

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF MOHAMED BOUDIAF - M'SILA

FACULTY OF LETTERS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

N° :.....



DOMAIN: FOREIGN LANGUAGES

STREAM: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

OPTION: LITERATURE & CIVILIZATION

**The Evil Clown Figure in the American Pop
Culture : Literature, Cinema and Media.**

**Thesis Submitted to the Department of English in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Master Degree**

By:BELKHIRI Houda

GUERRAS Samia

Academic Year : 2016/2017

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF MOHAMED BOUDIAF - M'SILA

FACULTY OF LETTERS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

N°:.....



DOMAIN: FOREIGN LANGUAGES

STREAM: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

OPTION: LITERATURE & CIVILIZATION

**The Evil Clown Figure in the American Pop
Culture : Literature, Cinema and Media**

**Thesis Submitted to the Department of English in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Master Degree**

By: BELKHIRI Houda
GUERRAS Samia

Publically defended before the following jury:

Mr.	University	Chairperson
Miss Chriet Imane	University Mohamed Boudiaf M'sila	Supervisor
Miss	University	Examiner

Academic Year : /.....

Dedication

To old memories, to ups and downs, to my beloved Allah and my beloved grandparents.

For the one who stole what left from my heart Morsli Anais.

I must also be very grateful to my dear parents Belkhiri Djamel and Guechi Lynda to be supportive, patient, and for being a source of strength and guidance. I also want to thank my dear sisters, Israa, Omnia, chahrazed and my dear brother Hossam. Without forgetting friends for their unfailing support. Actually without all these outsider factors my dissertation would not be accomplished.

Houda

Dedication

To my beloved parents, to my brothers and my sister and all the family members and friends. To my husband, for his help, patience, support and his understanding..

Samia

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, we are grateful to Allah for the good health and wellbeing that were necessary to complete this research.

We are using this opportunity to express our gratitude to everyone who supported us through the course of this research. We are thankful for their aspiring guidance, invaluable constructive criticism and friendly advice during this work.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to our supervisor **Ms. Chriet Imane**. Without her assistance and dedicated involvement in every step through the process, this dissertation would have never been accomplished. We would like to thank her for her support, excellent guidance and understanding over these last months.

We take also this opportunity to record our sincere thanks to all **the faculty members and teachers of the English department** especially **Madam Abadou** and **Mr. Senoussi Mohammed** and all our teachers from primary school till university for their help and encouragement.

Thank you

Abstract

The pop cultural dynamics of the last decade of the nineteenth century America was full with popular reference to Evil clowns. And due to events and propagation to this new phenomenon, the old archetype of happy peaceful clowns has been changed to a more dangerous and sinister ones resulting in what specialists called the clown phobia or “Coulrophobia”. This study is attempted to describe and analyze three American Pop cultural facets which are media, literary works and movies using psychoanalytical archetypal and sociological approaches. It also attempts to demonstrate the effect of different media aspects on the rise of the clowns fear among Americans through their scary depictions of the clown figure. The finding of this investigation revealed that media literature and cinema propagated and were part of the generated fear towards clowns and were also influenced by the social phenomenon of clown attacks that appeared in the American society.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgment.....	I
Dedication.....	II
Dedication.....	III
Abstract	IV
Table of Contents.....	V
General Introduction.....	1

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

Introduction.....	09
1. Evil Clown Figure in the American Social Networks	09
2. Evil Clown Figure in the American Online Magazines.....	14
3. Evil Clown in Figure the American Printed Newspapers.....	16
4. Evil Clown Figure in the American TV News.....	18
Conclusion	21

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Introduction.....	23
1. Hop-Frog's Plot Summary.....	23
1.1 The Killer Jester.....	25
2. Stephen King's It Plot Summary.....	27

2.1 Pennywise the Killer Clown.....	28
3. Batman the Killing Joke Plot Summary.....	33
3.1 The Psychopathic Creepy Joker.....	35
4. Other Creepy Clown Inspired Characters in American Literature.....	37
Conclusion.....	40
 CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN	
Cinema	
Introduction.....	42
1. Poltergeist (1982)	43
1.1. An Overview.....	43
1.2. “The Clown Doll” Character from Poltergeist.....	44
2. Killer Clowns from Outer Space (1988).....	46
2.1. An overview.....	46
2.2. The killer clown Characters “the circus tenets”.....	47
3. Clown (2014).....	49
3.1. An Overview.....	49
3.2. The Demon “Cloyne” Character.....	50
4. Creepy clown character appearance in American cinema.....	52
Conclusion.....	55
General Conclusion.....	56
References	58
Appendices	

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Since decades, humor has gained a high value in human society because it has always been attached to happiness and relief from life burdens. In fact, humor is an art that has been practiced since decades by Fools, jesters and clowns. In the past, clowns were found in the Egyptian Old Kingdom 4,500 years ago, and nearly before it in the Chinese royal courts 4000 years ago. Clowns in old China were a source of relief and goodness because of an incident that happened in 300 BC.E China, when a clown was remembered of saving thousands of lives with his witty humor that prevented the king from whitewash the other part of the great wall, so million souls were saved. In addition to that, Clowns served as socio-religious characters in Greek and they were known as Mimes, and in the fifteenth and sixteenth France were known as Joyous, in the same period in Italy they were known as Commedia dell'Arte (Bala, 2010, p50)

In America clown character derived its origins from the precedent cultures. Clowns such as Howdy Doody, Clarabelle, bozo and Ronald MacDonald have served different roles like saving souls, spreading joy and promoting food. However, the clown turned up to seize another role in the American culture which is the Evil and creepy one. And with the appearance of clowns like Crusty the clown from *the Simpsons* and Twisty the clown from *the American Horror Movie*, clowns seems to tell what is beyond their own real characters. According to Stott (2016):

the clown art is now rather terrifying and full of Anxiety and apprehension, their suicidal feats, the monstrous gesticulations and frenzied mimicry Reminding one of the courtyard of lunatic asylum.(Macrobbie, 2013)

She means that the usual image no longer exists and a new clown archetype appeared. In America, the discussion about clowns is still swirling because clowns changed from beloved heroes of comedy to scary ones. Developing the same idea, we can say that creepy clowns

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

replaced the peaceful funny character because many argued that Clowns, fools and comedians in general have always served as voice of contradiction that have more freedom to criticize and poke sarcasm, and what makes them controversial is the ability to twist their characters and roles. (Zinoman, 2016)

In fact, Clown fear that spreads among Americans was transformed into a phobia to becomes known as Coulrophobia, that drove many researchers to question the reasons behind the current sinister image of clowns. Psychologically speaking and according to Naftulin (2016), Coulrophobia is fueled by the fact that clowns wore masks, but Americans agree on the fact that *John Wayne Gacy* the famous criminal Clown who murdered more than 29 person in America is the one who rang the bells of irrational rejection against clowns in America and brought the idea of the “Killer Clown”.

Other claims by American sociologists believe that the new clown archetype is a mere propagation of popular cultural products such as media, literature and cinema. Because, in many America literary works, such as, *Hop-Frog* by Edgar Allan Poe (1849), *It* by Stephen King (1986) and *Batman the Killing Joke* by Alan Moor & Bolland (2008), represented the clown as a murderer, merciless killer and psychopath. In addition to that, cinema movies characters as *Twisty* the clown, the *Joker* in *Batman the killing Joke* and *Killer Clowns from Outer-space* which represents clowns as scary, bloody and evil characters. Without forgetting the American Social networks, magazines, newspapers and TV shows which associated evilness, crime and murder to clowns.

Thus, the contribution of Literature, cinema and media in the new Clown archetype can no longer be ignored. Certainly, it is difficult to say whether there has been a real increase in the number of people who have clown phobia since *John Wayne Gacy's* crimes, media propagation on Tv, socila networks, magazines and newspapers, or *Twisty* the clown from *An*

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

American Horror Movie, or Stephen King's novel *It*, but the role of literary, cinema and media productions in the spread of creepy clowns can no longer be denied (McRobbie, 2013).

1. Problem Statement

Owing to the fact that pop culture is a mere reflection of social and ideological perceptions, attitudes, ideas, images, perspectives in addition to many event that breeds from the same culture, specifically the western culture of the late twentieth century; in fact it is influenced by mass media like movies, television, news, sports, fashion and politics. From another side, pop culture has the capacity to shape people's minds and hearts by influencing their perception to the world around them. Truthfully, this research focuses on three pop cultural aspects as, Media, Literature and Cinema and their influence on the American social community to create a Coulrophobia.

As a matter of fact, for most cultures clowns are funny, stupid and safe; yet for many Americans nowadays clowns are scary, deadly and insane, This may be the product of some activity in the American culture that promoted this divergence from the common clown archetype. literally, in modern times and especially between the year 2013 and 2016, America witnessed a lot of evil clown sightings which rose horror and clown hatred among Americans, and lead to the spread of Coulrophobia.

According to Joseph Curtis(2017), the great Clown panic or Coulrophobia of 2016 can no longer be ignored across the American nation with the sudden appearance of creepy and dangerous clowns. For instance, a boy aged sixteen years old was found dead after a fight was broke out with a masked clown who wanted to steal his phone, and a woman reported that a clown tried to get into her car.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Shedding light on literature, mass media and cinema can provide explanations about the great fear of clowns because they are the most elements of pop culture that contributed to the spread of many American beliefs, slogans and symbols. Hence, it can be said that they contributed to the rise of Coulrophobia among Americans and, why not, people around the world. Accordingly, the aim of this research is to investigate why clowns got the new perception, and how it was depicted in literature, media and cinema. Investigating some aspects of popular culture like media such as social media networks, TV news, online magazines or printed newspaper, literary productions such as short stories and novels and movies reflecting clowns as creepy figures may provide us with insights into this new phenomenon.

2. Research questions

In accordance with the above stated problem this study will equally deal with the following questions:

1. How did media contribute to the creation and propagation of the evil clown figure in the American culture?
2. How did literature depict and contribute to the spread of the evil clown figure in the American culture?
3. How did Cinema depict and contribute to the spread of the evil clown figure in the American culture?

3. Research Objectives

The prime pursuit of this study is to contribute to the academic world with a new study on the problematic of the new tendency of the evil clown figure in the American popular culture. Another objective is the investigation of how media, literary works and cinema productions contributed to the divergence from the common archetype of the happy peaceful

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

clown in America, through describing and analyzing different literary works, movies and media that dealt with creepy clowns. And since media, literature and cinema are part of popular culture that can be influenced by social events and accidents such as those attached with criminals committing crimes and threatening people wearing clown masks we can say that they may be influenced by these events. So, they may not be the reasons behind the appearance of Coulrophobia in America and they can be only reflecting the new phenomenon.

4. Significance of the Study

The importance of this research rises from the fact that it sheds light on media, literature and cinema reflections and influence on the creation and the spread of the evil clown figure in America. Another important aspect of this study is its multidisciplinary nature since it uses cultural, sociological, psychological and archetypal studies as frames of analysis for the problematic. Since it is a challenging act to study the clown figure in an academic context, this study derives its importance from the fact that it seeks to examine this topic in academic frame. In addition, it is worth saying that the findings of our study will be valuable to the English civilization specialty dealing with cinema literature and media that are three of the crucial components of American pop culture.

5. Methodology

As any civilization research, this study will be based on a Qualitative approach to research. Therefore, detailed analysis of books, articles, journals and movies is carried to find and discuss the various aspects of the subject matter. This study attempts to bring on the topic by using both the descriptive and analytical methods to discover how media, literature and cinema contributed to the spread of evil clowns in America and were influenced by the social phenomenon of criminal clowns.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

6. Dissertation Structure

In line with this research objectives and the main research question, this study is divided into three chapters. The first chapter is entitled: The Evil Clown Figure in the American Media. This chapter explores and detects how media as a pop cultural product shaped the sinister image of Clowns in America, shedding light on how American social media, online magazines, printed newspapers and TV news shape and represent clown image, and affected American's attitudes towards clowns. The second chapter is entitled: The Evil Clown Image in the American Literature, shedding light on two literary genres as novels. In this chapter we are going to investigate how literary evil clown characters in the American short story *Hop-Frog* (1849) and novels such as *It* (1986) and *Batman: The Killing Joke* (2008) may have contributed to the rise of clown fear and phobia among Americans. The third chapter is under the title Evil Clown Image in the American Cinem. It includes a description and analyses of a number of horror movies that depicted clowns as deadly characters.

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

Introduction.....	09
1. Evil Clown Figure in the American Social Networks	09
2. Evil Clown Figure in the American Online Magazines.....	14
3. Evil Clown in Figure the American Printed Newspapers.....	16
4. Evil Clown Figure in the American TV News.....	18
Conclusion	21

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

Introduction

Media refers to all means from where we get information about news, what is happening in the world, or the most popular news and trends that serve daily life's purposes. It embraces TV, Internet, newspapers, magazines and telephones. Nowadays media tends to be related to technology because most people prefer the easiest ways to get information. Moreover, media as part of pop culture seems to be the reason behind the spread of many ideas in America, such as; the Clown phobia. Accordingly, the focus of this chapter is on how media contributes to the spread of the creepy image of Clowns in America. Shedding light on Social Media, magazines, newspapers and News reports

1. Evil Clown Figure in the American Social Networks

Social media is the electronic communication means; like web sites, and social networks that include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, You tube, Snap chat and similar websites where people can post their daily life, create online communities to share information or personal messages. Facebook and Twitter are the focus of this section because they are the most used networks nowadays America, that helped in the propagation to many evil and bloody clown images.

