

Horrors of Body, Mind and Existence:
Affectivity of Horror in Marko Hautala's Horror Fiction

Abstract

Studying the affectivity of horror in Marko Hautala's horror fiction exposes the rhetorical, narrative and affective structures and the affective and emotional responses that these structures create in the ideal, authorial audience. This research concerns the poetics of emotions and horror in Hautala's horror fiction and utilizes the research of horror fiction and emotions, especially affective narratology. This approach considers Hautala's horror fiction as a rhetorical communication between the author and the authorial audience. The intention is to find out the rhetorical and narrative methods that the author utilizes to generate horror in the authorial audience. It is an ideal audience that is supposed to recognize and understand the conventions and rhetorical methods that the author has intended. Examining the affectivity of Hautala's horror fiction reveals the core of how horror fiction functions, terrifies and fascinates.

Applying affective narratology on Finnish horror fiction is a new approach. There has not been a lot of research on Finnish horror fiction. The objective of the research is to reveal the rhetorical, narrative and affective mechanisms of Hautala's horror fiction. Therefore, the research question is what kind of corporeal, psychological and metaphysical rhetorical, narrative and affective strategies formulate the affectivity of horror. Thus, my hypothesis is that Hautala's horror fiction and horror fiction in general is based upon corporeal, psychological and metaphysical affective structures, which generate affective and emotional responses in the authorial audience.

My typology that includes corporeal, psychological and metaphysical affects is a rhetorical, structural, affective and thematic approach to horror literature. First, the corporeal affects are based upon bodily threats that are intended to horrify the characters and the authorial audience. Second, the psychological affects concern the mental threats. Third, the metaphysical affects generate horror by shocking the comprehensions concerning self, society and cosmos.

In conclusion, my typology aims to expose the narrative and rhetorical strategies utilized in Hautala's horror fiction and to demonstrate the affective and emotional impacts of horror. The anticipated output is that corporeal, psychological and metaphysical affects constitute the distinctive affective features of horror fiction. Based upon the previous research, I synthesize a new typology that can be utilized in the research of horror fiction. Especially the concept of *metaphysical affect* aims to develop the research further.