



Author (surname, forename)	Category of thesis	Date	Number of pages
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Subject			
The Psychoanalytic Dimension in Stephen King's <i>Needful Things</i>			
Summary			
<p>In this thesis, Stephen King's novel, <i>Needful Things</i>, is examined through psychoanalytic literary criticism. The aim of this study is to look at the novel through a few chosen concepts and to see if they are evident in the novel. It is also discussed how horror is created in the reader. The thesis concentrates on the question of what in the text appeals to the reader and takes the presumption that the question can be answered with the aid of existing psychoanalytical theories of literature.</p> <p>The concepts from the field of psychoanalysis are the unconscious, drives, dreams, fetishism and the uncanny, which were all initially introduced by Freud. The novel, <i>Needful Things</i>, is read to see how these concepts are represented. This study's frame of reference comes from the study of horror fiction and how it affects the reader. Horror fiction is studied to see if there is something in it to make people find pleasure in it. The novel is analysed in order to bring to light aspects of the text that fulfil the definitions of the above concepts. The concepts are reflected through the characters of King's novel. The drives, dreams, fetishism and the unconscious aspects are analysed through the characters and narration. The uncanny is analysed more from the perspective of the reader.</p> <p>It is suggested that horror in <i>Needful Things</i> is created through the unconscious, drives, dreams, fetishism and the uncanny. The reader is able to identify with the characters of the novel because there is something common in their experiences. However, there is also something that reader finds unfamiliar and strange, a sort of supernatural twist. It is this anomaly that contributes to the feeling of horror.</p> <p>Because King's work is extensive, it would be interesting to see how horror is created in his other novels. Also, the method of this thesis could be applied to the whole Castle Rock –series of which <i>Needful Things</i> is a part.</p>			
Further information			
Key words: horror fiction, psychoanalysis, psychoanalytic literary criticism			