In fact, clown horror started in America on October 2013, in Northampton, but it was not recognized until it spotted in Italy by an Italian owner to a YouTube channel, called *DM Pranks*, when he terrified many people with his videos that represented him as a Killer clown. Since it was first posted to YouTube on 11 May, the video has been watched around 4.5 million times. *DM Prank* used to frighten people zombie an alien costumes, but the biggest fears came when he costumed up as a clown.

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

After that, the craze overwhelmed America in 2014, when a Wasco Clown posts scary clown pictures on Facebook in California, America. The clown was a copy version of Pennywise character of the movie *It*, bloody with razor teeth and wild stares. After an interview was made with the Wasco clown, he declared that the pictures are a mere program suggested by his wife to have fun. This may lead to question American's obsession to have fun using evil clown costume that can spread horror and concern. After that, different evil and bloody Clown pictures appeared to the scene of social media threatening and scaring people all around America . (Wikipedia, 2016).

In fact, the Clown horror kept spreading along the American continent especially in California and Oregon when schools received various threats from websites accounts such as Facebook and Twitter, really the event that rose the fever pitch is when the Los Angeles Sheriff commanded his officers to close one of the schools because of a mere threatening messages on Twitter about clowns who targeted a high schools in the city of Carson, South Los Angeles. Thus, after one week from such events the city of Lancaster, North Los Angeles, witnessed the appearance of a group of men who wore clown costumes and carried knives, roaming along the city, that being posted on Facebook. The police claimed that it was a mere attempt to scare people and those clowns are not harmful, but the lurking astonishment is in the well confined and prepared bloody clown costumes that brought a new odd image to the scene. (Satullo, 2016)

Truthfully, many assumes that the American pop culture is propagating for the sinister image of clowns, when the same events happened in Oregon and many other American states. As a result, a group of parents were alerted to clown postings on Facebook and twitter that targeted school children and teachers, and even went further in threatening to kill directors and school cooks. Moreover, this social media posts lurked police to move on and detect the

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

source behind the spread of such hysteria, that spreads mostly due to people reposting or sharing previous social media posts for different unknown ideas and perspectives. This indicates that police officers attached the spread of this phenomenon to social media posts on Facebook and Twitter by young and adult Americans. As a result, the police argued that they will do their best and they are working hard with partners at Portland police to monitor the issue. (Statullo, 2016)

Despite police efforts, events kept spreading on the internet especially with Facebook scary and killer clown accounts that spread fear among people. This incident was recognized when Chaparral High school students in Las Vegas received a Facebook request from “Garbo the Clown. In fact, the account owner posted threatening status advising students not to join school using expressions such as *“we are coming for you”*. Moreover, a similar event happened in Joseph Junior School in Missouri, when students received the same threats from different Facebook accounts attempting to abduct students and even murder teachers. In addition, a school in Ohio was closed, because of threats on Facebook and Twitter, and a Clown attack on a woman near by the school. Literally, police kept investigating the events and extra patrols are swinging by schools till the end of the school day.(Keating, 2016)

In addition, Universities in New York, South Carolina, Wisconsin and Ohio have received Facebook and Twitter evil clowns threats, which led students to make riots and asked the government to stop clown sightings, because they are no more funny and the threats became more serious. The issue that worried people is their disability to distinguish between peaceful and harmful clowns, as a matter of fact it is impossible to determine which of these clowns are harmful and which are peaceful. Nonetheless, a study assumed that the clown panic is related to what researchers called *The Phantom of clowns* that is derived from an

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

inner clown panic that cannot consider goodness from evilness, usually fueled by evil clown incidents in America. (Garret, 2016).

Despite students tumults, hatred and refusal to evil clowns phenomenon, evil clowns sightings number kept rising thanks to pop cultural aspects such social networks. This drove digital experts to try to explain the clown hysteria by saying that it is a mere electronic threat that is virtual and has no physical consequences (Garret, 2016). Despite all interpretations, such incidents pushed the white house and government to halt such events. As a matter of fact, it started with questioning five teenagers and a mature that lurked a source of suspicion of being behind evil Clown posts on Facebook.(Guarino, 2016). Another move was recognized when the famous novelist Stephen King who brought the evil clown character Pennywise into the scene by writing the horror novel **It (See Appendix 1)**, posted on Twitter saying: *“Hey, guys, time to cool the Clown hysteria most of them are good, cheer up the kiddies, make people laugh”*, as if he is assuming that the novel and its bloody clown character affected and shaped people's thought toward Clowns. (Gurret, 2016)

From all the above mentioned instances, it can be said that the clown fever or Coulrophobia cautions escalated through such events, and that social media seems to be the reason behind the spread of such stories. Actually, digital society and data studies reported that most social media, that allows people to post in groups or individual accounts, targeted school pupils, children and university students, which pushes Americans to question the Clown phenomenon that targeted school children and university students specifically. Some digital experts argued that the armed clown threats were unpredictable events and explained the phenomenon by saying, It is students who like the excitement and like to be cared, or that students at the end of the school year have time to mess with photos and media to create a clown hysteria, and families and children are exaggerating their fear, Or the social media

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

embrace of clown stories mixed all of these things plan to propagate for the latest clown movies or products.(Garret, 2016). All interpretations were rational and many said that Americans like to poke some humor or naturally are humorous, but this time through scary and horrifying type of humor, or literally black one.

Moreover, the most escalated and frightening event happened when a devilish Facebook page called “*Let’s Play*” urges people to vote, whether attacking and shooting Mesa high school, or Red Mountain high school in Phoenix. As a result, the Phoenix police arrested teenagers and put others under investigation. *Glendale Sgt Scott Waite* a police officer assumed that the government and FBI agents are taking the matter seriously and no more emancipation would be made in the near future. (Garret, 2016)

Thus, the next arrest was made by the police for a high school student names Alonzo Vargas, when he posted threat expressions like “ *students and faculty should be shot*” on Facebook accompanied with scary clown pictures. The teenager disturbed an educational facility and despite all his attempts to run away with his deeds the government decided to jail him. The police declared that any threat that comes at the expense of citizens is a crime and despite all background reasons, the doer will face punishment. (Garret,2016)

In their attempts to deal with this phenomenon, school institutions worked hard to convince students to avoid sharing or liking any threatening posts, or creating any clown false accounts, because such deeds would lead students at least to a suspension and police investigation, and what started as a joke will have a serious circumstances.(Garret, 2016).

Clown events of terror and horror kept rising in the United States thanks to social media like Facebook and Twitter. Yet, they were not the only mediums that propagated that phenomenon other mediums proved to have a share in this wave such as; online magazines

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

and printed newspapers that are distributed every week that contains news, articles, advertisements and reports.

2. Evil Clown Figure in the American Online Magazines

Clown events started to hit newspapers and online magazines head and subtle titles. Moreover, it started with the Chicago Tribune online magazine in 1987 when it announced news about a serial killer, or the Killer Clown John Wayne Gacy (**See Appendix 2**). In 1987, a twenty-nine body was found in the kids' clown basement, the man who was aged 36 years old and worked as a Clown defaced the Clown image and rang the bells towards a Clown hatred and fear.(Smith,1978).

In fact, the Daily Mail online magazine announced different articles, subtitles and even head titles about killer, evil and even criminal clowns. It reported many clown incidents luring children into the woods, offering them candy and chocolate bars. Thus, The next title is about an arrestment of a man in Kentucky, after being found in a wooden area in a full scary clown costume trying to scare people. The twenty years old man wore full Mimic clown suit with a painted black face, considered by the American police as guilty in breaking local laws, such as the restrictions of wearing masks and covering ones identity. The police arrested him under the argument that he created a public alarm and violated peoples' right of safety, and popular safety is their responsibility. (.Michallon, 2016)

In fact, before the event Kenneth Hampton, the police chief posted threats on Facebook warning people from wearing evil clown masks. Such threats from police assured that any violation will be faced by a punishment and severe treatment because clown masks became trendy and all Americans preferred to participate in the hideous joke, which turned up against them (Michallon, 2016)

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

In addition, The Daily Mail entitled “*Panic in Virginia after an Autistic Boy, 12, waves to people in his favorite Clown Mask while being driven by his grandmother*”. The boy psychic act created a social alarm and after an interview was made with the boy’s family, the mother said that her son Angus has autism and he is a big fan of horror novels and writers as Stephen King, and he recently insisted on the costume of Pennywise character from the novel *It* for Halloween.(Szathmary,2016)

Developing the same idea, we can assume that the *Daily Mail* dissemination for evil clown events presented the American character as fragile and mythic ; to be scared from a little boy wearing a clown costume is a joke. In fact, such events presented Americans as having a fertile imagination, or presented them as a good advertisement makers because the hoax seems to be a mere propagation for the scary clown Pennywise from the movie *It* of 2017. As a matter of fact, Szathmary (2016) claimed that American mind is directed by social media and the responses to creepy clowns are completely natural.

In addition, news in the Daily Mail recalled towards a Coulrophobia because the title represents clowns as merciless murderers, literally an awful crime happened by a masked clown who stabbed a high school student to death. After fight was broke out, a boy aged 16 years old was found dead in front of his house; the witnesses assured that the killer was a man in a full clown costume. The magazine article urged people not to hesitate and contact the police to give their testimony. As a result, the like events created an atmosphere of anxiety among Americans and it seems to escalate to reach a point where people got psychological problems, in reality the American reaction is unique because they stimulated to clown fear with creating one kind of phobia, is Coulrophobia. In fact news kept lurking and from online magazines to newspapers. (Spargo, 2016)

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

3. Evil Clown in Figure the American Printed Newspapers

Clown sightings kept spreading to touch newspaper events. Thus, Lariat and News Telegram published news about serious bloody clowns that tried to scare people in the Waco area, such events led to a misunderstanding to many real art practitioners in parties, hospitals, circus and charity pushing many art practitioners to disappear from the scene and even went further in limiting Ronald MacDonald appearance to the scene, as a matter of fact many urged Americans not to believe such false reports and stop talking about the so called Coulrophobia to fade it away.(Middleton, 2016)

On the same line, this kind of threats and hysteria drove many researchers to interpret the endless phenomenon, in fact the sociologist Dr Robert Bartholomew the writer of “*The Martians Have Landed: a History of Media-Driven Panic and Hoaxes*”, argued that the hysteria was fuelled by social media, clown sightings and videos plus to newspaper reports(**See Appendix 3**), that created more serious and violent acts when police arrested and jailed many suspected teenagers. He assumes that the events are an imitation to “*the Stranger Panic*” of 1980s. Which means that people fear masks and cannot trust masked characters, and when they fail to recognize the persons’ real face the mind considers him or her as unfriendly. (INTERNATIONAL, 2016).

Moreover, the clown threat went further in America and it even compared to terrorism, thus the French Anthropologist Verronique Campion-Vincent an expert of how rumors and urban myths spread, assumed that chilling characters as Pennywise from the famous novel *It*, and many other American TV series and movies such as *Killer Clowns From Outer Space*, *An American Horror Story*, *The Conjuring* and *Batman the dark Night* and *Killing Joke* have helped the dark clown rumor for spreading. For him, clowns are creepy because media products represented them as entrusted , keeping with the same idea Bartholomew argued that

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

representing clowns as enemies on pop cultural productions is the reason behind Coulrophobia. (INTERNATIONAL, 2016)

Others experts supported this idea and assured that pop culture is to be blamed for the rise of Coulrophobia. In fact, The director of the Child Adolescent psychiatry Department at Lenox Hill Hospital, New York, Matthew lorber, indicated that one in ten people in the area has a clown phobia which was dated in America in the nineteenth century, in Dark Carnivals circus in the American Era of Depression. Bartholomew said in the report that the clown image was ruined and it is not the right time of any American to be an art practitioner, and he advises them to wait till the clown hysteria die after Halloween, as it did in France and Belgium in 2014.

Moreover, the different interpretations and explanations never prevent news from spreading, as a result an American printed newspaper entitled the NEWS published a report about clown sightings and hysteria in America (**See Appendix 4**), the report propagated to many Evil clown incidents that happened in 2016 America, starting with clown sightings of people just standing and scaring people with their stares, or luring children into the woods; plus to these events many families and their children told the police that suspicious clowns are around the woods making noise and whispering, these news led many Americans to become cautious, for that police received more reports. (Riddley, 2016).

From another side, and in addition to many interpretations experts associated the clown epidemic of 2016 to political backgrounds, like 2016 presidential elections. In fact, Bartholomew joked after his different interpretations saying *“Given that 35 percent of the American public seem willing to vote for Donald Trump, I think we can safely call 2016 the year of the clown”*.(INTERNATIONAL, 2016, p.10).

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

As a matter of fact, The horror that made by clowns in America urged many to question the phenomenon, and newspaper titles and subtitles never hesitate to publish dangerous clown events which seems to escalate events and let it move to other media products such as TV News.

