

An Investigation of the Appeal of Conan Doyle's Selected Short Stories

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ABSTRACT

Conan Doyle's short stories of Sherlock Holmes have been popular more than one hundred years. What is the power of the appeal behind them? The aim of this study is to discover and explore the four factors that form this power. The first factor is to challenge readers' inference ability by two approaches – one is characterization, and the other is the clarification of sequence of events. The second factor emphasizes his creation of ambiance that may arouse a sense of tension or horror in readers or may further mislead them into forming a conclusion that is completely beyond their expectations. The third factor stems from Conan Doyle's narrative art, which has three aspects, a talent for story creation, an ingenious approach to the solution of a case, and the command of the rules of syntax. The fourth factor treats chivalry as it was practiced in Conan Doyle's life and as it may be found in his short stories; it is approached from three perspectives, formation of his chivalry, chivalry practiced in his life and chivalry found in his short stories. The above factors form the power of the appeal in Conan-Doyle's short stories, and make them the enchanting, enduring classics they have become.

Keywords : 魅力、挑戰讀者的推理能力、角色的性格描述、釐清事件的順序、營造氛圍、敘述技巧、創造故事的才能、巧妙的破案方式、句法規則的駕馭、騎士精神

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