

Thulfiqar Abdulameer - Improvisation and Radical

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Submission date: 24-Oct-2023 04:48AM (UTC+0200)

Submission ID: 2199695846

File name: Thulfiqar_Abdulameer_-_Improvisation_and_Radical.docx (36.01K)

Word count: 6480

Character count: 37365

Improvisation and Radical Objectivization Identities in Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber*: A Lacanian Reading

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Abstract

This research applies Lacanian psychoanalysis to scrutinize the use of improvisation and radical objectivization in Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber*. Drawing on Lacan's theory of the "mirror stage," the work argues that Carter's use of these literary techniques disrupts the reader's sense of identity and challenges their preconceived notions of self and other. Through close analysis of key passages from the text, the research demonstrates how Carter's use of these techniques creates a sense of alienation and fragmentation in the reader, as they are forced to confront the unsettling and often disturbing aspects of the stories. The work also explores how Lacan's concept of the "phallus" is invoked in Carter's work, as she challenges traditional gender roles and subverts the dominant male gaze through the use of powerful female protagonists. Further, it maintains that Carter's use of these techniques, offers a powerful critique of patriarchal norms and invites the reader to engage with the complex and often contradictory nature of identity and desire. By disrupting traditional fairy tale tropes and challenging patriarchal norms, Carter invites the reader to engage with the complex and often unsettling nature of identity and desire, and offers a powerful critique of the ways in which these concepts are shaped and constructed by dominant cultural narratives.

Key words: Improvisation, Radical Objectivization, *The Bloody Chamber*, Lcanian

Psychoanalysis

Introduction

The significance of the study lie in the exploration of the literary techniques used by Angela Carter in *The Bloody Chamber*. The short stories in this collection offer a feminist critique of traditional narratives and patriarchal norms, highlighting the complexities and contradictions of identity and desire. The techniques of improvisation and radical objectivization are key to Carter's challenge of dominant cultural norms and her exploration of the relationship between subjectivity and power.

This study seeks to delve deeper into these literary techniques and explore how they can be analyzed through a Lacanian psychoanalytic lens. The significance of this study lies in the contribution it can make to feminist literary theory, as well as to the understanding of the complex nature of identity and desire in contemporary society. By examining the ways in which Carter challenges traditional narratives and patriarchal norms through improvisation and radical objectivization, this study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the role of literature in social critique and transformation.

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