4. Evil Clown Figure in the American TV News

In fact, the evil clown character is an archetypal character that was born in American TV shows when it was based on a real life clown John Wayne Gacy, a serial killer in 1970 or as people called him, the killer Clown. As a result, the killer clown overwhelmed many pop cultural products such as entertainment shows like TV films and horror movies, to far reach modern serious shows like TV news which are the main focus of this part.(Top5s,2015)

First of all, the INVESTIGATORS TV a news channel reported the most terrifying clown sightings in Chicago when reported scary clowns knocking at the university campus windows and kept staring at students, in addition it retold a story and showed pictures to Clown was found in the Chicago cemetery at 10 o'clock p.m, the clown waved to people and suddenly he turned around and ran away into the darkness of the cemetery. In fact, this kind of clown sightings that being represents in News urged people to take it seriously, and this kind of news hypnotized the American mind that unconsciously rejected clowns and created one of the top ten phobias', which is the Coulrophobia. (Sir Spooks. 2016)

Moreover, the creepy clown events never stop and nothing was able to stop them because pop culture kept propagating for such events. On the same line, Fox News released news reports that contains many clown sightings and many interpretations to the clown phobia, in fact news specialists of Coulrophobia claimed that the events are no more or less than a propaganda to a film that is going to be released in the coming Halloween of 2016

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

called *thirty one*, talks about carnival workers who had been kidnapped one night before Halloween, so are a mere marketing to Hollywood films. (WXYZ-TV Detroit. 2016)

Despite all interpretations and comfort, Sky Watch TV News reported the sighting of creepy clowns in Kentucky that roamed purposeless in the south of the area. As a response schools were shut down and a twenty-two years old woman was arrested for posting on Facebook under a clown name associated with a full bloody clown costume. Moreover, the police arrest a group of men acted suspiciously wearing full clown costume, in fact arrests of evil clowns create a social disturbance and discomfort in many American states and makes it difficult to differentiate between good and evil clowns.(Sky Watch TV News, 2016).

On the same line, The nightmare kept lurking when a Clown event pops up and WX12 *Channel* reports a Clown sighting in Winston, Salem east 29th street, which threatened the community safe in the area. In addition, and despite previous events The Now has also reported about creepy Clown sighting in Largo and California when a ghostly jester showed up in Green Bay, Wis, “Gags the Green Bay Clown” as it came to be known, was seen walking the streets with black balloons. In fact, authorities warned the consequences of the like acts and wondered the fast spreading of Coulrophobia.(Le Duk, 2016)

In fact, the Clown new trend that appears from the unknown, especially with people dressed clown costumes and appeared randomly, they are not an art practitioners, but in contrary they scare, threat and chase their targets, sometimes with weapons. Truthfully, murders, robbery, assaults, crimes and school invasions were associated to the Clown character in 2016 America. As a result, public response shifted from parental fears and student’s anger, because children were lured into the woods and schools has been closed, which led authorities to declare harsh punishment to those who wore clown costume. (Paranoid Times, 2016)

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

The clown trend was similar to the snow ball because it represents a copy that extended to become something bigger, that created a tiny fear of strangeness of situation to the fear of being caught that turned into a Coulrophobia. Moreover, some say it is just a trend and some say it is a serious problem, really no one knows because police found it difficult to differentiate between severe threats or a mere joke and peaceful clowning acts, in fact the most discarding response is reported by CBS TV Channel when people reacted severely to a real act practitioner that led to the break of his own car. (Paranoid Times, 2016).

On the same line, and away from all interpretations Andrew McConnel Stott(2014), gave a new interpretation to clown sightings, he argued that the problem is on the American History and with the idea of the American dream that has marginalized citizens in America, as a result alienated and homeless people who wanted to express their industrial prejudice reacted with the current hoax that defaced the image of clowns; he called them the industrial nostalgia.

CHAPTER ONE: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN THE AMERICAN MEDIA

Conclusion

Media including social networks such as Facebook Twiter and Youtube, online magazines, newspapers and TV news played a big role in shaping the new clown archetype in America. This led to shape people's minds and attitudes towards clowns. The focus of the second chapter is on how Literature as another pop cultural product affected and shaped the evil clown image in America.

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Introduction.....	23
1. Hop-Frog's Plot Summary.....	23
1.1 The Killer Jester.....	25
2. Stephen King's It Plot Summary.....	27
2.1 Pennywise the Killer Clown.....	28
3. Batman the Killing Joke Plot Summary.....	33
3.1 The Psychopathic Creepy Joker.....	35
4. Other Creepy Clown Inspired Characters in American Literature.....	37
Conclusion.....	40

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Introduction

Albeit all literary works that presented clowns as a cheerful character who bring joy to children in graphic short stories or color books, a sort of a new clown rebirth has been taking place in the American Pop Culture portraying clowns as evil. This transformation was was recognized in many American literary works, such as novellas and novels.

In fact, the clown image turned up to be more evil and sinister and many American writers propagated the transformation of clown archetype, which represented clowns as paralyzed, killers, murderers and psychopaths. This chapter will deal with the new transformation of clowns in literary works, such as, Edgar Allan Poe's novella entitled *Hop-Frog* (1849), and the famous novel *It* written by Stephen King (1986), and *Batman: the Killing Joke* written by Alan Moore and Bolland. (2008).

1. Hop-Frog's Plot Summary

Hop-Frog is a novella written by Edgar Allan Poe that was published in 1849. It narrates the story of a dwarf that is kidnapped from his home with his friend Trippetta, a beautiful and good dancer to serve as a court jesters or to be slaves for unnamed king. Hop-Frog was not the jester's real name but the king and his court created the name as a sort of mockery because he had a physical deformity that prevents him from walking straightly, that is why he limps. One day the king organized a party and knew that Hop-Frog detested Wine. Therefore, the king and in front of his seven counselors asked Hop-Frog to consume several wine goblets, Trippetta who has an effect on the king's decisions in the favor of Hop-Frog begged the king to stop, but instead of listening to her he abused and threw a full goblets of wine in her face. Hop-Frog turned to be angry and his mood changed suddenly. The king laughed at both

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

servants and asks Hop-Frog to help him and his counselors to organize a masquerade. (Poe, 1849)

Hop-Frog attempt of revenge comes to his mind, when the king asks for help to create a costume for the party. The king asked the jester to bring something unprecedented. The jester replays domestically as if he has never drunk the goblets of wine *“sure your majesty, I have a new kind of costume that was famous in my country, but it needs the company of eight members, I'm afraid your majesty”*. The king laughs at the dwarf's stupidity and said *“there is me and my seven ministers, let's apply it”*.

The game seemed to attract the king and brought a lot of enthusiasm in the court. First, the Dwarf advised the king and his counselor's to wear tight clothes and cover themselves with a good amount of tar fake fur to look like monsters, then join together forming what he called a giant beast. Second, the dwarf insisted that the king had to join all members and chain them to destruct the guests. Third, they had to appear from the ceiling at night to horrify the guests. The King and his guests appeared from the sailing at night, chained and making scary voices. No one in the room knew who where they, the Dwarf seized a Flambo and climbed the chains saying *“ I shall find soon who they are!”*, after that he sets fire on them **(See Appendix 5)** and says:

“ what manner of people these maskers are. They are a great king and his seven privy-councilors, a king who does not scruple to strike a defenseless girl...As for myself, I'm simply Hop-Frog, the Jester-and this is my last jest”. (Poe, 1849, p 908)

After the king and councilors murder, Hop-Frog run away and got away with murder to his homeland with Trippetta, who was stationed in the roof of the saloon, ending their misery and enslavement, and neither was seen once again.

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

1.1. The Killer Jester

The focal point of this part is how Edgar Allan Poe represents the jester who is the first form of clowns differently, and how he was the avant-gardist in anticipating the idea of imperfect, evil and killer clowns in America (Sudarshan, 2014). Despite the importance of the work Hop-Frog that represents many different ideas about Poe's Romantic era, the focus of our study is in how Poe anticipated the new form of clowns, and does this novella propagate for killer clowns to take the attention of Americans towards a clown hatred and fear.

In fact, many would say that the novella represents Poe himself, i.e. a biographical novella, but still we can shed light on the Jester description to say that it holds the criteria of evil clowns. We start discussion by saying that the representation of Hop-Frog as having no origins and no name for his homeland is mysterious and is different from the jester's old archetype who had a clear origin and worked in courts to poke fun on powerful men or criticize them in a funny way. In fact, the evil clown idea that has been represented by Poe is quite clear in Shakespeare's plays, where he represents Jesters as having a sort of evilness, for instance the clowns in Hamlet were grave diggers and in The Tempest was a drunken. (Rasmussen & DeJong, 2017).

The second idea is all about the Jester's physical appearance which was totally a defaced one, Hop-Frog was represented as fat, small or a dwarf, with physical disabilities which prevented him from walking properly. This idea of associating the clown to a small beast or monkey tuned up readers' minds in America, what makes them to think again about clowns. From another side, we can notice that in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* the idea of representing Lucky the fool as having a deformity, speechless and is associated with a beast-like who was under slavery, is also clear when representing Hop-Frog (**See Appendix**

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

6) as having an animal name and the state of being a slave to the king, which explains that the idea of evil clowns and beast-like clowns is no more new. (Zucker,1967).

The Jester's rejection to tyranny represents the nature of clowns who are portrayed as sinister and marginalized characters who hides themselves under a shadow of fake humor to express their evil intentions. This humor lead the jester to receive rewards and punishment. His way of accepting rejection and rejecting acceptance lead the king to punish him and push him to drink several goblets of wine, for Jung and Radin Hop-Frog represents the political society that represents a true feelings, and what makes the Jester scary for readers is the association of the character to the Lord of Disorder or the devil itself as it was called in medieval times.(Bala, 2010, P59).

That is why Clowns are always connected to something embarrassing, shocking and astonishing to shed light on personal and cultural taboos, in fact they turned up to chaos and disorder as Hop-Frog did, his rejection to enslavement, to humiliation leads him to act unconsciously and expresses himself through an irrational way which is killing. Moreover, the idea of irrationality that is always connected to clowns is not new and it is very clear in *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Bucket (1954) where Lucky was represented as a fool clown who expressed himself with deeds and speeches directed against the language itself. This association of clowns to insanity, evilness, and direction against norms is so disturbing that people developed negative attitudes towards clowns.(Bala, 2010, P59).

It can be said that Edgar Allan Poe was an avant-gardist to the idea of the killer clown that is taking a huge space in American pop culture nowadays. In his literary creation he shed light on the imperfection of any human who has a shadow and unconscious bad deeds that anyone can hide through clowning. The idea was backed later by Stephen King who wrote "*It*", the novel that was considered as one of the main promoters of clown horror in America.

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

2. Stephen King's *It* Plot summary

It is a novel published in 1986, written by Stephen King. It tells the story of an imaginary place Derry, Maine, where a kids' killing monster lurks in the sewers and shifts from one shape to another to target his victims, which makes people call him *It*. The story turns around a mysterious child murder that took place in the town, what pushed persons called themselves the Loser's Club to make a first move in 1958. When Bill Denbrough, Mike Hanlon, Ben Hanscom, Eddie Kaspbrak, Beverly Marsh, Richie Tozier and Stan Uris, made an attempt and vowed the unbreakable vow to catch the monster and kill him, because each one of them had an unpleasant encounter with the creature, who appears in the shape of each one's fear and the most recognized one is the evil clown Pennywise, who comes to threaten, chase and scare them with his psychic acts holding his colorful balloons. (King, 1986).

In 1958, the Losers decide to hunt the creature *It* and kill him, because they had enough from what is happening in their town. Therefore, the group hunt the Killer Clown not because of their encounters with him or his threats and chasing for them, but they do so because of the threats it makes on the life of Derry's children. (King, 1986). Mike Hanlon, the only one who stood in Derry, called the group members and convinced them to get back to Derry, to perform their old promise. Thus, all group members have forgotten their childhood and the promise they made, when in fact they have gone to wealth, marriage and success. Despite that, they all responded to the call, except Stan Uris who committed suicide after the call.

Pennywise the dancing clown heard that the Losers are back and decided to launch an attack to kill them, using Hebert Bowers a crazy man, who stands in an Asylum. Bowers followed them and injured Mike badly. After that, the group was joined once again in 1985, when a sequence of crimes happened in Derry and many children disappeared and dead bodies

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

were found. In what they call Ritual of Chüd in which they had an encounter with the killing clown, wounding *It* badly. After a dangerous battle with him, they finally manage to stab him and kill him, or as many said, to kill only a part of *It*.

2.1 Pennywise the Killer Clown

Pennywise the dancing clown or *It*, is the novel's evil character or antagonist. The character is mysterious because it tends to be born beyond space and time. It is a creature that no one knows its origins and many events in the novel assume that, he is from outer space taking the shape of an evil colorful clown called Pennywise. It attracts children mostly and feed himself from their fear, so he could imprison and eat them (King, 1986).

As long as our focus is based upon clown phobia in America or Coulrophobia, Pennywise is the right character to deal with because Stephen king expresses the idea of clown fear in such an astonishing way. According to Hemlock Grove (2016) if people were afraid of clowns, no one can express it the way King did. Moreover, a deeper reading for his description of the creepy scenes and creepy clown may reflect a sort of popularization of that clowns are scary. Such a villain seems to be alive in the novel, which create a sense of horror and disturbance to readers and can go further in creating clown fear. (King, 1986)

Pennywise is a million years old creature that can take many forms, he uses the clown costume to lure and attract his victims, mostly children, he seduces them with balloons then kill them. For Pennywise child fear and meat is more tasty than adults because most of times their fear is real. The most horrific description to the clown is in the state of feeding himself. *It* transforms completely because its tongue becomes a snake like and its teeth becomes as sharp as a blade, and its eyes turns yellow. It is weird even in its words, because the famous

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

expression *It* utters before killing is “*they all float down here*”, in which *It* means children dead bodies in the sewer, floating like his balloons.(King, 1986).

