**An EcoGothic Reading of Selected Short Stories by Hawthorne and Irving**

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**Abstract**

Scholars have explored the psychological meaning of nature in the nineteenth-century gothic short stories for decades. They have widely used theories of Sigmund Freud and Carl Gustav Jung in which nature is considered as a reflection of dreams, the unconscious of the protagonist, and the collective unconscious of society. However, recently Andrew Smith and William Hughes have proposed that nature in gothic stories could be explored through theories of Ecocriticism. Accordingly, they introduced concept of ecoGothic. They argue that the appearance of nature in different forms through gothic fictions could help to shape an awareness regarding climate changes and environmental damages. Short stories of Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) and Washington Irving (1783-1859) provide suitable platforms for ecoGothic studies. Even though Hawthorne’s “Young Goodman Brown” (1895) and “Roger Malvin’s Burial” (1895) and Irving’s “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” (1840) and “The Devil and Tom Walker” (1865) have been looked at from different perspectives, they have not been examined through an ecoGothic lens. This study thus provides an ecoGothic reading of the mentioned short stories and argues that gothic nature in the selected short stories overpowers humans, judges their action, and even punishes them.

**Keywords:** *Ecocriticism, EcoGothic studies, Nature, Andrew Smith, William Hughes*