

MESHCA
031.
HUANG



Jane Austen's Attitudes towards the 'Masculine' and 'Feminine'

Gothic in *Northanger Abbey* (1818)

Submitted by

Cherry Huang

M-B0-4030-5

Thesis Supervisor: Dr. Damian Shaw

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Abstract of the thesis entitled

Jane Austen's Attitudes towards the 'Masculine' and 'Feminine' Gothic

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This thesis is mainly focused on discussion of Austen's attitudes to the Gothic. *Northanger Abbey* has been considered as a parody of the Gothic for a long time. These critics often perceive the parody as a complete denial of the Gothic. I disagree with this. In my thesis, I maintain that Austen parodies the Gothic in order to refine it. In addition, while analysing these refinements to the Gothic, I discovered that Austen has distinct attitudes towards the 'masculine' and 'feminine' Gothic, a topic which has often been neglected by critics.

The main structure of my thesis is as follows: (1) Defining the Gothic, including a distinction between the 'masculine' and 'feminine' Gothic; (2) How Austen parodies the Gothic in *Northanger Abbey*; (3) Austen's attitudes towards the 'masculine' and 'feminine' Gothic.

Key words: Gothic, Jane Austen, Parody, Masculine Gothic, Feminine Gothic.

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