Pennywise the dancing clown is a clever killer that chose the right place and time to kill his helpless victims, *It* has chosen the sewers to chase his victims easily. It uses different delusions like Balloons, circus food smells and toys to gain his victim’s trust. In fact, the first chapter gave a hash description to the killer clown, when George chased over his boat that ends up in the storm drain. Literally, The description by King is villain because the clown is associated with old stories creatures and wild animals:

“There were yellow eyes in there: the sort of eyes he had always imagined but never actually seen down in the basement. It’s an animal, he thought incoherently, that’s all it is, some animal, maybe a house cat that got” (king, 1986, p3).

King described the clown and associates him to the Bozo clown, which reminds all Americans with the famous serial killer John Wayne Gacy. Thus, Gacy is an art practitioner who worked as a Bozo clown, and he has been suspected of killing 29 men and buried them in the basement of his house, this serial killer sentenced to death in 1994. From that point Bozo the clown was directly associated to Gacy, who was one of the main reasons of the clown horror that colonized Americans’ minds in the nineteenth century.

There was a clown in the storm drain. The light in there was far from good, but it was good enough so that George Denbrough was sure of what he was seeing. It was a clown, like in the circus or on TV. In fact he looked like a cross between Bozo and Clarabelle. (King, 1986, p.3).

In fact, the image of the clown in the sewer dazzles George’s eyes because this image is not the usual one of a clown. He is supposed to be in the circus not in a dirty place, George

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

asked and perplexed, he could not believe his eyes because there were a real clown with his white face, funny red hair, big smile and colorful clothes. The young boy asked him that what he is doing over there and that he supposed to be in the circus, the clown claims that it is the way down to the circus, and asked George if he can smell circus food, suddenly he could smell them. Pennywise as we mentioned uses supernatural powers to make an illusion for his victims, one of these illusions is smells, he said to George.

“Can you smell the circus, George? George leaned forward. Suddenly he could smell peanuts! Hot roasted peanuts! And vinegar! ...He could smell cotton candy and Frying doughboys...”(King, 1986, p23).

In the novel, Pennywise uses the circus good smells that brings joy to gain his victim's trust, then kills them with no mercy. Besides that, the writer overwhelmed the clown description, and directly associated it to all kind of clowns, that what make Americans exaggerating in their Allergy towards clowns. In fact, the most frightening scene is all about how the clown kills the young boy and simply cuts off his arm, *“George reached. The clown seized his arm”*.(King, 1986, p4).

In another description It was associated with Ronald McDonald as stated in the following quotation from the book;

“In the storm drain was white, there were funny tufts of red hair on either side of his bald head, and there was a big clown-smile painted over his mouth. If George has been inhabiting a later year, he would have surely thought of Ronald McDonald before Bozo or Clarabelle”. (King, 1986, p 3)

This description of the clown in a rough way, scary, gloomy and associated, drive us to question, how a clown in the sewers can be associated to the famous clown who brought joy

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

to restaurants, public places, and advertisements. As a matter of fact, King seems to shed light on the idea of Roland McDonald's harsh bodyguard's treatment to fans, and Ronald McDonald as being hypocritical and a bad influence on children, when propagating for junk food which causes child obesity; which means that clowns are hypocritical and search only for their own benefits. (Goldwert, 2011)

In addition to all the scary representations of the clown, King's description of how the clown drugs George down to the sewer singing softly was so scary. King's rough descriptions seem so real that it generates fear of clown in any reader reading and imagining the scene:

"the thing in the drain crooned in clotted, chuckling voice. It held George's arm in its thick and wormy grip, it pulled George toward that terrible darkness where the water rushed and roared and bellowed as it bore its cargo of storm debris toward the sea. George craned his neck away from that final blackness and began to scream into the rain3.(King, 1986, p 23).

King associates the idea of clown phobia or Colrophobia to the idea of Maskaphobia, which is a new phobia that refers to mask fear famous among American kids (Means, 2014). In fact this association indicates that the writer is anticipating and is aware of the content of the American society which believes in myths and propaganda and hence, reflecting the new clown phenomenon in the American pop culture (Cameron, 2013).

In the second chapter from the novel *It*, Stephen King always associated the Clown to murders that happened in Derry hometown. The clown was present in most of the crimes, yet it could get away with murder since no one believed witnesses because what they describe is a mere sort of craziness. After a crime happened in Derry, witnesses assure that they saw a clown near the dead body acting suspiciously, but no one believed such an abnormal idea,

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

"The guy in the clown suit, Chris Unwin said, and shivered. The guy with the balloons".(King, 1986, p26).

In chapter two of the novel, and after the death of Adrian because of a fight with guys in Derry town, police arrested them but they kept insisting that they never killed him and they only wanted to scare him insisting on the idea of the killer clown who drags Adrian to the bank of the river, and devoured his arm.

'The clown was dragging Adrian out on the far side with one arm; its balloons were in its other hand. Adrian was dripping wet, choking, moaning. The clown twisted its head and grinned up at Chris. Chris said he saw its shining silver eyes and its bared teeth—great big teeth...“Like the lion in the circus...they were that big. The clown shove one of Adrian Mellon’s arms back so it lay over his head’. (King, 1986, p36).

The witness was totally horrified because the clown was with great big teeth, like wild animals in the jungle, like a lion in the circus shoving Adrian’s arm, the witness said that the clown who has a grinning red mouth, baggy suit, big orange-pompom buttons, and balloons in his hand, turns towards him and said:

“Help yourself to a balloon, and it offered the bunch it held in one hand. they float the clown said, down here we all float; pretty soon your friend will float, too”.(King, 1986, p36).

The way the clown was described as sinister and entrusted and the scenes that associated Pennywise to murder, horror and blood thirst provides shills and thrills to the minds of readers, and the more they read for real creepy clowns as Gacy or fictional bloody clowns as Pennywise the more they will get a serious clown fear or Coulrophobia. In spite of king’s attempts to cold on the clown phobia, his readers can never forget the scenes of killing

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

and stabbing in the second chapter and the way he describes Pennywise the dancing clown as merciless murderer, and a cannibal who eats human organs: “*Like it wants to eat him, like it wanted to eat his heart*” .(King, 1986, p37).

Pennywise or it is an antagonist that is portrayed as a sociopath, shape shifting and the most controversial and evil clown character. It is unprecedented and a controversial character that brought a lot of discussion to the scene about the true image of clowns. The way king describes *It* intentions was super scary and the use of verbs as “growled” to describe the clown voice as describing a wild animal is pretty frightening. In addition to this, the use of these kind of verbs and expressions as Wild, Twisted and Grinned represents the diction of the novel that has been propagated by pop culture, because it scares readers around America.

As a result, clowns twisted psyche and twisted representation in literary works such as *It* is part of Pop cultural propagation to creepy clowns. In fact, gloomy clown representation never stopped and continued to depict clowns with all the scary and crazy possible images. This gave birth for example to characters such as the psychopathic Joker from Batman series.

3. Batman the Killing Joke Plot summary

Batman the Killing Joke (See Appendix 7) is a graphic novel that represents to a great extent the relationship between Batman and the Joker, as well as the joker's most hard times and path towards decline. At the very beginning of the graphic novel, we see Batman's interest to find the real origins of the Joker, or the origin story for the psychic clown, to the end where no one knows what happens and no clear relationship between the two figures was display. In reality, the graphic novel starts with a conversation between Batman and the Joker in Arkham Asylum, where the Joker supposed to be captured. The two figures discuss their relationship.

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

“Batman: Hello, I came to talk. I've been thinking lately. About you and me. About what's going to happen to us. In the end. We are going to kill each other, aren't we? Perhaps you'll kill me. Perhaps I'll kill you... Are you listening to me!...”(Moor & Bolland, 2008, P8) .

Batman realizes that the person he is talking to is not the Joker, but a man who replaced him and covered his absence. Thus, the Joker has escaped from the Arkham Asylum and proves his intelligence. After that, the Joker went to Commissioner Gordon's house and shoots his daughter paralyzing her, he even went further of taking a bleeding and inappropriate pictures of her. After that, The Joker kidnapped Commissioner Gordon and captured him in an abandoned circus that he has recently purchased, he took Gordon on a ride in the circus Roller Coaster and showed him pictures of his helpless daughter. The Joker uttered sarcastically that *“If you hurt inside, get certified, and if life should treat you bad ...don't get EE-EE- even get mad!”*. (Moor & Bolland, 2008, p29-30).

Batman rode till he reached the Joke, having a fight with him, Batman released Commissioner Gordon from the cage that he was held in. The police commissioner told Batman that they have to prove to the Joker that his acts are wrong and bring him to line. literally, Batman never intended to kill the Joker and he never wants to be killed by him. At the end, the Joker character seems to be in decline, and the Joker feels that as if he crossed borders and soon he will fall out of the brink. Despite Batman's attempts to help, the Joker thought that there is no hope for him. Finally, the story ended but with such an ambiguous scene in which the Joker told Batman a Joke about two crazy men who tried to escape an insane asylum, *“ See there were these two guys in a lunatic Asylum...the other guys said: do you think that I'm crazy..ha-ha”*. (Moore & Bolland, 2008, p49).

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

What happens next is anonymous and the final scene shows Batman and the Joker both laughing, before Batman reaches the Joker and puts his hand on his shoulder, then the light goes out ending the graphic novel. Many anticipated different ends, either Batman is laughing so hard at the moment, and shares the moment with the Joker and he leans on him for support, or Batman finally killed the Joker.(Moore & Bolland, 2008).

3.1 The psychopathic Creepy Joker

Depending on writers and their plot summary, the story of the Joker differ from time to time. Thus, the Joker's origin Story in the Killing Joke is not the one in the Dark Night. While it is correct that Batman's character also differ from one story to another, but still the depiction is the same regardless to some minor details. Actually, the Joker's origin story differ from one novel to another, because of the different origins that appeared through time, and it is difficult to say which story is true. Despite different versions and portrayals the Joker still a wicked character that is a liar and a pitiless killer.(Langley,2012).

The writer Heath Ledger portrayed the Joker as a character who suffers mentally and gives different histories through his novel *the Dark Night*, showing that the Joker himself is unable to tell a stable story or background, and that means he never recognizes his past. Specifically, the Joker gives a well description to how he got his facial scars or the big fake smile on his face. He claims that his father was a drunk and in one night he comes home acting a little crazier, not as usual the mother got scared and grapes a knife to defend herself. His father took the knife and used it against his mother, then turned back to the Joker who was frowning, which led his father to question the boy why frowning into father's face and said the famous phrase "*why so serious?*". Then, he used the knife's blade and tries to draw a smile on the Joker's face, saying that "*I'll put a smile on that frowned face*".

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Later on, the Joker offers a radical different story, he claimed that his scars are because of his marriage. In fact, he depicts that he got married to a beautiful woman, that she likes to gamble. And after getting involved in a huge debt, some loan used a blade against her face because she couldn't pay back. The Joker couldn't offer his wife a plastic surgery, that's why he defaced his face to show that he never cared about appearance, but she couldn't handle his act and found it a psychic one, and she leaves him. The Joker said that the funny thing about his story, is that he is always smiling.(Nolen, 2008).

The Joker is the villain who played a great role in twisting people's minds against clowns. The Joker character represents many contradictions, chaos, falls, disorder and sarcastic humor in his personality. At first, when the Graphic novel and film was released many were fascinated with the Joker character that seems to present a new dimension to clowns and jesters that reminds people of their origins and imperfection that seems to shed light on human being's evilness, because perfection seems to be a mythical concept. (Miller, 2006).

What makes the Joker more suspicious is the truth that no one knows whether the creator invented this character under sanity or insanity, but it seems like he challenged human nature, society and mind (Pandey, 2015). Thus, the Joker's background seems to affect readers and society in America and with such propagation to the character who has been represented in the graphic novel as a clown with facial scars and with different origins which makes him different and has problems to deal with a society of perfection. This image shakes the old clown archetypes.

On the same vein, it is worth saying that the Joker's facial scars caused him psychological problems like total depression, social discomfort and shame, which makes it difficult for him to appear in the scene of society or deal with people in a healthy way, but

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

still he used all the oppressions in revenge from all society who seems to be the main cause of his madness.

For sure, the Joker is a controversial character that breaks the idea of the heeler clown who brings only joy with his white skin and wearing colorful clothes and drawing a cheerful red smile on his face. Thus, the idea of presenting the Joker as a clown with skin deformities is part of the depiction of clowns as evil and creepy. Therefore, this literary work is another pop cultural propagation for such a clown who is not stable with criminal drives (Barreca, 2009).

In fact, the thing that raises popular fears in this clown version "*the joker*" is the different interpretations of his personality and the idea of presenting him as pure evil and mad schizophrenic person. Some other opinions took further when explaining his personality claiming that as he dealt with existential ideas, he is also a pole of absurdist ideas of famous figures like : Albert Camus, Sartre, Nietzsche and Samuel Bucket. The Joker has no purpose for his life and assuring that life is cruel has no meaning, for him searching for meaning, justice and rules are meaningless as long as our fate is death. That is why he was unstoppable and fearless by responded with laughs even to death. (Moore and Bolland, 2008).

Another frightening event related to Joker character besides his insane and controversial psychic acts is the death of the Actor Ledger's Heath who played the Joker role. After his death his diary informed the investigation about how he locked himself in a hotel for about a month to perform the Joker character, which causes him depression and mental illness that unfortunately lead him to commit suicide(O'Brien, 2013). This accident also generated negative attitudes among American people towards clown phenomenon.

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

4. Other Creepy Clown Inspired Characters in American Literature

In addition to the previous analyzed literary works, there are other literary works that have represented clowns as evil characters. Table 1 below is intended to illustrate a number of important American creepy clown novels.

