The Familiar and the Fantastic A Study of Contemporary High Fantasy in George R. R. Martin's A Song of Ice and Fire and Steven Erikson's Malazan Book of the Fallen

Master thesis

Abstract

This thesis deals with fantasy as a literary genre, as well as its subgenre "high fantasy," and contemporary genre theorizing. It examines how the cycles A Song of Ice and Fire by George R. R. Martin and The Malazan Book of the Fallen by Steven Erikson exemplifies this. It mainly deals with the theorizing of Brian Attebery, Richard Mathews and Brian Stableford, and looks at how the concept of the genre in relation to fantasy fiction and its attempts of establishing a framework for critical study of the genre. Attebery's theorizing on "formulaic" fantasy has its origins in the success of Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings, and the commercial mass-production of fiction that resembled this work. Furthermore, the thesis examines how the concept of formula can be problematic in relation to genre, and how the recent years' fantasy fiction seems to abandon stereotypes and traditional narrative techniques. The thesis also examines different aspects of the fictional worlds presented by Martin and Erikson, and if they offer perspectives on our own reality. It also deals with how literary techniques and narrative strategies are used in these works, how they break from or adhere to the generic framework, and what consequences these differences or similarities have.

Genre studies. Contemporary fantasy. Creatures. Fantastic. Good versus evil is a common theme in high fantasy, and the character of evil is often an important theme in a work of high fantasy.[12] As in *The Lord of the Rings*. Indeed, the importance of the concepts of good and evil can be regarded as the distinguishing mark between high fantasy and sword and sorcery.[13] In many works of high fantasy, this conflict marks a deep concern with moral issues; in other works, the conflict is a power struggle, with, for instance, wizards behaving irresponsibly whether they are "good" or "evil".[14]. ‘Fantasy book writing: 7 tips’ Now Novel discusses the origin of the term, referencing Lloyd Alexander and offering high fantasy writing tips. v. t. Start by marking "The Familiar And The Fantastic: A Study Of Contemporary High Fantasy In Georg R.R. Martin’s ‘A Song Of Ice And Fire’ And Steven Erikson’s Malazan Book Of The Fallen" as Want to Read: Want to Read saving… Want to Read. Currently Reading. Read. The Familiar And The F by Magnus Vike. Other editions. Want to Read saving… Error rating book. Refresh and try again. Rate this book. Clear rating. Let us know what’s wrong with this preview of The Familiar And The Fantastic by Magnus Vike. Problem: It’s the wrong book It’s the wrong edition Other. Details (if other): Cancel. Thanks for telling us about the problem. Return to Book Page. Not the book you're looking for? Preview — The Familiar And The Fantastic by Magnus Vike.