

ABSTRACT

CHARLOTTE AND THE ALIENS: A ROLE OF HYBRIDITY IN JANE EYRE, SHIRLEY, AND VILLETTE

By placing Charlotte Brontë's novels into historical, political and economic context, I demonstrate that Brontë consciously inscribes hybrid social spaces into her narratives which characters who were neither completely accepted nor completely exiled from the society could inhabit. Drawing from the biographical background of the author, I claim that she had an intimate understanding of hybridity that allows her to construct her characters' desires and fears, without reinscribing an imperialist discourse. Starting from her first published work, Jane Eyre, Brontë experiments with the Otherness and liminal spaces. In Shirley, she continues expanding on the concepts of marginalization, arming her main characters with the ability to use such communities for their advantage. In her last book, Villette, Brontë speculates on Lucy's position as both colonizer and colonized, failing to accept her identity as hybrid, unable thus to achieve stable position in life.

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