

THEMES AND ETHICS IN FRANKENSTEIN

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Received: 08.12.2025

Revised: 09.12.2025

Accepted: 10.12.2025

KALIT SO'ZLAR:

Frankenstein, scientific ambition, human responsibility, social rejection, Gothic literature, Romanticism.

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein is a basis which examines ethical boundaries of scientific ambition, the responsibilities of creation and the effects of rejection in society. The article explores how Victor Frankenstein's searching for knowledge and abandonment of his creation illustrate the ethical limits of human innovation by using qualitative literary analysis. The Creature's experiences reveal that how prejudices in society leads to the formation of monstrosity. The analysis demonstrates that Shelley's novel is not only functions as a gothic narrative, but also as a powerful critique of irresponsibility and injustice in society. The themes in Frankenstein remain relevant to contemporary debates on scientific ethics, technological advancements and human responsibility.

Introduction

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein (1831) is often called as the first work of horror and science fiction in literature, but it has equal place in literature as an important ethical critique of human ambition, creation and social responsibility. This book was written during a period of gradual scientific advancement and the worries of her era are reflected in Victor Frankenstein's experiment and its aftermath. Novel's narrative structure and philosophical depth can be seen in different themes such as alienation and moral failure. This article analyzes the key themes and moral implication in Frankenstein, focusing on responsibility, ambition, rejection in society and dynamic between creation and creator.

Methods: This article uses qualitative literary analysis which examines the thematic and ethical dimensions of Frankenstein. The analysis is organizes around four main thematic and ethical areas:

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1. Ambition- how author shows the dangers of scientific experimentation.
 2. Moral responsibility- the ethical duties of innovators and creators
 3. Social rejection – how society’s behavior shapes the Creature’s moral development
 4. The ethics of creation- evaluation whether humans have the right to form a life

Results:

1. Ambition leads to a destruction

Victor Frankenstein’s obsession with mastering the death and gain scientific glory illustrates one of novel’s most prominent themes: the potential danger beyond the ambition. The author describes Victor’s success as hollow, emphasizing that innovation created for personal glory rather than societal benefit is dangerous and ultimately tragic.

2. Failure of responsibility of creator

One of the central ethical failures in the novel is rejection of Victor to nurture the Creator. After giving it life, Victor abandons his creations because of fear and disgust. The author says that responsibility is a moral obligation tied to the act of innovation. Victor’s refusal contributes to

Creature’s pain and later violence, making his negligence of responsibility the novel’s deepest ethical violation

3. The Creature’s journey begins as an innocent and empathetic being. Although the Creature initially acts kindly and wants to connect, repeated rejection and hostility-based on only his appearance- makes him hostile. Shelley emphasizes that tendency of society to judge based on appearance can make monsters.

4. The morals of creation

Shelly wants to question whether humans have the right to create a being without understanding or predicting the upcoming consequences. Victor’s relentless attempt to create a human with dead parts of humans leads not to scientific breakdown but to tragedy. Shelley critiques the idea that humans have the power to control one’s life ethically without emotional and social consideration. This theme remains relevant in modern debates about artificial intelligence and genetic engineering.

Discussion: Frankenstein serves both Gothic narrative and a moral critique of scientific ambition. Shelley suggests that the pursuit of knowledge without empathy and responsibility results in destruction. The Creature’s experience shows environment and behavior in society shape the identity. Society should accept the differences and moral failure lies not only in scientific recklessness but also in societal hostility or cruelty. The themes remain highly relevant today. Like creator Victor, innovators in today’s world must confront the responsibilities that accompany with their creations.

Conclusion: Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein provides a profound exploration of themes related to ambition, ethics and the consequences of social rejection. The novel suggests scientific innovation must be accompanied by responsibility and acceptance. Through

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Victor and Creature, Shelley shows how neglect, prejudice and moral failure can make tragedy. Finally, creation-whether it is scientific or social-requires ethics.

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