Book and Author	Year	Plot	Creepy Clown Figure
<i>Something Wicked This Way Comes</i> by Ray Bradbury	1962	Two friends Jim and William who are waiting for the carnival to have fun. Their dream turns up to a nightmare when the carnival comes to their home town Midwestern. In fact, the leader of the carnival was Mr. Dark and his followers who try to brain-wash people to serve him, then he steals their youth. The novel is a combination between fantasy and horror analyzing the evilness living in circus entertainers.	The clown characters are minor characters who serves Mr. Dark and chases the boys for him.
<i>Greek Love</i> by Catherine Dunn	1989	The novel tells a story of a family that owns a traveling carnival, it has been told on the mouth of the family's daughter Olivia who describes the various sick acts that made by her parents on her brothers and sisters. In fact, the failing of the family's business led the parents to try drugs on their children to breed new creatures that help in creating a new Freak Show.	The Evil clowns in this novel are tend to be the parents who are an art practitioners that turns to greed and Evilness to gain money. Truthfully, Aloysius Al Binewski and his wife Crystal Lil are true monsters that chooses money in the expense of the family.
<i>The Clown</i> by Heinrich Boll	1963	The novel tells the story of a wealthy man names Han Schnier who has chosen to work as a clown. The art performer falls in love with a girl named Marie and lives with her in sin without marriage, because he was a protestant and she was catholic, after that he falls in depression and bankrupt after she left him and married Zupfner.	The clown character is Han the unsuccessful man, despite his wealthy roots the man never prevent him from failure, bankrupt and alcoholism.
<i>The Pilo Family Circus</i> by Will Elliott	2006	The horror novel tells the story of a man named Jamie who hits a clown by his car and accidently kills him. In fact, after the he finds himself under the nightmare of being chased by three evil clowns.	The clown three characters are the antagonists of the novel, tends to be scary, sadistic and murderers.

Table 1: Creepy Clown reference in some thrill American and national novels

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Apparently, the previous table represented extra novels that dealt with evil and scary clown characters. In fact, *Something Wicked This Way Comes* by Ray Bradbury and *Greek Love* by Catherine Dunn are science fiction novels, which depicted circus clowns and practitioners as psychopaths and insane characters. Whereas, the novel *The Clown* by Heinrich Boll represented the clown protagonist of the novel as a failure who gets an encounter with sins, alcoholism and bankrupt. Thus the third novel *The Pilo Family Circus* by Will Elliott is most shilling novel compared to the previous novels, because it is a horror story tells the story of a man named Jamie who kills a clown accidentally to find himself under the mercy of the most psychopathic killer clowns. As a matter of fact, these literary works can confirm and compete our previous analyzed works, because most of them contributed to the creation and promotion of the evil clown Archetype among American people.

CHAPTER TWO: EVIL CLOWN IMAGE IN AMERICAN LITERATURE

Conclusion

After the creation of vampires and zombies, Americans created creepy clowns. The supposed safety and happiness attached to clowns created a debate because clowns in novels such as *Hop-Frog, It* and *Batman: The Killing Joke* are children killers, bloody harmful and insane. Clown image has been defaced, thus transforming them into evil characters resulted in generating the clown allergy or Coulrophobia among American people who cannot trust clowns no more after reading about them or watching how they were depicted in movies. The way creepy clowns were portrayed in the American movies and how it resulted in generating fears towards clowns is the focus of the next chapter.

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CINEMA

Introduction.....	42
1. Poltergeist (1982)	43
1.1. An Overview.....	43
1.2. “The Clown Doll” Character from Poltergeist.....	44
2. Killer Clowns from Outer Space (1988).....	46
2.1. An overview.....	46
2.2. The killer clown Characters “the circus tenets”.....	47
3. Clown (2014).....	49
3.1. An Overview.....	49
3.2. The Demon “Cloyne” Character.....	50
4. Creepy clown character appearance in American cinema.....	52
Conclusion.....	55

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

Introduction

The use of horror and violence is one of the most standing and long defining characteristics in American movies. The clown role as a contradictory figure that inspires both humor and horror is the result of audience reaction and interpretations, this duality plays a significant role in the transition of the clown from happy figure to a monster and murderer.

The appearance of the august clown in general (with a white face and red nose) as a successful antagonist in many movies is not due to the horrific physical appearance alone, but also the realization of the evil acts that include killing and kidnapping. Actually, clowns were seen as monstrous due to the conflict between their outsider appearances and their innate identities. As their colorful faces may not truly reflect their real feelings, this contradiction create a common cultural fear which is Coulrophobia.

So, the objective of this chapter will be to explain how horror movies utilize the clown figure in the process of reinterpreting clowns as killers and objects of fear. It will focus more on the evil side of the clown by analyzing different faces of clown's characters from different horror movies such as *Poltergeist* (1982), *Killer Clowns from Outer Space* (1988) and *Clown* (2014). It also aims to investigate whether these movies were influenced by the creepy clown crises that happened in America or they influenced the emergence of the clown panic.

The three movies are ordered chronologically which help to look beyond the radical change that happened with the depiction of the clown character through time, clown movies from the 80's are different from modern ones and this is due to the advanced means that producers and directors use to present the clown character in terms of shape and role (visual effects). Furthermore, the depiction of the clown character is different from one movie to another. In *Poltergeist* (1982) the clown doll appeared as a minor frightened antagonist in the

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

film and in *Killer Klown from Outer Space* (1988) the evil character portrayed in a group of species aliens in the shape of circus clowns but in *clown* (2014) the entire film story centered around one clown character which is “the demon cloyne”, these different depictions of the clown character explain the people’s mind toward the clown from being a marginal figure to the main antagonist of the film.

1. Poltergeist (1982)

1.1. An overview

Poltergeist is a 1982 American inhabitant fearfulness movie picture by Tobe Hooper, produced and wrote by Steven Spielberg . This movie was nominated for three academy awards. The story of the film focused on a family whose home is invaded by malevolent ghosts that abduct the house junior daughter. Released by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer on June 4, 1982, he film gained a faith shadowing, and it was ranked as 80 on Bravo’s 100 Scariest movie moments and the Chicago film critics Association, the film also appeared on American film Institute’s 100 years,100 thrills, a list of America’s most heart-pounding movies. (Wikipedia, 2016)

Poltergeist (1982) is one of the American horror movies that depicted the clown character in a form of a doll which appeared as minor antagonist in the film. The clown doll described as an aspect habited by the beast soul or the other malevolent ghosts, its main purpose was to act as a destructive element who attempted to kill and kidnap the Feeling’s children, but it was remembered as being one of the most scary entities in the film especially for those who suffer from the Coulrophobia, the irrational fear of clowns. (Wikipedia, 2016)

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

1.2. “The Clown Doll” Character from Poltergeist

The fear of clowns and dolls is one of the useful themes that are used in horror movies. So, both clowns and dolls faces have the ability to disturb human which is innately a social creature needs to read facial features for emotions signs, clowns and dolls reflect this but with fake feelings which explains the uneasy feeling that human lives with the concept of the “uncanny valley”.(Mayank, 2016). The idea of the” uncanny valley” which is related also to the fear of clowns takes shape through an exaggerated facial make up with creepy costumes that most of clowns put. These physical distortions may create a hard situation and real frustration to distinguish good clown from evil clown. (Angi, 2015)

During the film when Robbie wants to sleep he feels the clown doll staring at him, he tries to cover the doll’s face with his jacket but he failed, later on Robbie notices that the clown doll is gone and he starts looking for it, looking under one side of the bed but he sees anything, he checks the other side but sees nothing too, but when he gets up the clown doll attacks him, grapping his face before dragging him under the bed.

Dolls are frozen characters with a “dead” quality which makes them look so creepy since their features with an opened eyes and sometimes big smiles, the same idea is reflected with the fake clown character which is mainly characterized by a phony clothes and smiles, clowns with masks and soulless dolls are seen like they stare at people but they are not, because of their fake emotions with a blank faces. Dolls and clowns are part of the way human beings try to create feelings of security for children dolls in conveying a sense that every little being has a larger protector, and clowns in the sense that violence and danger is rendered as humorous and harmless, without lasting results. And so evil clowns and dolls may

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

violate something very primal in us that goes back to the crib. Furthermore, the physical appearances of dolls and clowns lend themselves particularly well to horror. (Nastasi, 2014)

Furthermore, *Poltergeist* reflects the main theme that is found in most of clown movies that clowns attracts children and make them their victims through the use of specific demon appeared character. For example, in the movie of *Clown* (2014) the demon Cloyne (the clown character) selected a specific character to appear by using the family father through an old evil costume, and the demon Cloyne wanted five children to rescue the family father “Kent”. But in *Poltergeist* 1982 the clown attacked children in a doll character. Actually, both evil spirits assaulted children.

In a study conducted by Cantor (2004) in which he explores the effects of frightening media (on the focus of horror movies) over papers written by students over a three-year period. Most of the students wrote about a representation that was the product of an author’s imagination rather than something that had actually happened, in fact this choice reflected the media effect which is one of our concern in this study and the most important thing that student had chose is the scary image of the clown that appeared in one of the 80’s horror clown film which is “*Poltergeist*”, the depiction of the clown doll was one of the student’s concerns.

In fact, parts from these interpretations are also due to media influence which plays an essential role to depict the clown doll from *poltergeist* as scary as possible. For example: in most of *poltergeist* advertisement posters, the image of the clown featured in a creepy looking clown head with a scary smile with the slogan “they know what scares you, the advertisement caused a lot of distress to those who suffer from Coulrophobia, they argued that seeing such

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

malevolent-looking creepy clown doll posters in the side of buses caused them or their children a lot of distress. (Independent, 2015)

So, in *Poltergeist* the representation of the evil clown persona is more linked to children because the clown figure is mixed with the “doll character” which is mainly an object particularly meted to children. The horror genre of this movie is also portrayed in the physical appearance of the clown doll as creepy, evil and murderous.

2. Killer clowns from outer space (1988)

2.1 An overview:

Killer Clowns from Outer Space (1988) is an American horror film with science fiction touch. Written, produced and directed by the “Chiodo Brothers” (Stephen, Edward and Charles) with a limited budget and ” Grant Cramer” and “Suzanne Snyder” as the main film stars. The setting of the film took place in the city of Watsonville and at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. The story of the film is about a strange creatures of evil enemies came from an outsider region (from space), but they represent a circus clowns. They visited earth in a small town with an evil desire to kill and kidnap human beings.

The evil antagonist clowns in this film were played by Steve Rockhold, Micheal Harrington Burris, Geno Ponza, Scott Beatty, Charles chiodo, Karl Shaeffer, Paul Parsons, Jimmy Locust, Mitch Brya, and Sykes. The music of the movie produced by John Massari. The title song "Killer Clowns" was written and performed by The Dickies and was released on their album *Killer Clowns from Outer Space* in 1988, though only the one song is from the film.(Wikipedia, 2016). The film has become a cult favorite. Rotten Tomatoes, in report gave

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

it 71% approving valuation and 17 surveyed critics gave it a positive review. (The News-DISPATCH, 2016)

The story of the film centered on killer clowns that came from another region (from outer space) which they look as a circus tenets but with an exaggerated scary colorful makeup and supernatural powers of killing and turning local populace into their favorite snack: cotton candy by using circus- themed weapons such as “popcorn” and “acid- cream”.

2.2. The Killer Klowns Characters from “Circus Tenets” to “Killer Clowns”

Killer Clowns are supernatural aliens with circus clown features, they seem like a real earth clowns but they are either longer or smaller than normal clowns as human beings. They wear clown costumes and they put a colorful make up with a white face and big red nose, the last is considered as their destructive point. The killer clowns are psychopaths from another region who enjoyed the taste of human blood and meat by killing them using advanced weapons that is shaped according to circus clowns motives. (Peter, 2012)

Clowns in *Killer Clowns* from Outer space are varying in their appearance and size, for example when the obese Chubby, thin, human-sized Rudy and Shorty. The appearance of each killer clown is different from the other in terms of shapes and using weapons. Clowns from the movie depicted as real clowns but with an exaggerated looking features and large body shapes, The only way to distinguish “clown” from “clown” is the way that the makeup is used to paint a large mouth than a real clown, with gruffly lips and steeply teeth, they also had a big hands with only four digits.

Despite the clowns comical faces and features, they are intelligent creatures, they have a space travel, advanced technological weapons and they are skillful. They are capable to speak

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

English language and they also have their own language culture, they may be telepathic, as evidenced by the fact that Slim not only knew Debbie's name and location, but also that she was waiting for Mike to return, knowing his name (and voice) as well. Jumbo knew Dave Hansen's name without having met him, either. Clowns are capable to understand science or using biology or both of them and what is impossible for human's abilities is something ordinary for them such as creating shadows, knowing people's name without giving information and skills to repeat or imitate different sounds. (Bruce, 2013).

