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RITUALS OF TRANSFORMATION IN SELECTED STORIES  
BY ANGELA CARTER

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	ii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	iii
<b>ABSTRACT (ENGLISH)</b>	v
<b>ABSTRACT (BAHASA MALAYSIA)</b>	vi
<b>CHAPTER ONE THROUGH THE MIRROR – RITUALS AND REFLECTIONS IN CARTER’S NARRATION</b>	1
<b>CHAPTER TWO INTERTEXTUALITY AND CULTURAL CONTEXTS</b>	38
<b>CHAPTER THREE ENCLOSURES WITHIN CARTER’S STORYTELLING FRAMEWORK</b>	61
<b>CHAPTER FOUR THE “RITUAL LOVE-DEATH” AND THE TRANSFIGURATION</b>	100
<b>CHAPTER FIVE CONCLUSION</b>	114
<b>NOTES</b>	117
<b>WORKS CITED</b>	120

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## ABSTRACT

This dissertation focuses on the rituals of transformation found in selected short stories by Angela Carter. My hypothesis is that in each story selected for this dissertation there exists a series of events leading to a ritual of transformation with an aim towards subverting tropes of gender and culture. This is studied in four different steps as used in four different chapters. In the first and introductory chapter, I delved into the ritual reflected in each narration. In Chapter Two, I considered the intertextuality of the tales studied, looking into the cultural contexts as well as the functions of the characters within the tales as leading up to discussion in Chapter Three and Four on enclosures as well as the rituals I have introduced in Chapter One.

In Chapter Three, I moved closer to the idea of the ritual by looking into the significance of the enclosures within these tales. I linked these enclosures with the tropes discussed in Chapter One and looked at the way in which these locales fit within the rituals situated within each plot, casting a glimpse at the Ritual Love-Death, as discussed by Joseph Campbell.

Finally, in Chapter Four, I discuss how the Ritual Love-Death itself is relevant to Carter's dialectic within the tales which I look at as a response to her world-view, as stated in *The Sadeian Woman*. In doing so, I cover some pertinent moments and themes in selected texts, and also discuss this in relation with Freud's thoughts in *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*. By doing so I hope to shed further light on how Carter has approached the tropes in fairytales via her writings and how they push against the binaries inherent in most tales into a hybridized landscape of multiple possibilities.

## **ABSTRAK**

Tujuan disertasi ini adalah untuk menyelidik acara transformasi yang terdapat di dalam cerita pendek oleh Angela Carter. Matlamat di sebalik penyelidikan ini adalah untuk membuktikan bahawa di dalam setiap cerita pendek tersebut terdapat kesinambungan di dalam siri kejadian yang membawa pembaca kepada peringkat di mana acara transformasi tersebut berlaku. Di peringkat ini, metafora yang berhubungan dengan jantina dan budaya diperiksa dengan perspektif yang berbeza oleh Angela Carter.

Penyelidikan tersebut dijalankan di dalam empat peringkat melalui empat bab utama. Di dalam bab permulaan saya menyelidik acara yang boleh dilihat di dalam setiap cerita. Pada Bab Dua, saya berbincang mengenai konsep “intertextuality” yang terdapat di dalam cerita-cerita Angela Carter yang sentiasa merujuk di antara satu sama lain sambil menyelidik latar belakang cerita itu yang mempunyai konteks budaya yang berbeza.

Saya juga merujuk kepada fungsi-fungsi protagonis di dalam cerita tersebut dan bagaimana fungsi itu membawa pembaca kepada tempat kejadian atau acara yang utama. Di dalam Bab Tiga, saya menyelidik dan membuat bandingan lokasi-lokasi acara tersebut di dalam setiap cerita yang diperiksa. Ini dengan tujuan untuk menunjuk relevans lokasi kepada ide-ide and acara di dalam setiap cerita, yang ada kaitan dengan konsep “Ritual Love-Death” yang telah ditulis oleh Joseph Campbell.

Akhirnya, di dalam Bab Empat saya merujuk kepada “Ritual Love-Death” ini untuk membuat bandingan dengan falsafah Angela Carter sebagai mana telah dicatit oleh beliau di dalam *The Sadeian Woman*. Sambil membuat bandingan tersebut saya juga melihat kepada ide-ide Freud di dalam *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* untuk menjelaskan pendekatan Angela Carter terhadap cerita-cerita dongeng yang telah diubah oleh beliau melalui penulisannya yang mencabar metafora-metafora tradisional.