

P -728 From Pasha To Cleopatra And Vashti: The Oriental Other In Charlotte Brontë's Vilette

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Critics have argued that Jane's engagement with the Orient in *Jane Eyre* (1847) is grounded in the vocabulary of her role as liberator and the discourse of female slavery and male domination as represented by the use of the harem metaphor in the text. Yet little is said about how this same metaphor exposes in *Vilette* (1853) the ambivalence inherent in the construction of a Western character that has been invaded by the so-called menacing influences of the Orient. In the novel, the Oriental familial institution of the harem is figuratively and literally seen as a contaminant that poses a threat to a racial and gendered colonial British character. It suggests that this contamination destabilizes this character, blurring the line that divides both East and West, fantasy and reality, and argues that the Oriental institution of the harem, the artistic representations of women as illustrated by the Orientalist portrait of Cleopatra and the actress playing Vashti and, finally, M. Paul, represent the different ways in which this character is gendered and orientalized.

P -729 Malaysian Science And Technology Indicators

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There is no doubt that S&T plays a pivotal role in the economic and social development of any developed country. Developing countries such as Malaysia have also realized the importance of the role of S&T, and have taken measures to develop their S&T systems. Indeed, not only has Malaysia taken the steps to develop her S&T system, but, like many developed countries before her, has also taken the steps to develop S&T indicators, which are a series of data that are aimed at measuring and reflecting the scientific endeavour of our country, demonstrating the strengths and weaknesses of our country's science system, and providing early warning of events and trends that might impair its ability to meet our country's needs. Hence, this study on Malaysian S&T Indicators was conducted to assess "where we are" with regard to our performance in S&T. Specifically, it sought to determine our standing with regard to education in S&T, human resources in research and development, research and development in S&T, public sector support for R&D in science and technology, innovation in the private sector, intellectual property rights, Information and Communications Technology in Malaysia, biotechnology, trade in high technology products, S&T article outputs by Malaysian authors and academics, the public's awareness of S&T, and recent advancements in the energy sector. This multi-disciplinary study on the state of S&T in the country has important implications for national policy as well as our country's international competitiveness, as the results are used in Malaysia's ranking in indices such as the Global Competitiveness Index, the Innovation Capacity Index, and the World Competitiveness Yearbook Scoreboard.