Rip van Winkle and The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and Edgar Allan Poe's The Fall of the House of Usher belong to different literary g

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The experience that you get from 'The Fall of the House of Usher', 'Rip Van Winkle' and 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow' in Relation to Tzvetan Todorov's Definition of the Fantastic is the more deep you rooting the information that hide inside words the more you get thinking about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to recognise but 'The Fall of the House of Usher', 'Rip Van Winkle' and 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow' in Relation to Tzvetan Todorov's Definition of the Fantastic giving you thrill feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in selected way that can be understood simply by anyone who read this because the author of this publication is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this 'The Fall of the House of Usher', 'Rip Van Winkle' and 'The Legend of Sleepy Hollow' in Relation to Tzvetan Todorov's Definition of the Fantastic instantly.

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