The Female Killer Clowns, Daisy and Rosebud appeared in the movie more peaceful than murderous, they were more interested in making peaceful relations with human than killing them. There is a debate behind the female clown character which appeared more peaceful at the end of the film, the most clear explanation from the film when the clown female selected to take away a women in a balloon alive than killing here, this idea explain the second chance that was given to the female killer clown to change, another idea was reflected when the female clown preferred to remain safety on the ship, that is why the killer clown character is more linked to males than females

Most of "Clowns" treats are linked to real clown's features, especially when we mention the idea of being ironic figures in an ironic horror movie through clown's different shapes. In the movie "clowns" cannot be injured by using human conventional means, the only way to kill them is by pooping the clown's red nose which will make a huge explosion. The Clowns are heavily armed with circus-themed weapons and magic tricks, making them dangerous opponents for any human trying to stop them. (Wikipedia, 2016)

"Clowns" are actually looking like real clowns with an elastic costume and fully faces, their masks determine looking like actual clowns or like killing monsters. The clowns in the

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

movie are species aliens come to earth which explain the hypothesis of an ancient astronauts who lead to the creation of the clown fear (Coulrophobia). Another depiction is mentioned when the film shaped the clown's appearance as a "vampire" who uses the human blood to feed his hunger. (Justin, 2016)

At the end of the film, the Clowns remain dangerous and unsuspected threat to the human race as a whole. The audience can distinguish the protagonists of the movie if only they really know the truth about the killer clowns as evils and murderous. Many town people did not see the killer clowns, they were only heard about them, and they did not know if they are real earth clowns or from outer space.

In fact, the depiction of the clown character in Killer clowns from Outer Space summarizes all what is sinister about the dark history or the evolution of the clown through time, it can also explain the transition that happened with clowns and how they changed from circus entertainers into a horrific creatures which make the human as their targets by killing, frightening and kidnapping.

3. Clown (2014)

2. 3.1 An overview

Clown (2014) is an American horror clown movie directed by John Watts and produced by Mac Cappuccino, Eli Roth and Cody Ryder. The idea of the film comes to life when Eli Roth was impressed by a fan-made trailer for the project on YouTube. He was impressed with what he saw and believed the production deserved a chance therefore decided to produce it himself. Inspired by classic horror *The Fly*, Roth liked the idea of the film about sympathetic character that is consumed by evil clown (Wikipedia, 2016).

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

The film began with a loving father “Kent” and his doctor wife “Meg” during their child seventh birthday who has an obsession with clowns. The father wanted to cover the clown absence by using an old clown costume that he found in his new house but the sad news occur when Kent discovers that the costume was the real skin of an old demon cloyne that he couldn’t ever remove.(Andrew,2016)

3.3. The “Demon Cloyne” Character

Clown as a horror movie doesn’t scare the audience through a direct visual effects but it offers an atmosphere which is characterized by the different looking stages that “Kent” witnesses during his transformation into a demon monster. The evolution of the clown was interesting to see an actor with a clown costume at the beginning and evil demon at the end.

The movie showed something new about the evil clown mythology by making the clown suit the skin of a demon and transforming the person who wears the suit in a monster which never seen in a horror movie featuring a clown, during this evolution the clown looks at first good, the clown in the middle of the evolution looked really creepy and menacing. But at the end the clown became too crazy ,a big demon with a weird head which reflects the evolution of the clown character in the real world who was the entertained fool then he become the horror monster.(Karlis,2016)

So, in this film the depiction of the clown character has two dimensions, the first is when the film story is linked with an old demon clown costume, and the other dimension appeared through the movie development when the evil spirit wanted five children to satisfy its hunger. In fact, the problem in the story began when “Kent” found that he could not

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

remove the clown costume and the nose which he discovered that the outfit is not real at all, but rather the skin of a demon clown and it turns out the demon can only be saved by devouring five children. The film is happy to break one of the cinema great taboo which is “the killing of children”.

Most of horror clown movies create anxiety in children minds because of the scary images or the uneasy feeling of reading real emotions on clown’s faces. In fact, they attracts children because the clown characters was first associated with children as their entertainers and mimics figures which make them more closer to react with them. In this movie this idea about clowns took another dimension which depicted the clown as manic and unpredictable figure when the demon cloyne spirit needed five children to devour them. (Olivia, 2016)

The clown costume seems like the body of “Kent”, the big red clown nose is staying put, the makeup doesn’t wash off completely and even the hair on his head replaced by the clown wig, he is literally become a clown and he tries to find solutions to remove the clown outfit but he is failed. Kent manages with someone who informs him about the danger if he still wearing the suit and decapitation is the only way to stop the demon taking over Kent’s body.

Exactly what is happened with “Kent” has to do a lot with the sinister history of clowns in general, they changed from being a peaceful, mirthful creatures to become the most frightening monsters. The radical physical changes that happened with “Kent” reflect the evolution of the clown mythology which depicts the scary clown appearance and the emergence of the ancient demon cloyne as the main antagonist in this film. (The black saint, 2016)

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

The clown character from *Clown* (2014) depicted as an evil monster that makes the body of an innocent father as his way to find a solution to feed his hunger by kidnapping and killing children and the entire movie shows the miserable life that one family can live if the name of evil clown is mentioned.

4. Creepy Clown Character appearance in American Cinema

The American cinema is full of horror clown movies, the three movies that are mentioned in the sections before which depicted the clown figure as evil, murderous and psychopath killer are the study focus in this chapter. But the idea of creepy clown was manifested in many movies where clowns played both major and minor roles. In accordance with this, Table 2 represents different clown depictions in other American movies.

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

Movie	Year	Overview	Clown Character
<i>Clown house</i>	1989	It is an American clown movie directed by Victor Salva. The film story revolves around three brothers alone in their home who were attracted by three psychotic mental patients who kill three clowns from the circus taking their makeup and outfits.	The killer clown characters from Clownhouse are three escaped psychotic patients who killed three real clowns from the circus taking their costumes and putting their makeup, the killer clowns were represented as frightening psychopaths who are the nightmare of three children when they wanted to come up with their innate clown's fear.
<i>It</i>	1990	It is an American- Canadian horror clown film directed by Tonny Lee Wallace and adapted by Lawrence D, Cohen from Stephen king original novel. The story centered around a killing monster who has the ability to appear in different shapes to target his victim (children). It always takes the shape of a creepy clown called pennywise, the role played by Tim Curry. The series takes place over two periods the first time when "It" was a child and the second when they comeback as adults to defeat pennywise. (Wikipedia)	Pennywise is the evil antagonist of the movie who has appeared as killer psychopath in the form of clown. Its origin remains mysterious if he is an earth creature or from outer space , children are his favorite victims by using their real fears to appear in different shapes and forms , It uses different circus tricks to kill his victims such as popcorn and candy smells , music and killing acid.
<i>Amusement</i>	2008	It is an American horror movie directed by John Simpson with the emergence of three females as the film stars. Amusement consists of three stories about different girls who were friends in childhood Shelby, Tabitha and Lisa , the girls were attracted by a serial killer clown (Wikipedia)	The clown character in Amusement considered as a killer man who dresses as clown, the clown attracts three girls in their worst dreams , the murder also portrayed in a form of a clown doll in the case of Tabitha and as killer attracter in the railway .
<i>Zombie land</i>	2009	It is an American horror film directed by Ruben Fleisher, Written by Rhett Rose and Paul Wernick, the film story revolved around a group of college kids making their way through the zombie land ,meeting with three strangers along their way and finding another direction to the southwestern USA to look for a safety way.	The clown character in this movie portrayed in the form of a psychotic zombie clown which attracted one of the kids (Columbus), the dead quality that gives to the clown character makes him so horrific, the character reflects Columbus most fear and his underlying phobia (coulrophobia)

Table 2: Evil Clown Character in some American Movies

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

This table represents the appearance and the depiction of the clown character from four American movies which are also from different periods times. This table gives the same clown interpretations that movies from the 80'S and the 90's and modern ones reflected the clown's persona as evils, killer and psychopath. In Clownhouse (1989) the clown characters depicted as psychotic killers that masquerade in a clown costumes and the same happened with pennywise the dancing clown in it (1990) that the clown image appeared as an evil antagonist and psychopath killer of children. Both Amusement (2008) and Zombieland (2009) represented the frightening appearance of the clown with scary mask or giving it all what is horrific with deadly features (zombies).

So, after analyzing different clown movies from different periods of time which are Poltergeist (1982), Killer Clowns from Outer Space (1988) , Clown (2004)and other clown characters from American movies, the interpretation of the clown figure in American horror movies has to do with popular reactions that portrayed the clown image as scary, murderous and monster, the evolution of the clown character through time is linked to people's psychologies towards the clown persona that shaped through media and even literature.

The scary image of the clown in American popular culture and mythology influenced people's mind and become their real vision to depict the clown character in cinema and movies Which find multiple answers to different concerns that is linked to the topic that both American clown movies and popular culture helped to shape the creepy clown image as evil killers and malevolent monsters.

CHAPTER THREE: THE EVIL CLOWN FIGURE IN AMERICAN CENIMA

Conclusion

While it can be argued what is “funny” and what is “scary” remains subjective, what makes something funny or scary to a person has a certain framework, the movies researched in this chapter may not be deemed as funny or scary to a specific person. Their examination of was to explore the creepy clown character and to find the reasons behind considering clowns as funny or scary or both. This work examines the clown as a social construction which facilitates the foundation of the real interpretation of the clown by using individuals’ reactions to these movies.

General Conclusion

Clown character is as old as Roman, Greek, Chinese and Egyptian civilizations. The clown character played a great role in old kingdoms and courts because he was the source of entertainment and relief by poking criticism and fun. Moreover, as long as the clown archetype is old and controversial it evolved through history from the fool, jester and clown to the nowadays American evil clown. In fact, the new clown archetype appeared in the late nineteenth century America, when clowns changed from being pure funny, colorful and cheerful to a symbol of madness, evilness and darkness. The appearance of the new evil clown archetype spread all over American creating an alarm of horror and terror among Americans and a new fear called a Coulrophobia.

As a matter of fact, the spread of the phobia in America was due to several direct and indirect aspects, and since the focus of this dissertation is on the cultural aspects that led to the spread of the clown hoax, all interest is dedicated to Pop Culture influence. Pop culture is one of the most important cultural reflections it can be defined as the social, ideological, ideas, perspectives that seems to have the capacity to shape peoples' minds through using mass media products and literary works which are the focus of this study.

As mentioned earlier, clown panic or Coulrophobia is a new phenomenon that colonized the American mind and for sure it can no longer be ignored in our times because of the numerous sightings of creepy clowns characters in the American streets that have been portrayed by social media as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or other mass media mediums such as online magazines, newspapers and TV news. This phenomenon was also propagated by other Pop Cultural facets which are literature and Cinema that played a great role in spreading the clown hoax in America because they both depicted clowns as bloody killers such as the deformed clown *Hop-Frog* by Edgar Allan Poe, the child killer and cannibal in *It*

General Conclusion

and the psychopathic, insane and a merciless killer in the graphic novel *Batman the Killing Joke* and the Alien clowns from *Killer Clowns from Outer Space*.

Through describing and analyzing media and literary depictions and cinema portrayal of the evil clown figure using psychological, sociological and archetypal studies, this study findings highlight the role pop cultural dynamics played in shaping American peoples' new perceptions of the clown that is away from the common archetype. It also detected the influence of social events such as the kidnapper and killer clowns sightings in many American states that were broadcasted and spread through TV news, newspapers, magazines, you tube channels Facebook and Twitter accounts. These events that spread fear and terror among Americans were reflected on many cultural productions especially literature and cinema. Both cinema and literature presented the evil clown in the scariest image using creative and convincing literary devices and special effects.

The research limitations derive from time restrictions since it was conducted only in about four months. This restricted period of time was reflected on the size of the collected data for analysis which is another limitation since clown sightings are more than those presented in this study. The limited number of analyzed works both in literature and cinema is another limitation of this study that was caused by the lack of resource dealing with evil clown figure in the American Pop Culture.

This study's focus was on media, literature and cinema effect on the evil clown image in the American Pop culture. It highlighted and investigated one side of this new phenomenon taking one angle which is the influence of media, literature and cinema. Hence, it pointed to one of the important topics in the American civilization and leads the coming researchers to study the topic from different angles, like limiting the study to gothic literature that present clowns as twisted psyche or represent them as mere evil.

References

1. Books

- King, S. (1986). *It*. London. Hodder & Stoughton. British Library Cataloguing.
- King, S. (1986). *It*. London. Hodder & Stoughton. British Library Cataloguing. PP 337
- Langley, T. (2012). Case File 8-3: The Joker. In T, Langley, *Batman and Psychology: Dark and Stormy Night Hoboken, NY: John Wiley*
- Moor, A & Bolland, B. (2008). *Batman the Killing Joke*. New York, NY: Dc Comics. The Deluxe Edition.
- Moor, A & Bolland, B. (2008). *Batman the Killing Joke*. New York, NY: Dc Comics. The Deluxe Edition. PP 8-49.
- Nolan, C (Director). (2008). *The Dark Knight (Motion Picture)*. USA: Warner Bros Pictures.
- Poe, E,A. (1849). *Edgar Allan Poe Poetry and Tales: Hop-Frog*. The Library of America. Pub: March 17, 1849. Ed: The Flag of our Union.
- Poe, E,A. (1849). *Edgar Allan Poe Poetry and Tales: Hop-Frog*. The Library of America. Pub: March 17, 1849. Ed: The Flag of our Union. PP 900-908.

B. Articles

- Bala, M. (2010). The Clown. *Jung Journal: Culture & Psyche*. Vol: 4:1, PP 50-70. Doi: 10:152/Jung. 2010. 4.1.50.

- Fussetti, G. (2006). The Heart of Clowning. *The Heart of Clowning: on the Use of Clown in the World*. PP 1-7.

C. Web Articles

- Alison, N. (2014). why horror movies are obsessed with creepy kids, dolls and clowns. Retrieved from:
<http://www.hopesandfears.com/hopes/culture/film/216733-creepy-children-girls-dolls->
- Angi, E. (2015,October11). The uncanny valley of creepy clowns. Retrieved from:<https://medium.com/homeland-security/the-uncanny-valley-of-creepy-clowns-bd5cc233c4b3>
- Baliyan, M. (2015, November18). Why do so many people think dolls are scary. Retrieved from:<https://www.quora.com/Why-do-so-many-people-think-dolls-are-creepy>
- Barreca, G.(2009,Aug 21). Bad Skin and Emotional Scars When you hate your face, it's a short step to hating yourself. Retrieved from :<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/snow-white-doesnt-live-here-anymore/200908/bad-skin-and-emotional-scars#sidr-main>
- Bruse, H. (2013,July2). Viking night: Killer Klowns from Outer Space. Retrieved from: <http://www.boxofficeprophets.com/column/index.cfm?columnID=16008>
- Cameron, J. (2013, October 26). 13 DISNEY NIGHTS OF HALLOWEEN – #7 DISNEY PHOBIAS. Retrieved from: <https://www.adventuresinfamilyhood.com/2013/10/13-nights-of-halloween-7-disney-phobias.htm>

- Cantor, J. (2014). I will never have a clown in my house. Retrieved from:https://www.google.dz/?gws_rd=cr,ssl&ei=fGb5VYZVD8WsAH0gJv4Bw#q=Joanne+cantor+i+will+never+have
- Cinema Sect: 'Killer Klowns from Outer Space'. The News Dispatch. Retrieved from: http://www.thenewsd Dispatch.com/features/article_e41493da-75da-5ee1-ab06-6e7dc9a1f919.html
- Curtis, J. (2017, April 06).It's no laughing matter! Professional clowns slam the remake of Stephen King's It as 'disgusting' and warn the horror film's child-killer Pennywise could force them out of business. Retrieved from: <https://www.google.dz/amp/www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4388100/amp/Professional-clowns-slam-trailer-Stephen-King-s-It.ht>
- Garret, W. (2016, September 2016). Police Tell Creepy Clowns to Go Home. Retrieved from: <https://www.kolotv.com/content/news/394442751.html>
- Justin. (2016, May20). Now Fear This: Killer Klowns from Outer Space. Retrieved from:<https://satelliteshow.wordpress.com/2016/05/20/now-fear-this-killer-klowns-from-outer-space/>
- Goldhill,O. (2016, October17). Why are we so scared of clowns?. Retrieved from: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/why-are-we-so-scared-of-clowns/>
- GOLDWERT, L. (2011, May 19). Ronald McDonald bad for kids? McDonalds hits back at critics, calls clown an 'ambassador for good. Retrieved from: <https://www.google.dz/amp/www.nydailynews.com/amp/life-style/eats/ronald-mcdonald-badkids-mcdonalds-hits-back-critics-calls-clown-ambassador-good-article-1.141877>
- Guarino, B. (2016,October 5).The Creepy Clown Crisis: White House Defers to FBI. Stephen King Hits Hysteri. Retrieved from: <https://www.google.dz/amp/s/www.washingtonpost.com/amhtml/news/morning->

[mix/wp/2016/10/05/scary-clowns-spread-white-house-weighs-in-on-creeps-and stephen-king-defends-the-good-ones/](https://www.foxnews.com/entertainment/scary-clowns-spread-white-house-weighs-in-on-creeps-and-stephen-king-defends-the-good-ones/)

- Keating, L. (2016, October 3).What is This Creepy Clown Craze? Unmasking the Scary Trend. Retrieved from: <https://www.google.dz/amp/www.techtimes.com/amp/articles/180672/20161003/w-hat-creepy-clown-craze-unmasking-scarytrend.htm?client=ms-android-sprint-us>
- Le Duc, S. (2016, August 10). Green Bay's creepy clown was marketing ploy. Retrieved from: <http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/2016/08/10/green-bays-creepy-clown-marketing-ploy/88527696/>
- McRobbie, L, R. (2013, July 31). The History and Psychology of Clowns Being Scary. Retrieved From: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/the-history-and-psychology-of-clowns-being-scary-20394516>
- Means, K.(2014, March 10). TACKLING A CHILD'S FEAR OF MASCOTS AND CHARACTERS WHILE TRAVELING. Retrieved from: <https://walkingontravels.com/tackling-childs- mascots-characters-traveling>
- Michallon, C. (2016,24 September). Quit Clowning Around! Man, 20, is arrested after crouching in trees wearing a creepy costume as bizarre spate of similar sighting spring up across the country. Daily Mail .Retrieved from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3805235/Tchula-police-chief-Kenneth-Hampton-warns-creepy-clowns-machete.htm>
- Miller, k. (2015). Presence redefined: The reciprocal nature of engagement between elder-clowns and persons with dementia. Retrieved from :<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4956469>

- Naftulin, J. (2016). The Reasons You are Afraid of Clowns, According to Psychologists. Retrieved from: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/the-reason-youre-afraid-of-clownaccording-to-psychologists_us_5807b417e4b08ddf9ece13bf
- O'Brien, L. (2013, June 1). Heath Ledger's father reveals dead actor's 'Joker diary' written during The Dark Knight Scrap book features pictures of hyenas and clowns, and comic strips. Retrieved from: <https://www.google.dz/amp/www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/films/news/heath-ledgers-father-reveals-dead-actors-joker-diary-written-during-the-dark-knight-8640660.html%3Famp>
- Olivia, B. (2016, October 6). The Surprising History Behind the Scary Clown Phenomenon. Retrieved from: <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/media.html>
- Pandey, A. (2015, November 25). Analysis: Jack Vs Heath an Analysis of the Joker under this society. Retrieved from :
- Pekstins, K. (2016, August 30). Clown (2014) Review. Retrieved from: <https://kpmovieblog.com/2016/08/30/clown-2014-review/>
- Peter, S. (2012, January 12). Source of character: Killer Klowns from Outer Space. Retrieved from: <http://www.writeups.org/killer-klowns-from-outer-space/>
- Poltergeist clown advert cleared. (2015, July 15). Entertainment. Retrieved from: <http://www.independent.ie/entertainment/movies/poltergeist-clown-advert-cleared-31378132.html>
- Rasmussen, E & DeJong, I. (2017, April 17). Shakespeare's fools: Interpretations of 'madness'. Wikipedia. Retrieved from: <https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/shakespeares-fools>
- Robyn, A. (2016, June 16). Clown (Movie review). Retrieved from: <http://crypticrock.com/clown-movie-review/>

- Satullo, S. (2016, October 7). Killer Clown Facebook Threat Names 2 Lehigh Valley School. Retrieved from: https://www.google.dz/amp/www.lehighvalleylive.com/articles/19415934/bethlehem_watching_investigati.amp
- Sajonas, F. New Official 'IT' Trailer Reminds Us to Fear Pennywise the Clown Taking coulrophobia to the max. Retrieved from: <https://www.google.dz/amp/s/hypebeast.com/2017/3/it-.....official-teaser-railer%3Famp%3D1> <https://www.lifewire.com/what-is-social-media-.....explaining-the- big-trend- 3486616>
- Smith, S. (1978, December 22). John Wayne Gacy, the Country's Worst Serial Killer. Chicago Tribune. Retrieved from: <https://www.google.dz/amp/www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article- 3817401/amp/No-laughing-matter-menacing-cloiwns-terrorizing-children-adults-country-just-Halloween-prank.html>
- Spargo, C. (2016, September 27). Police on the Hunt for a Person in a Clown Mask after a Pennsylvania Hight School Student Was Stabbed to Death on His Front Porch. Daily Mail. Retrieved From:<https://www.google.dz/amp/www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3810510/amp/Police-hunt-person-clown-mask-Pennsylvania-high-school-student-stabbed-death-porch.htm>
- Stott, A, M. (2014, November 17). Why clowns keep scaring us. Retrieved from: <http://edition.cnn.com/2014/10/31/opinion/stott-clowns-france/>
- Sudarshan, S. (2014, December 21). Popular Culture: How did clowns come to be regarded fromfunny to scary within a generation or two?Or is it just that I have grown up?. Retrieved from:<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/clown>

- Szathmary, Z.(2016, September 28). Panic in Virginia After an Autistic boy,12, waves to people in his favourite Clown Mask while being driven by his grandmother. Daily Mail. Retrieved from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3811986/Boys-scary-clown-mask-prompts-alarm-Virginia-community.html>
- Talfonso. (2012, May 27). Disney Characters and Masklophobia - the Fear of Seeing Huge Animal Mascots!. Retrieved from: <https://hubpages.com/travel/disneycharactersmasklophobia>
- Teague, M. (2016). Clown Sightings: the Day of the Craze Began. Retrieved from: ["https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2016/oct/05/clown-sightings-south-carolina-alabama"](https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2016/oct/05/clown-sightings-south-carolina-alabama)2016 HYPERLINK
- The Black saint. (2016, August 13). Film Review: Clown (2014). Retrieved from: <http://horrornews.net/99144/film-review-clown-2014/>
- Weisberger, M.(2016, September12). Why people Afraid of Clowns?. Retrieved from : <https://www.google.dz/amp/amp.livescience.com/56066-why-people-afraid-of-clowns.html>
- Zinoman, J. (2016). The Tears and Fears of a Clown. The NY Times. Retrieved from: <http://www.nytimes.com/> HYPERLINK "http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/23/arts/the-tears-and-fears-of-a-clown.html?_r=0"2016 HYPERLINK "

D. Newspaper Articles

- Creepy Clowns a Social Panic: Scare Reflects Currnt Fears, Uncertainties. (2016, October 14). Clown Sightings Cause Fear. *International*. PP 10.
- Lance, J. (2016, October 6). Creepy Clown Rumor at SSHS Hits Social Media. *News Telegram*. PP 1.
- Middleton, M. (2016, October 6). Wasco Faces Clown Threats. *Lariat*. PP 4.

- Riddley, D. (2016, November). Clown Sightings Cuase Fear. News. PP 6.

E. YouTube Videos

- DAILY NEWS. 2016, September 6, Reports on creepy clown sightings on the rise. [Video File]. Retrieved from: <http://youtu.be/3-1d7xmaWsy>
- Paranoid Times. 2016, October 12, Clown Reports World wide Cumbria's killer Clown 40 incidents so-far. [Video File]. Retrieved from: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lu9mqFzkUWQ>
- Paranoid Times. 2016, October 13, Creepy Clown Sightings! 5 facts you need to know. [Video File]. Retrieved from: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7Oplh5wc_A
- Sir Spooks. 2016, September 22, 5 Most Disturbing Clowns Caught on Camera. [Video File]. Retrieved from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qH5SBYFVsOU>
- Sky Watch TV. 2016, September 20. Sky Watch TV News : more creepy clowns! (Must see). [Video File]. Retrieved from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I8dv_eld9hQ
- Top5Central. 2016, October 4, Top 10 scariest Clown Videos Caught on YouTube, creepy Killer Clown Sightings on Camera. [Video File]. Retrieved from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTomuKq3n_K
- Top5s. 2015, October 23. 5 Real Horror Stories that Inspired American Horror Story. [Video File]. Retrieved from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sac_wVoBvqg
- WXYZ-TV Detroit. 2016, October 3. Creepy Clown Spotted in Clinton Township. [Video File]. Retrieved from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CegRdnBry1A>

F. Web-Sites

- <https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/laughter>
- <https://www.google.dz/amp/www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3871556/amp/Surprising-mom>
- [ent-killer-clown-prankster-pistol-whipped-victim.html](#)
- [http:// en .oxforddictionaries.com/definition/clown](http://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/clown)
- <http://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-mass-media-definition-types-influence-examples.html>
- <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/media.html>
- https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evil_clown
- https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/DM_Pranks (Wikipedia, 2016, April 14 2017 at 5:48Pm.)
- Amusement (film). Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Retrieved from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amusement_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amusement_(film))
- Clown (2014). Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia . Retrieved from:
- Clownhouse. (1989). Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Retrieved from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clown_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clown_(film))
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clownhouse>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Killer_Klowns_from_Outer_Space
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zombieland>
- It (miniseries). Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Retrieved from: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It_\(miniseries\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It_(miniseries))
- Killer Klowns from Outer Space. Wikipedia. Retrieved from:

- Poltergeist (1982film).Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Retrieved from:
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poltergeist_\(1982_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poltergeist_(1982_film))
- Zombieland. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Appendices

Appendix 1- Pennywise the clown from *IT*



Appendix 2- John Wayne Gacy the Killer Clown and twisty the clown



Appendix 3- Newspaper article about Creepy Clowns.



Creepy clown rumor at SSHS hits social media

By JERRY LYNCH
News-Telegram Staff Writer
jlynch@news-telegram.com

Creepy clowns are coming for you, says a rumor circulating on social media and threatening to cause a panic at Sulphur Springs High School.

Students' and other teachers were posted online. Despite the posts, there has not yet been any evidence pointing to the clowns' existence.

According to Sulphur Springs High School Principal David Gentry, other staff members believe there have been some rumors about clowns, but they are not sure if they are true or not. Gentry said the rumors are not a threat to the school's safety.

Students' and other teachers were posted online. Despite the posts, there has not yet been any evidence pointing to the clowns' existence.

According to Sulphur Springs High School Principal David Gentry, other staff members believe there have been some rumors about clowns, but they are not sure if they are true or not. Gentry said the rumors are not a threat to the school's safety.

Students' and other teachers were posted online. Despite the posts, there has not yet been any evidence pointing to the clowns' existence.

According to Sulphur Springs High School Principal David Gentry, other staff members believe there have been some rumors about clowns, but they are not sure if they are true or not. Gentry said the rumors are not a threat to the school's safety.

Students' and other teachers were posted online. Despite the posts, there has not yet been any evidence pointing to the clowns' existence.

According to Sulphur Springs High School Principal David Gentry, other staff members believe there have been some rumors about clowns, but they are not sure if they are true or not. Gentry said the rumors are not a threat to the school's safety.

SS wins 'city spirit' award from Texas Municipal League

By JERRY LYNCH
News-Telegram Staff Writer
jlynch@news-telegram.com

Sulphur Springs was named the 2018 Texas Municipal League 'City Spirit' award winner. The award recognizes the city's unique character and community spirit.

The award was presented to the city by the Texas Municipal League, which is a national organization that promotes the growth and development of municipalities across the United States.

Sulphur Springs was one of the top 10 cities in the state to be nominated for the award. The city's nomination was based on its strong community spirit, its commitment to environmental sustainability, and its efforts to improve the quality of life for its residents.

The city's mayor, David Gentry, said that the award was a great honor for the city and its residents. He said that the city was proud to be recognized for its unique character and community spirit.

The award ceremony was held in Austin, Texas, on December 1, 2018. The city's delegation to the ceremony included Mayor Gentry, City Manager John Smith, and several city council members.

NETHER

Pen Pal

Jerry Collins, assistant manager, arena manager at the Rogers County Regional Fair Center, makes cattle pens as he and his crew prepare for the upcoming 100th Anniversary. The program is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m. Friday and continue until 10 p.m. Saturday, the 100th Rogers County Fair. Collins and his crew are working on the cattle pens, which are a key feature of the fair.

Staff Photo by Jerry Collins

South Texas Kerrville special-needs boy set on fire; 1 child in custody

By JERRY LYNCH
News-Telegram Staff Writer
jlynch@news-telegram.com

A 10-year-old boy with special needs was set on fire in Kerrville, Texas, on December 1, 2018. The boy was taken to a local hospital, where he is currently receiving treatment. The incident is being investigated by local law enforcement.

The boy's mother, who is a single parent, said that she was with her son at the time of the incident. She said that she was trying to help him with his homework when the fire started. She said that she was very scared and that she was not sure what happened.

The fire started in the boy's room, which was on the second floor of the family home. The fire spread quickly, and the boy was unable to get out of the room. He was found by his mother, who called 911 for help.

The fire department arrived at the scene and fought the fire. The boy was taken to the hospital, where he is currently receiving treatment. The fire department is investigating the cause of the fire.

The boy's mother, who is a single parent, said that she was with her son at the time of the incident. She said that she was trying to help him with his homework when the fire started. She said that she was very scared and that she was not sure what happened.

The fire started in the boy's room, which was on the second floor of the family home. The fire spread quickly, and the boy was unable to get out of the room. He was found by his mother, who called 911 for help.

The fire department arrived at the scene and fought the fire. The boy was taken to the hospital, where he is currently receiving treatment. The fire department is investigating the cause of the fire.

The boy's mother, who is a single parent, said that she was with her son at the time of the incident. She said that she was trying to help him with his homework when the fire started. She said that she was very scared and that she was not sure what happened.

The fire started in the boy's room, which was on the second floor of the family home. The fire spread quickly, and the boy was unable to get out of the room. He was found by his mother, who called 911 for help.

The fire department arrived at the scene and fought the fire. The boy was taken to the hospital, where he is currently receiving treatment. The fire department is investigating the cause of the fire.

NEWS

November 2016

The Viking Shield
Rainier Beach High School

It's science at school and home for Nyquist

By RUMIA HUSSEIN

Rainier Beach High School science teacher Karla Nyquist loves to explain how things work. Nyquist became a science teacher because she likes science and she likes to explain things to people.

She also likes human anatomy and dissecting animals.

Outside of school Nyquist really likes hiking and kayaking when she gets free time. She is in love with the mountains, and her favorite one is Mount Rainier, which is where she has done her longest day hike.

Nyquist shares this passion with some of her coworkers as well. She has done the 18-mile enchantment hike with math teacher Stephanie Melrose and science teacher Louise Wong.

She also kayaked the 14 miles around Mercer Island last summer. She likes sports in general in addition to hiking, biking and swimming.

Outdoor activities aren't the only thing Nyquist does in her free time, if she has time she also likes to crochet and quilt blankets. She also watches tv. She hates scary movies and violent movies, and she loves documentaries and dramas.

She went to the University of Minnesota. She graduated with her teaching degree in 2000. She grew up



NYQUIST MAKES SCIENCE FUN AND INFORMATIVE.

going to New Berlin West High School near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She said she was very shy in her high school.

She taught seven years in Minneapolis, but after she got married, and her husband took a job here in Seattle at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, she took the job at RBHS. She's been teaching for three years at RBHS.

A science teacher, Nyquist is married to a scientist, but they don't have kids yet.

Nyquist isn't new to experiencing different cultures, she studied abroad

in Venezuela and Ecuador. She says she loves the diversity at Beach.

"I have learned a lot about different cultures and languages, and I can now say a few phrases in Somali, Amharic, and Tagalog," said Nyquist.

Students appreciate Nyquist's willingness to help.

"I feel that class is good because there are good students and a good teacher," said sophomore Hall Elmi. "I like this class because the teacher explains [things] in an easy way."

New hours leaving students tired

By JENNIFER NGUYEN

Starting dur-

ing the 2016-2017,

Seattle Public

Schools shifted

start and end

times with most

high schools start-

ing at 8:45 a.m.

and ending at 3:15

p.m. Rainier Beach High School how-

ever, is the only high school in the dis-

trict to have go to school for an extra 30

minutes, meaning the students are not

out of school until nearly 4, the last bell

dismissing students at 3:45 p.m.

Although school does start later, al-

lowing more time to sleep in, school lets

out late afternoon, giving less time to

students for extracurricular activities,

homework, and in the case of some stu-

dents, work. On top of all of that, free

time to relax and relieve stress feels lim-

ited now to many students.

Regarding this change in time, many

RBHS students are not happy. One stu-

dent named Jhesarile Calderon feels

she most definitely does not have time

after school. Everything is crammed.

After school is over, and since RBHS

gets out late, she has to rush up to her

work place and she stays up there until

after 8. It takes some time for her to get

home and when she finally does, she's

exhausted from such a long day but still

has to finish homework.

Furthermore, another student, Kristin

Fernandez, also has the same negative

experiences with the late release. She

wants to get involved with the school,

participate in some after school activi-

ties, but due to the school times, she is

unable to because it ends too late and by

the time things are over, she would have

to go home in the dark, alone and with

possibilities of danger.

Now that students are not getting

home until later, students are doing

their homework later into the night

and not being able to sleep until later.

Students may be getting an extra hour

of sleep in the morning, but they are

spending that hour during the night,

finishing up their work.

The change in school times has had

some pretty negative impacts on stu-

dents, giving the feeling of not having

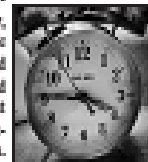
enough time and adding stress to their

lives. Students may not be sure exactly

what they need, but they are posi-

tive that the change in school time has

not been much help for them.



Clown sightings cause fear

By DANIELLE RIDDLEY

Recently all across the United States, a new epidemic has risen. People are dressing up as creepy clowns all across the globe, whether or not they are threats or pranks, the officials are taking this seriously. Some clown sightings are of people just standing and scaring residents, other have been reports of them trying to lure children: to rob or kidnap is unknown.

On August 21, 2016, the first clown sighting was called into the Greenville County police department. Young children report, "a suspicious character ... dressed in circus clown attire and white face paint, enticing kids to follow him/her into the woods." A woman later told the police that her son witnessed several clowns in the woods whispering and making strange noises that night. These sightings have led to an outbreak among Americans, where many more reports were later called in.

Due to the clown sightings, several schools were shut down and many people have been arrested for trespass-

ing. Authorities in Alabama have identified and arrested two juveniles and one adult, after they made threats of violence against local schools on Facebook. The police then had to order a "soft lockdown," forcing students and teachers in hiding while they searched for the suspects.

Some police across the United States now say, "At this time we are considering this to be nothing more than a prank and harassment fueled by social media (with) upcoming Halloween," but others disagree.

Reading Community City Schools shut down after a woman reported being attacked by a man in a clown outfit the night before, the man threatened the teachers and students at the schools nearby during the attack. The schools had a homecoming parade, a game and dance scheduled; the events continued, but there was police at all events.

Also a mother taught a clown off her daughter.

"I thought he was going to kiss her hand. Instead, he pulled her arm li-

terally, so I pulled her arm back and I kicked him," said Tiffany Martin, a mother of a one-year old.

With the violence and pranks, others believe this is just marketing for upcoming horror films. According to reports, next year there will be a remake of the classic horror movie "It," a movie about a creepy clown harassing a group of children for years. But Warner Brothers Spokesman tells CNN, that there is "absolutely no connection" between the film and recent clown sightings. While this may be true, it's hard not to admit the coincidence of the creepy clown sighting popping up at this time.

Reports of clown sightings have slowed down over the last few months; it's unclear if it's due to social media being interest in the subject or if people realized that dressing up as clowns and scaring people has consequences.

Social media mixed with different cultures has a way of creating new things, the world is now waiting for the next interesting series of events to occur.

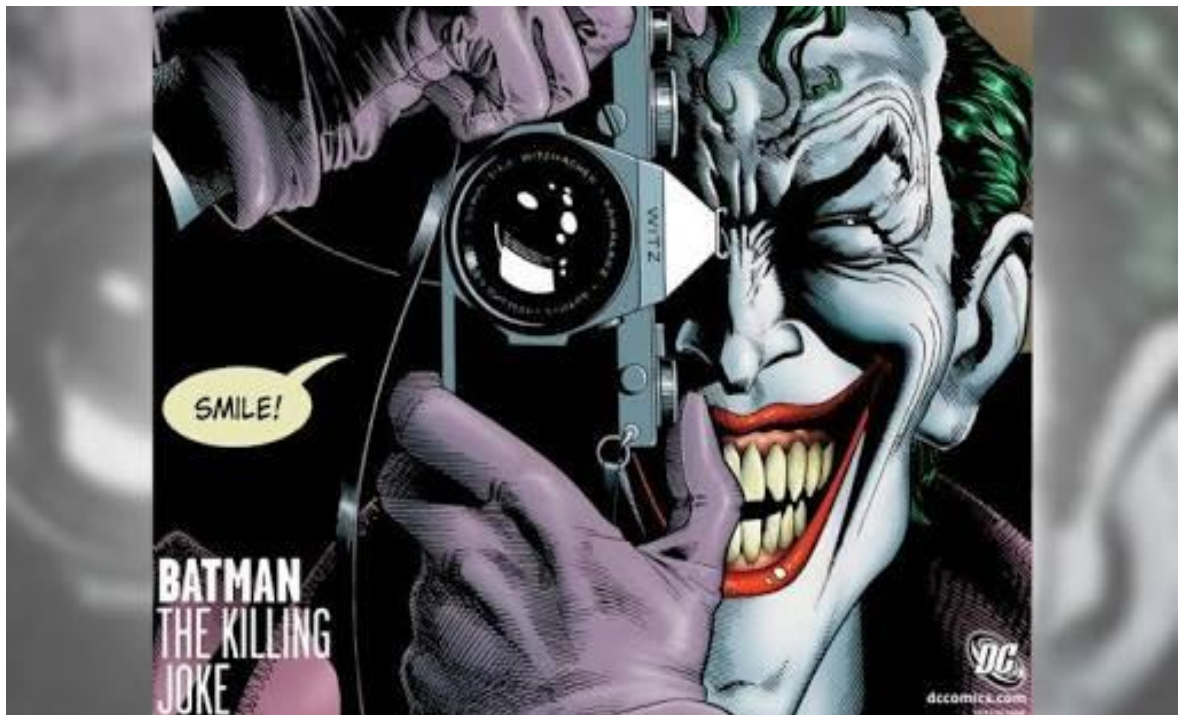
Appendix 05: Hop Frog's last joke, 1935 illustration by Arthur Rackham .



Appendix 06: Hop-Fog's Physical Appearance.



Appendix 07: *Batman the Killing Joke* cover page. The Joker Picture.



ملخص

لقد أشارت ديناميكية الثقافة الشعبية الأمريكية في العقد الأخير من القرن التاسع عشر إلى صورة المهرجين الشريرة وبسبب الأحداث التي أدت إلى تغير نموذج المهرجين من الطابع القديم المسالم إلى طابع أكثر خطورة إلى ظهور ما يطلق عليه المختصون رهاب المهرج أو "كولروفوبيا". من خلال هذه الدراسة سنحاول وصف وتحليل بعض الأعمال الأدبية والأفلام باستخدام المقاربات النفسية والاجتماعية ، وكذلك سنرى تأثير مختلف جوانب الثقافة الشعبية التي ساعدت على ظهور هذا النوع من الخوف بين الأمريكيين من خلال تصوير شخصية المهرج كقاتل مجرم. ركزت هذه الدراسة على وسائل الاعلام ، الادب والسينما لما لديها من تأثير على اراء وتوجهات المجتمع الامريكي. وأظهرت نتائج هذا التحقيق أن وسائل الإعلام الأمريكي والادب والسينما ساهمت في انتشار الخوف المتولد تجاه المهرجين وتأثرت هي الاخرى أيضا بالظاهرة الاجتماعية لهجمات المهرج التي ظهرت في المجتمع الأمريكي وهددت حياة العديد.